
SearchBug API Services

Implementation Guide – Background Report

Version: 1.1

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Introduction

SearchBug Background Report API allows you obtain complete background report with data from public, civil and criminal records. The report includes names, a list of current and previous addresses and phone numbers, emails, relatives, corporate filings, UCC filings, trademarks, professional associations and licenses, personal lien, judgment and bankruptcy filings, evictions, criminal and watchlist record details, concealed weapon and hunting permits, pilot licenses and more.

Verified business accounts with Restricted Access Add-on can also see SSN info, driver's licenses, employers, employment history, business associations, voter registrations and some other restricted information.

Not all details are available for all records.

Overview

SearchBug has deployed the API service as HTTPS GET Service with results returned either in XML or JSON format. XML is the default. Customer's calling program will communicate with SearchBug by sending inquiry data using URL query string parameters over HTTPS protocol. SearchBug processes the data, and then the SearchBug API service transforms the data into XML (or JSON) format and returns the data to the client's calling system.

You can seamlessly integrate SearchBug data with your web site, intranet, network, customer database or any other system.

Search Fees and Account Setup

Please make sure your account is set up correctly before you start using the API.

- Searchbug account with a prepaid payment plan is required.
- To select a prepaid plan, navigate to "Your Account" page and under the "Billing Details" section select "Switch Plan" to select the amount of funds you would like to add to your account balance.
- If you signed up using Google, Facebook, or LinkedIn, please be sure to set a password on your Searchbug account prior to using the API.
- Each time you run a query; the search fee is deducted from your prepaid account balance.
- Prepaid balance is automatically replenished when your funds run low. Every 4 hours the system replenishes prepaid balances below 20% (30% for ACH) of your prepaid threshold (e.g. below \$200 for \$1000 prepaid plan).
- To have full access to all information available and being able to search by SSN, a Verified Business Account with the Restricted Access Add-On is required. For more information or to apply, please visit: <https://www.searchbug.com/services/restricted-access.aspx>

Current API Pricing can be found at this URL: <https://www.searchbug.com/pricing-api.aspx>

Obtaining Background Report is a two-step process:

1. **People Search** (Step 1) is used to identify the correct subject person. Search by name, address, phone number, email address. You can add middle name or date of birth to narrow down your results. Verified business accounts with Restricted Access Add-on can also search by SSN.
 - a. Identify reportToken (for a found person) or relativeReportToken (for relatives)

/result/people/person/reportToken

/result/people/person/relatives/relative/relativeReportToken

Example: rgMiWvxn2gUF.TwQHqA==

The API Guide for the People Search (step 1) is available here:

https://www.searchbug.com/api/SearchBug_People_Search_API.pdf

2. **Background Report** (Step 2) is a detailed report for the person selected in the Step 1. You will pass reportToken or relativeReportToken value to obtain the report. See details below.

Any reportToken for related people found in the Step 2 results can also be used for subsequent Step 2 requests.

Sending Request (Step 2)

The request should be sent to Searchbug using following URL format over HTTPS:

```
https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?  
CO_CODE=<AccountID>&PASS=<Password>&TYPE=<TYPE>  
&reportToken=<reportToken>&FORMAT=<FORMAT>&REF=<Reference>
```

<AccountID> (CO_CODE) will be provided to you when you create a Searchbug account. If you already have an account, you can find your ID on "Your Account" page after you login to Searchbug.

<Password> (PASS) will be selected by you during account registration. You can change your password at any time. It is the same password you use to login to the Searchbug website. Please make sure that your password does not contain @, #, ?, & or = characters that may affect reading the URL. If you have multiple users on your account, you can use the password of any user in your query.

Alternatively, you can generate an API Key on Your Account page on Searchbug. You can either use the account password or API Key in the PASS variable.

<TYPE> Use **api_back** for the Background Report API (Step 2)

<reportToken> reportToken or relativeReportToken from Step 1

<FORMAT> To specify JSON output format: &FORMAT=JSON (optional). XML results is the default, you can skip this variable to get XML

<Reference> is an optional field. Free text (100 char max). Used for API usage tracking per application or customer.

Examples of the request URL (one line, no breaks):

[https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?CO_CODE=1279999&PASS=23TestPass
&TYPE=api_back&reportToken=rgMiWvxn2gUF.TwQHqA==](https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?CO_CODE=1279999&PASS=23TestPass&TYPE=api_back&reportToken=rgMiWvxn2gUF.TwQHqA==)

[https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?CO_CODE=1279999&PASS=23TestPass
&TYPE=api_back&reportToken=rgMiWvxn2gUF.TwQHqA==&FORMAT=JSON&REF=CUST001](https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?CO_CODE=1279999&PASS=23TestPass&TYPE=api_back&reportToken=rgMiWvxn2gUF.TwQHqA==&FORMAT=JSON&REF=CUST001)

Example of Background Report results

XML: https://www.searchbug.com/api/searchbug-api_back.xml

JSON: https://www.searchbug.com/api/searchbug-api_back.json

None: The nodes highlighted in red are available only for accounts with Restricted Access Add-On

- names
- **SSNs (restricted)**
- DOBs
- DODs
- addresses
- phones
- **driversLicenses (restricted)**
- relatives
- **IndividualsSharingSSN (restricted)**
- **businessAssociations (restricted)**
- corporateFilings
- personalLienFilings
- personalJudgmentFilings
- personalBankruptcyFilings
- pilotLicenses
- professionalAssociations
- professionalLicenses
- evictions
- UCCFilings
- **voterRegistrations (restricted)**
- **employers (restricted)**
- **employmentHistory (restricted)**
- criminalRecords
- tradeMarks
- concealedWeaponPermits
- huntingPermits
- watchListRecords
- emails

Checking API Prepaid Balance

To check your current prepaid balance, please use the following URL format over HTTPS.
Use `TYPE_API` specific to the API type for which you want to get the stats.

<https://data.searchbug.com/api/search.aspx?>

`CO_CODE=<AccountID>&PASS=<Password>&TYPE=status&TYPE_API=api_back`

```
<RESULTS>
  <API_TYPE>api_back</API_TYPE>
  <API_NAME>API - Background Report</API_NAME>
  <DAILY>11</DAILY>
  <MONTHLY>253</MONTHLY>
  <RATE>15.0000</RATE>
  <BALANCE>741.75</BALANCE>
  <PREPAID>1000.00</PREPAID>
  <DATE>06/20/2024</DATE>
</RESULTS>
```

For further technical details please contact andre@searchbug.com
For sales and pricing information please contact justin@searchbug.com
For customer support, please contact support@searchbug.zohodesk.com