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Privacy Impact Assessment for the USPTO Subscription Center (USC)

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Concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer

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U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Impact Assessment USPTO Subscription Center (USC)

Unique Project Identifier: PTOC-033-00

Introduction: System Description

Provide a brief description of the information system.

USPTO Subscription Center (USC) is USPTO's instance of the FedRAMP-authorized GovDelivery Communications Cloud service. The GovDelivery Communications Cloud is a Software as a Service (SaaS) Community Cloud offered by GovDelivery to Federal, State, and Local Government organizations. The Communications Cloud provides these organizations with a number of features to support the efficient communication of timely information to the general public. It provides a comprehensive digital communications management solution tailored to public sector requirements. It is designed to facilitate and increase citizen engagement with public government messaging. It also enables citizens (hereinafter referred to as "End Users") to more effectively communicate with the Government by providing secure case tracking and collaboration mechanisms.

Address the following elements:

- (a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system USPTO Subscription Center (USC) is a major application.
- (b) System location

USC uses the FedRAMP Granicus GovDelivery Communications Cloud Software as a Service (SaaS) based out of Eden Prairie, Minnesota and Ashburn, Virginia.

- (c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)
 USC uses the FedRAMP Granicus GovDelivery Communications Cloud SaaS via an internet connection.
- (d) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose(s) identified in Section 4The application is accessed through a web browser where administrators and content creators login, create and manage topics for subscribers. Topics published are made available for end users to subscribe.
- (e) How information in the system is retrieved by the user

Administrators access the application through a web browser to manage and create content. Subscribers receive the published topics via email. However, members of the public do not receive any PII in those emails.

(f) How information is transmitted to and from the system

The web application is accessed via an internet connection and topics created. Published topics are transmitted to subscribers via email. However, members of the public do not receive any PII in those emails.

(g) Any information sharing

The information stays within the bureau; authorized USPTO staff and contractors have access to the data stored on the USC System. USC does not disseminate PII information to any other systems.

- (h) The specific programmatic authorities (statutes or Executive Orders) for collecting, maintaining, using, and disseminating the information
 The citation of the legal authority to collect PII and/or BII is 5 U.S.C 301, 35 U.S.C. 2, and E.O.12862.
- *(i)* The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category for the system Low

<u>Section 1</u>: Status of the Information System

1.1 Indicate whether the information system is a new or existing system.

 \Box This is a new information system.

□ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *(Check all that apply.)*

Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)							
a. Conversions		d. Significant Merging		g. New Interagency Uses			
b. Anonymous to Non- Anonymous		e. New Public Access		h. Internal Flow or Collection			
c. Significant System Management Changes		f. Commercial Sources		i. Alteration in Character of Data			
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify):							

□ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is not a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment.

⊠ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment.

Section 2: Information in the System

2.1 Indicate what personally identifiable information (PII)/business identifiable information (BII) is collected, maintained, or disseminated. (*Check all that apply.*)

Identifying Numbers (IN)						
a. Social Security*		f. Driver's License		j. Financial Account		
b. Taxpayer ID		g. Passport		k. Financial Transaction		
c. Employer ID		h. Alien Registration		1. Vehicle Identifier		
d. Employee ID		i. Credit Card		m. Medical Record		
e. File/Case ID						
n. Other identifying numbers (specify):						
*Explanation for the business	needto	o collect, maintain, or disseminat	te the S	locial Security number, including		
truncated form:						

General Personal Data (GPD)				
a. Name	\boxtimes	h. Date of Birth		o. Financial Information	
b. Maiden Name		i. Place of Birth		p. Medical Information	
c. Alias		j. Home Address		q. Military Service	
d. Gender		k. Telephone Number	\boxtimes	r. Criminal Record	
e. Age		l. Email Address	\boxtimes	s. Marital Status	
f. Race/Ethnicity		m. Education		t. Mother's Maiden Name	
g. Citizenship		n. Religion			
u. Other general personal dat	a (spec	ify):			

Work-Related Data (WRD)				
a. Occupation		e. Work Email Address	\boxtimes	i. Business Associates
b. Job Title		f. Salary		j. Proprietary or Business Information
c. Work Address		g. Work History		k. Procurement/contracting records
d. Work Telephone Number	\boxtimes	h. Employment Performance Ratings or other Performance Information		
1. Other work-related data (s	pecify):		

Distinguishing Features/Biometrics (DFB)

a.	Fingerprints		f.	Scars, Marks, Tattoos	k. Signatures
b.	Palm Prints		g.	Hair Color	1. Vascular Scans
c.	Voice/Audio Recording		h.	Eye Color	m. DNA Sample or Profile
d.	Video Recording		i.	Height	n. Retina/Iris Scans
e.	Photographs		j.	Weight	o. Dental Profile
p.	Other distinguishing featu	res/bic	met	rics (specify):	

System Administration/Audit Data (SAAD)						
a. UserID	\boxtimes	c. Date/Time of Access	\boxtimes	e. ID Files Accessed		
b. IP Address	\boxtimes	f. Queries Run		f. Contents of Files		
g. Other system administration/audit data (specify):						

Other Information (specify)		

2.2 Indicate sources of the PII/BII in the system. (Check all that apply.)

Directly from Individual abo	ut Wh	om the Information Pertains		
In Person		Hard Copy: Mail/Fax	Online	\boxtimes
Telephone		Email		
Other (specify):				

Government Sources				
Within the Bureau	\boxtimes	Other DOC Bureaus	Other Federal Agencies	
State, Local, Tribal		Foreign		
Other (specify):				

Non-government Sources					
Public Organizations		Private Sector	\times	Commercial Data Brokers	
Third Party Website or Application					
Other (specify):					

2.3 Describe how the accuracy of the information in the system is ensured.

Email addresses of USPTO users' (which contain their full name) are maintained in Active Directory, users can update their phone numbers via their user profiles. Members of the public can unsubscribe at any time thereby dissociating their email address from the system. The non-sensitive Personally Identifiable Information in USC is secured using appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the FedRAMP software as a service (SaaS) Authorization. All access has role based restrictions, and individuals with access privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. The USPTO maintains an audit trail and performs random periodic reviews to identify unauthorized access and changes as part of verifying the integrity of data.

2.4 Is the information covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act?

	Yes, the information is covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act. Provide the OMB control number and the agency number for the collection.
\boxtimes	No, the information is not covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

2.5 Indicate the technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed. (*Check all that apply.*)

Biometrics	
Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Cards	
	Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Cards

There are not any technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed.

Section 3: System Supported Activities

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3.1 Indicate IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns. (Check all that apply.)

Activities		
Audio recordings	Building entry readers	
Video surveillance	Electronic purchase transactions	
Other (specify): Click or tap here to enter text.		

There are not any IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns.

Section 4: Purpose of the System

4.1 Indicate why the PII/BII in the IT system is being collected, maintained, or disseminated. *(Check all that apply.)*

Purpose			
For a Computer Matching Program		For administering human resources programs	
For administrative matters		To promote information sharing initiatives	\boxtimes
Forlitigation		For criminal law enforcement activities	
For civil enforcement activities		For intelligence activities	
To improve Federal services online	\boxtimes	For employee or customer satisfaction	
For web measurement and customization technologies (single-session)		For web measurement and customization technologies (multi-session)	
Other (specify): To send published materials to members of the public that are subscribed to the system using their email address.			

Section 5: Use of the Information

5.1 In the context of functional areas (business processes, missions, operations, etc.) supported by the IT system, describe how the PII/BII that is collected, maintained, or disseminated will be used. Indicate if the PII/BII identified in Section 2.1 of this document is in reference to a federal employee/contractor, member of the public, foreign national, visitor or other (specify).

Federal Employees and Contractors: Name, email address, and phone number are collected and maintained in the GovDelivery Communications Cloud (CC) application. This information is used for identification (name and email address as User ID) and authentication (phone number for SMS multi-factor authentication) to the system.

Members of the Public: Email address is collected and maintained in audit logs, and that information is used to communicate with the public, for information sharing initiatives, and to help improve Federal services online.

5.2 Describe any potential threats to privacy, such as insider threat, as a result of the bureau's/operating unit's use of the information, and controls that the bureau/operating unit has put into place to ensure that the information is handled, retained, and disposed appropriately. (For example: mandatory training for system users regarding appropriate handling of information, automatic purging of information in accordance with the retention schedule, etc.)

Insider threats, loss of confidentiality and compromise to integrity are the potential threats to the system as identified by USPTO. USC (the USPTO system) and GovDelivery Communications Cloud (the FedRAMP authorized SaaS provider) have implemented security and management controls to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information. Automated mechanisms are in place to ensure the security of all data collected. Security controls are employed to ensure information is resistant to tampering (Physical and Access Controls), the confidentiality of data in transit (Encryption), and that data is available for authorized users only (Access Control). Management controls are utilized to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information. In addition, GovDelivery Communications Cloud provide additional automated transmission and monitoring mechanisms to ensure that PII is protected and not breached by any outside entities. In the event of disposal, GovDelivery Communications uses degaussing to permanently remove data according to government mandate and security policy.

Section 6: Information Sharing and Access

Recipient	Но	How Information will be Shared			
	Case-by-Case	Bulk Transfer	Direct Access		
Within the bureau	\boxtimes				
DOC bureaus					
Federalagencies					
State, local, tribal gov't agencies					
Public					
Private sector					
Foreign governments					
Foreign entities					
Other(specify):					

6.1 Indicate with whom the bureau intends to share the PII/BII in the IT system and how the PII/BII will be shared. *(Check all that apply.)*

The PII/BII in the system will not be shared.

6.2 Does the DOC bureau/operating unit place a limitation on re-dissemination of PII/BII shared with external agencies/entities?

	Yes, the external agency/entity is required to verify with the DOC bureau/operating unit before re- dissemination of PII/BII.
	No, the external agency/entity is not required to verify with the DOC bureau/operating unit before re- dissemination of PII/BII.
\boxtimes	No, the bureau/operating unit does not share PII/BII with external agencies/entities.

6.3 Indicate whether the IT system connects with or receives information from any other IT systems authorized to process PII and/or BII.

	Yes, this IT system connects with or receives information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII. Provide the name of the IT system and describe the technical controls which prevent PII/BII leakage:
\boxtimes	No, this IT system does not connect with or receive information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII.

6.4 Identify the class of users who will have access to the IT system and the PII/BII. (*Check all that apply.*)

Class of Users			
General Public		Government Employees	\boxtimes
Contractors	\boxtimes		
Other (specify): The general public only have according access to the PII data inside the IT system.	ess to t	he system for subscription purposes. They do not ha	ave

Section 7: Notice and Consent

7.1 Indicate whether individuals will be notified if their PII/BII is collected, maintained, or disseminated by the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

\boxtimes	Yes, notice is provided pursuant to a sy discussed in Section 9.	ystem of records notice published in the Federal Register and
	Yes, notice is provided by a Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy. The Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy can be found at: <u>https://www.uspto.gov/privacy-policy</u>	
	Yes, notice is provided by other means.	Specify how: The following notice is provided: "Your contact information is used to deliver requested updates or to access your subscriber preferences."That notice is provided on the subscription page; the URL is: <u>https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USPTO/subscriber/new</u> .
	No, notice is not provided.	Specify why not:

7.2 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.

	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify how:
\boxtimes	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify why not: For USPTO employees, the authorization process automatically passes the users name and USPTO email address to USC via the USPTO computer used to access content. Additionally, phone number is required for multifactor

authentication, and a user cannot decline providing their phone number due to non-compliance with USPTO's multi-factor authentication requirements for both privileged and non- privileged accounts.
For members of the public, the service is voluntary, but it can only be provided via email. Therefore, they cannot decline to provide their email address if they chose to enroll in the service.

7.3 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.

Yes, individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify how:
No, individuals do not have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify why not: For USPTO Employees and Contractors, they do not have the ability to consent to particular uses of their PII. They consent to providing their name (which is then used for email address) and phone number as part of accepting employment at USPTO. That information is then used for the primary purpose of acquiring access to applications and the network during on boarding. For members of the public, the service is voluntary, but it can only be provided via email. Therefore, they cannot decline to provide their email address if they chose to enroll in the service.

7.4 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.

\boxtimes	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify how: USPTO employees and contractors can update their user profiles on their own and/or contact a USC administrator to review/update the PII held in their account profiles.
	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify why not:

Section 8: Administrative and Technological Controls

8.1 Indicate the administrative and technological controls for the system. (Check all that apply.)

	All users signed a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement.	
	All users are subject to a Code of Conduct that includes the requirement for confidentiality.	
\boxtimes	Staff (employees and contractors) received training on privacy and confidentiality policies and practices.	
\boxtimes	Access to the PII/BII is restricted to authorized personnel only.	
	Access to the PII/BII is being monitored, tracked, or recorded. Explanation: The PII (from both members of the public and USPTO employees and contractors) is recorded and stored	

	in the GovDelivery Cloud Communications SaaS database. That PII is monitored and tracked by USPTO on an as needed basis.
\boxtimes	The information is secured in accordance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) requirements.
	Provide date of most recent Assessment and Authorization (A&A): 12/14/2022
	\Box This is a new system. The A&A date will be provided when the A&A package is approved.
	The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199 security impact category for this system is a moderate or higher.
\square	NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-122 and NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4 Appendix J recommended security controls for protecting PII/BII are in place and functioning as intended; or have an approved Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M).
\boxtimes	A security assessment report has been reviewed for the information system and it has been determined that there are no additional privacy risks.
\boxtimes	Contractors that have access to the system are subject to information security provisions in their contracts required by DOC policy.
	Contracts with customers establish DOC ownership rights over data including PII/BII.
	Acceptance of liability for exposure of PII/BII is clearly defined in agreements with customers.
	Other (specify):

8.2 Provide a general description of the technologies used to protect PII/BII on the IT system. *(Include data encryption in transit and/or at rest, if applicable).*

The information system provides protection of resources in accordance with NIST 800-18 Rev. 1 and NIST 800-53 Rev. 4; the USC System Security Plan (SSP) addresses the extent to which the security controls are implemented correctly, operating as intended, and producing the desired outcome with respect to meeting the security requirements for the information system in its operational environment. The SSP is reviewed on an annual basis. In addition, annual assessments and Continuous Monitoring reviews are conducted on the USC data. The USPTO Cybers ecurity Division CD) conducts these assessments and reviews based on NIST SP 800-53 Revision 4, Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations and NIST SP 800-53A Revision 4 Assessing Security and Privacy Controls in Federal Information Systems and Organizations. The results of these assessments and reviews are documented in the USC Security Assessment Package as part of the system's Security Authorization process.

USC implements security and management controls to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information. Automated mechanismare in place to ensure the security of all data collected. Security controls are employed to ensure information is resistant to tampering (Physical and Access Controls), the confidentiality of data in transit (Encryption), and that data is available for authorized users only (Access Control). Management controls are utilized to prevent the inappropriate disclosure of sensitive information. USC is secured using appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the FedRAMP Li-SaaS Authorization. All access has role based restrictions, and individuals with access privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. The USPTO maintains an audit trail and performs random periodic reviews to identify unauthorized access and changes as part of verifying the integrity of data.

USPTO uses the Life Cycle review process to ensure that management controls are in place for USC. During the enhancement of any component, the security controls are reviewed, re-evaluated, and updated in the System Security Plan. The System Security Plan specifically addresses the management, operational, and technical controls that are in place, and planned, during the operation of the enhanced system. Additional management controls include performing national agency checks on all personnel, including contractor staff. Additionally, USPTO develops privacy and PII-related policies and procedures to ensure safe handling, storing, and processing of sensitive data.

In order for internal users (federal employees and government contractors) to access USC, they must first identify and authenticate via multi-factor authentication.

Section 9: Privacy Act

- 9.1 Is the PII/BII searchable by a personal identifier (e.g, name or Social Security number)?
 - Yes, the PII/BII is searchable by a personal identifier.
 - □ No, the PII/BII is not searchable by a personal identifier.

9.2 Indicate whether a system of records is being created under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. (A new system of records notice (SORN) is required if the system is not covered by an existing SORN).

As per the Privacy Act of 1974, "the term 'system of records' means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual."

\boxtimes	Yes, this system is covered by an existing system of records notice (SORN). Provide the SORN name, number, and link. <i>(list all that apply)</i> :	
	COMMERCE/PAT-TM-23, User Access for WebPortals and Information Requests	
	Yes, a SORN has been submitted to the Department for approval on (date).	
	No, this system is not a system of records and a SORN is not applicable.	

Section 10: Retention of Information

10.1 Indicate whether these records are covered by an approved records control schedule and monitored for compliance. *(Check all that apply.)*

\boxtimes	There is an approved record control schedule. Provide the name of the record control schedule: GRS 3.2:010 Information Systems Security Records Systems and data security records
	No, there is not an approved record control schedule. Provide the stage in which the project is in developing and submitting a records control schedule:
\boxtimes	Yes, retention is monitored for compliance to the schedule.
	No, retention is not monitored for compliance to the schedule. Provide explanation:

10.2 Indicate the disposal method of the PII/BII. (Check all that apply.)

Dis pos al			
Shredding	\boxtimes	Overwriting	
Degaussing		Deleting	\boxtimes
Other(specify):			

Section 11: NIST Special Publication 800-122 PII Confidentiality Impact Level

11.1 Indicate the potential impact that could result to the subject individuals and/or the organization if PII were inappropriately accessed, used, or disclosed. *(The PII Confidentiality Impact Level is not the same, and does not have to be the same, as the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category.)*

\boxtimes	Low – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
	Moderate – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a serious adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational as sets, or individuals.
	High – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a severe or catastrophic adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.

11.2 Indicate which factors were used to determine the above PII confidentiality impact level. *(Check all that apply.)*

	Identifiability	Provide explanation: For members of the public, email address is the only information that is collected. Members of the public cannot be definitively identified via their email address. For USPTO employees and contractors, the non-sensitive data of name, phone number, and email address could be used to identify an individual.
	Quantity of PII	Provide explanation: USC system personnel consider the quantity of PII (name, phone number, and email address for USPTO employees and contractors; email address for members of the public) to be limited.
	Data Field Sensitivity	Provide explanation: PII (name, phone number, and email address for USPTO employees and contractors; email address for members of the public) is collected for USC.
	Context of Use	Provide explanation: Federal Employees and contractors: Name, phone number, and email address are collected and maintained in audit logs, and that information is only used for identification and authentication. Members of the Public: Email collected and maintained in audit logs, and that information is only used to provide the service, which helps to improve Federal services online and promote information sharing initiatives.
\square	Obligation to Protect Confidentiality	Provide explanation: In accordance with NIST 800-53 Rev. 4,

	USC implements both AR-2 (Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment) and AR-7 (Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development) security controls to ensure the confidentiality of all users is protected.
Access to and Location of PII	Provide explanation: The non-sensitive Personally Identifiable Information in USC is secured using appropriate administrative, physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the FedRAMP Li-SaaS Authorization. Authorized USPTO staff and contractors have access to the data stored on the USC System. USC does not disseminate PII information to any other systems.
Other:	Provide explanation:

Section 12: Analysis

12.1 Identify and evaluate any potential threats to privacy that exist in light of the information collected or the sources from which the information is collected. Also, describe the choices that the bureau/operating unit made with regard to the type or quantity of information collected and the sources providing the information in order to prevent or mitigate threats to privacy. (For example: If a decision was made to collect less data, include a discussion of this decision; if it is necessary to obtain information from sources other than the individual, explain why.)

USPTO has identified and evaluated potential threats to privacy and determined they are insider threats, loss of confidentiality, and compromised integrity of the PII that is collected and used. Based upon USPTO's threat assessment and the fact that the PII for employees is only used for identification and authentication and the PII for members of the public is voluntary if they want the service, the Agency has implemented a baseline of security controls to mitigate the risk to sensitive information to an acceptable level.

12.2 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required business process changes.

	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required business process changes. Explanation:
\boxtimes	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required business process changes.

12.3 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required technology changes.

	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required technology changes. Explanation:
\boxtimes	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required technology changes.