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Multiples City Spellings Documentation

Multi-City Spellings

Introduction:

Geography is everywhere. Throughout the Internet, everything is trying to go ‘local’ (local search, finding the nearest store, etc.) We developed our Multi-City Spellings product to help you verify if someone is filling in a form with junk info, allow people to enter a city in a locator when the ZIP Code is unknown, etc.

The initial client that requested the product was a large credit card company that had to reject a lot of card applications because it looked like the people were fabricating their city name, but ended up that they were just abbreviating it (or couldn’t spell it).

This file was difficult for us to create, since there are so many ways that someone can abbreviate or misspell city names. We’ve seen some very unusual ways that people have actually entered their city in forms (fully expecting the program to find them!) For instance, some people use airport abbreviations such as LAX, JAX, ATL; others use NY or NYC for New York City, some will abbreviate the name, use periods and other punctuation, etc.

There are cities that are often misspelled such as Albuquerque, Berkeley, Bellevue, Chattanooga, Cincinnati, Tallahassee, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Schenectady, Philadelphia, Pittsburg, and Punxsutawney.

Usage:

This product is normally to be used in conjunction with our ZIP Code data products, especially with our ‘Plus’ version, which has multiple cities per ZIP Code (formerly called ‘Pro ZIPCode Deluxe). It can also be used with our City Latitude and Longitude product (formerly called ‘City Centerpoints’).

Note: not all locations / combinations can be included. For instance, most of our places have the abbreviation spelled out, but there are a few exceptions where the abbreviation is the official name, such as ‘St. Marys, OH’ and ‘St. George, UT’.

We have a Locators doc that explains how you can use our three products (just mentioned) together. Call us if you have any questions.

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Data File:

The main file is **mcs.csv** (mcs-demo.csv is the demo version). It has city spellings for both the U.S. and Canada.

Sample Data:

This is a sample of the data in mcs.csv:

AltCity	StandardCity
Fort Meyers	Fort Myers
Ft Myers	Fort Myers
Ft. Myers	Fort Myers

File Layout:

The mcs.csv file has a header record followed by detail records. The field layout is as follows:

1. The **Alternate City Spelling** field has various ways that a city may be abbreviated or misspelled.
2. The **Standard City Spelling** is the way that we have standardized the city name. It's also the way that you will find the city spelled in our regular U.S. and Canadian products, so you can create table joins based on this field.

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