IT Collect FAQ

Spring-Summer 2021

General Services Administration
Office of Government-wide Policy

Document Change Record

Version Number	Date	Description
1.0	March 2021	Created IT Collect FAQ Document for the modernization and development of IT Collect.
2.0	June 29, 2021	Updated IT Collect FAQ Document formatting and added additional FAQs for the CPIC Vendor Community (questions 6.4, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 6.10, 7.2, 7.3, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4).

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1 Timeline/Overview

1.1 What is the timeline for upcoming releases and decommissioning?

a) Integration Period: Now-August 2021
b) Official Launch: September 2021
c) Legacy ITDB: The IT Dashboard will stop accepting submissions on August 31st, 2021. The site will remain live for data visualization and distribution purposes until further notice.

2 Authorization

2.1 When will OAuth Authorization be Available?

The IT Collect team plans to release the OAuth service and related access control functionality as part of the initial IT Collect integration release scheduled for March 2021.

2.2 Will users only be able to authenticate with a token from login.gov? Do users need to register for some new type of account or will they already have access?

The IT Collect Team uses Login.gov as a multifactor authentication and identify proofing platform. Each agency is assigned a unique OAuth client ID with the IT Collect's OAuth server. Agency assigned users to IT Collect are required to register with Login.Gov and pair their government issued PIV/CAC card as MFA. Following a successful login, users are redirected back to IT Collect for API tokens to be used with each API request. The OAuth client ID will be provided to each agency via email. To register an account with Login.gov, please see this link.

3 Data Architecture / API Schema

3.1 How does IT Collect's data architecture differ from ITDB's implementation?

The IT Collect team is implementing a top-down hierarchical data architecture following strict Restful API Design. The IT Collect data architecture design can be found at this link. A visual representation of the IT Collect data architecture can be found below. The general design will offer a more flexible/lean approach to the collection of CPIC data. The IT Collect team designed this lean approach to reduce maintenance for all stakeholders in the long run and increase policy flexibility year over year. For questions about individual fields, or data architecture specifics, please reach out to the IT Collect team.

3.2 Will User Roles still exist in IT Collect?

No, the IT Collect team is implementing a context-based access control system that will enable vendors and agencies to manage who has submission access to the IT Collect API through their own tools. The IT Collect OAuth service will verify that the vendor is able to submit on the agency's behalf, however, it is up to the vendor tools which of their users have submission permissions.

3.3 What is the token refresh rate?

The IT Collect team is working to determine a token refresh rate that will work for both the vendor community and GSA security. More information will be released when available.

3.4 How will the new service architecture impact AITPS (Agency IT Portfolio Summary) submissions, and how will that process change?

All AITPS data is collected in IT Collect through the Services and Ledger resources. However, IT Collect does not contain a submission mechanism to allow transmission of all AITPS data within a single file. Agencies must provide all their AITPS data over the course of multiple Services and Ledger submissions.

4 Validations & Errors

4.1 Is IT Collect going to have a validate-only indicator?

IT Collect will support validate-only functionality. This feature allows users to validate data without submitting the data to the IT Dashboard. Validate-only will be available for all endpoints.

4.2 How descriptive will error codes be?

Starting with the 0.0.2 beta release of documentation, the IT Collect team is incorporating validation messages at both the resources and class level of the IT Collect documentation. If you have any questions or suggestions on the clarity of a validation message, please let us know. Access the documentation at this link.

5 Documentation

5.1 When will there be a final version of the documentation?

There will not be a "final version" of the documentation since it will be continually updated, but vendors can assume no major structural changes to the released data architecture. The IT Collect team is adding more validations around the business logic that will be documented as well. Agency users can expect a more stable version of the documentation to be available closer to launch.

5.2 What can my agency do in the meantime to prepare for the IT Collect release, if only the documentation is available now?

Your agency can download the OpenAPI specifications for IT Collect from this link to see the new architecture and create a mock API server/JSON file. Creating a mock server will allow your agency to compare the proposed IT Collect API schema to your vendor application.

6 Submissions

6.1 Can multiple investments be submitted at one time? Will there be multiple responses (one for each submission)?

IT Collect handles a single request (service, project, CIO rating, etc.) at a time, however, your vendor tool can implement a batch process to submit multiple resources at once. There will be one Project/Service/Contract per file. In practice, this means users could send updates or multiple services with a single click in their UI, however, there will be no functionality to group multiple services, projects, or activities within a single file. We recommend only grouping submission request files at the same hierarchy level within the API Path. Submission will not be like the legacy ITDB application where you send all the investment/financial data in one file.

6.2 How can a user submit multiple resources together in a batch if they are different endpoints? (E.g., Services and Projects)

IT Collect will fully evaluate received files in order before moving down the queue. However, this practice runs into limitations with validate-only files. Since Agency ID's will not be saved in the IT Collect database during a validate-only submission, the ID's in the API Path will show as invalid if the submission is reliant on creating a resource higher up in the API Path. As a result, we recommend implementing a practice where the user groups submissions based on location in the API Path. One simple approach could be grouping your services submissions together, then grouping projects submissions.

6.3 Will the Change in Status field or isRetired field determine if an investment is eliminated?

The IT Collect team does not currently plan to implement auto-delete functionality into IT Collect. UIIs will only be removed from an Agencies Portfolio, if isRetired is set to 'true'.

6.4 What are the key differences between PUT and PATCH operations in IT Collect?

The difference between a PUT and PATCH is a PUT request is designed to replace an entire record, whereas a PATCH request is used to make changes to part of a record. In a PATCH, users will only change the included data points in the PATCH file, whereas a PUT will overwrite the entire record. Any datapoints not included in the PUT request will be removed.

6.5 Will data be migrated from ITDB to IT Collect?

No, data will not be migrated from the legacy IT Dashboard to IT Collect. Agencies will need to submit all initial IT Collect data.

6.6 Is the new "Submission Control" similar to the existing "Submission Confirmation" step?

Submission Control currently includes the funding lock (fundLock), which only applies to Ledger and Services. Once the funding lock is active for an agency, users will not be able to POST, PATCH, PUT, or DELETE new Ledger records. Additionally, users will not be able to submit (POST) new Services once the funding lock is in place.

6.7 Should eliminated investments be reported during the first submission to IT Collect even if they are being reported as isRetired?

Generally, yes. Setting isRetired to “true” is essentially the same as removing an investment from an agencies AITPS submission on the legacy ITDB. Once an investment is set to retired it is no longer considered part of the agency’s portfolio. For example, an investment that is “eliminated by funding” should not be set to retired until it no longer has PY funds.

6.8 Does the Summary vs. Details concept still exist in IT Collect?

The Summary vs. Details construct is going away with IT Collect. Instead, submission sequencing is governed by the API Paths with the services at the top level. The BY 2023 Submission Overview document illustrated this new configuration on the business side.

6.9 Is there a required sequence of API/Endpoint calls?

Yes, there is a required sequence. Services are at the top of the IT collect CPIC submission hierarchy. Services must be added to IT Collect prior to adding that service’s projects, activities, CIO ratings, contracts, ledger items, and other documents. Once a Service has been submitted, you can proceed with submitting the embedded documents in any order. There are two caveats to this: Parent projects must be submitted prior to POSTing an activity for the first time and fundingSource related ledger submission should be completed prior to CIO Authority.

6.10 Will IT Collect return warnings and errors by UII?

There are no multi-UII requests in IT Collect, so there is no plan to include the UII in the validation messages returned. However, the agencyId of the parent service will always be provided in the API Path of each request.

7 Rebaselines

7.1 How do rebaselines work in IT Collect?

Rebaselines have their own endpoint in IT Collect with all the traditional API methods. Users will be able to retrieve the entire collection of rebaselines under their agency, or a single rebaseline by providing the rebaseline ID. Once a rebaseline has been successfully submitted, an agency can provide the valid “rebaseLineID” field as another data element in the JSON Request Body. The rebaseline ID will allow users to update (PATCH) that record. Rebaseline ID's are established separate from investments and agencies can use the same rebaseline ID across multiple investments, projects, activities, etc. where applicable. IT Collect has also made agency assigned unique identifier functionality available for rebaselines.

7.2 How is a rebaseline closed?

At this time, we do not intend to implement any functionality that closes or "expires" a rebaseline. Technically, agencies can submit against a rebaseline indefinitely. However, each rebaseline resource will contain a list of data changes and dates that will be available to OMB.

7.3 How to update a rebaseline comment, date, or type?

Once, a rebaseline resource is added to IT Collect, agencies cannot change the rebaseline comment, date, or type. IT Collect will always restrict updates to these fields. Agencies cannot leverage a rebaseline resource to update another rebaseline resource.

8 Technical Field Implementations

8.1 If a record is retired, via isRetired, is the agencyID retired as well or will agency IDs be reusable?

Once a record is retired, that record's agency ID will be stored in IT Collect. IT Collect, in turn, does not allow duplicate agency ID's, so agencies cannot reuse an agencyID, regardless of its status.

8.2 Will the Operational Analysis be one active report that is continuously updated?

No, similar to CIO Rating submissions, each record should correspond with an Operation Analysis event. Users can PATCH these records, however, when a new Operational Anaylsis event occures, this should correspond with a new record POSTed on IT COllect. Thus, each UII will have a one-to-many relationship with Operational Analysis.

8.3 Are string arrays, such as "Public URLs" to be comma delimited?

Yes, for Public URLs, and other string arrays, should be comma delimited. For example: "publicUrls": ["http://www.google.com", "http://www/itdashboard.gov']

8.4 Is the costItem property required?

The costItem property is a completely optional field to help agencies track individual ledger items.