

Groom Lake and the geography server

From: PaulMcG@aol.com
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 Subject: Groom Lake and the geography server

For those who don't know about it, the University of Michigan has a geography server that allows you to get the latitude and longitude for various places. To connect to, you would use Telnet (a way of logging in as a remote text terminal) and connect to port 3000 on their host. On a Unix system, you could enter this command:

```
telnet martini.eecs.umich.edu 3000
```

If your Web browser, such as Netscape is configured for an external Telnet program, you could enter this URL:

```
telnet://martini.eecs.umich.edu:3000
```

Groom Lake came up, but oddly enough, Rachel, NV did not. (The nearest populated place that comes up is Alamo, NV). The geography server produced this for Groom Lake:

```
0 Groom Lake
1 32017 Lincoln
2 NV Nevada
3 US United States
A 702
F 35 Lake
L 37 16 05 N 115 47 58 W
E 4437
```

Amazingly, their coordinates put you at the runway on the western edge of the dry lake bed!!

The various fields in the database entry mean the following:

```
0 <city name>
1 <county FIPS code> <county name>
2 <state/province abbreviation> <state/province name>
3 <nation abbreviation> <nation name>
A <telephone area code>
E <elevation in feet above mean sea level>
F <feature code> <feature name>
L <latitude DD MM SS X> <longitude DDD MM SS X>
P <1980 census population>
R <remark>
T <time zone>
Z <postal ("ZIP") code>
```

Paul McGinnis / PaulMcG@aol.com

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