



Using EAN Database Geographical Regions

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Overview

As part of EAN's offerings to partners, we create and maintain a full set of relational files (34 in total), as well as custom scripts to automatically manage and update your local database file collection.

In this paper we focus on the Geography content of the files as per Expedia definitions of regions. For Expedia a region is considered a "marketing region", a bucket of hotels that represent a geography related search term, like cities, airports, landmarks and neighborhoods. Think of it like places people will search in order to find hotels located inside or close to it.

Technically we describe how to filter the records using the SQL language, in our case for the popular MySQL relational database, but the queries could be easily adapted for other databases.

Lets start by describing the relationship between the different Expedia regions.

EAN Hotels

The ActivePropertyList is the table containing all hotels of our inventory. There are various geography related field that you could use as you can see in this example:

A screenshot of a MySQL query results window. The query is:

```
1 use eanprod;
2 select EANHotelID,Name,Address1,Address2,City,StateProvince,PostalCode,Country,Latitude,Longitude,AirportCode,RegionID
3 from activepropertylist LIMIT 1000;
4
```

The results show a list of hotels with their details:

EANHotelID	Name	Address1	A City	StateProvince	PostalCode	Country	Latitude	Longitude	AirportCode	RegionID
118583	Circus Circus Hotel & Casino	2880 Las Vegas Blvd S	Las Vegas	NV	89109	US	36.13636	-115.16225	LAS	2008
342258	Best Western Plus Casino Royale	3411 Las Vegas Blvd S	Las Vegas	NV	89109	US	36.12073	-115.17208	LAS	2008
135542	Excalibur Hotel Casino	3850 Las Vegas Blvd S	Las Vegas	NV	89109	US	36.09921	-115.17310	LAS	2008
118903	Stratosphere Hotel - Casino &...	2000 Las Vegas Blvd S	Las Vegas	NV	89104	US	36.14699	-115.15530	LAS	2008
124597	Comfort Hotel Bremerhaven	Am Schaufenster 7	Bremerhaven		27572	DE	53.52202	8.58643	BRE	6410

Our recommendation is NOT to use any of those fields to solve the geography. As this is data collected and maintained directly by the hotels. Here is a list of the available fields and combinations and why we do NOT recommend it:

1. **Hotel address** - Hotels normally will use what is called their 'vanity address' (and address that is somehow favorable for a traveler to select). Classic examples hotels using 'Orlando, FL' while they are really in other city.
2. **PostalCode** - Some hotels use their mail postal code instead of the real location code, or change it to match their 'vanity address'. Also the codes strings are NOT normalizing so we have different usage of uppercase/lowercase letters and separator characters.
3. **AirportCode** - The IATA AirportCode respond the question of "If someone arrives from the USA, to your hotel, what Airport they most likely use". Is unreliable as there are many hotels that service regional airports that do not directly receive USA traffic and are more relevant. You could make a distance calculations by the GPS point of the hotel vs the Airport to validate proximity.
4. **Latitude, Longitude** - The GPS point location of the hotel, are improving on quality every day, as we use them to display the property on a map. We have created specific stored procedures and documentation on how to search by GPS location, please check our WhitePaper: [Using EAN Databases for Geographical Solutions](#).
5. **RegionID** - This field value represent the Main EAN Region, but it is NOT the only one where an hotel belongs, as a preference Expedia map them to a "Multi-City (and Vicinity)" type.

We will now clarify the proper way of mapping properties based on their geographical associations.

EAN Region (City Tables)

The most basic way of mapping an Hotel is to a City. We have two tables that represent a list of Cities in our database files, those are:

1. **CityCoordinatesList** – List the cities and the coordinates that define the region over a map. Remember our regions do NOT intend to match a city definitions (but match it close-by). This is mainly used to create map overlays to allow click and search functionality or when you need to display the geography of the area where that hotel is located.
2. **RegionCenterCoordinatesList** – List the CenterLatitude and CenterLongitude of the particular region, it could be used to calculate distance (like using Haversine formula) in relation to any given point. Be careful as sometimes the Center is considered the downtown of a City and it is NOT the mathematical center of the region. It is used best when searching for hotels close to the Region Center by GPS location. Please check our WhitePaper: [Using EAN Databases for Geographical Solutions](#).
3. **ParentRegionList** – This table includes all regions, and allows you to know how is the Parent of that region. Basically it is a chain, starting from the Country level, down into State-Provinces, then into Cities. It does include a lot of variants and will be properly explained in our next section. This is the Main table to use to get all possible regions.

EAN Region (ParentRegionList)

The ParentRegionList table is the single most important source of geography information, if you need not to draw a region, or know their polygon coordinates or center, if you just care about a list of locations and extract the list of EANHotelIDs in that region – this is your table.

Parent Region List express also the hierarchy of Regions starting at the Continent level, drilling down into the State-Provinces and then into Multi-Regions, Cities and Neighborhoods. The names on this table are also available in multiple languages by downloading additional files (we cover that in a latter section).

Let's start by looking at a sample of Hierarchy drill down:

Region ID	RegionType	Name	Parent ID
500001	Continent	North America	0 (nothing above this level)
201	Country	United States of America	500001
230	Province (State)	Nevada	201
6054173	Multi-City (within a country)	Clark County – Las Vegas	230
178276	Multi-City (Vicinity)	Las Vegas (and vicinity)	6054173
2008	City	Las Vegas	178276
800045	Neighborhood	The Strip (Las Vegas)	178276
6232223	Point of Interest Shadow	Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign	2008
6232224	Point of Interest	Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign	6232223

Lets clarify that this is just a representation of the data and NOT the full possible targets of a drill down. For example at the “Multi-Region (within a country)” level for Nevada we got: Clark County – Las Vegas, Central Nevada, Western Nevada, Northern Nevada – Humboldt River and South Nevada. As well there are many other cities inside the Clark County – Las Vegas definition.

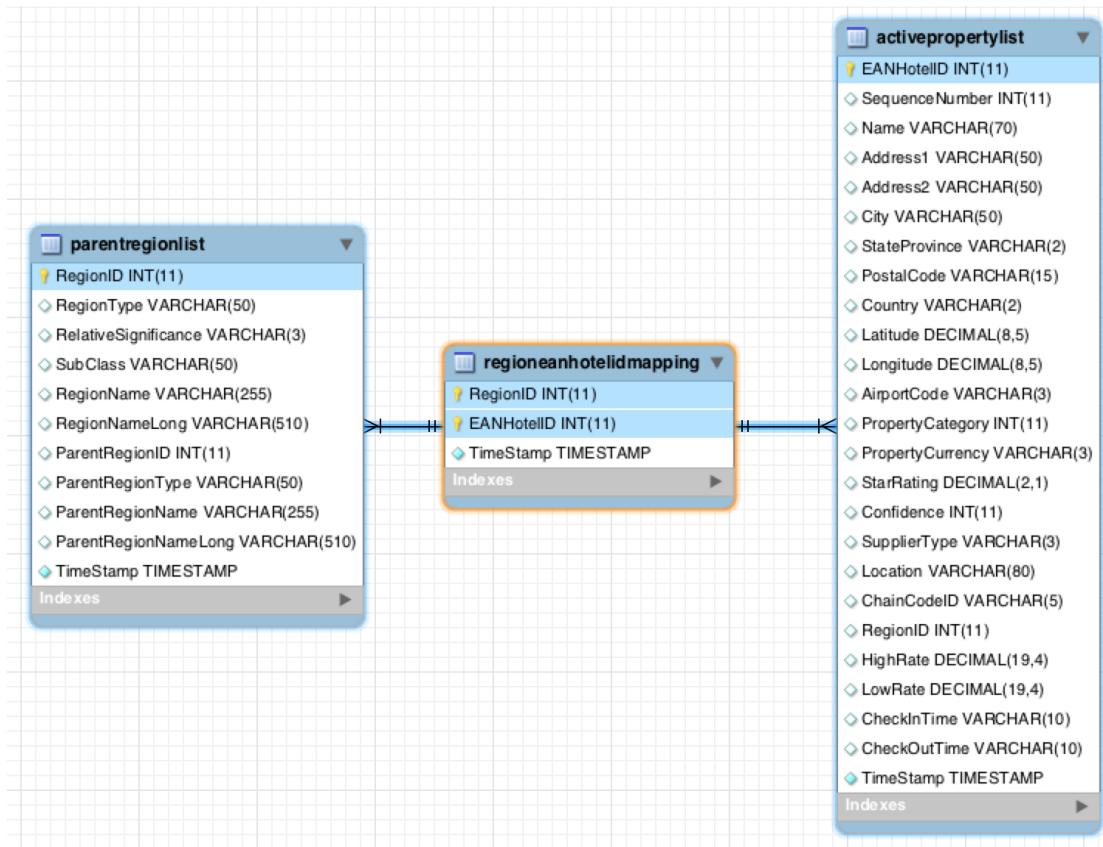
First clarification is that this are travel related terms, not the proper political map of Nevada, if we are to follow that, in the case of USA, we will be based out of counties and then into cities. Remember this is NOT a geo-political system!

In case you ask can a City have a child region? Yes, indeed it could be a neighborhood name, but also we have the Point of Interest (Landmarks) that are inside that city. (However you will first get the “Point of Interest Shadow” types as a container for the true “Point of Interest”. There is no usage for the “Shadow” other than it was necessary for the original relational database model to manage the information. We discuss a better way to get the Point of Interest in their own section.

You could actually search at any given level and obtain a list of hotels, however as a general rule, you start at the city level your searches. Let's now look at how to query for hotels.

EAN Hotels (link table)

Any given region will resolve into a list of hotels. However any given hotel may belong to more than one region as well. In this case of many-to-many relationships we implemented a Link table (also known as a join table). For us this table is RegionEANHotelIDMapping, this basically join ParentRegionList regions to a list of hotelids from ActivePropertyList, here is the visual EER diagram of this relationship:



We could go the opposite direction, from a Hotel to know how many regions it is included in. Let's use an hotel in Paris (Hôtel Ares Eiffel) for an example:

RegionID	RegionName	EANHotelID	Name	RegionType	SubClass
2734	Paris	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	City	
6187893	15th Arrondissement	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	City	neighbor
6276077	Left Bank	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	City	neighbor
179898	Paris (and vicinity)	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	Multi-City (Vicinity)	
800093	Eiffel Tower – Orsay Museum (7 arr.)	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	Neighborhood	regional
800101	Gare Montparnasse – Porte de Versailles (15 arr.)	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	Neighborhood	regional
6002209	Palais Bourbon	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	Point of Interest	Shadow monument
6002211	Palais de Chaillot	309567	Hôtel Ares Eiffel	Point of Interest	Shadow sign

108 row(s) returned.

You can see this hotel belong to 108 different regions! Let's now learn the different classifications for the Regions.

EAN Region Types/SubClasses

There are various types of data that are defined in the ParentRegionList table, based on the groups created by the combinations of fields RegionType and SubClass. The main RegionTypes (Continent, Country, Province (State) do NOT have any SubClass.

For the Point Of Interest we have the concept of Point Of Interest Shadow, it may sound misleading, but think of it as the “surrounding area” around the Point Of Interest. To clarify you search for the “Shadow”, the “surroundings” of the Point Of Interest. Let's review the possible groups with our recommendations for inclusion:

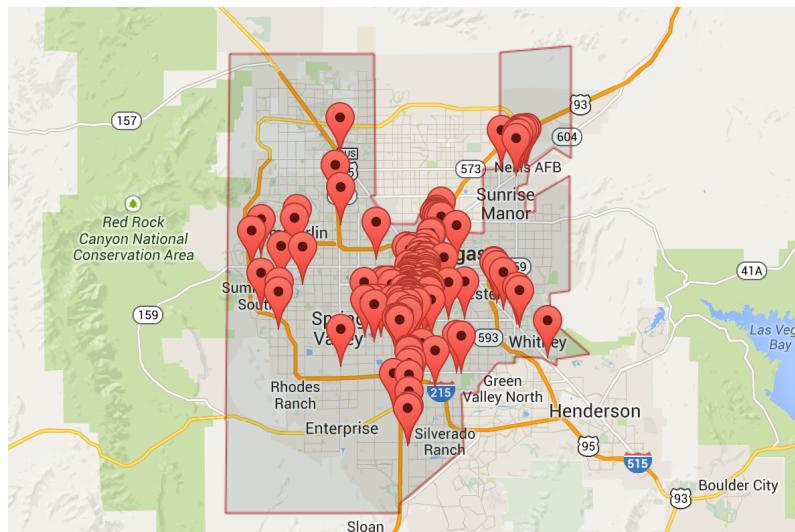
RegionType	SubClass	Remarks
City		Regular City names from the World (51686 records) - HIGH
City	anchor, business, civic, historic, icecream, medical, monument, neighbor, regional, shopping, sign, skiing, stadium, sunglass, tree, winery	This records covers some Point Of Interests, that are not in the usual sets with the same subclass. There are few not so important (1728 records) - LOW
City	neighbor	Neighborhood names (not so used in the USA), Districts some Village and smaller Islands (12339 records) - MEDIUM
City	regional	Important well-known regions, Islands, National Parks and others. This include 'Manhattan' (384 records) - HIGH
Multi-City (Vicinity)		This areas include the City area and its surrounding areas, also include full Islands like 'Barbados (all)' (2765 records) - HIGH
Multi-City (Vicinity)	district	To be applied in case of Regions that implements the (vicinity) concept - (2 records) - LOW
Multi-City (Vicinity)	regional	To be applied in case of Regions that

		implements the (vicinity) concept – (1 record) - LOW
Multi-Region (within a country)		This are regions that covers more than 1 city like Amazonas, BR – Andalucia, Spain or Bay Area, California. (1230 records) - MEDIUM
Multi-Region (within a country)	Autonomous community	Only one record Basque Country, Spain (1 records) - LOW
Multi-Region (within a country)	region	Only one record Umbria, Italy (1 record) - MEDIUM
Neighborhood	airport	Only (173 records) better to use the AirportCoordinatesList table instead - LOW
Neighborhood	city	Duplicated from the regular City types (6232 records) - LOW
Neighborhood	downtown	Downtowns and City Centre areas – (186 records) HIGH
Neighborhood	anchor, civic, combo, golf, historic, icecream, medical, monument, school, shopping, sign, skiing, stadium, sunglass, theater, train, tree	All of those include records that are also represented as POIs (331 records) - LOW
Neighborhood	neighbor	Neighborhoods and Zones, like: Cancun Hotel Zone, Central Park NYC, The Strip Las Vegas (1424 records) HIGH
Neighborhood	regional	Islands, Know zones like Broadway, East or West or South or Noth of some other region (730 records) HIGH
Point of Interest Shadow	anchor, business, casino, civic, golf, historic, icecream, medical, monument, museums, school, shopping, sign, skiing, stadium, sunglass, theater, tree, winery	Points of Interest covers many reasons why people will travel, we consider them important, however depending on your focus you may choose to omit or include certain groups. Be carefull as it is a vast amount of records and could impact autocomplete performance. (89665 records) - MEDIUM

Selecting a group will be as easy as using the proper filter parameters in the SQL statement WHERE clause.

EAN Region (Cities)

We map cities to their more desirable locations and create a multi-polygons region. Easier to understand if you visualize it; using the “Las Vegas” example:



You can see that a city region is not a mere square over a city, but a hand-pick of regions that converts better for the travelers. We aim for quality and not for quantity.

Query for Cities (technical)

To get a list of Cities from our database you have two possible sources, using the `CityCoordinatesList` or filter out the information from the `ParentRegionList`.

We prefer using the `ParentRegionList` table, with the query:

```
USE eanprod;
SELECT RegionID,RegionNameLong FROM parentregionlist
WHERE parentregionlist.RegionType IN('City');
```

RegionID	RegionNameLong
6023379	Région Test, Montréal, Canada
3433	Tirana, Albania
6047335	Durres, Albania
6052596	Sarande, Albania

66137 row(s) returned.

You notice both queries produce the same amount of results, however in the `ParentRegionList` query, we are including all types of SubClass. If we look deeper into the `SubClass` field (for `RegionType` that are City):

```
use eanprod;
select RegionID,RegionNameLong,RegionType,SubClass FROM parentregionlist
WHERE parentregionlist.RegionType='City' AND SubClass <> '';
```

RegionID	RegionNameLong	RegionType	SubClass
6160049	Wollaston Beach, Quincy, Massachusetts, United States of America	City	sunglass
6160076	Cleveland Circle, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America	City	neighbor
6160599	Newbury Street, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America	City	shopping
6161324	The Freedom Trail, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America	City	historic

notice that we get back SubClass like:

- sunglass – a beach or beach-front location
- neighbor – neighborhood names (this set could be desirable to include)
- shopping – shopping malls, districts or famous shopping streets
- historic – historic trails or landmarks

We do NOT want those in our query, well maybe the Neighborhood names, but definitively they are NOT cities. We need to refine the City query to be:

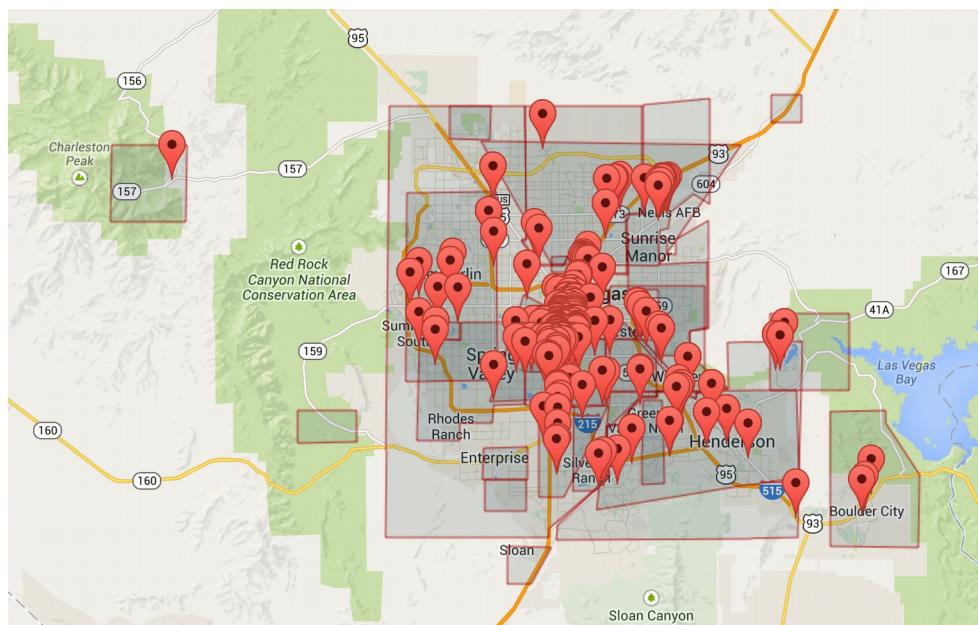
```
USE eanprod;
SELECT RegionID,RegionNameLong,RegionType,SubClass FROM parentregionlist
WHERE parentregionlist.RegionType='City' AND SubClass='';
```

This is our recommended way of getting the list of Cities.

EAN Regions (query for Multi-City(and vicinity))

For most mayor city markets, those that people all over the world know like: Paris, Las Vegas, Orlando, Miami, London, Tokyo, etc Expedia utilize the concept **CityName (and vicinity)**, this is a special geographic region that covers the best possible areas inside the city and close to it, that in our analysis, customer prefer when searching for that city. The idea is to present a mix of classics and off path properties. Expedia create choose those key areas, they normally convert more revenue than the plain CityName areas. If you want to follow the Expedia model, when customers look for the CityName, show instead results for the CiityName (and vicinity) instead.

In our previous example we used just the City of 'Las Vegas', now let's look at the "Las Vegas (and vicinity)" region:



As you can see we cover a greater area, and possible that may not be desirable in all situations, it will be up to your particular integration to use or not use this type of area.

Query for Multi-City (Vicinity) (technical)

To get a list of CityName (and vicinity) from our database you will use again the ParentRegionList table:

```
use eanprod;
SELECT RegionID,RegionNameLong,RegionType,SubClass from parentregionlist
WHERE RegionType LIKE "Multi-City (Vicinity)";
```

With results:

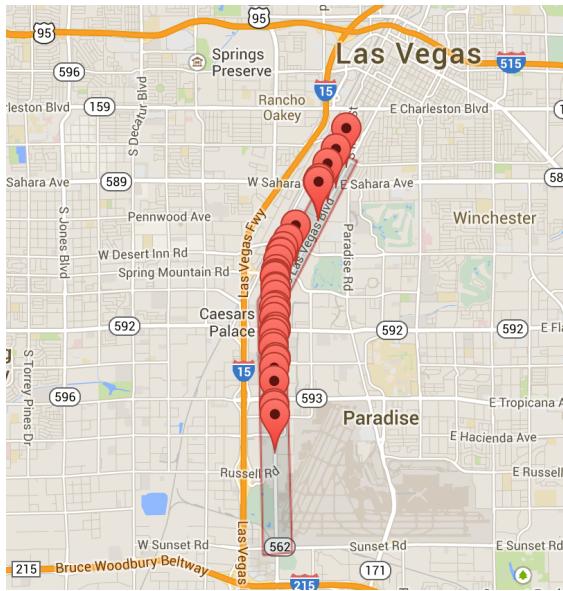
RegionID	RegionNameLong	RegionType
259	Aarhus (and vicinity), Denmark	Multi-City (Vicinity)
266	Abilene (and vicinity), Texas, United States of America	Multi-City (Vicinity)
277	Albany (and vicinity), Georgia, United States of America	Multi-City (Vicinity)
280	Accra (and vicinity), Ghana	Multi-City (Vicinity)
282	Lanzarote, Spain	Multi-City (Vicinity)
286	Waco (and vicinity), Texas, United States of America	Multi-City (Vicinity)

Notice that the (and vicinity) string is NOT always present in the results, we could use the created function of REGION_NAME_CLEAN to eliminate the (and vicinity) from the results strings.

If you need to filter by SubClass include it on the query, refer to the **EAN RegionTypes/SubClasses** section in this document for more information.

EAN Region (Neighborhood)

Neighborhood areas cover very specific regions that people tend to know and search for when traveling. These Neighborhood could be even as famous as the city, and maybe preferred over some less known cities. For example if you analyze the Expedia site, you will notice that for Las Vegas market, we present two options: "Las Vegas (and vicinity)" and "Las Vegas strip". Let's look now at Neighborhood named "Las Vegas Strip" region:



Query for Neighborhood (technical)

To get a list of Neighborhood from our database you will use once more the ParentRegionList table:

```
use eanprod;
SELECT RegionID, RegionNameLong, RegionType, SubClass from parentregionlist
WHERE RegionType LIKE "Neighborhood" AND SubClass IN
('downtown', 'neighbor', 'regional');
```

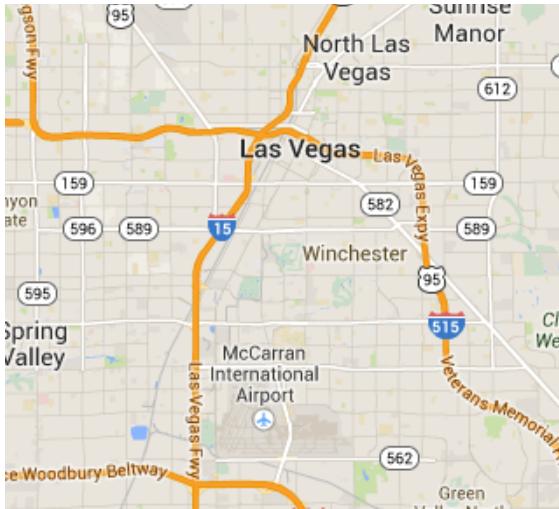
With results:

RegionID	RegionNameLong	RegionType	SubClass
506	Barbuda, Antigua and Barbuda	Neighborhood	regional
916	Carriacou Island, Grenada	Neighborhood	regional
1038	Dunhuang, Jiuquan, China	Neighborhood	neighbor
1116	Tortola, British Virgin Islands	Neighborhood	regional
1350	Green Island, Taiwan	Neighborhood	regional
1479	Hailar, Hulunbuir, China	Neighborhood	neighbor
1505	Ha'apai, Tonga	Neighborhood	regional
2049	Lands End, England, United Kingdom	Neighborhood	regional

Notice that we use the SubClass to get only certain classes of data. Refer to the **EAN RegionTypes/SubClasses** section in this document for more information.

EAN Region (Airports)

Airports are a special type of regions as they are NOT an overlay map representation of a geography. If we follow once again the Las Vegas example, the most popular airport been McCarran International Airport we can see (or not see):



There is NO overlay for an Airport, the Airport are chosen by the hotel when we ask the question “*What is the main airport that service your customers?*”. In that sense an Airport region does not mean properties that are close-by or surrounding the airport.

Query for Airports (technical)

To get a list of Airports we use the table `AirportCoordinatesList`, looking for LAS (the `AirportCode` is the IATA Code):

```
use eanprod;
select * from airportcoordinateslist where AirportCode="LAS";
```

Results:

AirportID	AirportCode	AirportName	Latitude	Longitude	MainCityID	CountryCode
6000345	LAS	Las Vegas, NV, United States (LAS-McCarren Intl.)	36.085390	-115.150100	178276	US

We can notice two ids present the `AirportID` and the `MainCityID`. We use the `MainCityID` and discover it is:

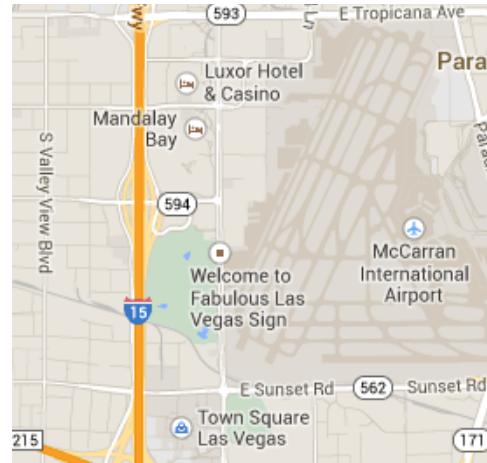
RegionID	RegionNameLong	RegionType	SubClass
178276	Las Vegas (and vicinity), Nevada, United States of America	Multi-City (Vicinity)	

Basically the airports are mapped into the `MainCity` (and `Vicinity`). This is the correct way of displaying results for the Airport, in this case there will be 219 hotels.

Now if we analyze this for cities where the airport is very far from the city center, like the case of London, you may prefer to **find hotels near the airport**, in those case you should use the `Latitude` and `Longitude` fields and either use the database stored procedure: `sp_hotels_from_point` or via the API using the `getList by GPS point` variation .

EAN (Point of Interest)

We previously discuss that we have the concept of Point of Interest Shadow. The “*shadow*” is basically the `RegionID` that tell us the hotels that surround the POI. If we follow once again the Las Vegas example, let search for the traditional Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Sign:



In the case of the sign it is considered a monument. We have some There are many SubClassifications like:

- **anchor** – Marinas and Ports (ex. Marina Del Rey, California) – 1507 records
- **business** – famous business building and locations (ex. Abbey Road Studios, London) – 75 records
- **casino** – Gambling places & casinos (ex. Golden Nugget Casino in Las Vegas) – 470 records
- **civic** – Cultural Centers, Halls, Convention Centers, Libraries (NYC Library, New York City) - 4038 records
- **golf** – Golf courses and Country Clubs (Pebble Beach Golf Course, California) – 4820 records
- **historic** – Villages, Ruins, Castles and similar (Royal Castle, Warsaw, Poland) – 6116 records
- **icecream** – funny name! But it covers Park, Zoo, Amusement Parks, Aquariums – think of children entertainments (but not limited to!) (Disney World, Orlando, Florida, USA) – 5222 records
- **medical** – famous old founded Hospitals, (KEM Hospital, Mumbai, India) – 954 records
- **monument** - famous monuments (Eiffel Tower, Paris, France) – 14401 records
- **museums** – Museums of all kinds (Bob Marley Museum, Kingston, Jamaica) – 12907 records
- **schools** – International Universities and Colleges (University of Zaragoza, Zaragoza, Spain) – 2853 records
- **shopping** – Shopping Malls, Districts and Streets (Bond Street, London, England) – 4194 records
- **sign** – Plazas, Squares and Signs (Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas Nevada Sign) – 2452 records
- **skiing** – Ski Resort, Ski Lift, Ski Area (Furano Ski Area, Asahikawa, Japan) – 1808 records
- **stadium** – Stadiums, Bowl and Arenas (sport related) (San Siro Stadium, Milan, Italy) – 3719 records
- **sunglass** – Beaches (Ipanema Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) – 5053 records
- **theater** – Theaters, Opera (Komische Oper Berlin, Berlin, Germany) – 3455 records
- **tree** – Public Parks, Valleys, Lakes, Mountains (City Park, Biel, Switzerland) – 14305 records
- **winery** – Wineries (Karikari Estate Winery, Matauri Bay, New Zealand) - 1316

You can use the SubClassification to filter out the ones you need.

Query for Landmarks (technical)

To get a list of Landmarks we prefer to use the `PointOfInterestCoordinatesList`, in this table we filter the SubClass on the field `SubClassification`, it also includes the Latitude and Longitude of the location that we could use to calculate the distance from the hotel (use a haversine formula or similar implementation), looking for all stadiums will be like:

```
use eanprod;
select * from pointsofinterestcoordinateslist where SubClassification="stadium";
```

Results:

RegionID	RegionName	RegionNameLong	Latitude	Longitude	SubClassification
6068000	Abdi Ipekci Arena	Abdi İpekçi Arena, İstanbul, Turkey	40.996970	28.920007	stadium
6113595	Abe Lenstra Stadium	Abe Lenstra Stadium, Heerenveen, Netherlands	52.959026	5.934537	stadium
6090604	ABSA Stadium	ABSA Stadium, Durban, South Africa	-29.824860	31.028489	stadium
6111537	Abuja Stadium	Abuja Stadium, Abuja, Nigeria	9.037935	7.453367	stadium
6201132	Addington Raceway	Addington Raceway, Christchurch, New Zealand	-43.544678	172.601315	stadium
6111933	Addis Ababa Stadium	Addis Ababa Stadium, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	9.013294	38.756415	stadium
6085870	Adelaide Entertainment Centre	Adelaide Entertainment Centre, Adelaide, South Australia	-34.907614	138.574161	stadium
6085834	Adelaide Oval	Adelaide Oval, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia	-34.915368	138.597493	stadium

Notice that the RegionID we get from this query will be the same as its Point of Interest Shadow, from the ParentRegionList table.

Region Names in other Languages

For each of the 34 languages that we support, there is a single file that will include the translations. Those are names RegionList_xx_xx, last part of the name is the locale. For example the spanish from Spain translation will be named: RegionList_es_es, for Brazilian Portuguese: RegionList_pt_br.

To use them just add a new JOIN clause with ON clause of matching the RegionID. For example to get the names of all regions in English, Spanish and Portuguese do:

```
use eanprod;
SELECT parentregionlist.RegionID,parentregionlist.RegionNameLong as 'English',
regionlist_es_es.RegionNameLong as 'Spanish',regionlist_pt_br.RegionNameLong as
'Portuguese'
FROM parentregionlist
JOIN regionlist_es_es ON parentregionlist.RegionID = regionlist_es_es.RegionID
JOIN regionlist_pt_br ON parentregionlist.RegionID = regionlist_pt_br.RegionID
WHERE parentregionlist.RegionNameLong LIKE "%Las Vegas%";
```

Results will look like:

RegionID	English	Spanish	Portuguese
2008	Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
8605	Las Vegas, New Mexico, United States of America	Las Vegas, Nuevo México, Estados Unidos	Las Vegas, Novo México, Estados Unidos da América
9169	North Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Norte de Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	North Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
74507	Arden, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Arden, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	Arden, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
76704	Bard, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Bard, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	Bard, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
82198	Bracken, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Bracken, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	Bracken, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
143393	Paradise, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	Paradise, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	Paradise, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América
165607	The Lakes, Las Vegas, Nevada, United States of America	The Lakes, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos	The Lakes, Las Vegas, Nevada, Estados Unidos da América

You will need to create as many translations tables as languages you plan to support. Reffer to our online documentation on how to create the multi-languages tables.

Autocomplete

An autocomplete is the typical feature used on traveling websites, that allow the customer to type any word and after a few characters it present a possible list of 'complete' terms. Applied to traveling search we can see such function in our own Travelnow site like:

Search for Hotels

The screenshot shows a search interface for 'Miami'. At the top, there's a list of cities: Las Vegas, Orlando, New York, Chicago, Atlanta, London, San Diego, San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Washington. Below this is a search bar with 'Miami' typed in. To the right of the search bar is a placeholder image for 'TODAY'S TOP DESTINATIONS'. A dropdown menu lists various locations starting with 'Miami': Miami, FL, United States; Miami Beach, Dania, FL, United States; Miami (AREA), FL, United States; Miami Gardens, Dania, FL, United States; Miami Lakes, Dania, FL, United States; Miami Shores, Dania, FL, United States; Miami Springs, Miami, FL, United States; Miami International Airport (MIA); Miami Public Seaplane Base Airport (MPB); Miami Beach, Charnocks, Barbados; Miami Intl. Airport (MIA), Miami, FL, United States; Miami Amtrak Station, Dania, FL, United States; MIAMI BEACH RESORT, Dahab, EG; Miami Beachside Holiday Apartments, Miami, Queensland, AU; Miami, Jesolo, IT; and Miami Hotel, Chiang Mai, TH. Below the dropdown is a note "...keep typing to refine your search". At the bottom of the dropdown, there are filters: a checkbox for 'Miami Beach' with '\$51', a checkbox for 'New Orleans' with '\$50', and a 'Search' button.

You can see they have classifications like: **Cities / Areas, Airports, Landmarks, Hotels**. Using the suggested queries presented in this document we could create a list with their region id, that you can use to present this information, and when selected use the **RegionID** to discover the list of **EANHotelIDs** to send to the EAN-API as a list of `<hotelIdList>`.

For our sample Autocomplete we create a table with fields like:

```
DROP TABLE IF EXISTS destinations;
CREATE TABLE destinations
(
    TargetID CHAR(40),
    Latitude numeric(9,6),
    Longitude numeric(9,6),
    English VARCHAR(510),
    Spanish VARCHAR(510),
    Portuguese VARCHAR(510),
    EANRegionID INT,
    EANHotelCount INT,
    EANHotelIDList TEXT,
    DataType VARCHAR(20),
    SortFactor INT,
    TimeStamp TIMESTAMP DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP ON UPDATE CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
) ENGINE = MYISAM CHARACTER SET utf8 COLLATE utf8_unicode_ci;

CREATE FULLTEXT INDEX ft_en      ON destinations(English);
CREATE FULLTEXT INDEX ft_es      ON destinations(Spanish);
CREATE FULLTEXT INDEX ft_pt      ON destinations(Portuguese);
CREATE INDEX idx_targetid        ON destinations(TargetID);
CREATE INDEX idx_regionid        ON destinations(EANRegionID);
```

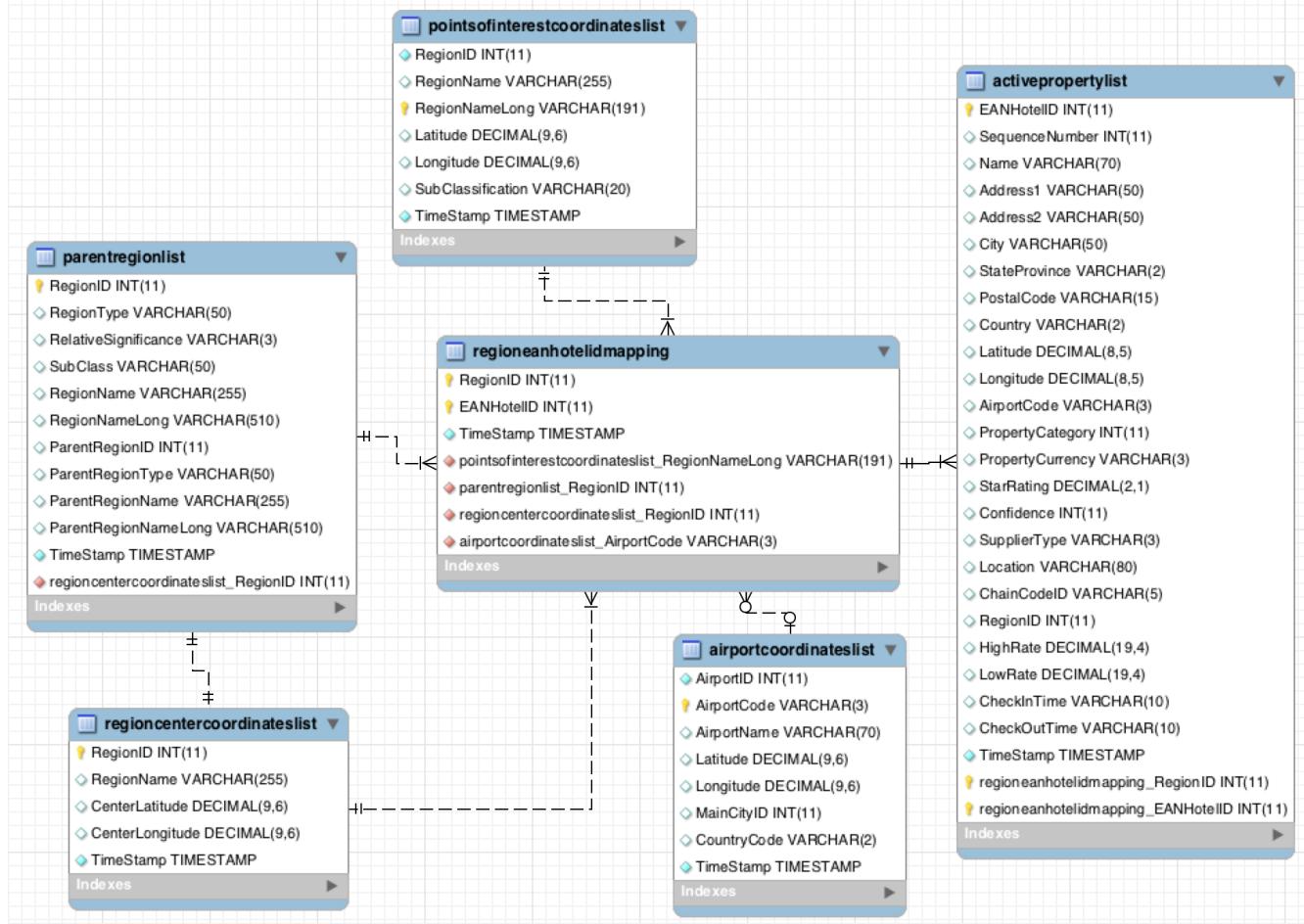
The TargetID will be a SHA() hash function to verify we do not get duplicated targets, we save the longitude and latitude, so we can always switch to search by the GEO point. We will use the RegionNameLong in each of our languages and will save the full list of EANHotelIDs for each regions inside this table, just as a convenience, for that we use the TEXT data field (max of 65535 characters) as we may get thousands of hotels for some destinations like London.

For the autocomplete we will be using 6x tables:

1. ParentRegionList – to get the Cities, Multi-City (and vicinity) and Neighborhood data.
2. RegionCenterCoordinatesList – to get the GPS point (latitude and longitude) of the Region.
3. AirportCoordinatesList – to get the Airports data and its GPS point.
4. PointOfCoordinatesList – to get all POIs and their GPS points.
5. RegionEANHotelIDMapping – the join table to get the list of properties
6. ActivePropertyList – as we choose to include also hotel names in the autocomplete, this contains the name, EANHotelID and the GPS point

If we want to support more languages (like Spanish and Portuguese in our example) we will need to add 1x more table per language (regionlist_es_es and regionlist_pt_br) for our example.

As a diagram it will look like:



All that will be needed is to create a big INSERT INTO query with each group of data. Due to its length we do not include it directly on the document but you may download the example for our [github repository](#) as part of the eanextras database.

Database helper functions

As part of our downloadable scripts, we do create the full structure of the eanprod database, but there are also some functions that will help managing the geographical tables and its data. Let's see what they can do.

Database Function (REGION_NAME_CLEAN)

This function allow use to eliminate anything that is inside parenthesis inside a string. We can use it to eliminate used eliminate things like '(type 7)' or '(and vicinity)' from the Region Names. As an example:

```
SELECT eanprod.REGION_NAME_CLEAN('Orlando (and vicinity)');
```

With the expected results of:

Orlando

We use it to clean up the names of the City (and vicinity) types, so it shows clean in the autocomplete list.

Database Function (HOTELS_IN_REGION)

This function allow us to get a list of hotelids (comma delimited) of any RegionID number. We use it to avoid complicating the queries to join into the RegionEANHotelIDMapping. As an example:

```
#hotel list in The Strip, Las Vegas
SELECT eanprod.HOTELS_IN_REGION(800045);
```

With the expected results of:

```
107128,108540,111474,112914,113149,115163,115838,116531,118583,118903,119566,121569
,122212,123169,123792,124363,129410,134556,135542,147594,149069,161293,163430,16343
8,163446,174511,212291,228169,230758,259462,259607,259630,273081,273427,311298,3328
41,342258,364984,432875,469402
```

The idea here is to easily store this value. The Function internally set the session of group_concat() database function to a high number to avoid truncating the list for destinations like Paris, France, where there are thousands of hotels. It is also very easy to use the results to pass into the API RESTful call as eanhotelidlist.

Database Function (HOTELS_IN_REGION_COUNT)

This function is similar to the HOTELS_IN_REGION ut instead return the amount of hotels that would make the list of any RegionID number. We use it save that data in the autocomplete table. Partners find it useful to limit regions that have little or no inventory out of their listings. Data for this function comes from a query to RegionEANHotelIDMapping . As an example:

```
#amount of hotels in region The Strip, Las Vegas
SELECT eanprod.HOTELS_IN_REGION_COUNT(800045);
```

With the expected results of:

40

This value could also be used in WHERE clauses to limit or filter results.

Other Geographic Tables

There are other geographical tables with variants of content that you may need for your integration. They are not consider main components but for completeness, lets list them with possible usages:

- `AliasRegionList` – list different spellings or names for the same region (however this table currently present Alias in different languages, but wrongly identified, so its use may be limited). There are localized versions for other languages of this table.
- `CityCoordinatesList` – for each region it list the geo-point that construct the polygon that defines the region. Maybe useful if you need to illustrate over a map a region.
- `CountryList` – list of all countries, with ISO country codes interesting if contains a transliteration of the name (non accented version). There are also localized versions of this table.
- `NeighborhoodCoordinatesList` – similar to `CityCoordinatesList` but for the Neighborhoods, presenting the polygon that describe the area.
- `RegionCenterCoordinatesList` – Gives you the `CenterLatitude` and `CenterLongitude` geo-point of regions (excluding airports and Points of interests).

As you can see they will be mostly useful for mapping (over a map service) and for displaying or solving alternate names of the regions.

Real Location (reverse geocoding)

Some people ask us, if we maintain a list of 'real' address of hotels, landmarks and cities. AS you can tell we do not follow a 'precise' geo-political (think on ISO standardized regions) mapping of the world. We understand there are multiple scenarios when that is desirable, necessary as:

- Multi-supplier scenarios – Trying to compare an hotel from one supplier to know if it is the same as another supplier.
- Map based applications – using for example Google maps as search or display template.
- Data re-hash – like combining multiple transportations (train, taxis) pre-calculated as supplemental information to travelers
- More precision on Neighborhood information – For example in Latin America and also Spain & France, there are multiple neighborhood names for a place.
- Postal Codes – We do not include the postal codes on all address, or they are not normalize you may need this info. For maps.

In those case you are probably looking at what is known as reverse-geo coding. **Reverse geocoding** is the process of back (**reverse**) coding of a point location (latitude, longitude) to a readable address or place name. This permits the identification of nearby street addresses, places, and/or areal subdivisions such as neighborhoods, county, state, or country.

Basically you could use an online service (pay or free) or even create your own server to solve this information. Here is a list of some known APIs to do such operation:

- [Google Geocoding API](#) – paid after certain limit
- [Bing Maps API \(Locations API\)](#) – paid after certain limit
- [Yahoo! \(Boss Geo Services\)](#) – paid after certain limit
- [MapQuest Geocoding API](#) – paid after certain limit
- [Nokia Geocoder API](#) – paid after certain limit
- [OpenStreetMap \(Nominatim API\)](#) – free (but limited amount of request)

Almost all of the services will let you subscribe and send an amount of request per a period of time (days) before you need to purchase a license. In our discoveries they are quite similar in functionality but varies a lot of data quality. Unfortunately the variance is based on backends so some may work better than others for any given country. The only free one is the OpenStreetMap (via Nominatim API), but if you send a vast amount of consecutive request they will block your access.

You could deploy your own OpenStreetMap and install the Nominatim layer on top, but it does require a quite powerful Server and a lot of time investment to get it up and running, as well as maintaining it (be sure you really need it).

Reverse geocoding (technical example)

Let's use the free Nominatim API to make a reversegeocode request from an hotel. Searching for hotels in 'Les Angles, Fr':

EANHotelID	Name	Address1	Address2	City	StateProvince	PostalCode	Country	Latitude	Longitude
388709	Lagrange Confort+ L'Orée Des Cimes	Avenue de Mont Louis		Les Angles		66210	FR	42.57622	2.06994
425093	Résidence Club mmv Les Angles Les Chalets de L'Isard	Route du Pla del Mir		Les Angles		66210	FR	42.56711	2.07032

If we use the first hotel, you will notice we do not know much about its address as there is no StateProvince for it. Constructing a RESTful call we send in:

```
http://nominatim.openstreetmap.org/reverse?  
format=json&lat=42.57622&lon=2.06994&zoom=18&addressdetails=1
```

We got back a JSON response:

```
{  
  "place_id": "9167865406",  
  "licence": "Data © OpenStreetMap contributors, ODbL 1.0.  
http://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright",  
  "osm_type": "way",  
  "osm_id": "88074349",  
  "lat": "42.5751299",  
  "lon": "2.0711922",  
  "display_name": "Téléski Bamby, Rue du Tennis, Les Angles, Pirineos Orientales,  
Languedoc-Rosellón, Metropolitan France, 66210, France",  
  "address": {  
    "address2": "Téléski Bamby",  
    "road": "Rue du Tennis",  
    "village": "Les Angles",  
    "county": "Pirineos Orientales",  
    "state": "Languedoc-Rosellón",  
    "country": "France",  
    "postcode": "66210",  
    "country_code": "fr"  
  }  
}
```

You can tell that the address is more detailed in this response (also disassembled in its elements) than the one we have on file, you could use this information as seed to discover property matching in multi-supplier environments.

Multi Hotel Supplier Lists

In the case of just matching a list of hotels with the ID of another supplier, we have work with a couple of supplier that sell that services. They are based on subscription lists, their listings include location information and we are mentioning it here as it has been helpful in some partners implementations. Companies are:

- [GIATA](#) - GIATA Codes identify more than 362,000 individual hotels and hotel complexes, including details of the town/city and country.
- [Match2List](#) - They already have pre-created list of our inventory matched to other suppliers (you need to send them an email to request that product).

Conclusion

We have discussed the various geographical information and data tables that Expedia makes available to their partners. However we cannot give you a simple geography file that will fit all scenarios, as that will depend on the specifics of your market target. Let us know if you find this WhitePaper useful or if you need some more clarifications please send us a note at: apihelp@expedia.com.