**DeGAUSS: Frequently Asked Questions**

**I received an email saying the grace period for Docker is ending and we will have to start paying for it. Will this affect our ability to use DeGAUSS?**

No. The charges are referring to for-profit organizations that want to create their own containers and host them using Docker Hub. The “Docker Desktop" software that you will be using to analyze data will always be free and open source. The charges are for the extra enterprise features that they are now advertising. You can get this free version by going to https://degauss.org/using\_degauss.html and clicking on either “macOS” or “Windows” link in the first paragraph.

**Is Docker paid for by PAC3 for participating centers?**

See above.

**Having trouble running the DeGAUSS tool for the first time?**

Try running the code **“docker run hello-world”** in command prompt to make sure your computer is pulling through Docker. If having trouble getting Docker to respond try turning off center’s VPN. Also check here for more resources <https://degauss.org/troubleshooting.html#Proxy>

**Has anyone had trouble accessing Docker once installed locally? I get a notification that says, “Docker Desktop – Access denied. You must be in the docker-users group.”**

It may be that you have to be added to your hospital’s user list, which will be done through your IT/IS department.

**When I try to run the geocoder for the first time, I get the error “Unable to find image '**[**ghcr.io/degauss-org/geocoder:3.0.2**](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fghcr.io%2Fdegauss-org%2Fgeocoder%3A3.0.2&data=04%7C01%7Cjennifer.epstein%40bjc.org%7C0b042e39b90f411853a908d9fc68f93c%7C1984aac07e834a2b925df834a5a9cbd4%7C0%7C0%7C637818350057349035%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=SdfdwmBO5pOwB7MZLJEcGIo4L%2BRpnyqky7k8WjgLnG4%3D&reserved=0)**' locally.”**

This is expected (and isn’t really an error). If you haven’t used a specific version of a container before, Docker will give you this message then pull it from our online repository.

**It looks like the geocode images online have been updated to 3.1.0. Should we use that version?**

Geocoder:3.1.0 uses updated files (i.e, new construction homes built since 2019 would be geocoded accurately using 3.1.0 but might be missing/unable to be geocoded using 3.0.2). The DeGAUSS team has compared some results, and there should not be much difference between the results from each. Continue using 3.0.2, so that everyone in PAC3 is using the same version. Older versions are always available, even when newer versions are released.

**I noticed when testing the DeGAUSS tool the results were not exact to the address I put in. Is there an issue with the tool?**

The DeGAUSS geocoder works by first parsing the address into components (street, city, state, zip), then looks within the zip for the street name. If it cannot find the street, it may look for that street within neighboring zips. It also does not necessarily geocode addresses to the exact parcel of land, but rather uses street range files to approximate the location within the street. For example, Cincinnati Children’s is located at 3333 Burnet Ave, so the geocoder would place the hospital about a third of the way down the 3000 block of Burnet Ave.

Further, the geocoder returns some diagnostic information that gives us an idea of how accurate/precise the returned geocode might be. In your example files you should see columns called “score” and “precision”. There is detailed information about these columns [here](https://degauss.org/geocoder/), but in this example the precisions are street and range, which means the geocoder is reasonably confident it got the right street for the first address, and got the right street range for the second address. The “score" is the percentage of text matching between the input address and the matched address. The DeGAUSS geocoder filters out anything that was not matched to street or range precision and anything with less than 50% text match (lat and lon will be NA).

**Our heart center IS person isn’t familiar with DeGAUSS. What information can we give them?**

The software containers created for DeGAUSS are hosted in an online repository and Docker is used to download and run these; not unlike an R or python installation that utilizes packages from an online repository like CRAN. Citations from publications are available on the website: <https://degauss.org/>

DeGAUSS is open-source federally funded software, so you cannot buy a license or purchase support for the software. The creator, Cole Brokamp, and his team are very responsive to all questions.

**How does the patient information get protected?**

All data entered is never exposed to a third party or the internet. There is a build in fail-safe in the Health Equity module when uploading data to prevent any PHI to be delivered to the data registry. These items are identified by the headings on each .csv file.

**Who else has used the DeGAUSS tool?**

Columbia University, Vanderbilt University, Cincinnati Children’s, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Boston Children’s Hospital, Harvard University, Weill Cornell Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Northwestern University and many more. Check out other users here at the bottom of the page. <https://degauss.org/index.html>