

Privacy Impact Assessment

NFC GovTA Application

- Version: 1.0
- Date: February 25, 2022
- Prepared for: USDA OCFO-
National Finance Center





Privacy Impact Assessment for the GovTA Application

February 25, 2022

Contact Point

Trudy Sandefer
OCFO, National Finance Center
504-426-7663

Reviewing Official

Tracy Haskins
Information System Security Manager
United States Department of Agriculture
202-720-8245

Abstract

The abstract should be a minimum of three sentences and a maximum of four, if necessary, and conform to the following format:

- First sentence should be the name of the component and system.
- Second sentence should be a brief description of the system and its function.
- Third sentence should explain why the PIA is being conducted.

The National Finance Center (NFC) is a Shared Service Center (SSC) under the OPM Human Resources Line of Business (HRLOB). To carry out its wide-ranging responsibilities, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), and its employees and managers have access to diverse and complex automated information systems, which include system, file servers, local and wide area networks running various platforms, and telecommunications systems to include communication equipment.

The USDA relies on its information technology systems, including the Time and Attendance application (GovTA) to accomplish its mission of providing cost-effective and reliable services to the USDA and other serviced Federal agencies.

The NFC Government Employees Services Division (GESD), which falls under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is responsible for development, deployment, maintenance, and testing of the NFC GovTA major application (MA).

This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) is being conducted to fulfill the requirements of Section 208 of Public Law 107-347 (the E-Government Act of 2002).

Overview

The overview is the most important section of the PIA. A thorough and clear overview gives the reader the appropriate context to understand the responses in the PIA. The overview should contain the following elements:

- The system name and the name of the Department component(s) who own(s) the system;
- The purpose of the program, system, or technology and how it relates to the components and Department's mission.
- A general description of the information in the system.
- A description of a typical transaction conducted on the system.
- Any information sharing conducted by the program or system.

- A general description of the modules and subsystems, where relevant, and their functions; and
- A citation to the legal authority to operate the program or system.

The GovTA system consists of time and attendance payroll data needed to conform to all applicable laws, Government regulations and procedures, and the needs of the Department and agencies in carrying out their time and attendance management responsibilities.

Section 1.0 Characterization of the Information

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and/or collected as well as reasons for its collection as part of the program, system, rule, or technology being developed.

1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, or maintained in the system?

The application consists of (name, SSN and time and attendance, information included in teleworking agreements) and payroll data needed to conform to all applicable laws, Government regulations and procedures, and the needs of the Department and agencies in carrying out their personnel management responsibilities.

1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?

Federal agencies, employees, managers, agency human resources offices, and agency payroll/personnel offices provide information for GovTA.

1.3 Why is the information being collected, used, disseminated, or maintained?

The purpose of the data is to record, process, and report the Time and Attendance data for USDA and other Federal agencies.

1.4 How is the information collected?

Information is collected via a web-based application from Federal agencies, employees, and affiliates. [Human Resource \(HR\)](#) staff may enter information on an individual's behalf. Agencies may submit and receive data via Connect Direct and secure [File Transfer Protocol \(FTP\)](#) over a VPN connection. Only individuals with an established "need-to-know" may access their specific profiled data.

1.5 How will the information be checked for accuracy?

Users are responsible for the accuracy and completeness of any time and attendance data provided. All other information in GovTA must be corrected by authorized users from the agency's payroll/personnel human resources department at the request of the individual or at agency direction. Additionally, [Payroll/Personnel System \(PPS\)](#) application code provides reconciliation routines at the application level. These are maintained on the mainframe and applied to data entered and data transferred there. As time and attendance documents are processed each pay period, data is processed through extensive error-checking routines.

1.6 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and/or agreements defined the collection of information?

5 U.S.C. Sec. 552a governs the collection, use and safeguarding of data collected on individuals. Based upon our Service Level Agreements, NFC's Payroll/Personnel system processes the necessary data provided by our customer agencies via GovTA so that we can provide them the appropriate HR and payroll services.

1.7 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the amount and type of data collected, discuss the privacy risks identified and how they were mitigated.

NFC complies with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA), to ensure that data is protected from unauthorized access, malicious or inadvertent modification, disclosure, and disruption.

NFC also works diligently to secure Personally Identifiable Information (PII) by requiring adequate training of employees and contractors that have access to the data. NFC provides the degree of protection (administrative, technical, and physical safeguards) for the data collected as prescribed by the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. Section 552a. NFC ensures all data included in data file transmissions are provided, received, and stored in a secure manner.

NFC protects, labels, and handles the data in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Section 552, Privacy act of 1974, as amended and applicable to agency regulations. All employees and contractors adhere to security requirements for handling and storing of Federal data as directed by the Electronic Government Act Title III, also known as FISMA. Employees have access only to their own records; managers have access only to employees they supervise; and agency HR staff have access only to their agency employee information (as determined by the agency).

Section 2.0 Uses of the Information

The following questions are intended to clearly delineate the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

2.1 Describe all the uses of information.



The purpose and routine use of the data include recording, processing, and reporting the time and attendance data for USDA and other Federal agencies.

2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?

GovTA has data validation routines built into the interface that checks for required fields, data types, and data ranges. Additionally, the business logic layer processes data before it is committed to the database, checking the data against business logic for accuracy and consistency. Individuals and agencies may run predefined and custom reports against the data and can access data elements depending on access privileges requested by authorized agency personnel.

2.3 If the system uses commercial or publicly available data please explain why and how it is used.

All information is provided by the individual, customer, or agency; GovTA does not use commercial or publicly available data.

2.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the above described uses.

GovTA uses role-based access and UserID/password to protect access to data. Employees have access only to their own records; managers have access only to employees they supervise; and agency human resources staff have access only to their agency employee information (as determined by the agency). Access to information is provided on a need-to-know basis and follows our "least privilege" policy.

Section 3.0 Retention

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

3.1 How long is information retained?

The retention periods of data contained in this system are covered by NARA Records Control Schedule. Civilian Personnel Records have various retention periods for specific types of data. These retention periods are adhered to per customer agency requirements and memorandum of understanding.

3.2 Has the retention period been approved by the component records officer and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)?

Yes. Record Control Schedule N1-016-10-7 has been approved.

3.3 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and how those risks are mitigated.

The purpose of retaining the information is to provide historical data to respond to any issues including but not limited to payroll and benefit corrections, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) issues or lawsuits, and disciplinary actions. NFC destroys data on paper and microfiche following the guidance and timelines in accordance with the Record Control Schedule N1-016-10-7.

Section 4.0 Internal Sharing and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the scope of sharing within the United States Department of Agriculture.

4.1 With which internal organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared and for what purpose?

Information collected by GovTA is owned by each customer agency. The customer agency determines the use and sharing of the information. NFC maintains and secures the information on behalf of our customers. The system/agency security officers handle all requests for any information pertaining to user accounts/access based on supervisory requests. Access is based on the principle of least privilege, which refers to granting the minimum required system resources to a user that enables them to perform their duties/access their data. Access is requested/determined by personnel/payroll offices who submit the data. NFC grants authority to use/access GovTA to individual users at the request of the agencies approved by the user's [Agency Security Office \(ASO\)](#).

NFC shares our customers' PPS data with other NFC MAs (Major Applications), as described below.

1. NFC PPS System: GovTA uses human resources data provided by
3. OCIO authentication (eAuth) application: The eAuthentication application provides authentication services for some GovTA customers.
4. TIME: GovTA transmits certified T&A data to the PPS TIME application.

4.2 How is the information transmitted or disclosed?

Information is collected via data entry and front-end interfaces from individuals, customers, and agencies. Agencies submit data via Connect Direct and files transfers that use secure FTP over a VPN connection. The GovTA application uses 128-bit encryption HTTPS.

Information is shared with other USDA systems as described in 4.1 above.

4.3 Privacy Impact Analysis: Considering the extent of internal information sharing, discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing and how they were mitigated.

The system security officer handles requests for information pertaining to user accounts. Access control is based on the principle of least privilege, which refers to granting the minimum required system resources to a user that enables them to perform their duties. NFC grants authority to use/access GovTA at the request of the customers and the requesting user's ASO. Employees have access only to their own records; managers have access only to employees they supervise; and agency human resources staff have access only to their agency employee information (as determined by the agency). Access is requested/determined by the agency payroll/personnel offices, and based upon the application need, and level to access the data. Data transmission risks are mitigated by the required use of secure file transmission methods for all information that is exchanged between GovTA and another system, agency, or organization.

Section 5.0 External Sharing and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to USDA which includes Federal, state, and local government, and the private sector.

5.1 With which external organization(s) is the information shared, what information is shared, and for what purpose?

None

5.2 Is the sharing of personally identifiable information outside the Department compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If so, please describe. If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the program or system is allowed to share the personally identifiable information outside of USDA.

NA Please see Section 5.1 above.

5.3 How is the information shared outside the Department and what security measures safeguard its transmission?

NA See Section 5.1.

5.4 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the external sharing, explain the privacy risks identified and describe how they were mitigated.

NA See Section 5.1.

Section 6.0 Notice

The following questions are directed at notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of said information, and the right to decline to provide information.

6.1 Does this system require a SORN and if so, please provide SORN name and URL.

The agencies that employ individuals are responsible for obtaining authorization to collect use, maintain and share PII. NFC provides the agencies with the System Of Record Notice (SORN) that is associated with GovTA. [SORN: https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1998-01-28/pdf/98-2051.pdf](https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1998-01-28/pdf/98-2051.pdf) The agencies that use GovTA are responsible for making their employees aware of, and consent to, uses of their information for legitimate uses described in the SORN. The individual employees must coordinate directly with their employing agency regarding these rights.

2. Was notice provided to the individual prior to collection of information?

The NFC customers are responsible for providing notice to their employees prior to collection of PII.

6.3 Do individuals have the opportunity and/or right to decline to provide information?

The agencies that employ individuals are responsible for providing individuals with the opportunity and/or right to decline to provide information, and also the consequences of decisions to approve or decline the authorization of the collection, use, dissemination, and retention of PII. NFC provides the agencies with the SORN that is associated with GovTA. The agencies that use GovTA are responsible for making their employees aware of, and consent to, uses of their information for legitimate uses described in the SORN. The individual employees must coordinate directly with their employing agency regarding these rights.

6.4 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?

NFC provides the agencies with the SORN that is associated with GovTA. The agencies that use GovTA are responsible for making their employees aware of, and consent to, uses of their information for legitimate uses described in the SORN. The agencies are responsible for informing their employees of their rights to consent to particular uses of their information, as described in the SORN. The individual employees must coordinate directly with their employing agency regarding these rights.

6.5 Privacy Impact Analysis: Describe how notice is provided to individuals, and how the risks associated with individuals being unaware of the collection are mitigated.

NFC coordinates and communicates with the agencies that employ individuals, not directly with the employees. NFC provides the agencies with the SORN that is associated with GovTA. The agencies that use GovTA are responsible for making their employees aware of, and consent to, uses of their information for legitimate uses described in the SORN. The agencies are responsible for informing their employees of their rights to consent to particular uses of their information, as described in the SORN. The individual employees must coordinate directly with their employing agency regarding these rights.

From a regulatory and management controls perspective, a copy of the redacted PIA is available on USDA's Office of the Chief Information Officer web site.

Section 7.0 Access, Redress and Correction

The following questions are directed at an individual's ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about them.

7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?

At the customer agency's discretion and according to the agency's security policies, individuals may be assigned a unique user id and password that allows them access to their own data in GovTA.

7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?

Information in the system must be corrected by authorized users from the agency's payroll/personnel human resources department at the request of the individual or at agency direction.

7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?

Each agency using the system would provide this information to its employees.

7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?

Each agency using the system would provide this information to its employees.

7.5 Privacy Impact Analysis: Please discuss the privacy risks associated with the redress available to individuals and how those risks are mitigated.

It is the responsibility of the agency to ensure that personnel with access to correct data on individuals have the proper clearances, position sensitivity designations, and appropriate system access to the data. NFC access control procedures, role-based security of the application, and agency reporting of individual access and utilization aid agency officials to mitigate the risks of agency individuals with improper access

Section 8.0 Technical Access and Security

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system and are they documented?

The agencies determine user access. Only role-based access is granted. NFC follows Directive 58, Information Systems Security Program (Revision 3); and Directive 2, Access Management

8.2 Will Department contractors have access to the system?

Yes, if authorized a valid role.

8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?

Privacy and PII training is included in the Security Awareness and Rules of Behavior training that is required for all federal employees and contractors annually. An exam is provided following the training and the user must receive 70% or better to maintain or receive access to the information system. Some NFC staff members receive additional privacy training according to their role within NFC.

8.4 Has Certification & Accreditation been completed for the system or systems supporting the program?

Yes. This is a newly development effort that has been created in CSAM on 3/2/2022, as a child system.

8.5 What auditing measures and technical safeguards are in place to prevent misuse of data?

GovTA provides auditing at the application, database, and network/operating system levels

8.6 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the sensitivity and scope of the information collected, as well as any information sharing conducted on the system, what privacy risks were identified and how do the security controls mitigate them?

A Risk Assessment was performed on PPS which included GovTA and the security controls have been documented in the System Security Plan. These controls are tested annually under SSAE 18, and an independent assessment is performed every three years or when changes are made to the system

Section 9.0 Technology

The following questions are directed at critically analyzing the selection process for any technologies utilized by the system, including system hardware and other technology.

9.1 What type of project is the program or system?

GovTA is a customized COTS applications running in a Windows environment. The COTS application was developed by Kronos, now known as Ultimate Kronos Group (UKG). The application uses relational database technology. The Windows-based servers provide interfaces to back-end databases on midrange-based systems. The applications are connected to AIX, Solaris, or Red Hat Linux back-end database servers, and also to USDA NFC's enterprise mainframe.

9.2 Does the project employ technology which may raise privacy concerns? If so, please discuss their implementation.

There are no privacy concerns with the technology employed. The GovTA system is hosted in the OCIO data center.

Section 10.0 Third Party Websites/Applications

The following questions are directed at critically analyzing the privacy impact of using third party websites and/or applications.

10.1 Has the System Owner (SO) and/or Information Systems Security Program Manager (ISSPM) reviewed Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memorandums M-10-22 “Guidance for Online Use of Web Measurement and Customization Technology” and M-10-23 “Guidance for Agency Use of Third-Party Websites and Applications”?

Yes.

10.2 What is the specific purpose of the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications?

We do not track user web activities beyond their browsing the NFC Web site. We do not cross reference browsing habits with other entities, and we do not sell or give away user information to other entities

10.3 What personally identifiable information (PII) will become available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications.

No PII is captured

10.4 How will the PII that becomes available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be used?

No PII is captured

10.5 How will the PII that becomes available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be maintained and secured?

Not applicable

10.6 Is the PII that becomes available through the agency’s use of 3rd party websites and/or applications purged periodically?

Not applicable

If so, is it done automatically?

Not applicable

If so, is it done on a recurring basis?

Not applicable

10.7 Who will have access to PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications?

Not applicable

10.8 With whom will the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications be shared - either internally or externally?

Not applicable

10.9 Will the activities involving the PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications require either the creation or modification of a system of records notice (SORN)?

No.

10.10 Does the system use web measurement and customization technology?

We do not track user web activities beyond their browsing the NFC Web site. We do not cross reference browsing habits with other entities, and we do not sell or give away user information to other entities.

10.11 Does the system allow users to either decline to opt-in or decide to opt-out of all uses of web measurement and customization technology?

All of the information related to the collection of web site usage statistics and the use of Cookies is outlined in the NFC Privacy Policy available to all users at https://nfc.usda.gov/AdditionalResources/privacy_policy.php . The privacy policy also provides users with a link to the www.U.S.A.gov for step-by-step instructions on web site measurement and customization opt-out.



NFC Privacy Policy at https://nfc.usda.gov/AdditionalResources/privacy_policy.php provides users with a link to the www.usa.gov for step-by-step instructions on web site measurement and customization opt-out

10.12 Privacy Impact Analysis: Given the amount and type of PII that becomes available through the agency's use of 3rd party websites and/or applications, discuss the privacy risks identified and how they were mitigated.

We do not track user web activities beyond their browsing the NFC Web site. We do not cross reference browsing habits with other entities, and we do not sell or give away user information to other entities.



Responsible Officials

Trudy Sandefer digitally signed on 2022 03 31

Trudy Sandefer,
Information System Owner
OCFO, NFC
United States Department of Agriculture

Approval Signature

Tracy Haskins digitally signed on 2202 04 06

Tracy Haskins
Information System Security Manager
OCIO, DAITO
United States Department of Agriculture