

## LOIS Q&A – Presentation Site

**Presentation Site:** *The presentation site displays the data and images entered in the administration site. The general public can access the presentation site and does not require a username or password.*

**Q. How long until the information entered into the administration site is displayed on the presentation site?**

**A.** Once data is saved in the administration site, it is published instantly on the presentation site.

**Q. Can I integrate LOIS into my Web site?**

**A.** Any administrator with a username and a password can integrate LOIS into their Web site. Your Web site designer may charge to modify your Web site to incorporate LOIS.

**Q. How do I integrate LOIS into my Web site?**

**A.** Users must create hyperlinks using the following URL's to access a section or individual record.

*To link to a section:*

<http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=userid&appsection=appsectionname>

*To link to a specific record:*

[http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=userid&appsection=appsectionname&appsection1\\_id=ID#where](http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=userid&appsection=appsectionname&appsection1_id=ID#where)

**userid** = User ID (Note: users with a space in their user ID should enter %20 instead of the space in the URL, i.e. Sauk County would be Sauk-WI%20County.

**app section name** = Insert the word states, counties, metros, localities, buildings or sites.

**Appsection1** = Insert the word state, county, metro, community, building or site.

**ID#** = Record's ID number. To identify a record's ID number, open the record in the administration site. The number will be the last number displayed in the browser address.

*Example:*

[http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=WI-Sauk%20County&appsection=buildings&building\\_id=8308](http://www.locationone.com/lois/logon.do?username=WI-Sauk%20County&appsection=buildings&building_id=8308)

**Q. How can the public view my information in LOIS?**

**A.** If you have integrated LOIS into your Web site, you should direct them to your Web site. If you have not integrated LOIS into your Web site, you should direct them to Forward Wisconsin's Web site at [www.forwardwi.com](http://www.forwardwi.com). By not integrating LOIS into your Web site, one disadvantage is that when you direct someone to Forward Wisconsin's Web site, for example, the user will see more than just your community information. Their Web site will show all records in their profile (i.e. Forward Wisconsin will show information for communities throughout the state which have buildings over 10,000 square feet).

**Q. Can I send a link to someone to view our information in LOIS by copying and pasting the URL into an e-mail?**

**A.** You cannot simply do a copy and paste from LOIS. The URL is different (it will start with <https://secure>) than what you would type in to link to a section or specific record. The reason is that it has rolled over into a secure site (for security purposes). If you provide someone else with this URL, it will result in a login page. Instead, you need to type in the link that you would use to integrate LOIS into your Web site (see previous question **How do I integrate LOIS into my Web site?**).

**Q. If I integrate LOIS into my Web site, can the search engines (i.e. Google) search the pages that I'm linking to?**

**A.** Search engines cannot search within the LOIS application. We recommend that you set up your Web pages with "meta tags", including keywords, which describe your site, which visitors will use to search for this information. Meta tag: HTML (programming language) code that provides information about a particular Web page. Keywords (a series of main words that describe the content of the Web page). These are

used most by search engines to see if your Web page matches the search criteria entered for a particular search.

**Q. Where does the State, County and Metros/Regions data come from and how often does it get updated?**

- A.** The data was purchased by Forward Wisconsin from the Institute for Decision Making. Students do the research and obtain data from many different sources including census data. LOIS uploads the data into the system. It is updated on a yearly basis. Updates will be made in July of 2005. LOIS administrators may choose not to display these three tabs in their view of LOIS. Most choose to keep that data visible.

**Q. How often do the GIS reports get updated and where does the data come from?**

- A.** The GIS data and functionality are supplied by a company called ESRI.

Centrex provides a measurement tool for calculating the data. Improvements to this component are slated to be complete this summer and include the color aerial mapping feature. Also, users will be able to do pinpoint mapping regarding the center of the radii. In other words, the center dot will be moveable.

In 2005, the demographics report from 2004 will be visible. In 2006, you will see 2005 data. The data is updated yearly. Data is due to be updated this July.

**Q. Is it possible to export presentation data out of LOIS?**

- A.** A new feature has been added that allows users to download data. To do this, click on the gray Download tab. From the drop-down menu, select the type of information you want to download. Click Submit when finished choosing all the parameters. The information will appear in an Excel file.

**Q. Why isn't River Falls/MN MSA listed in LOIS?**

- A.** There are two reasons why we don't have that MSA in the LOIS database--cost and practicality.

Because of the time required by the University of Northern Iowa to gather the data, we needed to order the research early in the process before all our funding partnerships were finalized. In order to keep costs down, we did not order data for the three MSAs that are primarily outside Wisconsin: Minneapolis-St. Paul (includes Pierce and St. Croix counties), Duluth-Superior (includes Douglas County) and Chicago (includes Kenosha County). It made sense to get the bulk of the state data entered during this year of transition then to add the remaining MSAs during our first annual update. Our plan is to add those three MSAs when we order our annual data update for delivery in July.

**Q. Where does the Business Climate information appear on the presentation site?**

- A.** Click on the Localities tab then choose a city, town or village. Scroll down after you have chosen a city, town or village and you will see the text, which describes the business climate.

**Q. Why do the maps in LOIS not open in the Firefox browser?**

- A.** Firefox is an open-source browser that is competing with IE more and more, so we code for Firefox on all our external sites now. It uses an engine based on Mozilla's. You can read more about Firefox at [www.mozilla.org](http://www.mozilla.org).

LocationOne.com will work fine in Firefox, but LOIS, as a legacy application, may have some issues. Testing has been done which reveals no real issues with rendering or functionality, but Firefox comes with a popup blocker, so any of the map popups may not work unless users disable the blocker for \*.locationone.com domains (which they can do within the browser window). Any other screen issues should be reported to LOIS along with more detailed information from your users about the problems they are having.

Our new hosted Watchfire application-quality scanner is supposed to report on HTML 4.01 and IE/Netscape compliance, which would help point up Firefox code

issues, and we have a feature request in to them to add XHTML compliance scanning, so that we can monitor this issue on an ongoing basis. In the meantime, we run do an ad-hoc XHTML compliance report against the W3C Validator, and again, work with Andy to rectify any issues uncovered there.

**Q. Is it possible to eliminate the word "ALL" in the dropdown list box for the state so that only Wisconsin appears?**

- A.** This is something that we cannot hide when there is only one state involved. We can add it to our list of enhancements for 2006 if it can be done. It would be the window, which opens when you click on the Modify Search link under buildings.

**Q. Will data in the download section eventually be trackable?**

- A.** We cannot track which section of data is being downloaded at this time

**Q. Why does the Quick Reference data flow into other pages and display so much white space?**

- A.** LOIS is working on figuring out how to minimize the amount of white space that some Quick Reference flyers generate. Please check back for an update.

**Q. Is it possible to link to a specific locality from my community's Web site?**

- A.** Yes. Just look up the ID number as you do for the buildings and sites. Enter that ID number into the URL and post the link to your Web site. To look up the ID number, you must be in the admin site. Click to edit a locality. The ID number will appear in the URL at the top of the window.