



MapMasq™



MapMasq™ FAQ

How do I acquire a license key for MapMasq?

Visit the MapMasq information site at the following URL: <https://info.gisinc.com/mapmasq>

Fill out the form and submit payment. The MapMasq team will take it from there, and you will receive an email with a license key and directions for downloading the tool package.

Where do I download the MapMasq add-in?

<https://www.mapmasq.com/softwaremapmasq/MapMasq.Pro.zip>

How long is the MapMasq license period?

The MapMasq license will expire one year from the date it is assigned.

What is the cost for a MapMasq license?

\$1500 per year, per user

What happens if a new version of MapMasq is released within my license period?

Any new version release updates are included in your subscription for MapMasq during your license period. Current license holders will be notified when a new download is available.

Why does MapMasq remove all my attribute data in the output data?

Our initial goal was to prevent accidental leakage of sensitive information (Birth date, social security numbers, etc.). We do create a foreign key back to the data if you wish to rejoin the data. However, our users have asked to be able to choose what to keep and what to remove. This functionality is being considered for a release in 2019.

Does MapMasq make my data HIPAA compliant?

Not exactly. HIPAA compliance using tools like MapMasq require "expert judgement." Think of MapMasq as a tool like a calculator. We produce results based on your inputs. Depending on your source dataset the parameters you enter will need to vary till the individual responsible for compliance is satisfied. MapMasq just automates accepted methods. The degree you will need to mask the data depends on many factors.

From the HHS.gov website (retrieved 1/9/2019): "...there are many different disclosure risk reduction techniques that can be applied to health information. However, it should be noted that there is no particular method that is universally the best option for every covered entity and health information set. Each method has benefits and drawbacks with respect to expected applications of the health information, which will be distinct for each covered entity and each intended recipient. The determination of which method is most appropriate for the information will be assessed by the expert on a case-by-case basis and will be guided by input of the covered entity." <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/special-topics/de-identification/index.html>





MapMasq™ FAQ Continued

What are some references for using the methods in MapMasq?

Each method has a different source material. Some are simply rounding coordinates or creating bins. Other methods, such as K-Anonymity are much more complicated.

Basic Overview of K-Anonymity and Data Privacy:

- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/K-anonymity>
- https://epic.org/privacy/reidentification/Samarati_Sweeney_paper.pdf
- https://epic.org/privacy/reidentification/Sweeney_Article.pdf

Some Studies and Use Cases of Related to Anonymizing Health Data:

- Protecting Privacy Using k-Anonymity <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2528029/>
- Geomasking sensitive health data and privacy protection: an evaluation using an E911 database
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2952889/>

Mapping Health Data: Improved Privacy Protection With Donut Method Geomasking:

- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2984253/>
- Ensuring Confidentiality of Geocoded Health Data: Assessing Geographic Masking Strategies for Individual-Level Data <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4590956/>

