

## User Accounts

1. Can industry users create beta.sam.gov accounts now?
  - a. Yes
  
2. How often do you have to login.gov to stay current?
  - a. For an active session, there is a 15 minute idle time. As far as accounts, Login.gov does not disable accounts. The user has the option to disable accounts, if they so desire.
  
3. My company is approx 2600 ppl. Is there one admin needed for an account, or does each employee have their own?
  - a. Each individual user should get an account. When we launch contract opportunities in November 2019, all 'vendors' or nonfederal users will not really have connections similar to the current FBO.gov functionality. To sign up for a user account is free, and eventually you will have the ability for Entity Role Management when we integrate with sam.gov.
  
4. Is there going to be anyway to link current FBO accounts with Beta.Sam accounts?
  - a. Each user must sign up fresh with beta.SAM.gov. The security and user validations in beta.SAM.gov follow all current security and statutory requirements. For federal users, they can migrate roles from fbo.gov to beta.SAM.gov.
  
5. When creating an account will every member of our company have to create this?
  - a. Yes, each account is individual.
  
6. If you choose security key and later lose those codes, is there a way to get them again?
  - a. The Security Key does not provide codes to authenticate. If they are referencing the back-up codes, Login will provide 10 back-up codes (it is recommended that they be downloaded, printed, or written down). The user will have to enter a code each time. Unfortunately, they cannot be obtained again once lost unless they have access to their other authentication method and then they can log back in and regenerate a list of 10 new codes.
  
7. If I have an account in SAM.gov, will that same login work for beta.sam.gov?
  - a. You will need to sign up in beta.SAM.gov with the same email you use in SAM.gov. This will link your accounts on the back end.
  
8. The company I work for is registered in SAM, but I personally am not. As a BD / Proposal manager, I need access. What difference (if any) is there between a registration / access / authorization / etc. at "company" vs. "employee" level?
  - a. FBO.gov does not have this level of user management for non-federal users, so on November 12th with the launch there will still not be Entity Role Management. When SAM.gov integrates, there will be a whole Entity Role Management as in

the current SAM.gov. At the time that SAM.gov integrates with Beta.SAM.gov, then users can request roles associated to Entities.

9. Do we need to add a current MPIN to beta.sam.gov account?
  - a. The MPIN is for the Entity Registration validation which is part of SAM.gov. For November 12th, SAM.gov and beta.SAM.gov will still be separate. Entity Registration and Entity Exclusion data is still authoritative on SAM.gov. MPIN should not be used on beta.SAM.gov at this time.
10. During testing, I timed out. How long can I be logged in before this happens?
  - a. There is a 15 minute idle login time.
11. What authentication applications are supported?
  - a. Login.gov supports an open spec, RFC 6238 TOTP codes. So any authentication app that adheres to this algorithm is supported (ex. Google authentication, 1password, authy, secureauth, etc.)
12. Did you say that if we log in to Beta with the same email address as the one we use for FBO, our search filters will be automatically linked (and saved searches, interested vendor list, etc.)?
  - a. No. We are not migrating search agents nor followings. The reason for this is the validations used for user accounts as well as the actual data validations are not a one for one from FBO.gov to beta.SAM.gov. We are enforcing much more rigorous and security compliant in our data validations for users as well as for the agency submitted data.
13. What if we have a new federal email address? Do we need to get a new login.gov account?
  - a. Yes. The email is part of the validation for the account.

## **Role Management**

1. for a Contracting Officer: are the steps to locate their administrator in one of the resources?
  - a. For Federal Users, in the workspace there is a 'User Directory' for your agency. When in this area, you can filter by role 'Administrator' and 'Contract Opportunities' to see the specific administrators who can help you.
2. How do you know you have the administrator role in the Contract Opportunity ?
  - a. We recommend when you sign in to review your federal hierarchy and your roles. Both can be found from the initial workspace page. If you see the role name of 'Administrator' under the 'Contract Opportunities' domain in your listed roles, then you have that role.

3. Can an administrator offer a view only option for individuals who will not require admin rights
  - a. The administrator by definition is someone who is managing users. Federal users can view other users at the same hierarchy as them in the User Directory. This is to make sure users can find Administrators or other sources if internal agency help is needed.

## Search

1. Is there a way to sign up for emails based on search terms similar to the existing capability in FBO?
  - a. There will be a way to this across all 'saved searches'. This means you will need to establish a saved search which is currently available in beta.SAM.gov. Within a quarter of launch, there will be a way to 'follow' a save search. This will allow the user to sign up for email notification of new results. This will also allow users to change the frequency of these notifications, and allow for notifications for contract opportunities and all domains with beta.SAM.gov.
2. The FBO.gov search engine was not very useful for finding opportunities. Will beta.SAM.gov's search features be useful?
  - a. beta.SAM.gov has search and is pulling data on a delay from FBO.gov. While some additional filters are coming to the search, this is largely the search you will see and experience for launch. Please let us know if you think this is useful through our 'feedback' button at the bottom of the left hand navigation.
3. I saw that the Type was listed as Original Presolicitation, Cancelled Presolicitation and Updated Presolicitation. How can I filter to just one of these types? There does not appear to be this option available.
  - a. In the left hand filter options the actual 'notice type' filter will just be to 'Presolicitation', 'solicitation', 'justification', 'combined synopsis/solicitation, etc. The original, canceled, etc are for status reference to help with a little more detail in the summary view.
4. Will we be able to search on the second or third tier hierarchy?
  - a. Public search will only allow searching and viewing of the department and sub-tier levels at launch. The notice will detail the specific office information.
5. When searching using a solicitation number, does it have to be formatted a certain way for it to work

- a. Searching for a specific number should work with special characters or without, so no special formatting should be needed. There is also a suggestion feature, so in the main header search, you can start to type the notice number, and it will offer suggestions which match.

### **Watchlist/Following**

1. If archived FBO opportunities are transitioned to beta.sam.gov, can the owner of the opportunity "re-active" or "unarchive" the opportunity at any time later, e.g. if the opportunity was a sources sought and then the RFP comes out, can the owner re-activate the opportunity to issue the RFP under it? The reason I ask is that I need to know if I need to transfer archived opportunities we have on the current FBO watchlist, into the new beta.sam.gov "follow" list in order to get automatic update notification of the opportunity.
  - a. Yes, we will be migrating all posted notices as of November 7th at 8pm when the data freeze goes into effect. This includes all active, inactive, and cancelled posted notices. After launch on November 12th, federal users with permission to edit, can go into beta.SAM.gov and edit the date in which the notice will go inactive or active/uncancel a notice. The current FBO watchlist will not be transitioned, so you will need to go into beta.SAM.gov and 'follow' these notices now.
2. I can currently "follow" opportunities in the new beta.sam.gov website, but I have not seen a function to have us added to the vendor list of active opportunities. Has this function been set up yet? If, so how/where can I add our company to the vendor list of an opportunity?
  - a. FBO.gov is the authoritative source until November 12th. To ensure there is no confusion or duplicate actions needed, only after go live will the IVL be available on beta.SAM.gov.
3. We have over 1700 opportunities marked for tracking in FBO - is there NO way to automatically port those over and mark them in Sam.gov
  - a. We will not be migrating them from FBO.gov to beta.SAM.gov.
4. I have not received a notification via email yet from Beta.sam.gov (from "following" is there still a way to "watch" an opportunity on beta.sam.gov? if you are watching a pre solicitation, would you still receive an email notice when it turns into a solicitation?)
  - a. Since we are doing 'batch' uploads of the data and it is not 'live' at this time, the 'following' is not triggering for Contract Opportunities. Anything set up for following will start to trigger email notifications at launch.

1. Will ftp.fbo.gov data remain available? and will there be an equivalent new site that will continue to provide data in this raw format?
  - a. The FTP.fbo.gov will continue to be available until November 12th. After beta.SAM.gov becomes authoritative on November 12th, The FTP will be decommissioned. New ways to connect:
    - i. Public GET API (15 minute delayed all active data):  
<https://open.gsa.gov/api/get-opportunities-public-api/> and through the
    - ii. Data Services (Full nightly feed with all active and inactive notices):  
<https://beta.sam.gov/data-services?domain=Contract%20Opportunities>

### **FBO.gov data transfer**

1. Will old archived FBO opportunities transitioned into beta.sam.gov?
  - a. We will be migrating all posted notices as of November 7th at 8pm when the data freeze go into effect. This includes all active, inactive, and canceled posted notices.
  
- 2.—Will urls to archived FBO opportunities (permalinks) still be available/active?
  - a. Legacy links will not transfer to beta.SAM.gov.
  
3. FBO currently contains an enormous amount of highly valuable historical information (years, and years, and years of data). Will that historical information transfer over and be made available in betasam.gov? If not, will an archive site be maintained for public access?
  - a. Yes, we will be migrating all posted notices as of November 7th at 8pm when the data freeze go into effect. This includes all active, inactive, and canceled posted notices.
  
4. When will you be adding more info into the test area for beta.SAM.gov. Information is up to October 6, 2019
  - a. There will probably be one more data pull before launch. The exact date will depend on the next deployment to beta.SAM.gov.

### **Data Freeze**

1. So does that mean that opportunities on FBO will not be updated from November 7th through November 12th since FBO will be frozen, and beta.sam will be frozen on Nov. 9th as well?
  - a. Yes.

## Interfacing Systems

1. Will our documents in FBMS/PRISM automatically post to Beta.SAM.Gov on 11/12/19 when a solicitation is released/posted?
  - a. You will need to check with your specific agency IAE change control board member. They will be able to fully validate that your system has tested and is connected. We have been working with the CCB and all systems which have reached out for testing.
  
2. Is it possible to add document links to the API for contract opportunities?
  - a. REST API: <https://open.gsa.gov/api/opportunities-api/>
  - b. SOAP API: <https://open.gsa.gov/api/opportunities-soap-api/>
  - c. Public GET API: <https://open.gsa.gov/api/get-opportunities-public-api/>
  - d. Public Federal Hierarchy GET API: <https://open.gsa.gov/api/fh-public-api/>
  - e. Product Service Codes GET API: <https://open.gsa.gov/api/PSC-Public-API/>
  
3. Will IVL information be available through Public API?
  - a. We will look into this enhancement.
  
4. Is the Opportunities data on Public API available now? If not, when?
  - a. The data available in beta.SAM.gov is available through the public API now. As a reminder this will not be 'live' data until we go live.
  
5. is there a tutorial or documentation on Public API?
  - a. The documentation can be found here:  
<https://open.gsa.gov/api/get-opportunities-public-api/>
  
6. What is Management API?
  - a. These are the APIs for the agencies to submit, modify and get non public data related to their notices.
  
7. How to get Management API Keys?
  - a. You will need to have an API key from a Federal System Account.

## Learning Center

1. Are those QSG resources available now?
  - a. Yes, all those links are live.

## Stakeholder Forum 10/17 -- Q&A

1. We are several NAICS in SAM. Will the IVL only display the primary NAICS?
  - a. It will be a drop down to show all of them.
2. I have not seen any vendor lists on any of the opportunities I looked at so far, nor was there a way to get on the vendor list. Is that still being worked on/not available yet?
  - a. The IVL is not ready yet..... (see above)

### **Data Bank**

1. Will Data Bank be the source replacing fpds/usaspending?
  - a. The databank for Contract Opportunities is just the FBO.gov legacy data on November 12th. As the integration of FPDS into beta.SAM.gov more information will be shared on the Databank in relation to the current FPDS reports.

### **Display Page**

1. Will URL links be available to share specific Contract Opportunities?
  - a. The URL you get from any notice public page can be copy and pasted for sharing the specific link. We are working on more user friendly URL's for sharing.
2. We're already testing the Contract Oppty's: There is a long, random number link in front of each opportunity, what is this number?
  - a. This is an internal system ID which is truly unique and traceable.

### **Federal Data Management**

1. in FBO not able to delete files (only the administrator could), will we be able to delete files now
  - a. For federal users, there are permissions which allow deleting of notice and of attachments. These are not given by default expect at the highest levels. It is at the determination of the agency and the agency administrators as to what permissions are granted to users.

### **Questions:**

1. How will this affect outside programs like using GovWin?
  - a. Non-Federal connections will need to either use an API or the nightly Data services feed to gather the information needed.
2. Will bid matching search engines be able to transition to beta.SAM.gov for opportunities?
  - a. They will need to use one of the new connections, but yes, we still offer ways for integrating systems to get our data.