

QR Code possible data types or standards

Asked 7 years, 2 months ago Active 1 year, 9 months ago Viewed 12k times



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I am developing an iOS Application for scanning QR Codes. I am successfully able to scan and get code from QR code.

Question:

My question is what are possible data types and format I can expect from QR Codes?

During my search on google I found QR Code can be used for

1. Contact data
2. Calendar data
3. URL
4. Email address
5. Phone number
6. SMS
7. Plain text
8. Geo location

Is this the complete list and is there same standard to represent above data in QR Codes? Means same way of generating QR Code for above QR types.

Is there any standard way of generating and representing data in QR Code?

[ios](#) [qr-code](#)

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edited Nov 11 '13 at 7:29

asked Nov 11 '13 at 7:17



Irfan DANISH

7,337 10 35 63

- 2 You should add WiFi to the list. And Contact can be either MeCard or vCard. – [Jorge Cevallos](#) Nov 11 '13 at 8:44

@JorgeCevallos thanx for your comment, can you please guide me for the format of other types as well? – [Irfan DANISH](#) Nov 11 '13 at 9:06

- 1 I recommend you to use this ZXing's article as a guide: code.google.com/p/zxing/wiki/BarcodeContents – [Jorge Cevallos](#) Nov 11 '13 at 11:09

@JorgeCevallos Thanks for pointing me into the right direction. The wiki url changed to github.com/zxing/zxing/wiki/Barcode-Contents – [netblognet](#) Aug 29 '15 at 9:12

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Basically your text information has to be identifiable for what it is:

40 There is a very good summary [here](#).

1. Contact data - use [MeCard](#), or [vCard](#) (much more verbose), e.g.: MECARD:Surname, First;ADR:123 Some St., Town, Zip Code, Country;EMAIL:some_name@some_ip.com;TEL:+11800123123;BDAY:19550231;; Gives:



2. Calendar data - No standard seems to be set yet
3. URL: Start your url with the standard format specifier such as `http://` , e.g.:
`http://stackoverflow.com/questions/19900835/qr-code-possible-data-types-or-`



standards Gives:

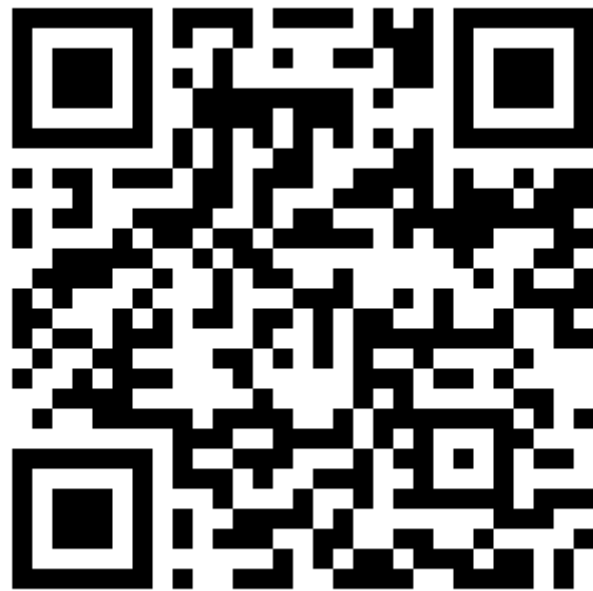
4. Email address - Start with `mailto:SomeOne@SomeWhere.org` gives:



5. Phone number - Start with `tel:` e.g. `tel:+1-212-555-1212` gives:



6. SMS - See the [RFC 5724](#).



7. Plain text - Just include the text.

8. Geo location - Use the `geo:lat,long,alt` format URI: `geo:40.71872,-73.98905,100` (100 feet above Google's offices) gives:



9. WIFI - (ssid is 'abc' and password is '1234'). For WEP encryption:

WIFI:S:abc;T:WEP;P:1234;;. For WPA/WPA2: WIFI:S:abc;T:WPA;P:1234;;. Without



encryption: WIFI:S:abc;T:nopass;P:1234;;.

All the above example were generated with the [Python qrcode](#) package from the command line.

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edited Jun 5 '17 at 18:28



[franga2000](#)

567 8 19

answered Nov 4 '14 at 14:52



[Steve Barnes](#)

24.4k 6 50 62

This is what I wanted, thanks! I was not able to google it. – [les](#) Nov 5 '15 at 17:58

Thanks for this complete answer. Helps a lot :-)) – [sjsam](#) Oct 30 '18 at 12:17



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Basically, QR Code returns text data that can be of any type. You can put any type of data in any string format in QR Code. It totally depends on you. You can consider it as

[NSString stringWithFormat].

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answered Nov 11 '13 at 7:39



[iEngineer](#)


1,301 1 11 27

thnx for your reply. As i told in my question i am making an iOS application which will take action on code received if there is no standard way of putting data in QR Code then how can I handle it my

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format of data. If you thinking of this for everyone then its gonna be a big deal. – [iEngineer](#) Nov 11 '13 at 10:26 



[Github - Zxing_\(Barcode Contents\)](#) has a summary.

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There may or may not be a standard.



If you are looking for non-standard formats,



please update your documentation and contribute to open source.

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answered Apr 23 '19 at 16:10



[kyeonghwan](#)

243 4 16