SEC Filing Citation Guide

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URL Construction Heuristic

This document describes the method for converting local SEC filing file paths to their corresponding public URLs on the SEC's EDGAR database.

File Path Structure

Local files are organized as:

`CIK{10-digit-CIK}/{accession-number-with-hyphens}/{filename}`

Example:

`CIK0000878146/0001075793-01-500095/schthirteeddmac.txt`

URL Construction Formula

To construct the public SEC EDGAR URL, apply the following transformations:

1. **Extract CIK**: Remove the "CIK" prefix and all leading zeros from the folder name

   - `CIK0000878146 → 878146`
   - `CIK0000013156 → 13156`
   - `CIK0001103993 → 1103993`

2. **Format Accession Number**: Remove all hyphens from the accession number

   - `0001075793-01-500095 → 000107579301500095`
   - `0001445866-18-001337 → 000144586618001337`

3. **Construct URL**: Combine as follows:

   `https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/{CIK}/{accession-number}/{filename}`

Complete Formula

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/{CIK_NO_ZEROS}/{ACCESSION_NO_HYPHENS}/{FILENAME}`

Where: - {CIK_NO_ZEROS} = CIK number with "CIK" prefix and leading zeros removed - {ACCESSION_NO_HYPHENS} = Accession number with hyphens removed - {FILENAME} = Original filename from the local path

Examples

Example 1: Legal Access Technologies (CIK 878146)

Local Path:

`CIK0000878146/0001075793-01-500095/schthirteeddmac.txt`

Transformation: - CIK: `CIK0000878146 → 878146` - Accession: `0001075793-01-500095 → 000107579301500095` - Filename: `schthirteeddmac.txt`

Public URL:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/878146/000107579301500095/schthirteeddmac.txt`

Citation: Schedule 13D Filing - Legal Access Technologies

Example 2: CIK 1103993

Local Path:

CIK0001103993/0001075793-01-500050/tenqsbmay.txt

Transformation: - CIK: CIK0001103993 → 1103993 - Accession: 0001075793-01-500050 → 000107579301500050 - Filename: tenqsbmay.txt

Public URL:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1103993/000107579301500050/tenqsbmay.txt

Citation: 10-Q Filing

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Example 3: CIK 13156

Local Path:

CIK0000013156/0001445866-18-001337/0001445866-18-001337.txt

Transformation: - CIK: CIK0000013156 → 13156 - Accession: 0001445866-18-001337 → 000144586618001337 - Filename: 0001445866-18-001337.txt

Public URL:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/13156/000144586618001337/0001445866-18-001337.txt

Citation: SEC Filing

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Example 4: CIK 1144030

Local Path:

CIK0001144030/0001075793-01-500095/schthirteeddmac.txt

Transformation: - CIK: CIK0001144030 → 1144030 - Accession: 0001075793-01-500095 → 000107579301500095 - Filename: schthirteed-dmac.txt

Public URL:

https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1144030/000107579301500095/schthirteeddmac.txt

Citation: Schedule 13D Filing

SEC Submissions API

For comprehensive metadata about a company's SEC filings, use the SEC Submissions API:

API Endpoint Format

https://data.sec.gov/submissions/CIK{10-digit-CIK-with-leading-zeros}.json

Examples

Company with CIK 878146   API URL:

https://data.sec.gov/submissions/CIK0000878146.json

This JSON file contains: - Current and former company names - Stock exchange and ticker symbol information - Recent filings (at least one year or up to 1,000 filings) - Links to additional filing JSON files if more than 1,000 filings exist

Company with CIK 13156   API URL:

https://data.sec.gov/submissions/CIK0000013156.json

JSON Structure

The submissions JSON contains: - **Metadata**: Company name, former names, fiscal year end, etc. - **filings.recent**: Columnar arrays with recent filing information - **filings.files**: Array of additional JSON files for older filings (if applicable)

Accessing Filing Details

The JSON `filings.recent` object contains parallel arrays: - `accessionNumber`: Array of accession numbers (with hyphens) - `filingDate`: Array of filing dates - `reportDate`: Array of report dates - `acceptanceDateTime`: Array of acceptance timestamps - `form`: Array of form types (e.g., "10-K", "10-Q", "8-K", "SC 13D") - `primaryDocument`: Array of primary document filenames - `primaryDocDescription`: Array of document descriptions

Each index position across all arrays corresponds to a single filing.

Complete File Inventory by CIK

CIK0000878146

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/878146/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0000013156

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/13156/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001059577

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1059577/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001100131

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1100131/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001103993

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1103993/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001144030

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1144030/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001255294

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1255294/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001487659

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1487659/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001507718

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1507718/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001543098

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1543098/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

CIK0001561622

Files in this directory map to:

`https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1561622/{accession_no_hyphens}/{filename}`

Usage Notes

1. **Document Index Files**: Most accession folders contain index HTML files (e.g., `{accession}-index.html`) that provide a web view of all documents in the filing
2. **Primary Documents**: The main filing document typically has a descriptive filename or matches the accession number
3. **Supporting Documents**: Additional exhibits and attachments are included in the same accession folder
4. **Rate Limiting**: The SEC enforces rate limiting on their APIs and download services; respect these limits
5. **User-Agent Required**: When programmatically accessing SEC resources, include a proper User-Agent header with contact information

Quick Reference Script

To convert a local path to URL:

```
# Input: CIK0000878146/0001075793-01-500095/schthirteeddmac.txt


# Extract components
CIK=$(echo "CIK0000878146" | sed 's/CIK0*//')        # Result: 878146
ACCESSION=$(echo "0001075793-01-500095" | tr -d '-')   # Result: 000107579301500095
FILENAME="schthirteeddmac.txt"


# Construct URL
echo "https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/${CIK}/${ACCESSION}/${FILENAME}"
# Output: https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/878146/000107579301500095/schthirteeddmac.txt
```

Additional Resources

- **SEC EDGAR Homepage**: https://www.sec.gov/edgar
- **EDGAR Search Tools**: https://www.sec.gov/edgar/searchedgar/companysearch.html
- **EDGAR API Documentation**: https://www.sec.gov/edgar/sec-api-documentation
- **SEC Developer Resources**: https://www.sec.gov/developer

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