

A general approach to addressing

Rob Walker
2008-05-25

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What is an address?

- Label used to reference a geographical object such as a property, for the purposes of identification and location, through reference to identifiable real-world objects
- Addressable object:
 - geographical object that may be identified and referenced by means of one or more addresses

Users and uses of addresses

- Delivery organisations – to identify delivery points
- Other service organisations – to identify service delivery points
- People – to uniquely identify themselves via their place of residence
- Governments – to identify where people live and work, for planning public services
- Taxation authorities – to levy taxes on people and organisations
- Emergency services – for deployment and contingency planning
- Land authorities – for property registration and transactions
- Commercial organisations – to identify customers and potential customers
- ...

Types of addressable objects

- Domestic properties
- Commercial properties
- Industrial premises
- Public buildings (offices, schools, hospitals, prisons, halls, leisure facilities, public toilets...)
- Other buildings (churches, monuments...)
- Places where events take place (sports fields, parks...)

General address structure (street address)

- Name or number of sub-unit within a building or property
- Name or number of a building or property within a street
- Name of a street
- Name of (one or more) nested geographical areas (locality, town, county ...)
- Name of country

Address creation and maintenance activities

- Property naming and numbering
- Street naming
- Address allocation
- Address changes
- Definitive sets of allowable values for names of geographical areas

Changes to addresses

- Extension of a property
- Merging of two or more properties
- Subdivision of a property
- Demolition of a property
- Change of property name or number
- Change of occupancy, use or classification
- Change of areas or names of areas used in the address

Key attributes of an addressable object

- Category – what it is
- Address (or addresses) – where it is
- A point coordinate (to position it)
- Metadata about how the data was created and amended (when, by whom)

Address problems

- Changing names where used as identifier
- Multiple address versions used by different people
- Resistance to names, numbers and addresses
- Lack of street names (and property numbers)
- Inconsistent interpretation of objects without postal addresses
- Incomplete and out-of-date address datasets
- Occupancy names used to identify premises
- Multiple-occupancy properties

Multiple occupancy

- Bed-sits
- Shared houses
- Student and worker accommodation
- Residential care homes
- Flats with third-party access to the inside
- Flats with a common point of access
- Business premises with residence
- Shared business properties
- Businesses with common services
- Self-contained businesses with common entrance

Addressable objects

- Residential buildings (separately identifiable physical structures)
- Residential sub-units (individual households within a physical structure)
- Commercial buildings
- Commercial units
- Industrial premises
- Public buildings and facilities
- Land ownership parcels
- Land parcels of particular interest
- Specific taxable items that are units of land and property

Summary

1. Addresses can be created for a range of addressable objects
2. Issue of addressing is about data management not data formats
3. Primary requirement is a definitive datasets of addressable objects
4. Maintenance of an address dataset requires:
 - Definition of categories of addressable object
 - Adoption of core address components
 - Clear address lifecycle
 - Rule base to manage other aspects
 - Data management and quality management
5. Rules are required for property naming and numbering, street naming and the names of areas used in addressing

Key messages

- Decide the classes of object for which addresses are required
- Define address structure
- Identify allowable values for address fields
- Identify address life-cycle
- Sort out real-world identifiers