

Glossary Of Terms

1. **Fire Eagle** is a system that brokers location information. It is designed to help users safely share information about their location with sites, services and people on the Internet. The service has two major functions for users—it allows a user to *update their location* and then gives them full control of how and where they *share that location*.
2. **OAuth** is a simple way to publish and interact with protected data. It allows you to share your private resources (photos, videos, contact list, bank accounts) stored on one site with another site without having to hand out your username and password. The OAuth protocol specifies that all API calls should contain **token** parameters which identify the application and/or the user.
3. **Fire Eagle Applications:** These are mostly written by third party developers, and use the Fire Eagle service to capture your location to work with any service that would like to use it. But an application doesn't have to *either* be an updater or consumer of a user's location information. They can do both. You can find some cool applications in the [gallery](#)
4. **Fire Eagle Access Tokens:** Fire Eagle defines two types of access tokens which are used for different types of API methods.
 - **User-specific access tokens** are unique for each Application/User pairing and are obtained when a user authorizes an application to use their location.
 - **General-purpose Access Token** defines an application's relationship to Fire Eagle. They are tied to your application and allow your application to make general-purpose API method calls to Fire Eagle.
5. **Fire Eagle API** currently provides five different methods, which applications can use:
 - **/user** : returns the location of a user
 - **/update**: sets a user's current location using a set of location parameters
 - **/lookup**: returns a list of potential values for a set of location parameters
 - **/recent**: returns the user-specific tokens for the calling application that have recently updated their locations
 - **/within**: returns a list of user-specific tokens for the calling application that are within the bounding box of a set of location parameters

You can have a look at the various methods, and how they work in the [API Explorer](#)

6. **Location Parameters:** Location data passed into Fire Eagle for updating a user's location can be from a variety of input methods. The formats of location data that are supported by Fire Eagle are:
 - **(lon, lat)** - both required, valid values are floats of -180 to 180 for lon and -90 to 90 for lat
 - **woeid** - 32-bit identifier that uniquely represents spatial entities.
 - **place_id** – identifier for places in Flickr and Upcoming
 - **address** - street address (may contain a full address, but will be combined with postal, city, state, and country if those values are available)
 - **upcoming_venue_id** - identifier that uniquely represents a venue from Upcoming
 - **(mnc, mcc, lac, cellid)** - cell tower information, all values are in integers and required

for a valid tower location

- **postal** - a ZIP or postal code (combined with address, city, state, and country if those values are available)
 - **city** - city (combined with address, postal, state, and country if those values are available)
 - **state** - state (combined with address, postal, city, and country if those values are available)
 - **country** - country (combined with address, postal, city, and state if those values are available)
7. **Location Hierarchy** contains representations of the user's known location as levels from exact location to decreasing accuracy. The levels are: exact location, postal code, neighborhood/local area, large cities, county, state and country.
 8. **Upcoming:** upcoming.yahoo.com is a social event calendar website. Primarily, the site is a searchable, browsable repository of upcoming events, such as music concerts, art exhibits, business conferences, and so on.
 9. **Venue:** By 'venue', we refer to the places where an event is happening as per Upcoming.
 10. **XMPP:** The Extensible Messaging and Presence Protocol (XMPP) is an open technology for real-time communication, which powers a wide range of applications including instant messaging, presence, multi-party chat, etc. Fire Eagle allows your application to listen for any location updates made by users of your application by using XMPP.
 11. **JID:** In XMPP, every user has a unique *Jabber ID* – or JID. This is of the form username@domain.com
 12. **XMPP Pubsub:** Pubsub is basically an event notification system that runs on top of Jabber/XMPP. In pubsub, a user publishes some XML data to an XMPP server. Other users are then able to “subscribe” to this node. Whenever the node changes, a notification will be sent to all subscribed users.
 13. **Switchboard** is a combination command-line client / XMPP client/component library for Ruby. Its primary use is as a *curl*-equivalent for XMPP servers
 14. **XML:** Extensible Markup Language (XML) is an open standard for structuring information and sharing it over the Web.
 15. **JSON:** JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), is a lightweight data interchange format. It is a text-based, human-readable format for representing simple data structures and associative arrays (called objects).
 16. **REST** is an acronym standing for Representational State Transfer. It refers to a collection of network architecture principles which outline how resources are defined and addressed.
 17. **GeoRSS** is a standard for encoding location as part of a Web Feed. In GeoRSS, location content consists of geographical points, lines, and polygons of interest and related feature descriptions.
 18. **GeoJSON** is a format for encoding a variety of geographic data structures. A GeoJSON object may represent a geometry, a feature, or a collection of features. GeoJSON supports the following geometry types: Point, LineString, Polygon, MultiPoint, MultiLineString, MultiPolygon, and GeometryCollection.