


MapQuest Open Geocoding API

Provides:

- **Geocoding:** a tool to match an inputted address, in standard postal format, to GPS coordinates
- Both forward and backward geocoding are available here
 - Forward: input address string, return GPS coordinates
 - Backward: input latitude/longitude pair, return
- Addresses can be either entered as a single string, or separated into 5 fields (number, street, city, state, postcode)
- Useful if you need to display an address entered by a user on a map, as an example use case

Key Provisioning:

Pain factor (0=ezy...5=nightmare): 

- In order to get a key, one must sign up with a MapQuest developer account; nothing is necessary for this process beyond an email address (no linking to Google, Facebook, etc.)
- One is meant to specify an application name, company name, URL, etc, but **all this stuff doesn't matter!** None of it will impact the creation of the key, or its usage. (as far as I can tell, considering I have an app named "Don't stop me now")

Quotas:

- 15k data transactions/month come free
 - This is *shared* with any other MapQuest Developer APIs you might use, when they share the same key

The Good:

- Free, easy to make an account
- Relies only on open-source mapping data (OpenStreetMap)
- Simple data access

The Bad:

- When displayed on a map, point always lies on the street; building footprints are not taken into account
- Slight issues in address strings result in very erroneous results; always returns something, never an error
- Different formatting of addresses (tried an address in France) may incorrectly display in the USA

The Ugly:

- nothing...yet

Location (Documentation): <https://developer.mapquest.com/documentation/open/geocoding-api/>

Example Request:

http://open.mapquestapi.com/geocoding/v1/address?key=YOUR_KEY&location=345+Chambers+St,New+York,New+York,10282

Backwards:

<http://open.mapquestapi.com/geocoding/v1/reverse?key=KHiNxiOAxR7QXpKrSDHZ3sGXP65Ci4Mz&location=40.717988,-74.013842>

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