



Cell tower batteries

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On battery powered devices, this is used to provide a rough location if a GPS (or Wi-Fi) fix fails. This can be useful in extending the localization abilities of a device.

NB: Our "Edge" Range of devices also make use of Cell Tower data and Wi-Fi access point data, along with Digital Matter's Location Engine in order to resolve a position should the device be unable to see any GPS Satellites - particularly indoors. See Indoor/Outdoor Tracking. In the case of Edge devices, on every connection, Cell tower information is recorded and sent to the server. During any upload, the device performs a scan and immediately transmits this data.

For battery-powered devices, such as the Barra GPS, each connection involves collecting basic cell ID data (MCC, MNC, and Cell ID). This data is then logged into the Debug logs (FID 0) at the INFO level.

If a GPS fix fails, or GPS is being jammed, ONLY then a cell tower scan is QUEUED. For example, during a trip with 2-minute fixes and 30-minute uploads, if GPS is lost, scans will only be performed at the next upload, not every 2 minutes. Do note that by default, trips will time out if no GPS is available for approximately 5 minutes.

For integrators - this is Field 28 in the integration documents. Any cell scan results will be sent as an upload with log reason 49 - Cell Tower Connection. Field 36 in the integration documents details the multi-cell scan results. The Cell Tower data field can be sent to third-party servers via HTTP or TCP connectors, or directly to Telematics Guru (TG). In TG, this data is not resolved into a specific location; instead, the Cell ID is listed. However, this data can be sent to an open-source locator for further analysis. Please see how to enable this below.

These values in and of themselves don't constitute the Latitude and Longitude of the device for display on a map. The position must be calculated and this can be done through various location services like Google's Geolocation API. The data can be passed to this service via API call and the Lat/Long is returned. Services of this nature charge a fee per lookup or per month.

As mentioned, the accuracy of a Cell Scan is not great in comparison to a GPS fix. It can be useful as a "last resort" fix. If you are expecting to be regularly indoors, the Edge device range may be a better choice. Additionally the cost of look-ups must be factored in to the equation - however this feature is useful for:

The ability to fall back to a cell location while GPS is jammed means we can still track a device's rough location in the event of jamming. Thieves may attempt to jam GPS signals, if successful, the device will stop updating its location as it cannot acquire new GPS fixes. Cell Fallback will give a rough location and may enable the asset to be recovered.



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The devices will send Telematics Guru the raw Cell Tower data which is stored in the Telemetry. Google's Geolocation API may be used to calculate the device's position should you require an estimate, i.e. when recovering an asset.

ONTARIO, Calif. (VVNG) — In a significant crackdown on property crime, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department located over 275 batteries stolen from various cell tower sites.

On Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at around 7:45 a.m., members of the Rural Crimes Division teamed up with detectives from the Victor Valley Station to execute a meticulously planned operation.

With the authority granted by this legal document, their mission was to search for and recover batteries reported stolen from various AT& T remote sites around Southern California.

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