



REC Networks

Radio History Project

CDBS Supplemental Data Files

December 31, 2024

<https://recnet.com/cdb>

Introduction

The Consolidated Database System (CDBS) was a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) database that was used from 1999 through 2023 to document and track applications filed with the Agency for radio and television broadcasting services. CDBS provided the first abilities for broadcast entities to electronically file their own applications. The use of CDBS would be eventually phased out in favor of the License Management System (LMS) starting in 2014 for television and 2019 for radio. Electronic filing services in CDBS would eventually end on January 11, 2022 and the public's ability to view CDBS records would end on January 2, 2025. Some of the data that resided in CDBS would eventually be transitioned to LMS for future public reference.

In December, 2024, REC Networks made an aggressive effort to archive data elements from CDBS that were not transitioned to LMS. This data, while not necessarily relevant for day to day operations of the Agency or broadcast stations has a historical significance and without these efforts, this data would be lost forever in the public eye. This includes a significant number of applications that were originally tracked by the Agency using CDBS's predecessor, the Broadcast Application Processing System (BAPS), which was in use from 1978 through 1999. Prior to BAPS, broadcast applications were tracked manually using different sets on index cards. These "history cards" have been preserved through an aggressive project by the FCC and many of those cards remain available for viewing on LMS. The BAPS and CDBS data pick up where the history cards left off thus filling a hole in history between 1978 and 2014 for television and 2019 for radio.

The Open Data files available from REC are in a pipe delimited format and are intended to be used in coordination with the final CDBS database dump fileset which is available for download from REC Networks at our CDBS History Page:

<https://recnet.com/cdbbs>

CDBS uses a one through seven-digit integer as an application identifier. This identifier is used throughout the CDBS data files in order to relate the tables. There are other relations within the database. REC open data will relate to those same application ID numbers. To relate this data to LMS, use the LMS table *xfer_cdbbs_lm_app_id_transfer*.

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CDBS Public Notice Comments

cdbb_public_notice_comments_REC.dat

This table is the Public Notice Comments that were used on the CDBS Public View website. For applications filed in the BAPS era (1979~1999), these comments are very detailed and include comments that are written in the style of those used on the history cards (pre 1979). The key to this table is the *application_id* column that can be found in the CDBS *application* table. Double quotes (") are changed to single quotes ('). Line feeds have been suppressed and replaced with spaces.

BAPS-era applications are application IDs 1~316,319. CDBS-era applications start at 400,000.

Column	Data Type	Description
application_id	int(11)	CDBS application ID
notice_text	mediumtext	Public Notice Text

CDBS Import Letters

cdbb_import_letters_REC.dat

This table includes references to the import letters that were loaded into the CDBS. Import letters can be from either FCC staff or the applicant. Some import letters are related to specific applications while others are related to the facility in general.

The import letter ID is the identifier used in CDBS to locate the document. This identifier is also used by REC in our preservation of these documents. We note that some of these import letters have been transitioned to LMS but no longer use this letter ID and the FCC does not provide a table to cross reference these.

Some of the fields use the general CDBS code table which can be obtained from REC at <https://recnet.com/cdbb>.

Import letter data collected by REC related to LMS-era applications are not considered as Open Data and are not included in this collection.

Some elements of this table are still under development and this table may be revised in the future. Please stay tuned to the REC CDBS page for a potential future update.

Column	Data Type	Description
fcc_letter	int(11)	CDBS identifier for import letter.
letter_date	date	Date of letter. (yyyy-mm-dd format)
facility_id	int(11)	Station facility ID
application_id	int(11)	CDBS application ID
file_number	varchar(20)	CDBS application reference number (does not include file prefix)
letter_type	int(11)	Type of letter. See code table below.
history_pdf	char	Y if this record is a history card.
archived_pdf	char	Y if the PDF version is in the REC inventory.
archived_text	char	Y if a text version is in the REC inventory.

Code Table for *letter_type*

1	Letter decision on Informal Objection, Petition to Deny or Petition for Reconsideration.
2	Letter decision on waiver request.
3	Letter decision.
4	Special Temporary Authority related.
5	Short-spacing dismissal letter.
6	FAA/Antenna Structure Registration related.
7	Red light letter.
8	Broadcast application.
9	Authorization document.
10	History cards.
11	Incoming letter or scanned document.
12	Program Test Authority.
13	Authority to remain silent.
14	Order.
15	Silent – Cancellation of License
16	Memorandum Opinion & Order
17	Order and Consent Decree
18	Letter decision on renewal
19	FCC letter on application
99	Imported letter
100	Bad PDF file.

CDBSBOT Transaction Log

cdbsbot_translog_REC.dat

CDBSbot was the system that was developed by REC in order to monitor the CDBS and LMS Public Views to display applications and actions. CDBSbot was used to provide real-time information on FCC actions on the REC website fcc.today. CDBSbot would run every 10 minutes during the business day. In the first run of the morning, it would pick up the

information on the applications that were filed the previous business day. Then throughout the day, it would provide near real-time information on FCC actions on those CDBS applications as well as all LMS activity.

Time references are REC Operational Time (RECOT), which equates to UTC -7 (Mountain Standard Time).

CDBS applications were supported between June 30, 2014~May 3, 2023.

LMS applications were supported between June 20, 2018~May 20, 2022. LMS application handling was moved to LMSbot (now known as LMSlist). For LMS handled applications, the LMS raw data provided by the FCC also includes transaction log information.

This static table includes 682,105 records.

Column	Data Type	Description
timestamp	datetime	Date and time (RECOT) that the transaction was picked up by CDBSbot.
app_arn	varchar(11)	The CDBS application reference number (the characters after the dash). For LMS applications, this is the LMS file number (zero filled).
app_status	int	Application status code (see code table below)

Code Table for *app_status*

0	Unknown
1	Accepted for Filing
2	Amendment Received
5	Application Grant Rescinded
6	Application Reinstated
7	Construction Permit Requested
9	Application Denied
10	Application Dismissed
11	Application Granted
13	License Cancelled
14	Permit Cancelled
15	Application Received
16	Application Returned
18	Amendment Denied
	LMS Status Codes
20	Application Submitted
21	Application Pending
22	Application Withdrawn
24	Application in Review
25	Application Cancelled