

BOOKYARD APPLE SERIAL DECODER & API

Summary

The Bookyard Apple Serial Decoder (BYASD) is a set of algorithms and databases which allow almost any Apple device to be identified from its serial number, and comprehensive technical specification of the device provided. It is the most comprehensive and accurate Apple serial number decoder available (outside of Apple's own private database) with an ever growing database of over 3,000 Apple products and over 8,000 identifiable factory configurations.

The software and databases are owned and maintained by The Bookyard Ltd. but the functionality is available to 3rd parties via a simple, secure, HTTPS/XML API (Application Programming Interface) on a subscription basis.

Applications

There are many different uses for the decoder but they generally fall into one of two camps; Informational and Functional.

Informational applications primarily want to use the API to allow them to gather the raw information about a device, whether this is just the device description, or whether it is data from the extensive list of technical specifications that can be returned by the API. Sometimes this is to display to a user and sometimes it is to pre-populate fields on an internal system such as a repair company that wants all the details of a machine (speed, screen size, colour, capacity etc.) to be automatically entered from the device serial number.

Functional applications want to identify the device range/model so that their system can present the user with tailored content or services. An example is our own Apple parts web store at thebookyard.com which allows users to view just the parts for their computer by entering their serial number. Or our mac2cash.com trade-in site which automatically quotes consumers a price to buy their machine based on the serial number. The range and model are identified by the API as a unique range ID and model ID to avoid ambiguity over Apple's frequently ambiguous or changing naming standards for its ranges. In such functional applications it is typically necessary to maintain a local look-up table of these IDs to allow your system to link to your correct content. Updates are provided routinely after the launch of new Apple product ranges.

Scope

BYASD is currently able to identify all Apple computer ranges (from the first 1984 Macintosh), iPads, iPhones, Watches, Apple TVs, Airport basestations, Time Capsules, AirPods and HomePods. It has partial support for Apple monitors.

It does not support non-Macintosh/Mac ranges of computers such as the Apple][range, Apple accessories such as keyboards, mice, cables, adapters or software products, or other owned brands such as Beats products.

API overview

The API is very simply to implement and involves a single HTTPS POST to https://www.thebookyard.com/byasd_api.php providing the following fields :

- aref : Your supplied account reference (ID)
- ip : Your IP address
- data : Apple serial number
- hash : Security hash constructed using your supplied private hash key.

Assuming the hash is verified against your account reference, the call will return XML identifying the range and model, and any required fields of the available technical specifications.

This is an example of the XML result in it's most minimal form :

```

<serialResponse>
  <serial></serial>
  <error></error>
  <rangeID></rangeID >
  <rangeName></rangeName>    — Full text name of the Apple range
  <modelID></modelID >
  <modelName></modelName>    — Full text name of the Apple model
  <cto></cto>                 — Flag indicating if this is a configure-to-order model where
                               model specs cannot be identified from the serial number
  <imageUrl></imageUrl>      — URL to a 120x120 pixel png image of product with a
                               transparent background.
</serialResponse>
  
```

Available data points that can be returned as tags within the XML for any machine as required are currently as follows:

EMC #	Family number (i.e. A1024)	Machine ID (i.e. MacBook3,2)
Introduction date	Discontinued date	Apple order ID (i.e. MA463LL/A)
Processor speed	Processor type	Processor quantity
Graphic processing unit	Built-in screen size	Built-in screen resolution
2 nd display support	2 nd display resolution	Memory standard
Memory slots	Hard wired memory	Maximum memory
Primary drive capacity	Primary drive format	Primary drive interface
Optical drive type	Optical drive interface	USB ports
Firewire ports	Ethernet ports	WiFi support
Bluetooth support	Cellular support	Built-in camera
Expansion options	Battery capacity	Material/colour
OS when shipped	Maximum OS	Original launch price
Weight in KG	Dimensions in cm	Geekbench3 32b MP score
Geekbench3 64b MP score	thebookyard.com store category ID	

Note that many of the above data points cannot be returned if the decoder is only able to identify the range, not the model, such as for CTO configurations. Fully working PHP & Javascript code sample are provided to assist with integration into your system.

Cost & Applying

The setup fee and monthly cost are calculated for each customer based on the volume of monthly decodes required, the data required and the specific use. Please initially contact us by email at admin@thebookyard.com giving an overview of the application you are interested in using BYASD for, and the likely number of decodes per month. We will get back to you promptly.