

DAP UA/GA4 Code v6.9 Release Notes

Prepared for:



Introduction

These Release Notes cover changes to the GSA Digital Analytics Program (DAP) Federated JavaScript code file (i.e. Universal-Federated-Analytics.js) in this 6.9 release.

Features Summary

Features Now Incorporated into the DAP GA Code

1. **Update:** AutoTracker was updated to support single-page applications – no need to recall the AutoTracker to track dynamically loaded content.
2. **Update:** The URL shortened token ([shrt]) is removed from file names, due to the increase of the event parameter value size limit to 500 characters for the web for 360 properties instead of 100 characters for standard properties.
3. **Update:** Prevent the use of the main property IDs as parallel trackers.
4. **Update:** Add the “pil” query string parameter to the whitelist of the DOC agency list.
5. **Update:** Use RegEx `/^www\./` instead of a string match to remove trailing `www.` from URLs.
6. **New:** Add a utility function to identify if a link is a downloadable file and return the file’s extension.
7. **New:** Add a utility function to lowercase all AutoTracker event’s parameters to reduce cardinality and parameters’ letter case variability
8. **New:** Enable DEV mode if the page has a query string parameter key equals “**dap-dev-env**”, if this parameter is detected, traffic will be directed to a Testing Property (GA4).
9. **Update:** `_tagClicks()` function has been removed

Features Enhanced

1. **AutoTracker:** This was updated to support single-page applications without the need to recall the AutoTracker after routing or dynamically loading new content.
2. **File Name:** Support Google update of increased parameter value length to 500, removing shortening token.
3. **Prevent the use of main properties IDs:** as parallel trackers to avoid any potential duplication due to improper implementation.
4. **Use RegEx:** Instead of string match for removal of www. From URLs across the DAP code.

Features Newly Implemented

1. **Dev mode enablement:** Enable DEV mode if the page has a query string parameter key equals “dap-dev-env”. If this parameter is detected, traffic will be directed to a Testing Property (GA4).
2. **Lowercase AutoTracker’s GA4 Parameter:** lowercase all AutoTracker event’s parameters to reduce cardinality and parameters’ letter case variability.
3. **Is Downloadable:** A new utility function was added to identify if a link is a downloadable file and return the file’s extension.
4. **Querystring Parameter Allowed _setAllowedQS function:** This was updated to include additional parameters (“pil” for DOC agency, and “affiliate”, “dap-dev-env” for the Default params). This functionality allows tracking of particular query-string parameters, by cross-referencing them with both the “**default**” set (containing Google’s predefined and search terms query strings) and **specific agency Query String** such as “gsa,” “dhs,” “doc,” “hhs,” “hud,” “nasa,” “nsf,” and “va.”

If there is a new requirement to include additional custom query-string parameters, it is necessary to reach out to the GSA DAP team. Alternatively, agencies have the option to transmit these parameters using the query string **SP** key.

Agency	Query String Parameter
default	utm_id,utm_source,utm_medium,utm_campaign,utm_term,utm_content, _gl,gclid,dclid,gclsrc, affiliate , dap-dev-env , q, query,nasalInclude,k,querytext, keys, qt,search_input, search,globalSearch, goog,s,gsearch,search_keywords, SearchableText,sp_q, qs,psnetsearch,

	locate, lookup,search_api_views_fulltext,keywords,request,_3_keywords
gsa	challenge, state
dhs	apreceiptnum
doc	station,meas, start,atlc,epac,cpac, basin,fdays, cone,tswind120,gm_track,50wind120,hwind120,mltoa34, swath, radii,wsurge,key_messages, inundation,rainqpf,ero, gage,wfo,spanish_key_messages,key_messages, sid,lan, office, pil
hhs	s_cid,selectedFacets
hud	PostID
nasa	feature, ProductID,selectedFacets
nps	gid,mapid, site, webcam, id
nsf	meas, start,atlc,epac,cpac, basin,fdays, cone,tswind120,gm_track,50wind120,hwind120,mltoa34, swath, radii,wsurge,key_messages, inundation,rainqpf,ero, gage,wfo,spanish_key_messages, key_messages, sid
va	id

Known Limitations

1. The Federated DAP code is designed to work on all government sites, whether they already have inline, site-specific/independent GA tracking or not. Specific supported scenarios include:
 - UA/GA4 Site Specific before the Federated code (Default Tracking Object)
 - UA/GA4 Site Specific after the Federated code (Default Tracking Object)
 - UA/GA4 Site Specific before the Federated code (Custom Tracking Object)
 - GA4 Site Specific after the Federated code (Custom Tracking Object)
 - Classic GA Site Specific before the Federated code
 - Classic GA Site Specific after the Federated code

There is one known limitation with a scenario where the Gov-wide Federated Analytics code fails: when an agency Universal Analytics tracking code (not DAP) uses a custom/non-default tracking object and it is added right after the Federated code. In this specific scenario, the Federated code will fail in reporting the first page hit and will be able to track normally all the consecutive hits. Example:

2. **Browser Limitation:** The Federated code doesn't fully support older versions of Microsoft Internet Explorer. While the Federated DAP code works with all known browsers, some features (e.g. the YouTube tracker) may not work properly on Internet Explorer 8 and earlier versions due to limitations in the YouTube API.