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GOVERNMENT & POLICY

Elon Musk is reportedly taking control of the inner workings of US government agencies

Sean O'Kane
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People working for, or with, Elon Musk are reportedly taking over the inner workings of multiple government agencies, including the Office of Personnel Management, the Treasury Department, and the General Services Administration.

The Washington Post [reported](#) Friday that the highest-ranking career official at Treasury is leaving the department after “a clash” with people working for Musk’s so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) over “access to sensitive payment systems,” citing three unnamed sources.

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The DOGE officials have been asking for access to the system — which controls the flow of more than \$6 trillion annually to programs like Social Security and Medicare — since after the election

in November. The Trump administration has been looking for ways to stop the flow of federal money appropriated by Congress, including hastily ordering a confusing spending freeze, which experts say [violates the Constitution](#).

Reuters also [reported](#) Friday that Musk aides have "locked career civil servants out of computer systems that contain the personal data of millions of federal employees," citing two unnamed agency officials. Leaked documents obtained by Wired show Musk's staff [have taken over the General Services Administration](#), a government agency that manages federal offices and technology.

Across the government, tech workers are [being grilled](#) and subjected to code reviews by Musk aides, Wired reported Thursday. Musk and his team also [appear to have been involved](#) in a recent government-wide email offering employees the chance to resign.

Musk's disruption of the federal government so far tracks closely to the chaotic days following his takeover of Twitter, as detailed by books like "Character Limit" and other reporting from the time.

It represents an unprecedented power grab within the U.S. government, and one that directly contradicts the original stated purpose of DOGE. When Donald Trump first [announced](#) it in November after he won the election, the idea was to set up DOGE as an entity outside the federal government that would make recommendations on where to cut spending.

That's not what happened.

After his inauguration, Trump signed an executive order that renamed the U.S. Digital Service to the "U.S. DOGE service," meaning Musk is now working inside the government. He reportedly has an office in the West Wing of the White House, but is also apparently [sleeping](#) at the DOGE office, according to Wired.

This article has been updated to include a new report by Wired that Elon Musk's staff have also infiltrated the General Service Administration.

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Sean O'Kane
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Sean O'Kane is a reporter who has spent a decade covering the rapidly-evolving business and technology of the transportation industry, including Tesla and the many startups chasing Elon Musk. Most recently, he was a reporter at Bloomberg News where... he helped break stories about some of the most notorious EV SPAC flops. He previously worked at The Verge, where he also covered consumer technology, hosted many short- and long-form videos, performed product and editorial photography, and once nearly passed out in a Red Bull Air Race plane.

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