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[TOC](#)

## **A Uniform Resource Identifier for Geographic Locations ('geo' URI) draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-07**

### **Abstract**

This document specifies a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) for geographic locations using the 'geo' scheme name. A 'geo' URI identifies a physical location in a two- or three-dimensional coordinate reference system in a compact, simple, human-readable, and protocol-independent way. The default coordinate reference system used is WGS-84.

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## Table of Contents

- [1.](#) Introduction
- [2.](#) Terminology
- [3.](#) IANA Registration of 'geo' URI Scheme
  - [3.1.](#) URI Scheme Name
  - [3.2.](#) Status
  - [3.3.](#) URI Scheme Syntax
  - [3.4.](#) URI Scheme Semantics
    - [3.4.1.](#) Coordinate Reference System Identification
    - [3.4.2.](#) Component Description for WGS-84
    - [3.4.3.](#) Location Uncertainty
    - [3.4.4.](#) URI Comparison
    - [3.4.5.](#) Interpretation of Undefined Altitude
  - [3.5.](#) Encoding Considerations
  - [3.6.](#) Applications/Protocols that use this URI Scheme
  - [3.7.](#) Interopability Considerations
  - [3.8.](#) Security Considerations
  - [3.9.](#) Contact
  - [3.10.](#) Author/Change controller
  - [3.11.](#) References
- [4.](#) 'geo' URI Parameters Registry
- [5.](#) URI Operations
- [6.](#) Use Cases and Examples
  - [6.1.](#) Plain 'geo' URI Example
  - [6.2.](#) Hyperlink
  - [6.3.](#) 'geo' URI in 2-dimensional barcode
  - [6.4.](#) Comparison Examples
- [7.](#) GML Mappings
  - [7.1.](#) 2D GML 'Point'
  - [7.2.](#) 3D GML 'Point'

|                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <a href="#">7.3.</a>        | GML 'Circle'                     |
| <a href="#">7.4.</a>        | GML 'Sphere'                     |
| <a href="#">8.</a>          | IANA Considerations              |
| <a href="#">8.1.</a>        | 'geo' URI Scheme                 |
| <a href="#">8.2.</a>        | URI Parameter Registry           |
| <a href="#">8.2.1.</a>      | Registry Contents                |
| <a href="#">8.2.2.</a>      | Registration Policy              |
| <a href="#">8.3.</a>        | Sub-Registry for 'crs' Parameter |
| <a href="#">8.3.1.</a>      | Registry Contents                |
| <a href="#">8.3.2.</a>      | Registration Policy              |
| <a href="#">9.</a>          | Security Considerations          |
| <a href="#">9.1.</a>        | Invalid Locations                |
| <a href="#">9.2.</a>        | Location Privacy                 |
| <a href="#">10.</a>         | Acknowledgements                 |
| <a href="#">11.</a>         | References                       |
| <a href="#">11.1.</a>       | Normative References             |
| <a href="#">11.2.</a>       | Informative References           |
| <a href="#">Appendix A.</a> | Change Log                       |
| <a href="#">§</a>           | Authors' Addresses               |

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## 1. Introduction

[TOC](#)

An increasing number of Internet protocols and data formats are extended by specifications for adding spatial (geographic) location. In most cases, latitude as well as longitude of simple points are added as new attributes to existing data structures. However, all those methods are very specific to a certain data format or protocol, and don't provide a protocol-independent, compact and generic way to refer to a physical geographic location.

Location-aware applications and location-based services are fast emerging on the Internet. Most web search engines use geographic information, and a vivid open source mapping community has brought an enormous momentum into location aware technology. A wide range of tools and data sets which formerly were accessible to professionals only have become available to a wider audience.

The 'geo' URI scheme is another step into that direction and aims to facilitate, support and standardize the problem of location identification in geospatial services and applications. Accessing information about a particular location or triggering further services

shouldn't be any harder than clicking on a 'mailto:' link and writing an email straight away.

According to [\[RFC3986\] \(Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and L. Masinter, "Uniform Resource Identifier \(URI\): Generic Syntax," January 2005.\)](#), a Uniform Resource Identifier (URI) is "a compact sequence of characters that identifies an abstract or physical resource". The 'geo' URI scheme defined in this document identifies geographic locations (physical resources) in a coordinate reference system (CRS), per default the [World Geodetic System 1984 \(WGS-84\) \(National Imagery and Mapping Agency, "Department of Defense World Geodetic System 1984, Third Edition," January 2000.\)](#) [WGS84]. The scheme provides the textual representation of the location's spatial coordinates in either two or three dimensions (latitude, longitude, and optionally altitude for the default CRS of WGS-84). An example of such an 'geo' URI follows:

```
geo:13.4125,103.8667
```

Such URIs are independent from a specific protocol, application, or data format, and can be used in any other protocol or data format that supports inclusion of arbitrary URIs.

For the sake of usability, the definition of the URI scheme is strictly focused on the simplest, but also most common representation of a spatial location - a single point in a well known CRS. The provision of more complex geometries or locations described by civic addresses is out of scope of this document.

The optional 'crs' URI parameter described below may be used by future specifications to define the use of CRSes other than WGS-84. This is primarily intended to cope with the case of another CRS replacing WGS-84 as the predominantly used one, rather than allowing the arbitrary use of thousands of CRSes for the URI (which would clearly affect interoperability). The definition of 'crs' values beyond the default of "wgs84" is therefore out of scope of this document.

This spec discourages use of alternate CRSes in use cases where comparison is an important function.

Note: The choice of WGS-84 as the default CRS is based on the widespread availability of Global Positioning System (GPS) devices, which use the WGS-84 reference system. It is anticipated that such devices will serve as one of the primary data sources for authoring 'geo' URIs, hence the adoption of the native GPS reference system for the URI scheme. Also, many other data formats for representing geographic locations use the WGS-84 reference system, which makes transposing from and to such data formats less error prone (no re-projection involved). It is also believed that the burden of potentially required spatial transformations should be put on the author rather than the consumer of 'geo' URI instances.

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## 2. Terminology

[TOC](#)

Geographic locations in this document are defined using WGS-84 (World Geodetic System 1984), equivalent to the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) Surveying and Positioning Committee EPSG (European Petroleum Survey Group) code 4326 (2 dimensions) and 4979 (3 dimensions). This document does not assign responsibilities for coordinate transformations from and to other Spatial Reference Systems. A 2-dimensional WGS-84 coordinate value is represented here as a comma-delimited latitude/longitude pair, measured in decimal degrees (un-projected). A 3-dimensional WGS-84 coordinate value is represented here by appending a comma-delimited altitude value in meters to such pairs. Latitudes range from -90 to 90 and longitudes range from -180 to 180. Coordinates in the Southern and Western hemispheres as well as altitudes below the WGS-84 reference geoid are signed negative with a leading dash.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119 \(Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels," March 1997.\)](#) [RFC2119].

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## 3. IANA Registration of 'geo' URI Scheme

[TOC](#)

This section contains the fields required for the URI scheme registration, following the guidelines in section 5.4 of [\[RFC4395\] \(Hansen, T., Hardie, T., and L. Masinter, "Guidelines and Registration Procedures for New URI Schemes," February 2006.\)](#).

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### 3.1. URI Scheme Name

[TOC](#)

geo

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### 3.2. Status

[TOC](#)

permanent

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[TOC](#)

### 3.3. URI Scheme Syntax

The syntax of the 'geo' URI scheme is specified below in [Augmented Backus-Naur Form \(ABNF\) \(Crocker, D. and P. Overell, "Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF," January 2008.\)](#) [RFC5234]:

```
geo-URI      = geo-scheme ":" geo-path
geo-scheme   = "geo"
geo-path     = coordinates p
coordinates  = coord-a "," coord-b [ "," coord-c ]

coord-a      = num
coord-b      = num
coord-c      = num

p            = [ crsp ] [ uncp ] *parameter
crsp         = ";crs=" crslabel
crslabel     = "wgs84" / labeltext
uncp        = ";u=" uval
uval         = pnum
parameter    = ";" pname [ "=" pvalue ]
pname        = labeltext
pvalue       = 1*paramchar
paramchar    = p-unreserved / unreserved / pct-encoded

labeltext    = 1*( alphanum / "-" )
pnum         = 1*DIGIT [ "." 1*DIGIT ]
num          = [ "-" ] pnum
unreserved   = alphanum / mark
mark         = "-" / "_" / "." / "!" / "~" / "*" /
              "'" / "(" / ")"
pct-encoded  = "%" HEXDIG HEXDIG
p-unreserved = "[" / "]" / ":" / "&" / "+" / "$"
alphanum     = ALPHA / DIGIT
```

Parameter names are case insensitive, use of the lowercase representation is PREFERRED. Case sensitivity of non-numeric parameter values MUST be described in the specification of the respective parameter. For the 'crs' parameter, values are case insensitive, and lowercase is PREFERRED.

Both 'crs' and 'u' parameters MUST NOT appear more than once each. The 'crs' and 'u' parameters MUST be given before any other parameters that may be defined in future extensions. The 'crs' parameter MUST be given first if both 'crs' and 'u' are used. The definition of other parameters, and <crslabel> values beyond the default value of "wgs84" is out of scope of this document. [Section 8.2 \(URI Parameter Registry\)](#) discusses the IANA registration of such additional parameters and values.

The value of "-0" for <num> is allowed, and identical to "0".

In case the URI identifies a location in the default CRS of WGS-84, the <coordinates> sub-components are further restricted as follows:

|           |   |                                  |
|-----------|---|----------------------------------|
| coord-a   | = | latitude                         |
| coord-b   | = | longitude                        |
| coord-c   | = | altitude                         |
|           |   |                                  |
| latitude  | = | [ "-" ] 1*2DIGIT [ "." 1*DIGIT ] |
| longitude | = | [ "-" ] 1*3DIGIT [ "." 1*DIGIT ] |
| altitude  | = | [ "-" ] 1*DIGIT [ "." 1*DIGIT ]  |

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### 3.4. URI Scheme Semantics

[TOC](#)

Data contained in a 'geo' URI identifies a physical resource: a spatial location identified by the geographic coordinates and the CRS encoded in the URI.

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#### 3.4.1. Coordinate Reference System Identification

[TOC](#)

The semantics of <coordinates> depends on the CRS of the URI. The CRS itself is identified by the optional 'crs' parameter. A URI instance uses the default WGS-84 CRS if the 'crs' parameter is either missing or contains the value of 'wgs84'. Other <crslabel> values are currently not defined, but may be specified by future documents.

Interpretation of coordinates in the wrong CRS produces invalid location information. Consumers of 'geo' URIs therefore MUST NOT ignore the 'crs' parameter if given, and MUST NOT interpret the <coordinates> sub-components without considering and understanding the 'crs' parameter value.

The following component description refers to the use of the default CRS (WGS-84) only. Future documents specifying other 'crs' parameter values MUST provide similar descriptions for the <coordinates> sub-components in the described CRS.

---

#### 3.4.2. Component Description for WGS-84

[TOC](#)

The <latitude>, <longitude> and <altitude> components as specified in the URI scheme syntax ([Section 3.3 \(URI Scheme Syntax\)](#)) are to be used as follows:

\*<latitude> MUST contain the latitude of the identified location in decimal degrees in the reference system WGS-84.

\*<longitude> MUST contain the longitude of the identified location in decimal degrees in the reference system WGS-84.

\*If present, the OPTIONAL <altitude> MUST contain the altitude of the identified location in meters in the reference system WGS-84.

If the altitude of the location is unknown, <altitude> (and the comma before) MUST NOT be present in the URI. Specifically, unknown altitude MUST NOT be represented by setting <altitude> to "0" (or any other arbitrary value).

The <longitude> of coordinate values reflecting the poles (<latitude> set to -90 or 90 degrees) SHOULD be set to "0", although consumers of 'geo' URIs MUST accept such URIs with any longitude value from -180 to 180.

'geo' URIs with longitude values outside the range of -180 to 180 decimal degrees or with latitude values outside the range of -90 to 90 degrees MUST be considered invalid.

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#### 3.4.3. Location Uncertainty

[TOC](#)

The 'u' ("uncertainty") parameter indicates the amount of uncertainty in the location as a value in meters. Where a 'geo' URI is used to identify the location of a particular object, <uval> indicates the uncertainty with which the identified location of the subject is known. The 'u' parameter is optional and it can appear only once. If it is not specified, this indicates that uncertainty is unknown or unspecified. If the intent is to indicate a specific point in space, <uval> MAY be set to zero. Zero uncertainty and absent uncertainty are never the same thing.

The single uncertainty value is applied to all dimensions given in the URI.

Note: The number of digits of the values in <coordinates> MUST NOT be interpreted as an indication to uncertainty.

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#### 3.4.4. URI Comparison

[TOC](#)

Comparison of URIs intends to determine whether two URI strings are equivalent and identify the same resource (rather than comparing the



resources themselves). Therefore, a comparison of two 'geo' URIs does not compare spatial objects, but only the strings (URIs) identifying those objects.

The term "mathematically identical" used below specifies that some components of the URI MUST be compared as normalized numbers rather than strings to account for the variety in string representations of identical numbers (for example, the strings "43.10" and "43.1" are different, but represent the same number).

Two 'geo' URIs are equal only if they fulfill all of the following general comparison rules:

- \*Both URIs use the same CRS, which means that either both have the 'crs' parameter omitted, or both have the same <crslabel> value, or one has the 'crs' parameter omitted while the other URI specifies the default CRS explicitly with a <crslabel> value of "wgs84".

- \*Their <coord-a>, <coord-b>, <coord-c> and 'u' values are mathematically identical (including absent <uval> meaning undefined 'u' value).

- \*Their sets of other parameters are equal, with comparison operations applied on each parameter as described in its respective specification.

Parameter order is not significant for URI comparison.

Since new parameters may be registered over time, legacy implementations of the 'geo' URI might encounter unknown parameters. In such cases, the following rules apply:

- \*Two 'geo' URIs with unknown parameters are equivalent only if the same set of unknown parameter names appears in each URI, and their values are bitwise identical after percent-decoding.

- \*Otherwise, the comparison operation for the respective URIs is undefined (since the legacy implementation is not be aware of the comparison rules for those parameters).

Designers of future extension parameters should take this into account when choosing the comparison rules for new parameters.

A URI with undefined (missing) <coord-c> (altitude) value MUST NOT be considered equal to a URI containing a <coord-c>, even if the remaining <coord-a>, <coord-b>, and their 'u' values are equivalent.

For the default CRS of WGS-84, the following comparison rules apply additionally:

\*Where <latitude> of a 'geo' URI is set to either 90 or -90 degrees, <longitude> MUST be ignored in comparison operations ("poles case").

\*A <longitude> of 180 degrees MUST be considered equal to <longitude> of -180 degrees for the purpose of URI comparison ("date line" case).

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### 3.4.5. Interpretation of Undefined Altitude

[TOC](#)

A consumer of a 'geo' URI in the WGS-84 CRS with undefined <altitude> MAY assume that the URI refers to the respective location on Earth's physical surface at the given latitude and longitude. However, as defined above, altitudes are relative to the WGS-84 reference geoid rather than Earth's surface. Hence, an <altitude> value of 0 MUST NOT be mistaken to refer to "ground elevation".

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### 3.5. Encoding Considerations

[TOC](#)

The <coordinates> path component of the 'geo' URI (see [Section 3.3 \(URI Scheme Syntax\)](#)) uses a comma (",") as the delimiter for subcomponents. This delimiter MUST NOT be percent-encoded.

It is RECOMMENDED that for readability the contents of <coord-a>, <coord-b> and <coord-c> as well as <crslabel> and <uval> are never percent-encoded.

Regarding internationalization, the currently specified components do allow for ASCII characters exclusively, and therefore don't require internationalization. Future specifications of additional parameters might allow the introduction of non-ASCII values. Such specifications MUST describe internationalization considerations for those parameters and their values, and MUST require percent-encoding of non-ASCII values.

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### 3.6. Applications/Protocols that use this URI Scheme

[TOC](#)

As many other URI scheme definitions, the 'geo' URI provides resource identification independent of a specific application or protocol. Examples of potential protocol mappings and use cases can be found in [Section 6 \(Use Cases and Examples\)](#).

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### 3.7. Interopability Considerations

[TOC](#)

Like other new URI schemes, the 'geo' URI requires support in client applications. Users of applications which are not aware of the 'geo' scheme are likely not able to make direct use of the information in the URI. However, a client can make indirect use by passing around 'geo' URIs even without understanding the format and semantics of the scheme. Additionally, the simple structure of 'geo' URIs would allow even manual dereference by humans.

Clients MUST NOT attempt to dereference 'geo' URIs given in an CRS that is unknown to the client, because doing so would produce entirely bogus results.

Authors of 'geo' URIs should carefully check that coordinate components are set in the right CRS and in the specified order, since wrong order of those components (or use of coordinates in a different CRS without transformation) are commonly observed mistakes producing completely bogus locations.

The number of digits in the <coordinates> values MUST NOT be interpreted as an indication to a certain level of accuracy or uncertainty.

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### 3.8. Security Considerations

[TOC](#)

See [Section 9 \(Security Considerations\)](#) of [insert reference to this document]

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### 3.9. Contact

[TOC](#)

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[TOC](#)

### 3.10. Author/Change controller

The 'geo' URI scheme is registered under the IETF part of the URI tree. As such, change control is up to the IETF.

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### 3.11. References

[TOC](#)

RFC XXXX [change to RFC number once assigned]

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## 4. 'geo' URI Parameters Registry

[TOC](#)

This specification creates a new IANA Registry named "'geo' URI Parameters Registry" for the <parameter> component of the URI. Parameters for the 'geo' URI and values for these parameters MUST be registered with IANA to prevent namespace collisions, and provide interoperability.

Some parameters accept values that are constrained by a syntax definition only, while others accept values from a predefined set only. Some parameters might not accept any values at all ("flag" type parameters).

The registration of values is REQUIRED for parameters that accept values from a predefined set.

The specification of a parameter MUST fully explain the syntax, intended usage and semantics of the parameter. This ensures interoperability between independent implementations.

For parameters that are neither restricted to a set of predefined values nor of the "flag" type described above, the syntax of allowed values MUST be described in the specification, for example by using ABNF.

Documents defining new parameters (or new values for existing parameters) MUST register them with IANA, as explained in [Section 8.2 \(URI Parameter Registry\)](#).

The 'geo' URI Parameter Registry contains a column named "Value Restriction" that describes whether or not a parameter accepts a value, and whether values are restricted to a predefined set. That column accepts the following values:

\*"No value": The parameter does not accept any values, and is to be used as a "flag" only.

\*"Predefined": The parameter does accept values from a predefined set only, as specified in a RFC or other permanent and readily available public specification.

\*"Constrained": The parameter accepts arbitrary values that are only constrained by a syntax as specified in a RFC or other permanent and readily available public specification.

[Section 8.2.1 \(Registry Contents\)](#) contains the initial contents of the Registry.

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## 5. URI Operations

[TOC](#)

Currently, just one operation on a 'geo' URI is defined - location dereference: In that operation, a client dereferences the URI by extracting the geographical coordinates from the URI path component <geo-path>. Further use of those coordinates (and the uncertainty value from <uval>) is then up to the application processing the URI, and might depend on the context of the URI.

An application may then use this location information for various purposes, for example:

\*A web browser could use that information to open a mapping service of the user's choice, and display a map of the location.

\*A navigational device such as a Global Positioning System (GPS) receiver could offer the user to start navigation to the location.

Note that the examples and use cases above as well as in the next section are non-normative, and provided for information only.

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## 6. Use Cases and Examples

[TOC](#)

### 6.1. Plain 'geo' URI Example

[TOC](#)

The following 3-dimensional 'geo' URI example references to the office location of one of the authors in Vienna, Austria:

geo:48.2010,16.3695,183

Resolution of the URI returns the following information:

\*The 'crs' parameter is not given in the URI, which means that the URI uses the default CRS of WGS-84.

\*The URI includes <coord-c>, is hence 3-dimensional, and therefore uses 'urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4979' as the WGS-84 CRS identifier.

\*The <coord-a> value (latitude in WGS-84) is set to '48.2010' decimal degrees.

\*The <coord-b> value (longitude in WGS-84) is set to '16.3695' decimal degrees.

\*The <coord-c> value (altitude in WGS-84) is set to 183 meters.

\*Uncertainty is undefined.

A user could type the data extracted from this URI into a electronic navigation device, or even use it to locate the identified location on a paper map.

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## 6.2. Hyperlink

[TOC](#)

'geo' URIs (like any other URI scheme) could also be embedded as hyperlinks in web pages. A Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) snippet with such a hyperlink could look like:

```
<p>one of Vienna's popular sights is the  
<a href='geo:48.198634,16.371648;crs=wgs84;u=40'>Karlskirche</a>.
```

Resolution of the URI returns the following information:

\*The 'crs' is given in the URI, and sets the CRS used in the URI to WGS-84 explicetely.

\*The URI does omit <coord-c>, is hence 2-dimensional, and therefore uses 'urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326' as the WGS-84 CRS identifier.

\*The <coord-a> value (latitude in WGS-84) is set to '48.198634' decimal degrees.

\*The <coord-b> value (longitude in WGS-84) is set to '16.371648' decimal degrees.

\*The <coord-c> (altitude) value is undefined, hence the client MAY assume the identified location to be on Earth's physical surface.

\*The 'u' parameter is included in the URI, setting uncertainty to 40 meters.

A web browser could use this information from the HTML snippet, and offer the user various options (based on configuration, context), for example:

\*Display a small map thumbnail when the mouse pointer hovers over the link.

\*Switch to a mapping service of the user's choice once the link is selected.

\*Locate nearby resources, for example by comparing the 'geo' URI with locations extracted from GeoRSS feeds the user has subscribed to.

\*Convert the coordinates to a format suitable for uploading to a navigation device.

Note that the URI in this example also makes use of the explicit specification of the CRS by using the 'crs' parameter.

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### 6.3. 'geo' URI in 2-dimensional barcode

[TOC](#)

Due to its short length, a 'geo' URI could easily be encoded in 2-dimensional barcodes. Such barcodes could be printed on business cards, flyers, paper maps and subsequently used by mobile devices, for example as follows:

1. User identifies such a barcode on a flyer and uses the camera on his mobile phone to photograph and decode the barcode.

2. The mobile phone dereferences the 'geo' URI, and offers the user to calculate a navigation route to the identified location.
3. Using the builtin GPS receiver, the user follows the navigation instructions to reach the location.

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#### 6.4. Comparison Examples

[TOC](#)

This section provides examples of URI comparison. Note that the unknown parameters 'foo' and 'bar' and unregistered 'crs' values in this section are used for illustrative purposes only, and their inclusion in the examples below does not constitute any formal parameter definition or registration request.

\*The two URIs `<geo:90,-22.43;crs=WGS84>` and `<geo:90,46>` are equal, because both use the same CRS, and even though the longitude values are different, both reflect a location on the north pole (special "poles" rule for WGS-84 applies - longitude is to be ignored). Note that the 'crs' parameter values are case insensitive.

\*The URIs `<geo:22.300;-118.44>` and `<geo:22.3;-118.4400>` are equal, because their coordinate components are mathematically identical

\*The set of `<geo:66,30;u=6.500;F0o=this%2dthat>` and `<geo:66.0,30;u=6.5;foo=this-that>` are identical, because the value of the unknown parameter 'foo' is bitwise identical after percent-decoding, parameter names are case insensitive, and coordinates and uncertainty are mathematically identical.

\*The comparison operation on `<geo:70,20;foo=1.00;bar=white>` and `<geo:70,20;foo=1;bar=white>` in a legacy implementation is undefined, because the normalization rules for 'foo' are not known, and hence the implementation cannot identify whether or not '1.00' is identical to '1' for the 'foo' parameter.



\*Comparing `<geo:47,11;foo=blue;bar=white>` and `<geo:47,11;bar=white;foo=blue>` returns true, because parameter order is insignificant in comparison operations

\*The comparison operation on `<geo:22,0;bar=Blue>` and `<geo:22,0;BAR=blue>` is undefined, because even though parameter names are case insensitive, this is not necessarily the case for the values of the unknown 'bar' parameter.

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## 7. GML Mappings

[TOC](#)

The Geographic Markup Language (GML) by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) is a set of XML schemas to represent geographical features. Since GML is widely accepted, this document includes instructions on how to transform 'geo' URIs from and to GML fragments. The instructions in this section are not normative.

For the following sections, "%lat%", "%lon%", "%alt%" and "%unc%" are placeholders for latitude, longitude, altitude and uncertainty values, respectively. The mappings use WGS-84, and are defined in the following sections.

Note: GML fragments in other reference systems could be used as well if a transformation into "urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4979" or "urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326" is defined and applied before the mapping step. Such transformations are typically not lossless.

GML uses the 'double' type from XML schema, and the mapping examples assume that numbers in the form of "3.32435e2" in GML are properly converted to fixed point when placed into the 'geo' URI.

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### 7.1. 2D GML 'Point'

[TOC](#)

A 2D GML ['Point'](#) (Winterbottom, J., Thomson, M., and H. Tschofenig, "GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object (PIDF-LO) Usage Clarification, Considerations, and Recommendations," March 2009.) [RFC5491] is constructed from a 'geo' URI that has two coordinates and an uncertainty ('u') parameter that is absent or zero. A GML point is always converted to a 'geo' URI that has no uncertainty parameter. 'geo' URI:

geo:%lat%,%lon%

GML fragment:

```
<Point srsName="urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326"
      xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/gml">
  <pos>%lat% %lon%</pos>
</Point>
```

Note that a 'geo' URI with an uncertainty value of zero is converted to a GML 'Point', but a GML 'Point' cannot be translated to a 'geo' URI with zero uncertainty.

---

## 7.2. 3D GML 'Point'

[TOC](#)

A 3D GML 'Point' ([Winterbottom, J., Thomson, M., and H. Tschofenig, "GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object \(PIDF-LO\) Usage Clarification, Considerations, and Recommendations," March 2009.](#)) [RFC5491] is constructed from a 'geo' URI that has three coordinates and an uncertainty parameter that is absent or zero. A GML point is always converted to a 'geo' URI that has no uncertainty parameter. 'geo' URI:

geo:%lat%,%lon%,%alt%

GML fragment:

```
<Point srsName="urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4979"
      xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/gml">
  <pos>%lat% %lon% %alt%</pos>
</Point>
```

---

## 7.3. GML 'Circle'

[TOC](#)

A GML 'Circle' ([Winterbottom, J., Thomson, M., and H. Tschofenig, "GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object \(PIDF-LO\) Usage Clarification, Considerations, and Recommendations," March 2009.](#)) [RFC5491] is constructed from a 'geo' URI that has two coordinates and an uncertainty parameter that is present and non-zero. 'geo' URI:

geo:%lat%,%lon%;u=%unc%

GML fragment:

```
<gs:Circle srsName="urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326"
  xmlns:gml="http://www.opengis.net/gml"
  xmlns:gs="http://www.opengis.net/pidflo/1.0">
  <gml:pos>%lat% %lon%</gml:pos>
  <gs:radius uom="urn:ogc:def:uom:EPSG::9001">
    %unc%
  </gs:radius>
</gs:Circle>
```

---

#### 7.4. GML 'Sphere'

[TOC](#)

A GML 'sphere' ([Winterbottom, J., Thomson, M., and H. Tschofenig, "GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object \(PIDF-LO\) Usage Clarification, Considerations, and Recommendations," March 2009.](#)) [RFC5491] is constructed from a 'geo' URI that has three coordinates and an uncertainty parameter that is present and non-zero.  
'geo' URI:

geo:%lat%,%lon%,%alt%;u=%unc%

GML fragment:

```
<gs:Sphere srsName="urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4979"
  xmlns:gml="http://www.opengis.net/gml"
  xmlns:gs="http://www.opengis.net/pidflo/1.0">
  <gml:pos>%lat% %lon% %alt%</gml:pos>
  <gs:radius uom="urn:ogc:def:uom:EPSG::9001">
    %unc%
  </gs:radius>
</gs:Sphere>
```

---

### 8. IANA Considerations

[TOC](#)

#### 8.1. 'geo' URI Scheme

[TOC](#)

This document requests assignment of the 'geo' URI scheme in the IETF part of the URI scheme tree, according to the guidelines in [BCP 115 \(RFC 4395\)](#) ([Hansen, T., Hardie, T., and L. Masinter, "Guidelines and](#)

[Registration Procedures for New URI Schemes," February 2006.\)](#)  
[RFC4395]. The definitions required for the assignment are contained in  
[Section 3 \(IANA Registration of 'geo' URI Scheme\)](#).

---

## 8.2. URI Parameter Registry

[TOC](#)

This document creates a new IANA Registry named "'geo' URI Parameters", according to the information in [Section 4 \('geo' URI Parameters Registry\)](#) and the definition in this section.

---

### 8.2.1. Registry Contents

[TOC](#)

When registering a new 'geo' URI Parameter, the following information MUST be provided:

\*Name of the Parameter.

\*Whether the Parameter accepts no value ("No value"), values from a predefined set ("Predefined"), or values constrained by a syntax only ("Constrained").

\*Reference to the RFC or other permanent and readily available public specification defining the parameters and the new values.

Unless specific instructions exists for a Parameter (like the definition of a Sub-registry), the following information MUST be provided when registering new values for existing "Predefined" 'geo' URI Parameters:

\*Name of the Parameter.

\*Reference to the RFC or other permanent and readily available public specification defining the new values.

The following table provides the initial values for this registry:

| Parameter Name | Value Restriction | Reference(s) |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|
| -----          |                   |              |
| crs            | Predefined        | [RFCxxxx]    |
| u              | Constrained       | [RFCxxxx]    |

[Note to RFC Editor: Replace RFCxxxx with reference to this document]

---

### 8.2.2. Registration Policy

[TOC](#)

The Registration Policy for 'geo' URI Parameters and their value definitions shall be "Specification Required" (which implies "Designated Expert"), as defined in [\[RFC5226\] \(Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs," May 2008.\)](#).

---

### 8.3. Sub-Registry for 'crs' Parameter

[TOC](#)

This document creates a new IANA Sub-registry named "'geo' URI 'crs' Parameter Values", based on the Registry specified in [Section 8.2 \(URI Parameter Registry\)](#) and the information in this section and [Section 4 \('geo' URI Parameters Registry\)](#). The syntax of the 'crs' parameter is constrained by the ABNF given in [Section 3.3 \(URI Scheme Syntax\)](#).

---

#### 8.3.1. Registry Contents

[TOC](#)

When registering a new value for the 'crs' parameter, the following information MUST be provided:

- \*Value of the parameter.

- \*Reference to the RFC or other permanent and readily available public specification defining the use of the CRS in the scope of the 'geo' URI. The specification should contain information that is similar to the WGS-84-specific text given in this document.

- \*Reference to the definition document of the CRS. If a URN is assigned to the CRS, the use of such URN as reference is preferred. Note that different URNs may exist for the 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional case.

The following table provides the initial values for this registry:

| crs Value | Reference(s) | CRS definition(s)  |
|-----------|--------------|--|
| wgs84     | [RFCxxxx]    | urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4326<br>urn:ogc:def:crs:EPSG::4979 |

[Note to RFC Editor: Replace RFCxxxx with reference to this document]

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### 8.3.2. Registration Policy

[TOC](#)

The registration policy for the "'geo' URI 'crs' Parameter Values" Registry shall require both "Specification Required" and "IESG Approval" as defined in [\[RFC5226\] \(Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, "Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs," May 2008.\)](#).

[Section 1 \(Introduction\)](#) contains some text about the motivation when to introduce new 'crs' values.

---

## 9. Security Considerations

[TOC](#)

Because the 'geo' URI is not tied to any specific protocol and identifies a physical location rather than a network resource, most of the general security considerations on URIs (Section 7 of RFC 3986) do not apply. However, the following (additional) issues apply:

---

### 9.1. Invalid Locations

[TOC](#)

The [URI syntax \(URI Scheme Syntax\)](#) makes it possible to construct 'geo' URIs which don't identify a valid location. Applications MUST NOT use URIs with such values, and SHOULD warn the user when such URIs are encountered.

An example of such an URI referring to an invalid location would be <geo:94,0> (latitude "beyond" north pole).

---

### 9.2. Location Privacy

[TOC](#)

A 'geo' URI by itself is just an opaque reference to a physical location, expressed by a set of spatial coordinates. This does not fit

the "Location Information" definition according to Section 5.2 of [GEOPRIV Requirements \(Cuellar, J., Morris, J., Mulligan, D., Peterson, J., and J. Polk, "Geopriv Requirements," February 2004.\)](#) [RFC3693], because there is not necessarily a "Device" involved. Because there is also no way to specify the identity of a "Target" within the confines of a 'geo' URI, it also does not fit the specification of an "Location Object" (Section 5.2 of RFC 3693). However, if a 'geo' URI is used in a context where it identifies the location of a Target, it becomes part of a Location Object and is therefore subject to GEOPRIV rules. Therefore, when 'geo' URIs are put into such contexts, the privacy requirements of RFC 3693 MUST be met.

---

## 10. Acknowledgements

[TOC](#)

Martin Thomson has provided significant text around the definition of the "uncertainty" parameter and the GML mappings. The authors further wish to acknowledge the helpful contributions from Carl Reed, Bill McQuillan, Martin Kofal, Andrew Turner, Kim Sanders, Ted Hardie, Cullen Jennings, Klaus Darilion, Bjorn Hoehrmann, Alissa Cooper and Ivan Shmakov. Alfred Hoenes has provided an extremely helpful in-depth review of the document.

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## 11. References

[TOC](#)

### 11.1. Normative References

[TOC](#)

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| [RFC3986] | <a href="#">Berners-Lee, T., Fielding, R., and L. Masinter, "Uniform Resource Identifier (URI): Generic Syntax,"</a> STD 66, RFC 3986, January 2005 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> , <a href="#">HTML</a> , <a href="#">XML</a> ).                      |
| [RFC2119] | <a href="#">Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels,"</a> BCP 14, RFC 2119, March 1997 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> , <a href="#">HTML</a> , <a href="#">XML</a> ).  |
| [RFC5234] | Crocker, D. and P. Overell, <a href="#">"Augmented BNF for Syntax Specifications: ABNF,"</a> STD 68, RFC 5234, January 2008 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).   |
| [RFC5491] | Winterbottom, J., Thomson, M., and H. Tschofenig, <a href="#">"GEOPRIV Presence Information Data Format Location Object (PIDF-LO) Usage Clarification, Considerations, and Recommendations,"</a> RFC 5491, March 2009 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ). |

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## 11.2. Informative References

[TOC](#)

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| [RFC4395] | Hansen, T., Hardie, T., and L. Masinter, " <a href="#">Guidelines and Registration Procedures for New URI Schemes</a> ," BCP 35, RFC 4395, February 2006 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ). |
| [RFC5226] | Narten, T. and H. Alvestrand, " <a href="#">Guidelines for Writing an IANA Considerations Section in RFCs</a> ," BCP 26, RFC 5226, May 2008 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).              |
| [RFC3693] | Cuellar, J., Morris, J., Mulligan, D., Peterson, J., and J. Polk, " <a href="#">Geopriv Requirements</a> ," RFC 3693, February 2004 ( <a href="#">TXT</a> ).                      |
| [WGS84]   | National Imagery and Mapping Agency, "Department of Defense World Geodetic System 1984, Third Edition," NIMA TR8350.2, January 2000.  |

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## Appendix A. Change Log

[TOC](#)

[Note to editors: This section is to be removed before publication -  
XML source available on request]  
draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-07

- \*Additonal text in URI comparison explaining what is being compared

- \*fixed typo in comparison example

draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-06

- \*Addressed remaining IESG evaluation comments:

- \*comparison rules for unknown parameters

- \*extended examples

draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-05

- \*Addressed IESG evaluation comments (some)

draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-04

- \*Added "crs" URI parameter registry

- \*Added example URI to Introduction



- \*Changed quoting of parameters according to Alfred Hoenes' comments

#### draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-03

- \*Updated privacy considerations section as per Alissa's comments
- \*Added text on uncertainty applied to all given dimensions
- \*various editorial changes
- \*Changed ABNF to reflect order of parameters (CRS first, then U, then others

#### draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-02

- \*Added IANA registry for 'geo' URI Parameters and values
- \*Moved change log to appendix
- \*Added "u" parameter to ABNF, restructred ABNF slightly
- \*Added new section describing uncertainty
- \*Changed mapping examples, added some for uncertainty
- \*Added text that number of digits shouldn't be confused with uncertainty or accuracy
- \*marked GML mappings as non-normative based on URI expert review advice
- \*added internationalization consideration section
- \*various other changes based on Expert Review

#### draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-01

- \*added parameters to ABNF
- \*added optional 'crs' parameter to allow future use of other CRSes
- \*Many other changes to not preclude the future specification of other CRSes.
- \*some typos fixes - credits Bill McQuillan

#### draft-ietf-geopriv-geo-uri-00

- \*submitted as WG item

\*changed IPR text because of text used from RFC 4395

\*added considerations for comparing +180/-180 longitude URIs

\*some editorial changes

draft-mayrhofer-geopriv-geo-uri-01

\*added terminology text about WGS-84 (credits Carl Reed)

\*removed "resolution" / "uncertainty" text

\*added considerations regarding poles

\*added text about invalid URIs

draft-mayrhofer-geopriv-geo-uri-00

\*Initial version under new name, reverting to "plain" lat/lon scheme, with the "tiling" scheme moved to separate draft (potentially published as "draft-mayrhofer-geopriv-geotile-uri"). refer to draft-mayrhofer-geo-uri-01 for the history of this document.

\*Added GML mapping section

draft-mayrhofer-geo-uri-01

\*removed parameters

draft-mayrhofer-geo-uri-00

\*initial draft

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## Authors' Addresses

[TOC](#)

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