

Geocoding and Text Search in PostGIS

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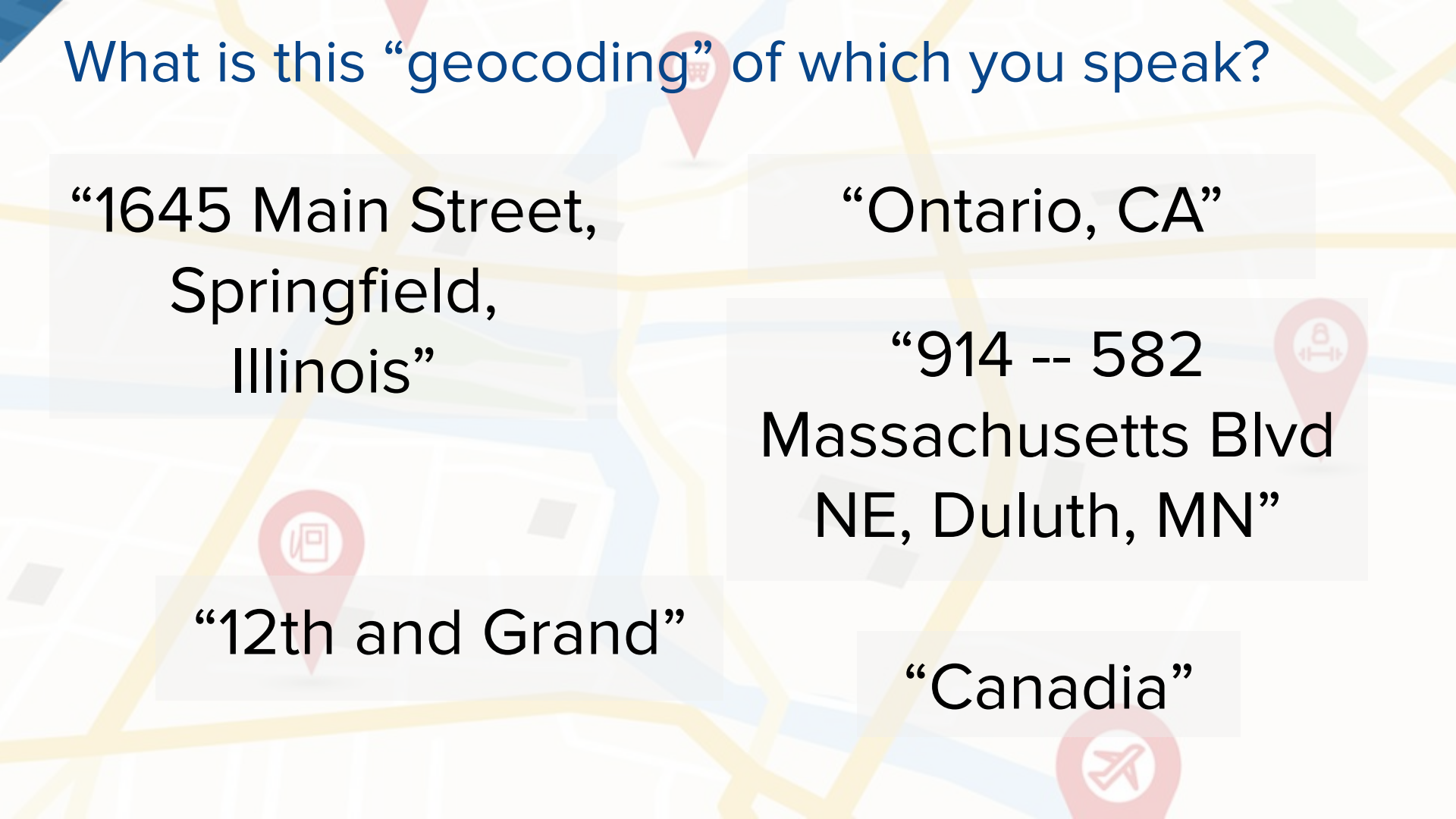


crunchy data

A stylized background map with yellow roads, blue water, and green parks. Several red location pins are scattered across the map, each containing a white icon: a shopping cart, a house, a dumbbell, and an airplane.

What is this “geocoding” of which you speak?

Converting a
description of a location
into
geographic **coordinates**.

A background map showing a network of yellow roads and blue water bodies. Several red location pins are scattered across the map, each containing a white icon: a shopping cart, a house, a dumbbell, and an airplane. The text is overlaid on this map.

What is this “geocoding” of which you speak?

“1645 Main Street,
Springfield,
Illinois”

“Ontario, CA”

“914 -- 582
Massachusetts Blvd
NE, Duluth, MN”

“12th and Grand”

“Canadia”

Geocoding is easy!

```
SELECT ST_Centroid(geom)
FROM countries
WHERE name = 'Canada';
```

Wait. What if the countries table uses uppercase names? Or some other casing convention?

Geocoding is easy!!

```
SELECT ST_Centroid(geom)
FROM countries
WHERE upper(name) = upper('Canada');
```

Wait. What if the user fat fingers the name?

Geocoding is easy?

```
SELECT ST_Centroid(geom)
FROM countries
WHERE soundex(name) = soundex('Canada')
AND levenshtein(upper(name),
                upper('Canada')) <= 1;
```

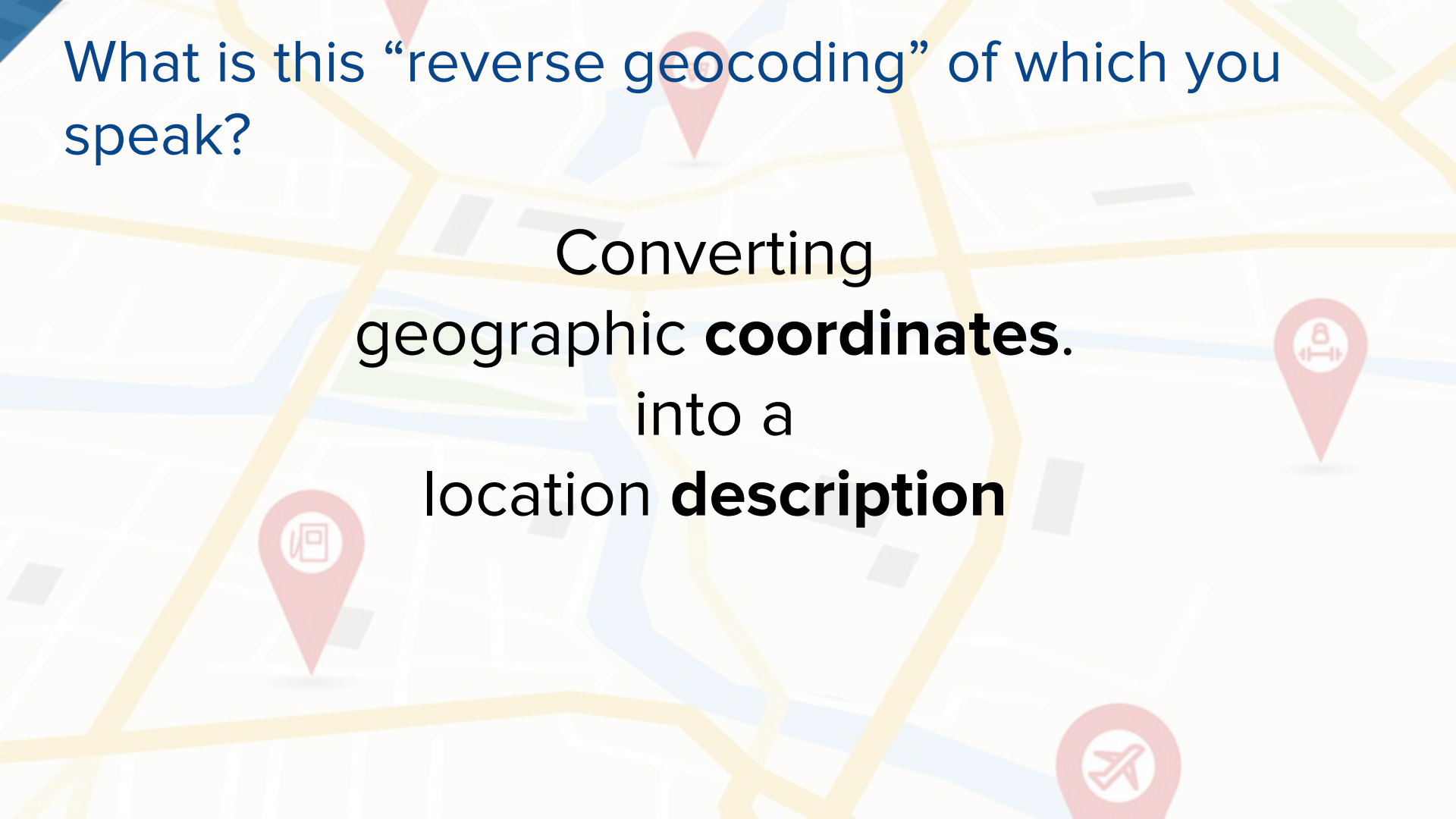
Wait....



Geocoding is
not easy



crunchydata

A stylized background map showing yellow roads, blue water bodies, and green parks. Four red location pins are placed on the map, each containing a white icon: a house, a person, a shopping cart, and an airplane.

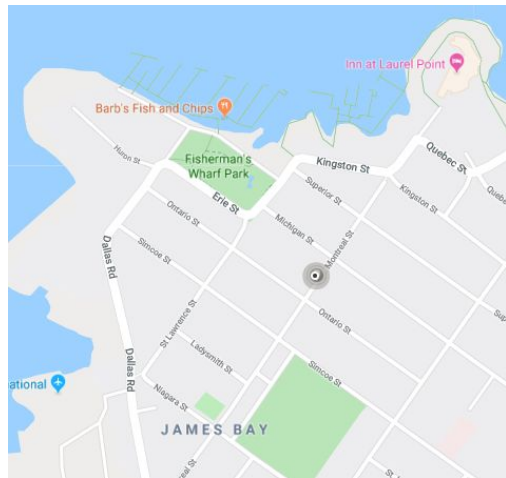
What is this “reverse geocoding” of which you speak?

Converting
geographic **coordinates.**
into a
location **description**

Reverse geocoding is easy!

POINT(-123.380491 48.420038)

- Canada?
- British Columbia?
- Victoria?
- 232 Montreal Street?
- Unit 298?





Geocoding is **hard**



Geocoding software is hard

- 23--154 Fort Street S, Victoria, British Columbia
- 23--154 South Fort Street, Victorai, BC
- UNIT 23, 154 S Fort St, Victoria, BC
- 154 S Fort St, UNIT 23, Victoria, BC
- 23 154 Fort St S, Victoria
- 154 Fort St S, Downtown, Victoria
- 154 Fort Street, Victoria, British Columbai
- 154 Fort St, View Royal, BC

Geocoding software is hard

“154 Fort St,
Victoria S,
British
Columbia”

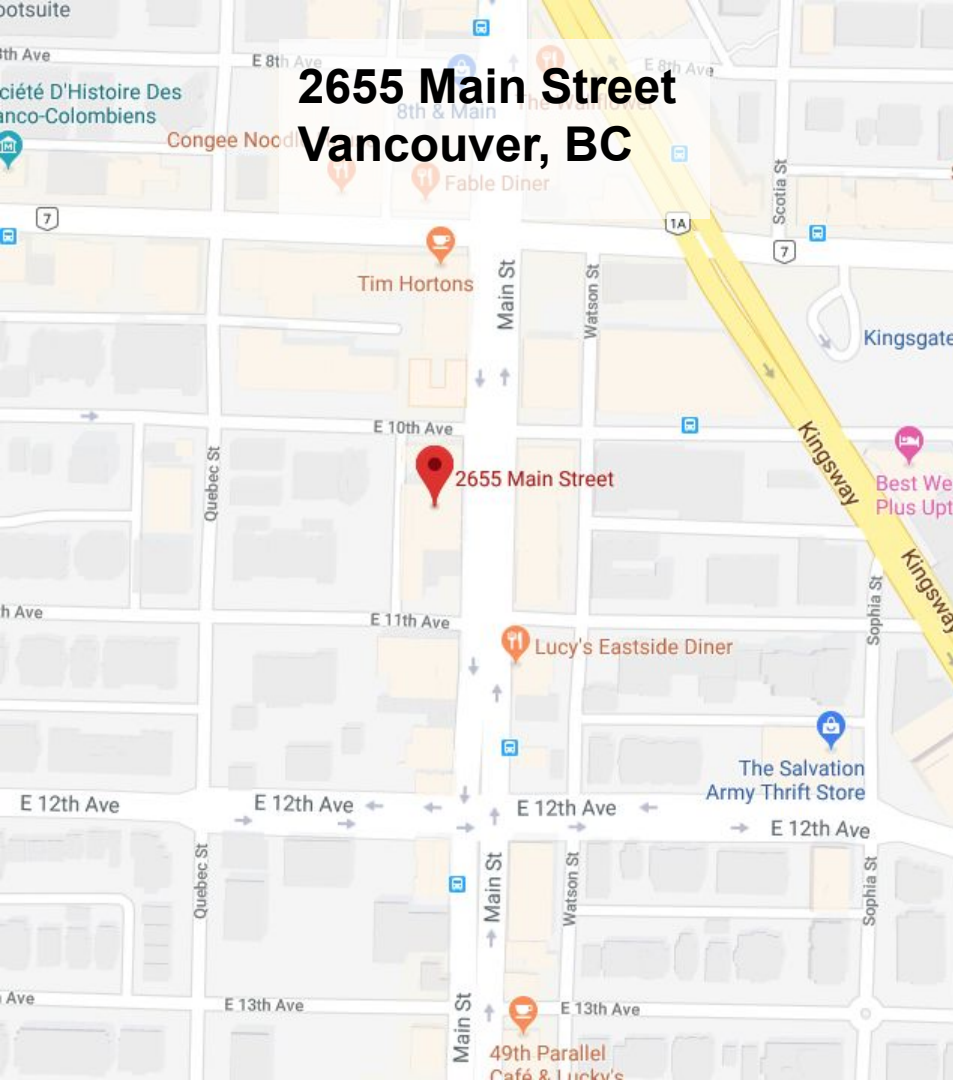
building		
house_num		154
predir		
qual		
pretype		
name		FORT
suftype		STREET
sufdir		SOUTH
ruralroute		
extra		
city		VICTORIA
state		BRITISH COLUMBIA
country		CANADA
postcode		
box		
unit		



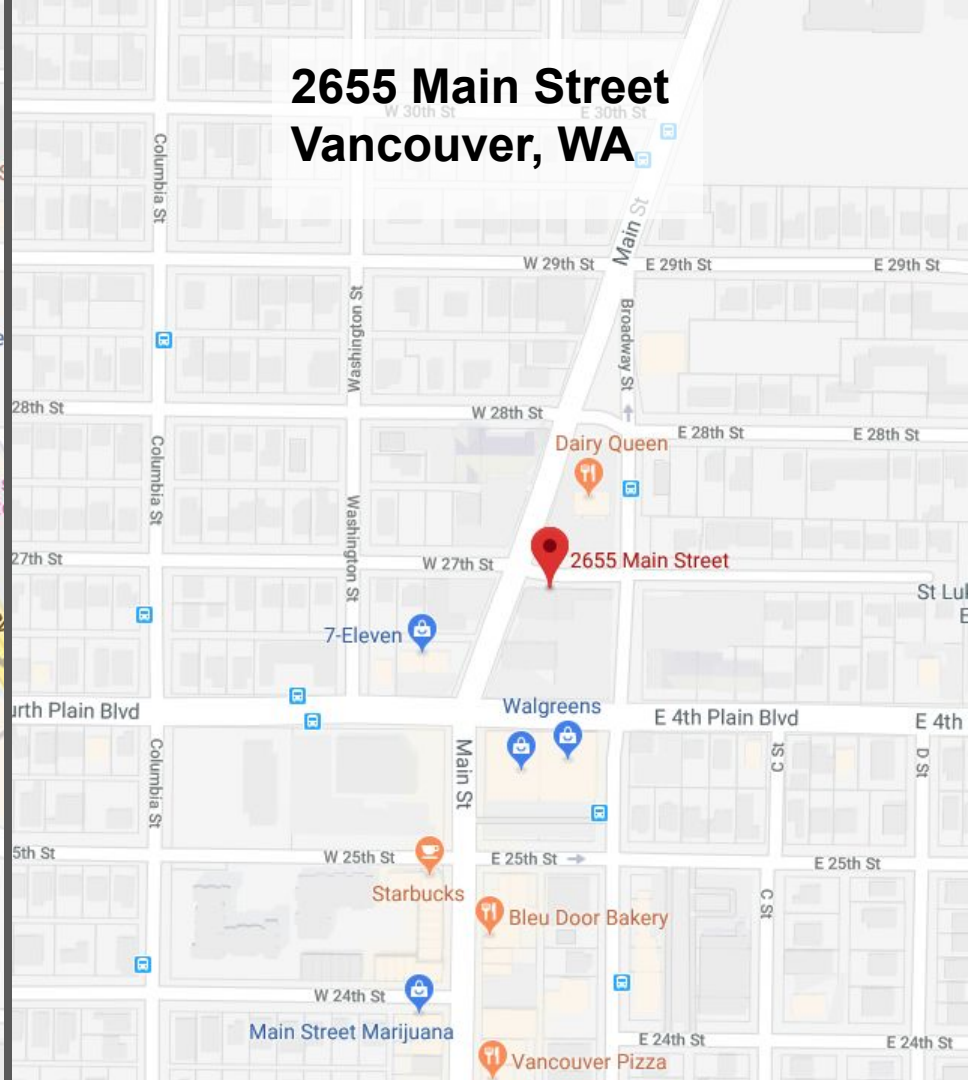
Vancouver, BC

Vancouver, WA

2655 Main Street Vancouver, BC

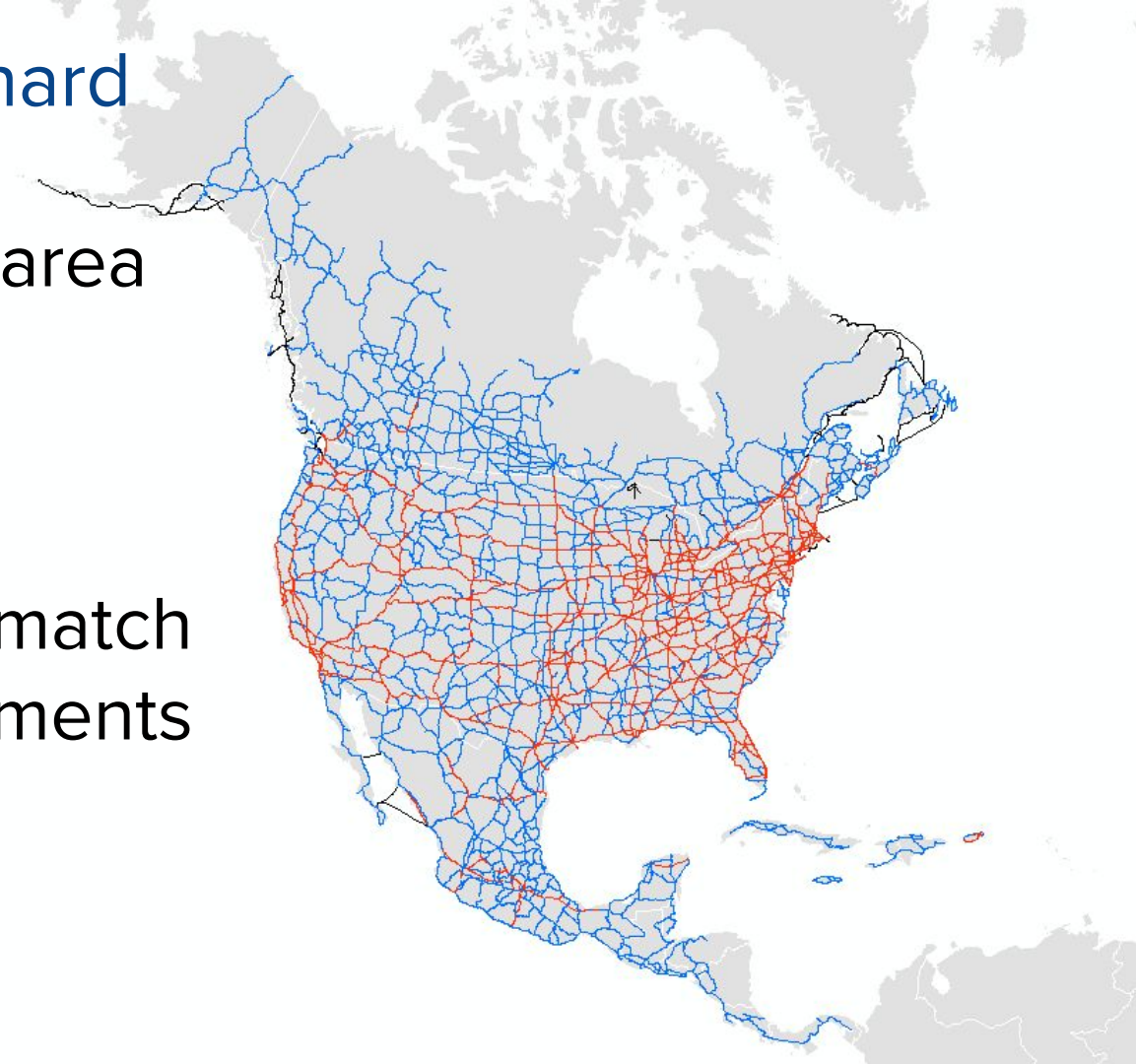


2655 Main Street Vancouver, WA



Geocoding data is hard

- Full coverage of area of interest
- Up to date and complete
- Standardized to match software requirements



Geocoding data is hard

City	Region	Nation	World
• Municipal parcel data • Census data • Open Street Map*	• State roads data • County parcel data • Census data • Open Street Map*	• Census data • Open Street Map*	• Open Street Map*



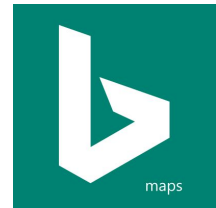
Geocoding is
hard, so pay someone



Geocoding services



Arc**GIS** Online





<https://geopy.readthedocs.io/>

```
CREATE EXTENSION postgis;  
CREATE LANGUAGE plpythonu
```

CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION

geocode(address text)

RETURNS text AS

\$\$

from geopy.geocoders import Nominatim

geolocator = Nominatim(user_agent='pgsql')

loc = geolocator.geocode(address)

wkt = 'SRID=4326;POINT(%g %g)' %
((loc.longitude, loc.latitude))

return wkt

\$\$

LANGUAGE plpythonu VOLATILE

COST 1000;

```
SELECT ST_AsGeoJson(geocode(  
    '144 Simcoe Street, Victoria, BC'  
));
```

```
{"type": "Point",  
  "coordinates": [-123.382, 48.4195]}
```

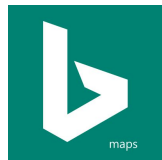


But online
services...



Geocoding services

- Costly!
 - \$17/K for Google geocoding
 - No caching!
- Slow
 - Compared to a database
 - HTTP round trips
- General purpose
 - Don't necessarily have your data in them



ArcGIS Online



Global geocoding **self-serve** options



Global geocoding options



- Complete?
- Current?
- Consistent?
- Multilingual?

Global geocoding options

Software

Pelias or Nominatum

Data



OpenStreetMap

GeNames



National geocoding **self-serve** options



National geocoding options

Software



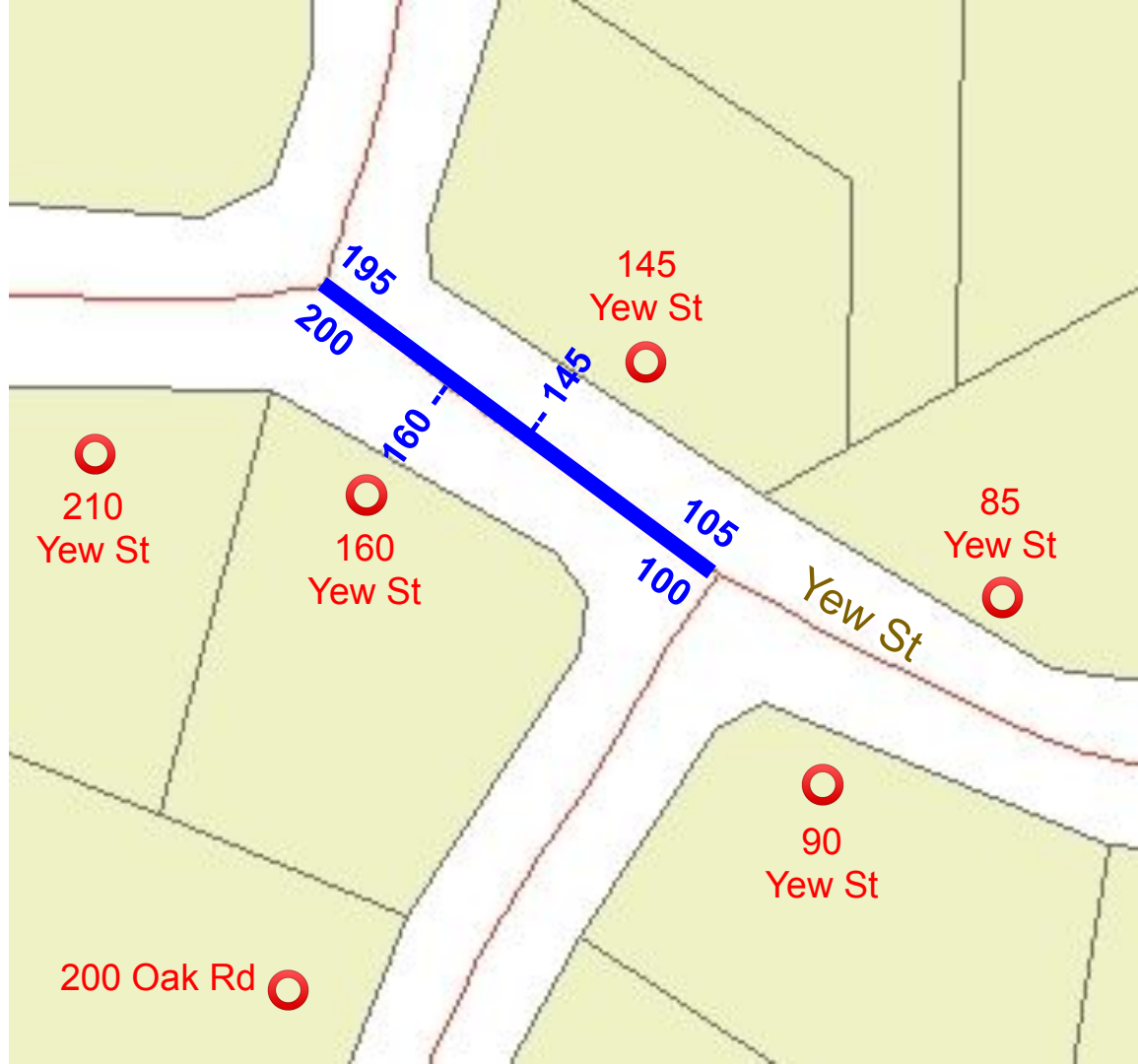
Data



- Complete(ish)
- Current(ish)
- Consistent
- Accurate(ish)
- Interpolated
- Hierarchical

Interpolated centerline geocoding

- Less data required
 - Just roads
- Less accurate
 - Rural routes
- Can match non-existing addresses



PostGIS TIGER Geocoder

```
CREATE EXTENSION postgis;
```

```
-- Parse strings to address components
```

```
CREATE EXTENSION address_standardizer;
```

```
CREATE EXTENSION address_standardizer_data_us;
```

```
-- Match address components to TIGER database
```

```
CREATE EXTENSION fuzzystmatch;
```

```
CREATE EXTENSION postgis_tiger_geocoder;
```

address_standardizer

```
SELECT * FROM  
parse_address(  
    '154 Jackson St,  
    San Jose, CA');
```

num		154
street		Jackson St
street2		
address1		154 Jackson St
city		San Jose
state		CA
zip		
zipplus		
country		US

address_standardizer

```
SELECT * FROM  
standardize_address(  
    'us_lex',  
    'us_gaz',  
    'us_rules',  
    '154 Jackson St,  
    San Jose, CA'  
);
```

building		
house_num		154
predir		
qual		
pretype		
name		JACKSON
suftype		STREET
sufdir		
ruralroute		
extra		
city		SAN JOSE
state		CALIFORNIA
country		USA
postcode		
box		
unit		

But the data?....



postgis_tiger_geocoder

```
-- Load national data files
```

```
SELECT
```

```
tiger.Loader_Generate_Nation_Script('crunchy')
```

```
-- Using national files as guide,
```

```
-- load requested state files
```

```
SELECT
```

```
tiger.Loader_Generate_Script(  
    ARRAY['CA'],  
    'crunchy')
```



```

TMPDIR="/data/gisdata/temp/"
UNZIPTOOL=unzip
WGETTOOL=wget
export PGBIN=/usr/bin
export PGPORT=
export PGHOST=
export PGUSER=ec2-user
export PGPASSWORD=ec2-user
export PGDATABASE=tiger2
export PGOPTIONS="-c search_path=public,tiger"
PSQL=${PGBIN}/psql
SHP2PGSQL=shp2pgsql
cd /data/gisdata

```

```

cd /data/gisdata
wget https://www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2019/STATE/tl_2019_us_state.zip --mirror --reject=html
cd /data/gisdata/www2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2019/STATE
rm -f ${TMPDIR}/*.*
${PSQL} -c "DROP SCHEMA IF EXISTS tiger_staging CASCADE;"
${PSQL} -c "CREATE SCHEMA tiger_staging;"
for z in tl_*state.zip ; do $UNZIPTOOL -o -d $TMPDIR $z; done
cd $TMPDIR;

```

```

${PSQL} -c "CREATE TABLE tiger_data.state_all(CONSTRAINT pk_state_all PRIMARY KEY (statefp),CONSTRAINT
uidx_state_all_stusps UNIQUE (stusps), CONSTRAINT uidx_state_all_gid UNIQUE (gid) ) INHERITS(tiger.state); "
${SHP2PGSQL} -D -c -s 4269 -g the_geom -W "latin1" tl_2019_us_state.dbf tiger_staging.state | ${PSQL}
${PSQL} -c "SELECT loader_load_staged_data(lower('state'), lower('state_all'));"
    ${PSQL} -c "CREATE INDEX tiger_data_state_all_the_geom_gist ON tiger_data.state_all USING gist(the_geom);"
    ${PSQL} -c "VACUUM ANALYZE tiger_data.state_all"
cd /data/gisdata

```



and



UNIX

BAT

BASH



crunchydata

postgis_tiger_geocoder

```
SELECT * FROM geocode(  
    '800 E GREENWICH PL, PALO ALTO, CA', 1);
```

addy		(800,E,Greenwich,Pl,,, "Palo Alto",CA,94303,t,,)
geomout		0101000020AD100000DB6225ABAE885EC0C395EACB61B84240
rating		1

postgis_tiger_geocoder

```
SELECT (addy).*,  
       ST_X(geomout) as lon,  
       ST_Y(geomout) as lat,  
       rating  
FROM geocode(  
    '800 E GREENWICH PL,  
    PALO ALTO, CA',  
    1);
```

address	800
predirabbrev	E
streetname	Greenwich
streettypeabbrev	P1
postdirabbrev	
internal	
location	Palo Alto
stateabbrev	CA
zip	94303
parsed	t
zip4	
lon	-122.135660
lat	37.440484
rating	1

postgis_tiger_geocoder

```
SELECT *  
FROM geocode('800 E GREENWICH PL, PALO ALTO, CA', 1);
```

- Standardization: 10ms
- Geocoding: 100ms - 700ms
- St Clara Parcels: avg(160ms)



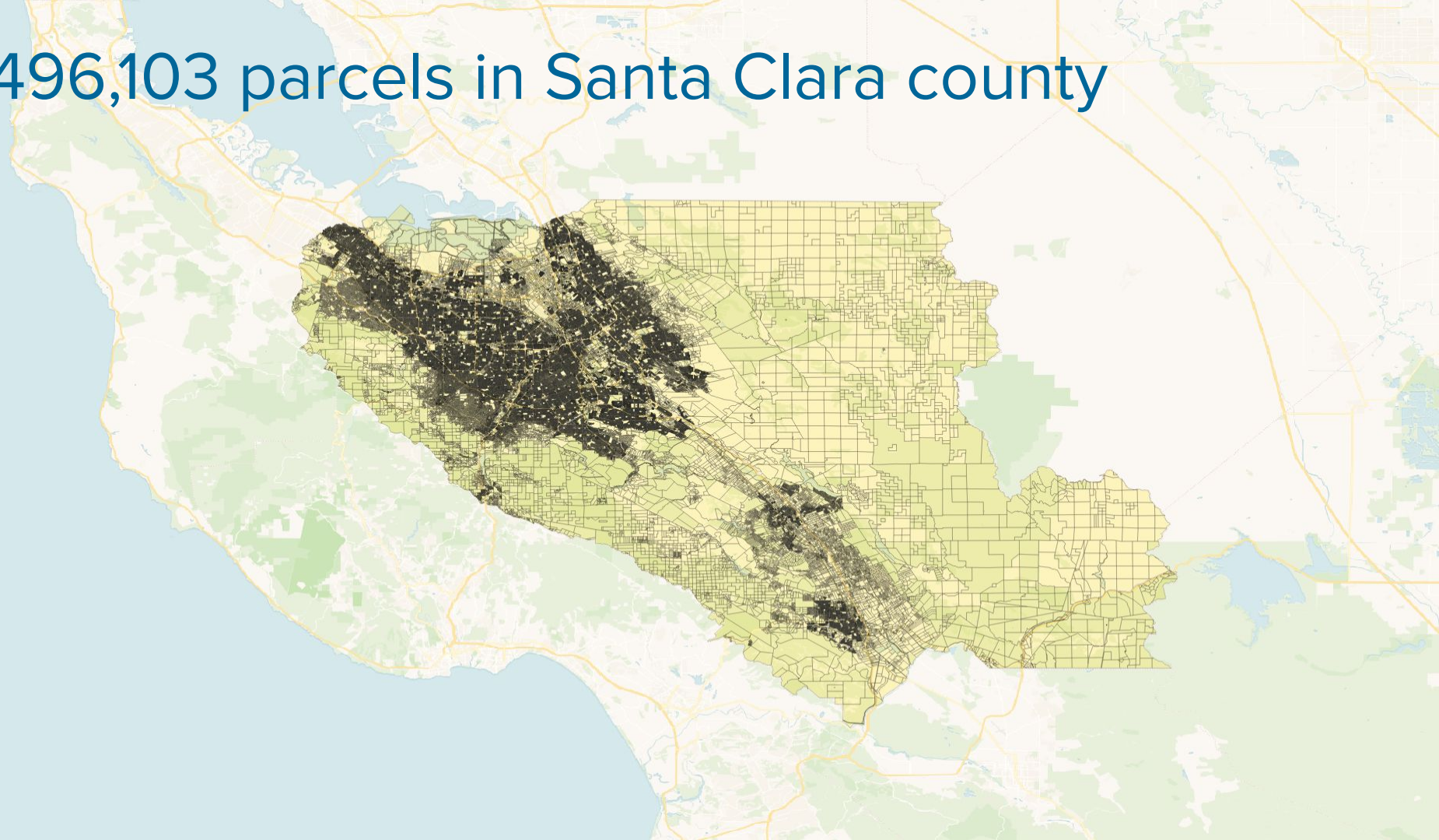
Regional geocoding **self-serve** options



What if I have my own data?



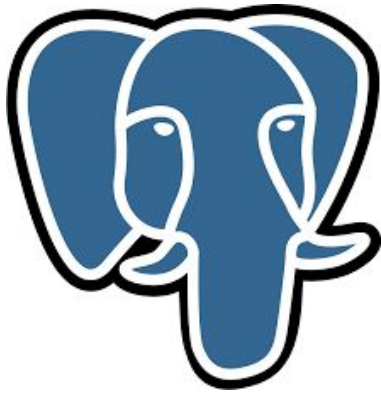
496,103 parcels in Santa Clara county



496,103 parcels in Santa Clara county

house	street_prefix	street_name	street_type	unit	city	state
158		TILLMAN	AV		SAN JOSE	CA
440		JUANITA	WY		LOS ALTOS	CA
1310		SADDLE RACK	ST	136	SAN JOSE	CA
689		GRAND FIR	AV		SUNNYVALE	CA
5668		CALMOR	AV	3	SAN JOSE	CA
23504		OAK VALLEY	RD		CUPERTINO	CA
1705		LEXINGTON	ST		SANTA CLARA	CA
1452		KEONCREST	AV		SAN JOSE	CA
2200		SOUTH	CT		PALO ALTO	CA
6141		YEADON	WY		SAN JOSE	CA
5542		ORA	ST		SAN JOSE	CA
766	W	HOMESTEAD	AV		SUNNYVALE	CA
1569		HEARTHSTONE	DR		SAN JOSE	CA

High speed address
autocomplete?



BATTERIES
INCLUDED

Add a full-text search column

```
ALTER TABLE parcels  
  ADD COLUMN ts tsvector;
```

```
UPDATE parcels  
  SET ts = to_tsvector('simple',  
                      concat_ws(' ',  
                                house,  
                                street_prefix, street_name, street_type,  
                                city, state))
```

```
CREATE INDEX parcels_ts_x ON parcels USING GIN (ts);
```



Try a full-text search: “800 Greenwich”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,  
        street_type, city  
FROM parcels  
WHERE ts @@ to_tsquery('simple',  
                        '800 & GREENWICH')
```

house	street_prefix	street_name	street_type	city
800	E	GREENWICH	PL	PALO ALTO

6.773 ms

Try a partial full-text search: “800 G...”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,  
        street_type, city  
FROM parcels  
WHERE ts @@ to_tsquery('simple',  
                        '800 & G:*')
```

house	street_prefix	street_name	street_type	city
800		GREYSTONE	CT	GILROY
800	E	GREENWICH	PL	PALO ALTO

10.9 ms

Try a partial, ranked search: “800 G...”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,  
       street_type, city, ts_rank_cd(ts, q) AS rank  
FROM parcels,  
     to_tsquery('simple', '800 & G:*') q  
WHERE ts @@ q  
ORDER BY rank DESC
```

house	street_prefix	street_name	street_type	city	rank
800		GLENSIDE	DR	SAN JOSE	0.1
800		GREYSTONE	CT	GILROY	0.1
...					

31.6 ms



String to partial tsearch

Enter Address: 1094 West Ama|



'1096 & West & Ama:*

- Trim white-space from front and back
- Split tokens on any white-space
- Rejoin using the '&' character
- Stick global match '.*' on the last token, if there is no space before the cursor



String to partial tsearch

```
SELECT to_tsquery_partial('34 Main');
```

```
'34' & 'main':*
```

```
SELECT to_tsquery_partial('34 Main St ');
```

```
'34' & 'main' & 'st'
```

```
SELECT to_tsquery_partial(' 34 Main St ');
```

```
'34' & 'main' & 'st'
```

String to partial tsearch

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION to_tsquery_partial(text)
  RETURNS tsquery AS $$
  SELECT to_tsquery('simple',
    array_to_string(
      regexp_split_to_array(
        trim($1), E'\\s+', ' & ')
      || CASE WHEN $1 ~ ' $' THEN '' ELSE ':*' END
    )
  $$ LANGUAGE 'sql';
```

String to autocomplete query

SELECT

```
    initcap(concat_ws(' ',  
        house, street_name, street_type, city)) AS value,  
    geom AS geom,  
    ts_rank_cd(ts, query) AS rank
```

FROM parcels,

```
    to_tsquery_partial('{query}') AS query
```

WHERE ts @@ query

ORDER BY rank DESC

LIMIT 10;



What about abbreviations?



Try a full-text search: “800 E G...”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,  
        street_type, city  
FROM parcels  
WHERE ts @@ to_tsquery('simple',  
                        '800 & E & G:*')
```

house	street_prefix	street_name	street_type	city
800	E	GREENWICH	PL	PALO ALTO

36.7 ms

Try a full-text search: “800 East G...”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,  
        street_type, city  
FROM parcels  
WHERE ts @@ to_tsquery('simple',  
                        '800 & EAST & G:*')
```

(0 rows)

36.7 ms



tsearch dictionaries!

- Allows language-specific “stemming”
 - oaks → oak
 - ran → run
 - rammed → ram
- Allows language-specific synonyms
 - boat → ship
 - nova → star



tsearch synonyms!

- Full-text search .syn file!
 - Map term to synonym, a thesaurus!
- **Abbreviations are synonyms** to fully spelled out address terms

ave avenue
bl boulevard
blvd boulevard
brg bridge
byp bypass
cir circle
circ circle
clf cliff

cmtry cemetery
cnl canal
cp camp
cres crescent
crsn crescent
crk creek
crs course
crst crescent

crt court
ct court
cts courts
cyn canyon
dr drive
espl esplanade
ests estates

expy
expressway
fld field
fls falls
frm farm
fwy freeway
gdns gardens
grn green

hbr harbor
hl hill
hts heights
hwy highway
lk lake
lkout lookout
ln lane
lp loop

<> Code

! Issues 0

🔗 Pull requests 0

📁 Projects 0

🛡 Security

📊 Insights

TSearch dictionaries for addresses

🕒 25 commits

🌿 1 branch

📦 0 releases

👤 2 contributors

📄 MIT

Branch: master ▼

New pull request

Find file

Clone or download ▼

 pramsey Merge branch 'master' of github.com:pramsey/pgsql-addressing-dictionary

Latest commit 204dcd5 6 days ago

 .gitignore	First commit	5 years ago
 LICENSE.md	First commit	5 years ago
 META.json	bump version to 1.1	5 years ago
 Makefile	also remove from Makefile	5 years ago
 README.md	Merge branch 'master' of github.com:pramsey/pgsql-addressing-dictionary	6 days ago
 addressing_dictionary--1.0--1.1.sql	fix to have an upgrade path from 1.0 to 1.1	5 years ago
 addressing_dictionary--1.1.sql	fix to have an upgrade path from 1.0 to 1.1	5 years ago
 addressing_dictionary.control	bump version to 1.1	5 years ago



- ```
CREATE EXTENSION addressing_dictionary;
UPDATE parcels SET ts = to_tsvector('addressing_en',
 concat_ws(' ',
 house,
 street_prefix,
 street_name, street_type,
 city, state))
```



## tssearch synonyms!

- <https://github.com/pramsey/pgsql-addressing-dictionary>

```
SELECT to_tsvector('addressing_en',
 '1234 n main st');
```

```
'1234':1 'main':4 'n':2 'north':3 'street':5
```

Try a full-text search: “800 East G...”

```
SELECT house, street_prefix, street_name,
 street_type, city
FROM parcels
WHERE ts @@ to_tsquery('addressing_en',
 '800 & EAST & G:*')
```

| house | street_prefix | street_name | street_type | city      |
|-------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| 800   | E             | GREENWICH   | PL          | PALO ALTO |

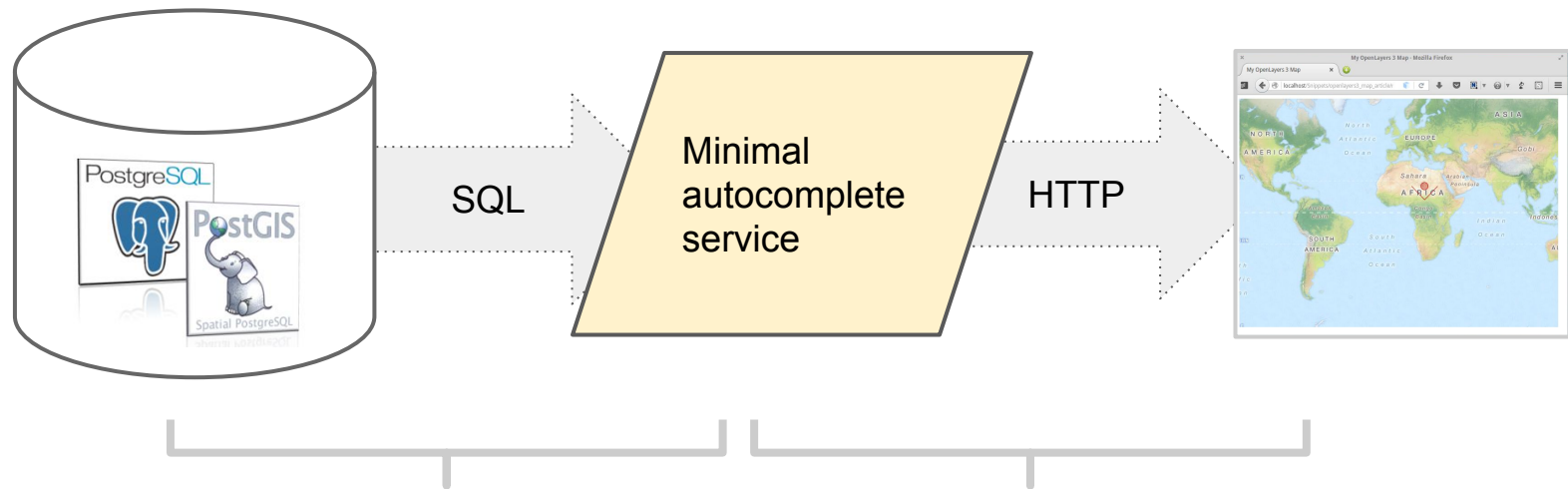
31.5 ms



*Show me a  
DEMO!*



# No, just add HTTP!



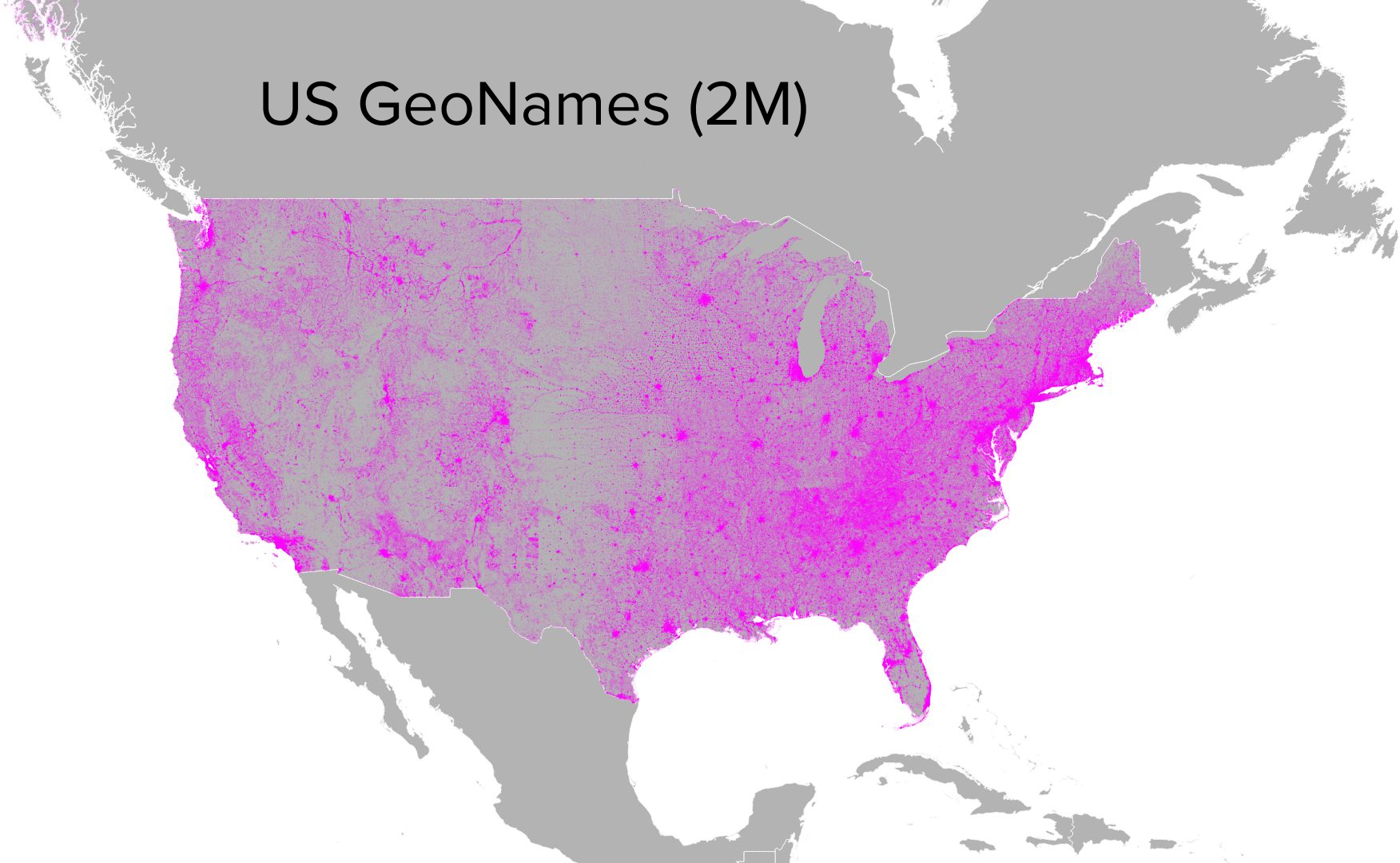
- (SQL)
  - Execute SQL
  - Return JSON
- Req/Resp (HTTP)
- Read query
- Build SQL



Not just for  
addresses!



# US GeoNames (2M)





All the names that include the word {} ...

```
WITH names AS (
 SELECT
 name, kind,
 ST_X(geom) AS x,
 ST_Y(geom) AS y
 FROM geonames
 WHERE ts @@ plainto_tsquery('english', '{}')
)
SELECT json_agg(row_to_json(names.*))::text AS json
FROM names
```





*Show me a  
DEMO!*





# Questions?

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<https://is.gd/xp1wpB>



**crunchy**data