

Acled API

User Guide



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Acled API

Version 1

Introduction

The following document highlights the basic steps for interacting with the Acled API. The API is RESTful in nature and is accessed via Basic HTTP(S) authentication.

API Access Detail

The full URL for accessing the API is `http://acleddata.com/api/acled/{command}`, where “command” represents the action to be executed. See below for details regarding possible usages of this command.

Sample API Calls and Responses

API calls may be made in any standard browser or using any programmatic language that is capable of making HTTP requests. The samples below demonstrate the URL to be called to make the request.

The following points should be noted:

- & As this API only uses the GET request all data sent will be contained within standard Query String parameter formats and URLEncoded.
- & All responses from the API shall be formatted as JSON unless specifically requested in either XML, CSV or TXT format.
- & TXT format returns a plain text csv string.
- & A limit of 500 lines of data will be returned by default. Larger requests may be made, however.
- & Data id returned in date order DESC (starting with the latest).

Response Format

By default the response is returned in JSON format but it's possible to return the response in XML, CSV and TXT format too. In order to return another format you simply add the relevant extension to the end of the command name so the query would look like the following:

Format	HTTP Request Format	MIME Type
JSON	http://acleddata.com/api/acled/{command}	application/json
XML	http://acleddata.com/api/acled/{command}.xml	text/xml
CSV	http://acleddata.com/api/acled/{command}.csv	text/csv
TXT	http://acleddata.com/api/acled/{command}.txt	text/plain

Commands

Read

In order to retrieve the data you must make a GET request to the following URL:

<http://acleddata.com/api/acled/read>

Returned Data

Attribute Name	Type	Description
data_id	int	A unique id for the row of data
gwno	int	A numeric code for each individual country
event_id_cnty	string	An individual identifier by number and country acronym
event_id_no_cnty	string	An individual numeric identifier
event_date	date	The date the event occurred in the format: yyyy-mm-dd
year	int	The year the event occurred.
time_precision	int	A numeric code indicating the level of certainty of the date coded for the event
event_type	string	The type of conflict event
actor1	string	The named actor involved in the event
ally_actor_1	string	The named actor allied with or identifying ACTOR1
inter1	int	A numeric code indicating the type of ACTOR1
actor2	string	The named actor involved in the event
ally_actor_2	string	The named actor allied with or identifying ACTOR2
inter2	int	A numeric code indicating the type of ACTOR2
interaction	int	A numeric code indicating the interaction between types of ACTOR1 and ACTOR2
country	string	The name of the country the event occurred in
admin1	string	The largest sub-national administrative region in which the event took place
admin2	string	The second largest sub-national administrative region in which the event took place
admin3	string	The third largest sub-national administrative region in which the event took place
location	string	The location in which the event took place

Attribute Name	Type	Description
latitude	decimal	The latitude of the location
longitude	decimal	The longitude of the location
geo_precision	int	A numeric code indicating the level of certainty of the location coded for the event
source	string	The source of the event report
notes	string	A short description of the event
fatalities	int	The number of reported fatalities which occurred during the event

Query Filters

Each field can be searched to filter the returned data. By default each field will search by = or LIKE based on the table below. This can be changed by sending a new query string name value pair, where the name has ‘_where’ appended to it. The following table shows the default query type that will be used by each field.

Query Name	Type	Query String
data_id	=	?data_id={number}
gwno	=	?gwno={number}
event_id_cnty	LIKE	?event_id_cnty={text}
event_id_no_cnty	LIKE	?event_id_no_cnty={text}
event_date	=	?event_date={yyyy-mm-dd}
year	=	?year={yyyy}
time_precision	=	?time_precision={number}
event_type	LIKE	?event_type={text}
actor1	LIKE	?actor1={text}
ally_actor_1	LIKE	?ally_actor_1={text}
inter1	=	?inter1={number}
actor2	LIKE	?actor2={text}
ally_actor_2	LIKE	?ally_actor_2={text}
inter2	=	?inter2={number}
interaction	=	?interaction={number}
country	LIKE	?country={text}
admin1	LIKE	?admin1={text}
admin2	LIKE	?admin2={text}
admin3	LIKE	?admin3={text}
location	LIKE	?location={text}
latitude	=	?latitude={number}
longitude	=	?longitude={number}
geo_precision	=	?geo_precision={number}
source	LIKE	?source={text}

Query Name	Type	Query String
notes	LIKE	?notes={text}
fatalities	=	?fatalities={number}

- & All LIKE queries will include a wildcard before and after the entered text.
- & Multiple queries can be searched with name/value pairs separated by &. Each field will be searched using AND so all arguments must match for data to be returned.

To change the default query type you can add an additional name/value pair using the query name and appending ‘_where’ to the query name. The query value could be LIKE or %3D for ‘=’. Additional types of ‘<’ and ‘>’ may also be used, representing less than and greater than.

Example:

?event_id_cnty={text}&event_id_cnty_where=%3D

Limit Query & Pagination

By default there is a limit of 500 rows of data returned. You can use the limit query name to change the default number. Setting limit as 0 will return all relevant data. It is likely returning all data will cause a timeout error and we therefore recommend using the page query instead. Each page will return 500 rows of data.

Example:

?limit=100 will return 100 rows of data.

?page=1 will return the first 500 rows of data

?page=2 will return the next 500 rows of data