



# The Geohash HTTP Client Hint

*draft-pauly-httpbis-geohash-hint*

Tommy Pauly & David Schinazi  
HTTPbis Interim

# What is this for?

Providing a hint to help localize content or behavior for “stuff near me”

- ...without sharing precise location

- ...without relying on IP geo databases (for privacy/accuracy)

Clients choose what to send in the hint

- Length of a geohash determines specificity

# What is this not good for?

Unforgeable proof of location

Legal enforcement of content access

For that, another solution is needed

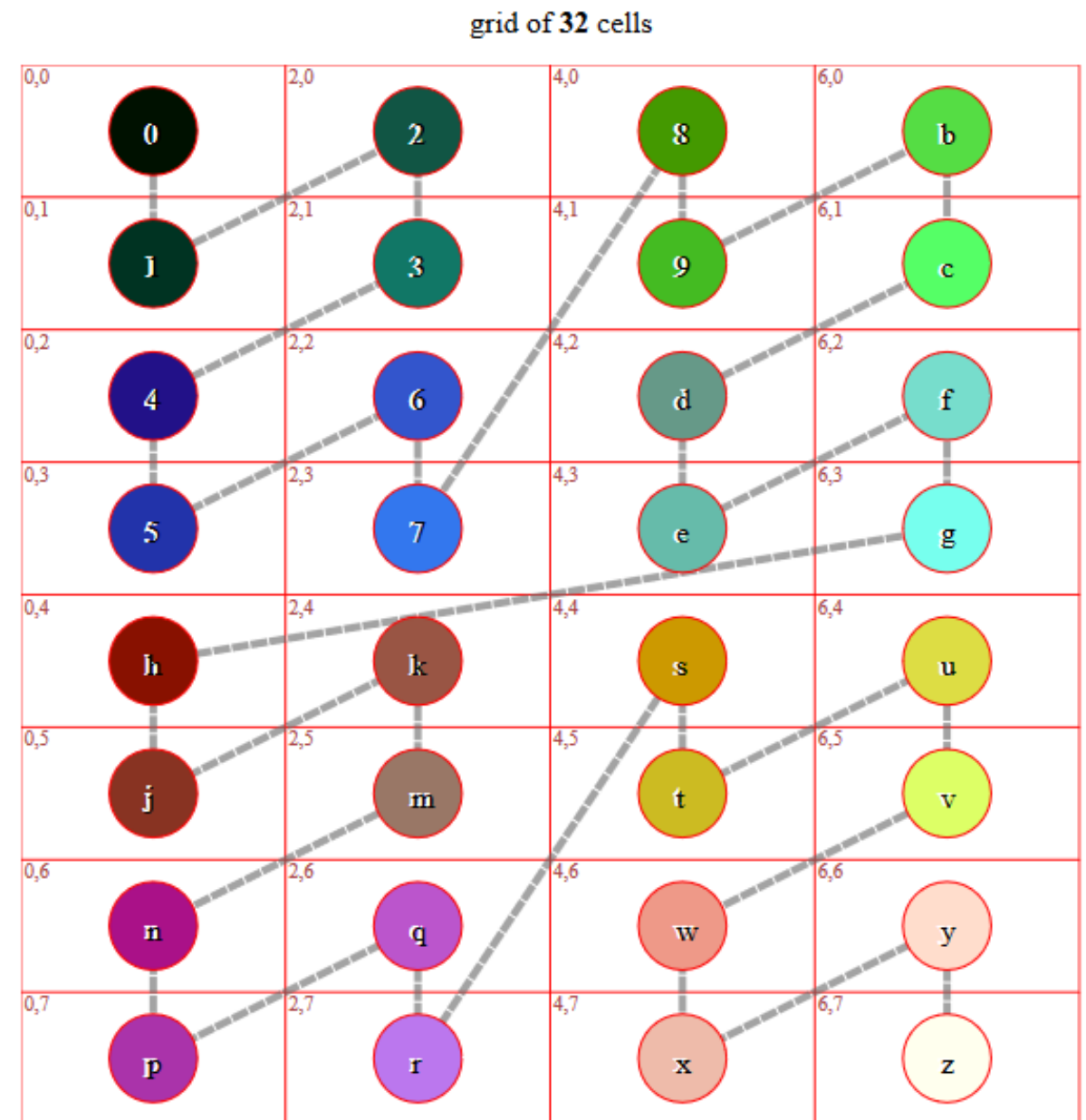
See privacy pass tokens for possible  
anonymous attestation solutions

# What is a Geohash?

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geohash>

Base32 alphanumeric hash that encodes a box to bound lat/long coordinates

Commonly used, but (unfortunately) no formal specification to cite as a stable reference



# What is in the document?

Defines a new Client Hint field, as an sf-string

```
Sec-CH-Geohash = "ezs42"
```

Explains server behavior (Accept-CH) and proxy behavior (proxy-status for invalid geohashes)

That's it!

# Where is this used?

iCloud Private Relay uses this to let clients influence the egress IP addresses selected by proxies \*

We'd like to use this for website cases too

Selecting stores nearby, etc

\* [https://www.apple.com/privacy/docs/iCloud\\_Private\\_Relay\\_Overview\\_Dec2021.PDF](https://www.apple.com/privacy/docs/iCloud_Private_Relay_Overview_Dec2021.PDF)

# What's next?

Adopt in this WG?

Formalize the geohash reference

Write a detailed appendix or find a stable reference, or replace with another equivalent geolocation value