ACR VPAT API Vendor Onboarding

September 2023

General Services Administration
Office of Government-wide Policy

Document Change Record

Version Number	Date	Description
1.0	May 2021	Created ACR VPAT API Vendor Onboarding document outlining how to authenticate and use tokens
1.1	September 2021	Updated access and refresh token rules
2.0	March 2023	Updated Onboarding Steps and Removed Security Subnet Requirements

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Onboarding Steps

To onboard with the ACR VPAT API, vendors will need to follow the steps listed below:

1. Leverage the ACR VPAT API schema to conduct a comprehensive functional review of the ACR VPAT API. Use this time to determine which data objects and endpoints you plan to interact within in the ACR VPAT API.
2. Submit a formal request in writing to the ACR VPAT API team (itdb-support@gsa.gov), describing the following:
    a. Summary of your vendor application
    b. Point of contact for the ACR VPAT API integration process
    c. Business intentions for integrating with the ACR VPAT API
    d. Data objects you plan to interact with in the ACR VPAT API
    e. Desired timeline for integration
    f. Government agencies that your vendor tool directly supports, if any
3. After your request is processed, the ACR VPAT API Team will work with you to obtain a Client ID and Secret that enables integration testing against the ACR VPAT API Staging environment. You will need provide an application redirect URL for OAuth 2.0 token return. For more information on authentication, see the 'How do I authenticate with ACR VPAT API?' section below, or visit our Access & Refresh Token Rules guide.
4. After integration testing is complete, you will coordinate with the ACR VPAT API team to directly integrate against the ACR VPAT API Production environment.

Pre-Requisites

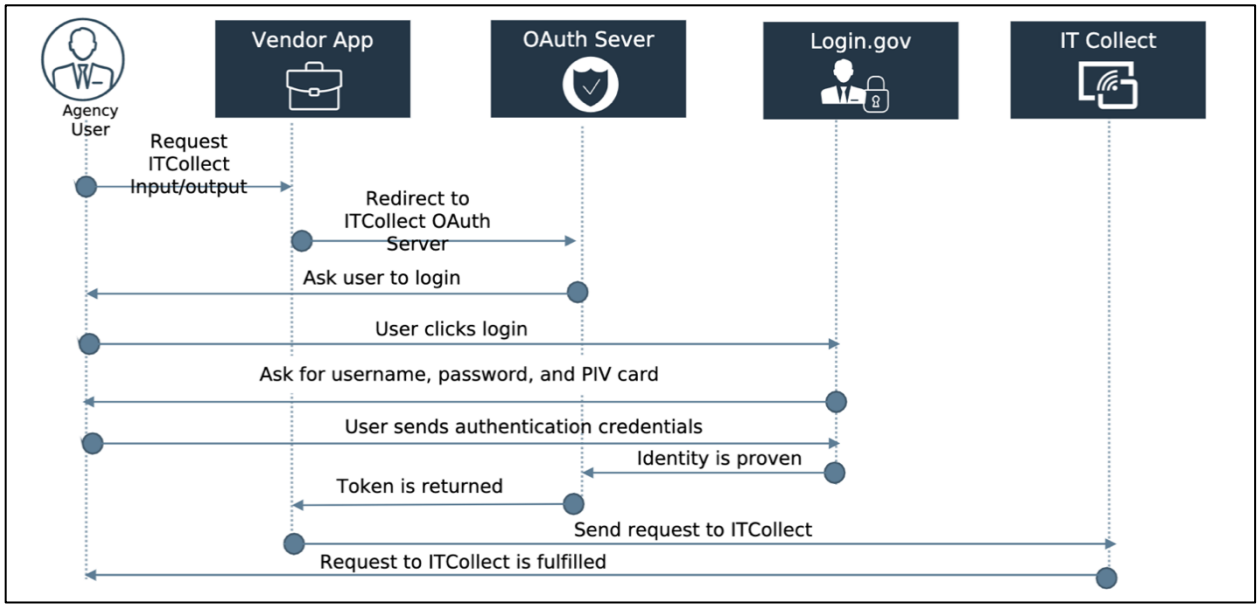
The ACR VPAT API is ***tool agnostic*** and is able to support a wide range of integration use cases. Thee ACR VPAT API Team strongly recommends that all vendor applications have familiarity with the following areas: JSON objects, OAuth 2.0 protocol, and restful API operations.

The ACR VPAT API team reserves the right to reject and remove any vendor integration against the ACR VPAT API. This action can be taken at the full discretion of the ACR VPAT API team.

How do I authenticate with ACR VPAT API?

1. Vendors will need to start by providing the ACR VPAT API team with their redirect URLs that will be interacting with the ACR VPAT API integration product.
2. Vendors will be provided with their Client ID from ACR VPAT API through an email from itdb-support@gsa.gov
3. Finally, vendors need to have an account with Login.gov. The ACR VPAT API Team uses Login.gov as a multifactor authentication and identity proofing platform. Agency assigned users to ACR VPAT API are required to register with Login.gov and pair their government issued PIV/CAC card as MFA. Instructions to create a Login.gov account can be found here: https://login.gov/create-an-account/

How do the token transactions work between the user and ACR VPAT API?



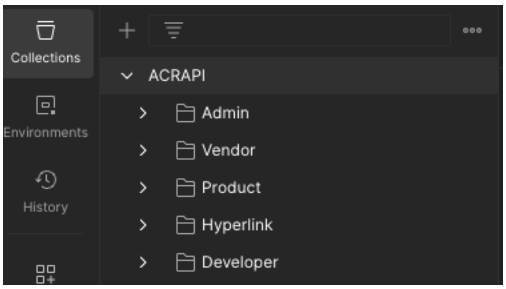
The diagram below is purely illustrative and does not capture all the components of authenticating with ACR VPAT API (E.g., refresh tokens are not covered)

1. Agency users start by requesting authentication with ACR VPAT API from their vendor application.
2. Users are redirected to the ACR VPAT API OAuth Server, wherein they are asked to login.
3. Users must click Login with Login.gov. For Login.gov account creation, see above.
4. Users are taken to Login.gov where they must provide their username, password, and PIV card.
5. Once the user has submitted this information and proved their identity, an access token is returned to the callback/redirect URL.
6. From here, agency users can send requests to ACR VPAT API in which a response will be returned.

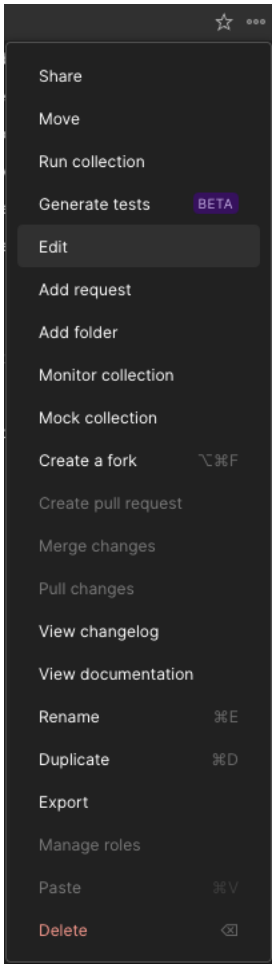
Authentication Example

In the following example, we have used Postman as our API client, though agency users can use any API client or application they wish to authenticate with ACR VPAT API.

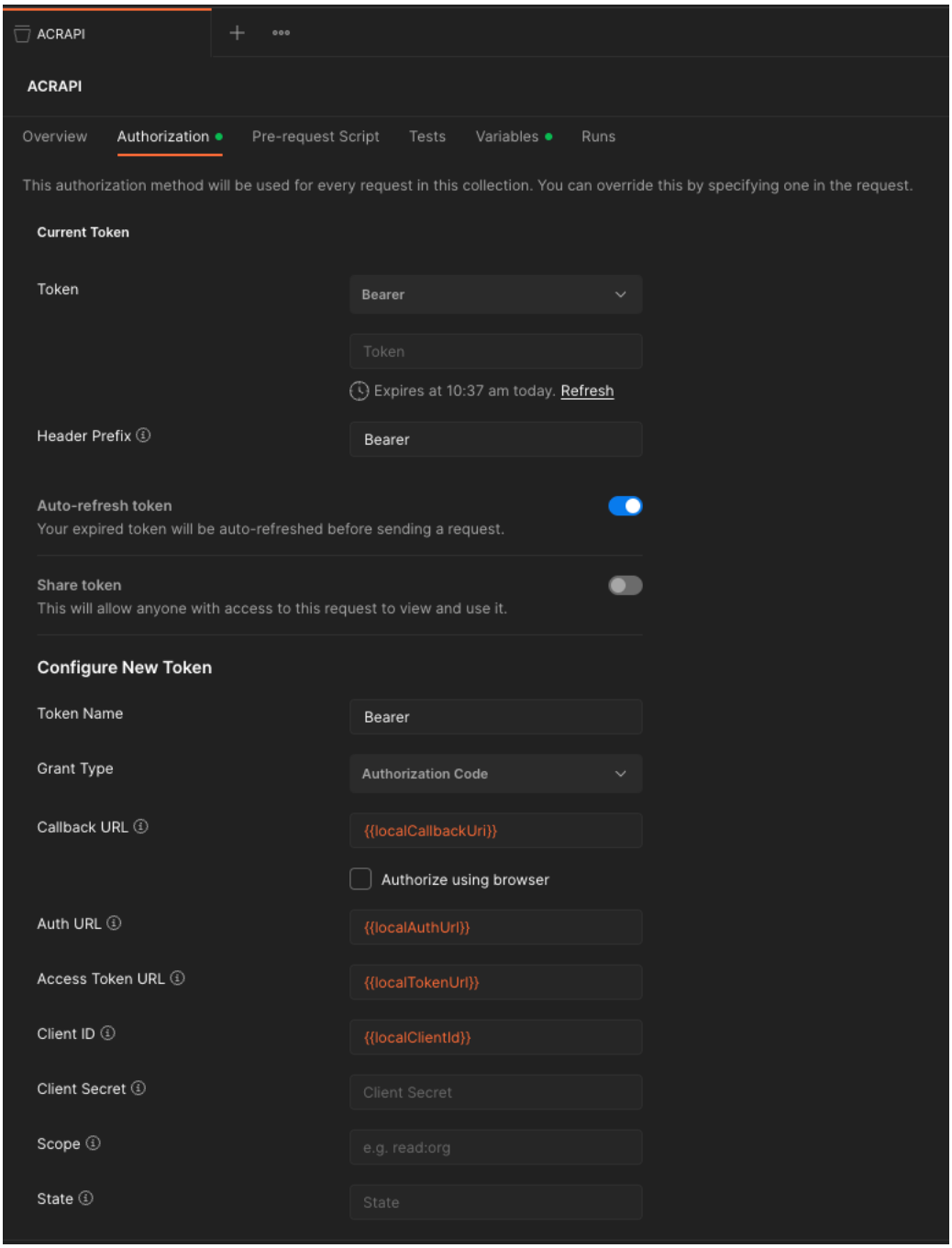
1. Start by downloading ACR VPAT API's API schema here: https://gsa.github.io/ACR-schema/
2. Open Postman, click Import at the top, and upload the schema downloaded in step 1.
3. ACR VPAT API will now appear on the left-hand side of Postman as seen in the screenshot below.



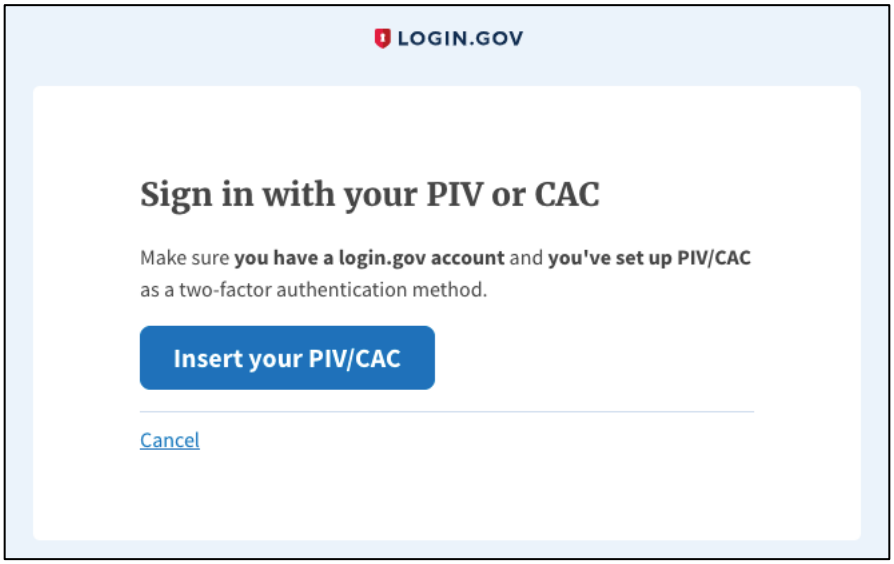
4. Hover your mouse over the ACR VPAT API collection and click the ellipses (3 dots), then click Edit as seen in the screenshot below.



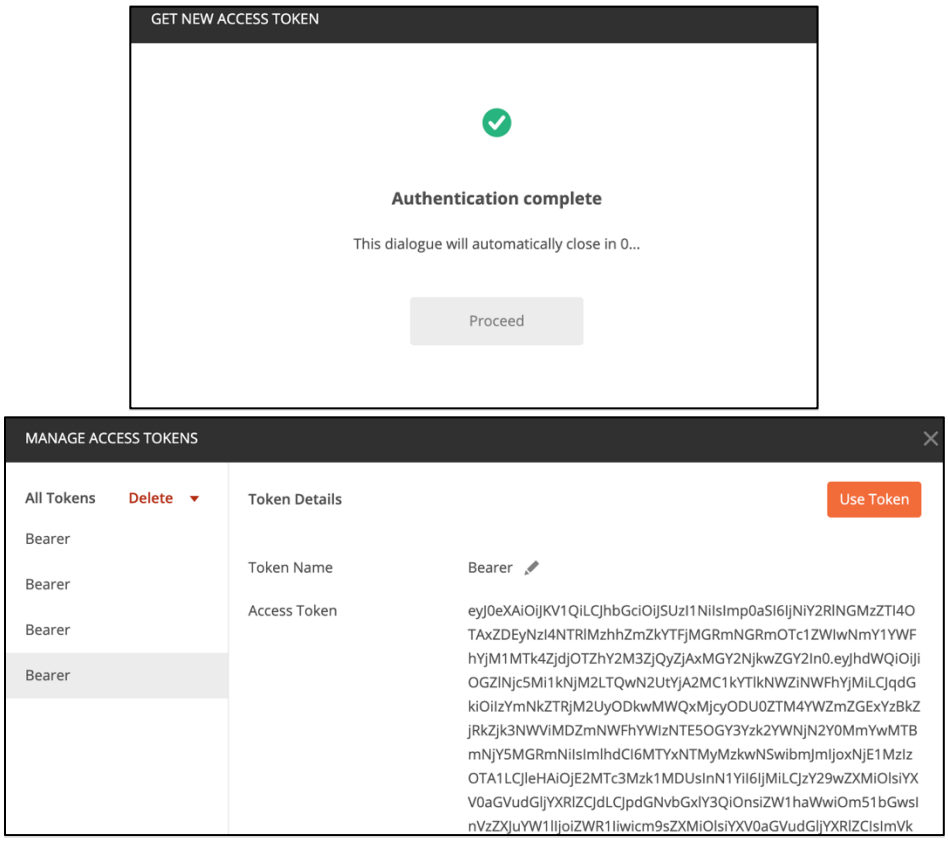
5. Once in Edit Collection, click the Authorization tab and enter the following information:
    a. Grant Type: *Authorization Code*
    b. Callback (Redirect) URL: *This will be your vendor application URL.*
    c. Auth URL: {{baseUrl}}/oauth/authorize
    d. Access Token URL: {{baseUrl}}/oauth/token
    e. Client ID: *Provided to you via email from the ACR VPAT API team*



6. On the same screen, scroll down and click “Get New Access Token”. Your default browser will open and take you to the ACR VPAT API OAuth page. Once here, click “Log in with Login.gov”.
7. You will be directed to Login.gov where you can sign-in with your Login.gov account information and PIV/CAC card. You should already be registered with Login.gov at this point. If you are not, please visit their site here (https://login.gov/create-an-account/) and create your account.



8. Your browser will confirm once you have authenticated with Login.gov. From here, you may need to click the pop-up at the top of your browser to be redirected back to Postman if pop-up blocker is turned on for your browser. Postman should show confirmation and then display your Access Token. Click “Use Token”.



9. Lastly, click “Update” in the bottom right. You are now authenticated in Postman with ACR VPAT API and can being using the API. Once again, there are many API clients or approaches to adding the ACR VPAT API API schema, authenticating with OAuth, and using the API.

How do I authorize new agency users to submit data to ACR VPAT API?

ACR VPAT API requires that Login.gov is set up; visit here (https://login.gov/create-an-account/) to create an account. Once that is complete, vendors and agencies are responsible for authorizing new submitters on their behalf.

What are the session timeout and token limits?

Item	Limit
Login.Gov	Your login.gov session with ACR VPAT API OAuth service is limited to **15 mins**
Authorization Code	Your authorization code is limited to **120 seconds** and can be used only once
Access Token	Your token is valid for **30 mins.**

Refresh Token	Your refresh token is valid for **3 hours**. Refresh token cannot be used in place of access tokens. Because of the longer life of refresh tokens, vendors should securely store tokens and associated secrets.

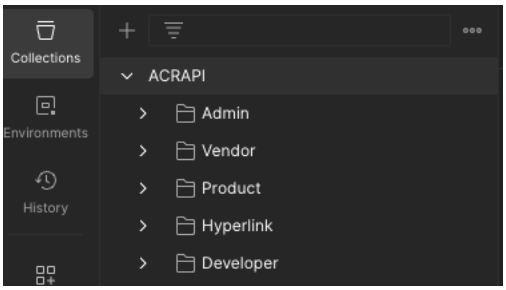
How do I refresh an access token?

Submit a refresh token to get a new access token. Please see the example below in Postman to see how this works. Please reference the table above for reference times.

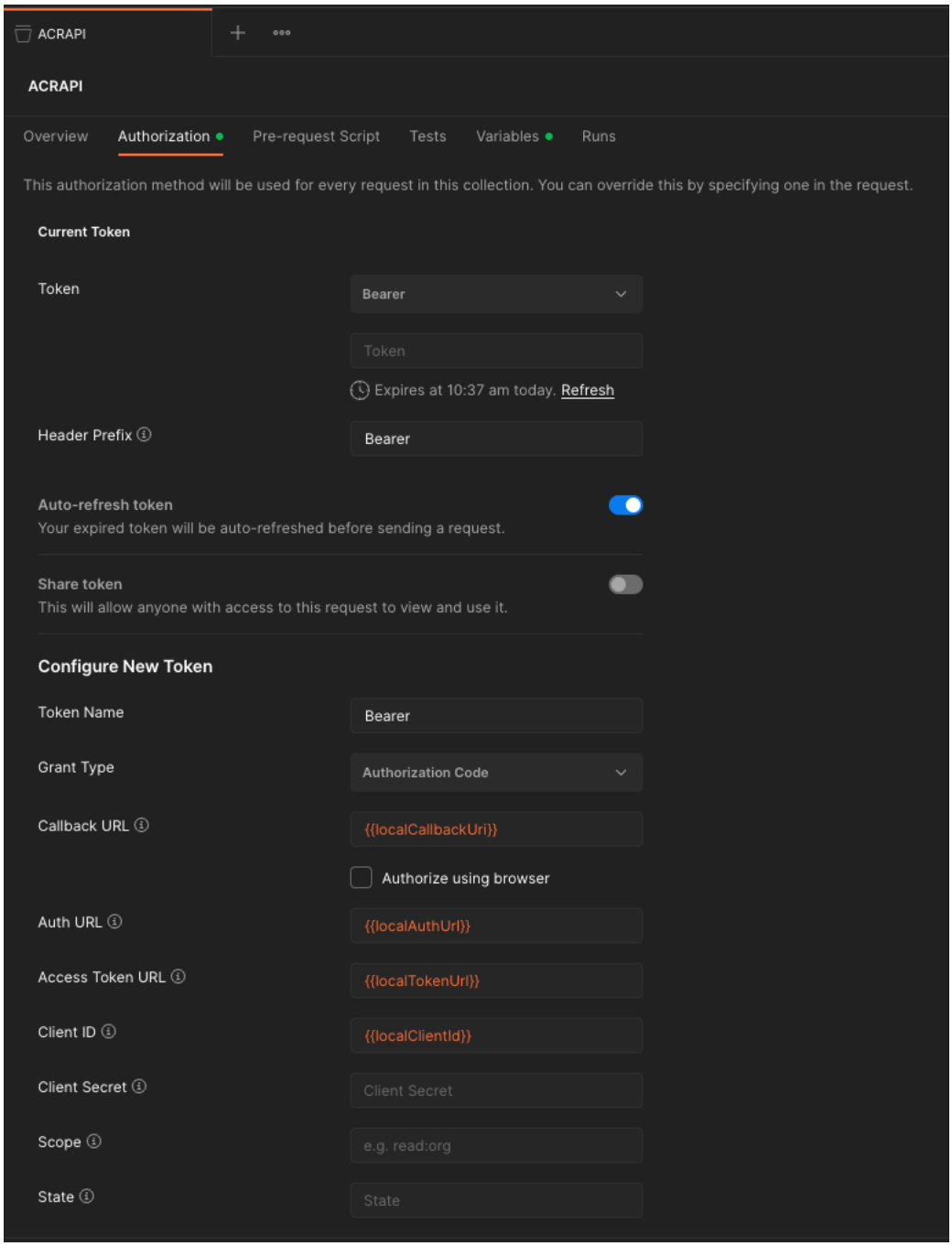
Refresh Access Token Example

In the following example, we have used Postman as our API client, though agency users can use any API client or application they wish to refresh their ACR VPAT API access token.

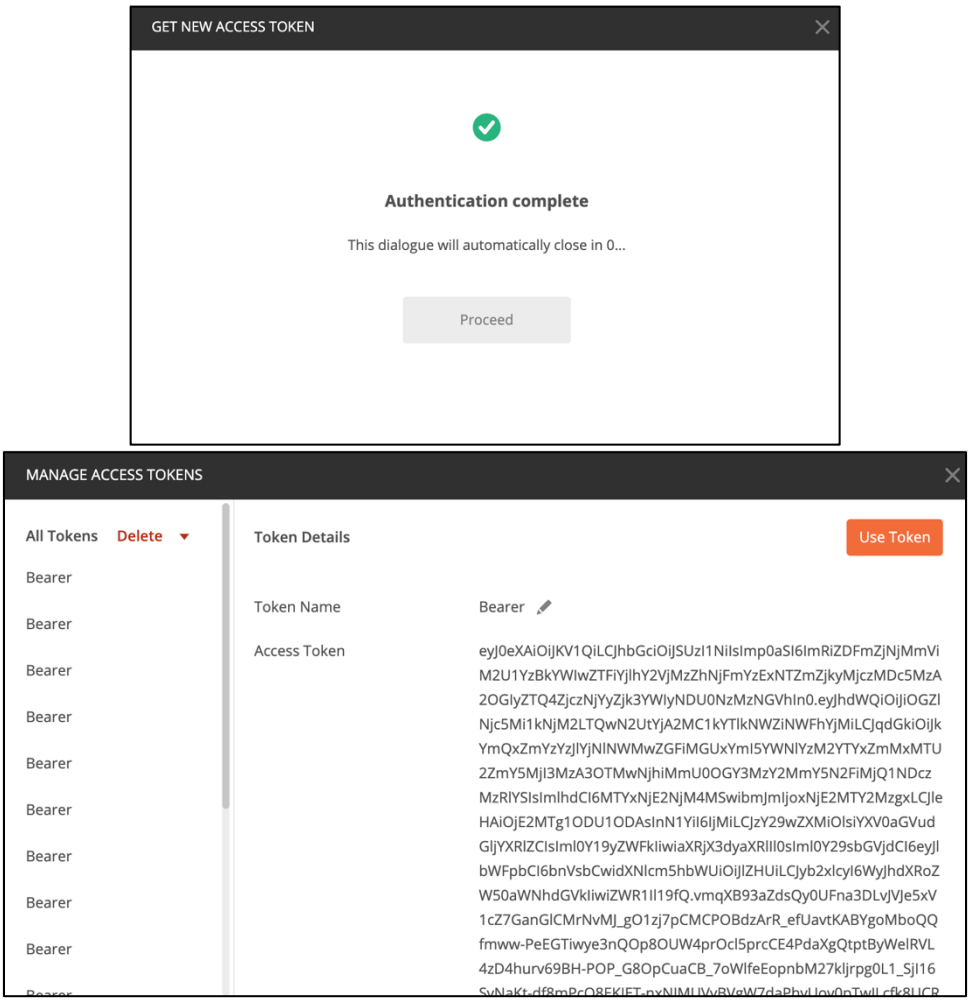
1. Start by hovering your mouse over the ACR VPAT API collection and click the ellipses (3 dots), then click Edit. *(note: you do not need the IT Dashboard collection)*



2. Once in Edit Collection, click the Authorization tab, scroll down, and click “Get New Access Token”.



3. Your default browser will open, confirm you are authenticated with Login.gov (you will not need to authenticate, this is done automatically), and redirect you back to Postman. You may need to click the pop-up at the top of your browser to be redirected back to Postman if pop-up blocker is turned on for your browser. Postman should show confirmation and then display your Access Token. Click “Use Token”, then “Update”.


GET NEW ACCESS TOKEN
Authentication complete
This dialogue will automatically close in 0...
Proceed
MANAGE ACCESS TOKENS
All Tokens
Delete
Bearer
Bearer
Bearer
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Bearer
Bearer
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Bearer
Bearer
Token Details
Use Token
Token Name
Bearer
Access Token
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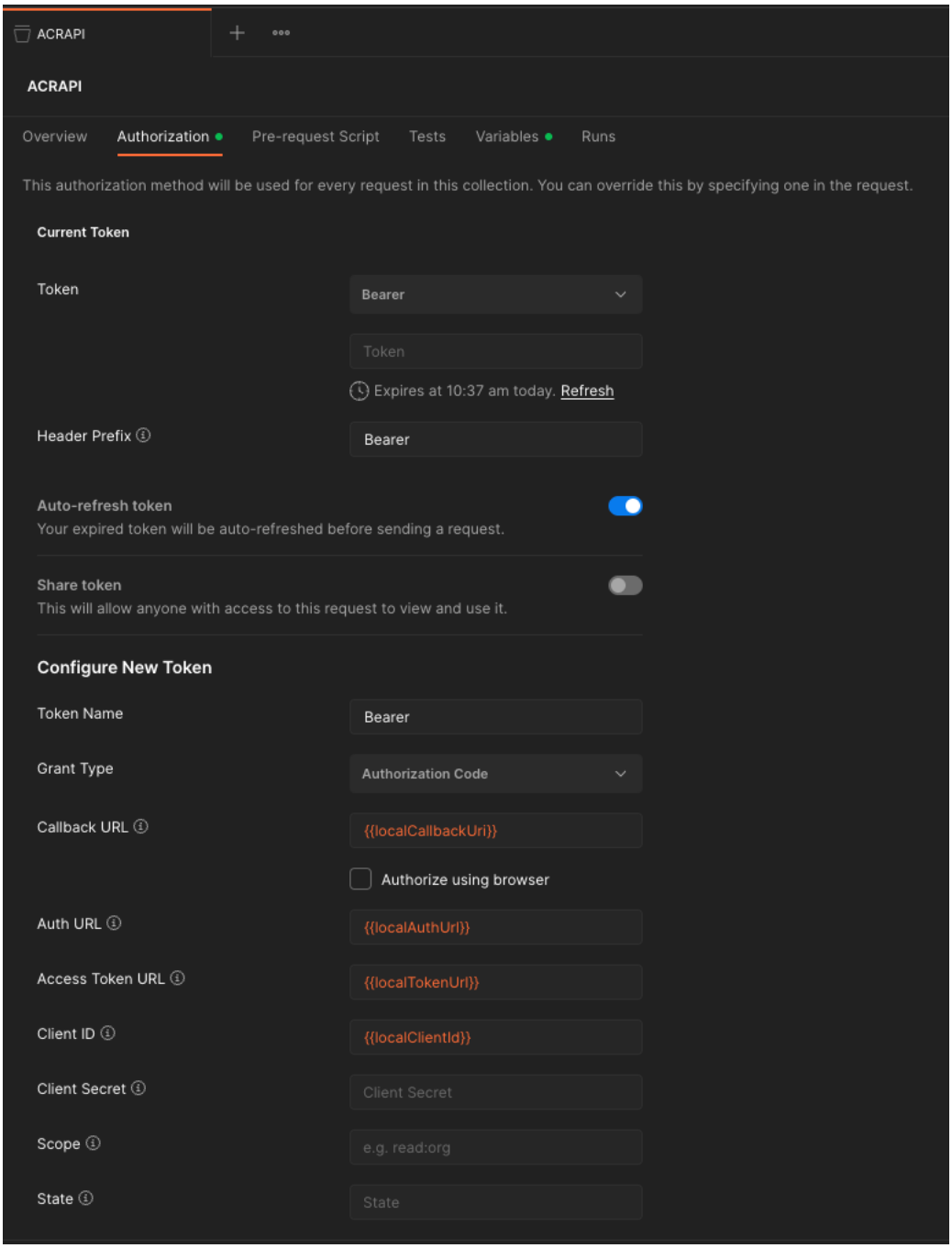

4. This concludes the access token refresh process using Postman. Once again, there are many API clients or approaches to adding the ACR VPAT API API schema, authenticating with OAuth, and using the API.

How do I use the ACR VPAT API API?

For information on how to use the ACR VPAT API API and answer your questions further, we suggest reading the ACR VPAT API API Documentation, FAQ, and Ledger “How To” document seen here:

The **ACR VPAT API documentation** can be found here. This document highlights the data architecture, API schema, and authentication approach in ACR VPAT API. Please note that this documentation will be continually updated automatically as the code is updated, but vendors can assume no major structural changes to the released data architecture.

The **ACR VPAT API FAQ document** can be found on the Public GitHub. The FAQ outlines questions that have frequently come up in meetings and exchanges between vendors and the ACR VPAT API team. The topics covered in the document are:

- Timeline
- Authorization
- Data Architecture / API Schema
- Documentation

ACR VPAT API "How-To" documents can also be found on the Public GitHub.

These documents outline how to use the endpoints and cover submission expectations relative to the endpoint being discussed.

How do I contact ITDB / ACR VPAT API Support?

For further information or questions about ACR VPAT API, or scheduling a technical walkthrough, please email our support team at **itdb-support@gsa.gov**