MAPQUEST Developer

5 Most Underutilized MapQuest API Features

Every day, developers use MapQuest APIs and SDKs to add proven location-based functionality to their customer-facing websites/applications and internal, back-office applications. We pride ourselves on helping you deliver great experiences for every user, no matter where they are—and where they're going. Even as thousands of code masters tap into our industry-leading platform, many miss out on a few of our coolest API features.

We dug a little deeper into the usage of our APIs and found five innovative tools were commonly being overlooked. Check out these loved but often-forgotten geospatial gems and be sure to add them to your coding arsenal.

Drum roll please…

5. Data Manager

We were surprised to find this awesome API at the bottom of the heap. Our latest iteration of the MapQuest Data Manager API allows you to store custom datasets in a spatially-aware database that sits on MapQuest servers. Tables that contain points, lines, and polygons can be easily manipulated and maintained. And we take security seriously, ensuring that your custom datasets remain private and protected. The best part? This is included in most partnerships with MapQuest, saving you money and time when it comes to storing and accessing data.

To learn how to use this API, view our Data Manager documentation.

4. Search Rectangle

No love for the classic rectangle? Confining your search results to a particular area can help you get what you're looking for faster. Search Rectangle will return results that are within a specific bounding box. You can form the rectangle by defining upper left and lower right points. Learn more in our rectangle search documentation.

3. Search Radius

Radius is one of four major search functions supported by our Search API. You can set the units parameter and results are filtered to show only locations accessible within the specified amount of time or by traveling the specified distance along roads. This is especially useful for delivery teams or on-site personnel with set territories. For additional information, view the radius search documentation.

2. Geocode Quality Codes

Coming in at number two is Geocode quality codes. These allow you to determine the reliability and accuracy of the returned coordinates for every address. Our quality codes go far beyond the typical 0-9 scale. Codes range from P1 to Z4 for Granularity and A, B, C, X for confidence. Confidence codes give you the ability to make smarter decisions—and change plans—when criteria isn't met. Geocode quality is further explained in the Geocode Quality Code documentation.

1. Optimized Route

Much to our surprise, Optimized Route is currently our most under-utilized API. Optimized routing will reorder stops between your origin and destination addresses to maximum efficiency, whether it's the quickest time between points or the shortest distance. Pile on 20 locations or more, we can take it.

To learn how to use optimized routes, view the documentation.

Share Your Thoughts

What API features do you love best? Which would you take out to the shed? Tell us what changes or improvements you'd like to see by emailing developer-services@mapquest.com. Our teams are actively developing new features and functionality based on user feedback, so have at it!

Thanks for choosing MapQuest + Developer.