

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration**



**Privacy Threshold Analysis  
for the  
NOAA0201  
Web Operation Center (WOC)**

## U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Threshold Analysis

### NOAA/OCIO/Web Operation Center

**Unique Project Identifier: NOAA0201 (006-48-02-00-01-3511-00)**

**Introduction:** This Privacy Threshold Analysis (PTA) is a questionnaire to assist with determining if a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is necessary for this IT system. This PTA is primarily based from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) privacy guidance and the Department of Commerce (DOC) IT security/privacy policy. If questions arise or further guidance is needed in order to complete this PTA, please contact your Bureau Chief Privacy Officer (BCPO).

**Description of the information system and its purpose:** *Provide a general description (in a way that a non-technical person can understand) of the information system that addresses the following elements:*

The WOC is a diverse information technology services provider to Line and Staff Offices within NOAA. The WOC provides a wide range of information technology services and functions which include high availability, scalability, redundancy, clustering, and high performance computing to replicate and distribute general information as well as critical time sensitive life and property information to the general public and meteorology community.

The services and functions of the information system technology have been broken down into four (4) core services and functions: WOC Domain Name System Services (WOCDNSS), WOC Information Sharing Services (WOCISS), WOC Adoptive System Framework (WOCASF), and WOC Collaboration Services (WOCSS). These services and functions make up the subsystems within NOAA0201. Each subsystem has a different FIPS 199 security categorization as described in the NOAA0201 FIPS 199 Security Categorization document.

The WOC systems are physically located at eight (8) NOAA datacenters: (W1: Silver Spring, Maryland; W2: Ashburn, Virginia; W3: Norman, Oklahoma; W4: Boulder, Colorado; W5: Ft. Worth, Texas; W6: Seattle, Washington; W7: Asheville, North Carolina; and W8: Fairmont, West Virginia). As of FY19, the WOC has extended its on premise system boundary to the Amazon Web Services (AWS) platform. AWS is an on-demand cloud computing platform extending the WOC into AWS US-East Region (Northern Virginia).

The E-Government Act of 2002 defines "information system" by reference to the definition section of Title 44 of the United States Code. The following is a summary of the definition: "Information system" means a discrete set of information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing, dissemination, or disposition of information. See: 44. U.S.C. § 3502(8).

a) *Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system*

NOAA0201 WOC is a General Support System (GSS).

b) *System location*

NOAA0201 WOC has information system equipment located in multiple federal datacenters for the purpose of redundancy and fault tolerance:

W1 - NOAA0201 – NOAA HQS Silver Spring Metro Center 3 (SSMC3) - Silver Spring, MD

W2 - NOAA0520 – NOAA Enterprise Data Centers (NEDC) - Ashburn VA

W3 - NOAA3090 – NSSL - Norman, OK

W4 - NOAA3400 – BNOC - Boulder, CO

W5 - NOAA8884 – SRHQ - Fort Worth, TX

W6 - NOAA3100 – PMELLAN - Seattle, WA

W7 - NOAA5009 – NCDC - Ashville, NC

W8 - NOAA0520 – NESCC - Fairmont, WV

c) *Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)*

NOAA0201 is not a standalone system and interconnects with the following NOAA information systems:

NOAA1101 - Information Technology Center

NOAA3090 - National Severe Storms Laboratory Scientific Computing Facility

NOAA5009 - National Climatic Data Center Local Area Network

NOAA5040 - Comprehensive Large Array-data Stewardship System

NOAA8860 - Weather and Climate Computing Infrastructure Services (WCCIS)

NOAA8868 - Storm Prediction Center

NOAA8873 - National Data Buoy Center

NOAA8884 - SR Fort Worth

Note: There is no sharing of information with any system other than NOAA1101. The other connections only utilize the web tools from NOAA0201.

d) *The purpose that the system is designed to serve*

The WOC is a diverse information technology services provider to Line and Staff Offices within NOAA. The WOC provides a wide range of information technology services and functions which include high availability, scalability, redundancy, clustering, and high performance computing to replicate and distribute general information as well as critical time sensitive life and property information to the general public and meteorology community.

e) *The way the system operates to achieve the purpose*

NOAA0201 WOC provides data-dissemination business processes to distribute scientific and meteorological data, general information, and critical time sensitive life and property information to the public and meteorology community. This data is processed by other NOAA information systems and other federal agencies for use by the federal government and the public.

These purposes are achieved by NOAA0201's four (4) core services and functions: WOC Domain Name System Services (WOCDNSS), WOC Information Sharing Services (WOCISS), WOC Adoptive System Framework (WOCASF), and WOC Collaboration Services (WOCCS). These services and functions make up the subsystems within NOAA0201. Each subsystem has a different FIPS 199 security categorization as described in the NOAA0201 FIPS 199 Security Categorization document.

*f) A general description of the type of information collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the system*

NOAA0201 WOC provides data-dissemination business processes to distribute scientific and meteorological data and information gathered from a variety of sources across the globe. This data is processed by other NOAA information systems and other federal agencies for general use by the federal government and the public.

In addition to the scientific and meteorological data, NOAA0201 contains PII in the form of contractor and federal employee contact information (name, phone number(s), email address(es), user ID) gathered from the employee(s) during the hiring process via phone and email. The information is vetted during the hiring and badging processes and used for administrative purposes only.

*g) Identify individuals who have access to information on the system*

Only NOAA personnel (government employees and/or contractors) with authenticated access have access to the information and/or would be able to change or delete information.

*h) How information in the system is retrieved by the user*

Only NOAA personnel (government employees and/or contractors) with valid user accounts and authentication may access information in the system. Access requires the use of GFE. Remote access requires the use of VPN.

*i) How information is transmitted to and from the system*

All data is encrypted in transit.

**Questionnaire:**

1. Status of the Information System

1a. What is the status of this information system?

- This is a new information system. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*
- This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *Complete chart below, continue to answer questions, and complete certification.*

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. *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*
- This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2015 or 01-2017). *Continue to answer questions and complete certification.*
- This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment (version 01-2019 or later). *Skip questions and complete certification.*

1b. Has an IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist been completed with the appropriate signatures?

- Yes. This is a new information system.
- Yes. This is an existing information system for which an amended contract is needed.
- No. The IT Compliance in Acquisitions Checklist is not required for the acquisition of equipment for specialized Research and Development or scientific purposes that are not a National Security System.

No. This is not a new information system.

2. Is the IT system or its information used to support any activity which may raise privacy concerns?

NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 4, Appendix J, states “Organizations may also engage in activities that do not involve the collection and use of PII but may nevertheless raise privacy concerns and associated risk. The privacy controls are equally applicable to those activities and can be used to analyze the privacy risk and mitigate such risk when necessary.” Examples include, but are not limited to, audio recordings, video surveillance, building entry readers, and electronic purchase transactions.

Yes. (Check all that apply.)

<b>Activities</b>			
Audio recordings		Building entry readers	
Video surveillance		Electronic purchase transactions	
Other (specify):			

No.

3. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate business identifiable information (BII)?

As per DOC Privacy Policy: “For the purpose of this policy, business identifiable information consists of (a) information that is defined in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as “trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person [that is] privileged or confidential.” (5 U.S.C.552(b)(4)). This information is exempt from automatic release under the (b)(4) FOIA exemption. “Commercial” is not confined to records that reveal basic commercial operations” but includes any records [or information] in which the submitter has a commercial interest” and can include information submitted by a nonprofit entity, or (b) commercial or other information that, although it may not be exempt from release under FOIA, is exempt from disclosure by law (e.g., 13 U.S.C.)”

Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates BII.

No, this IT system does not collect any BII.

4. Personally Identifiable Information (PII)

4a. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII?

As per OMB 17-12: “The term PII refers to information that can be used to distinguish or trace an individual’s identity either alone or when combined with other information that is linked or linkable to a specific individual.”

Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about: (Check all that apply.)

- DOC employees
- Contractors working on behalf of DOC
- Other Federal Government personnel
- Members of the public

No, this IT system does not collect any PII.

*If the answer is “yes” to question 4a, please respond to the following questions.*

4b. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate Social Security numbers (SSNs), including truncated form?

Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates SSNs, including truncated form.

Provide an explanation for the business need requiring the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.
Provide the legal authority which permits the collection of SSNs, including truncated form.

No, the IT system does not collect, maintain, or disseminate SSNs, including truncated form.

4c. Does the IT system collect, maintain, or disseminate PII other than user ID?

Yes, the IT system collects, maintains, or disseminates PII other than user ID.

No, the user ID is the only PII collected, maintained, or disseminated by the IT system.

4d. Will the purpose for which the PII is collected, stored, used, processed, disclosed, or disseminated (context of use) cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level?

Examples of context of use include, but are not limited to, law enforcement investigations, administration of benefits, contagious disease treatments, etc.

Yes, the context of use will cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

No, the context of use will not cause the assignment of a higher PII confidentiality impact level.

***If any of the answers to questions 2, 3, 4b, 4c, and/or 4d are “Yes,” a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) must be completed for the IT system. This PTA and the SAOP approved PIA must be a part of the IT system’s Assessment and Authorization Package.***

### CERTIFICATION

X I certify the criteria implied by one or more of the questions above **apply** to the NOAA0201 Web Operation Center (WOC) and as a consequence of this applicability, I will perform and document a PIA for this IT system.

       I certify the criteria implied by the questions above **do not apply** to the NOAA0201 Web Operation Center (WOC) and as a consequence of this non-applicability, a PIA for this IT system is not necessary.

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