

Updated 4 hours ago - Business

# Trump admin agrees to limit DOGE access to Treasury payments system



Rebecca Falconer



A demonstrator holds up a sign during a rally in front of the U.S. Treasury Department in protest of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. Photo: Anna Rose Layden/Getty Images

Department of Justice lawyers on Wednesday night agreed to temporarily restricting the [Elon Musk](#)-headed Department of Government Efficiency's access to sensitive Treasury payment system information.

**Why it matters:** The [proposed](#) order that would limit to two Treasury Department employees affiliated with DOGE "read only" privileges in viewing the data comes in response to [a lawsuit](#) that seeks to block DOGE's access to sensitive information.

**The big picture:** The suit that was brought by three federal employees unions alleges Treasury Secretary [Scott Bessent](#) allowed DOGE representatives to illegally access to the [Bureau of the Fiscal Service](#), which manages the U.S. government's accounting, central payment systems and public debt.

- The order would permit Tom Krause and Marko Elez, who are described in the proposal as "[special government employees](#)" in the Treasury Department, access as needed for the performance of their duties,

"provided that such access to payment records will be 'read only."

- Per the proposal, the "Defendants will not provide access to any payment record or payment system of records maintained by or within the Bureau of the Fiscal Service."

**What we're watching:** U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly, who is overseeing the case in Washington, D.C., must sign off on the DOJ's proposed order.

**Zoom out:** DOGE was established to [cut government spending](#) and streamline bureaucracy.

- It's facing several lawsuits over access to data and [what kinds of disclosures](#) it does or doesn't have to make.
- The latest suit was filed on Wednesday by a coalition of labor groups [seeking to stop DOGE visiting](#) the Labor Department and gaining access to some of the world's most vital macroeconomic data.

**Meanwhile,** Democratic congressional leaders [sent letters](#) to the [Trump](#) administration this week demanding answers on the security implications of DOGE's access to [sensitive government databases](#) and the legality of the department's work.

**Go deeper:** [Musks team's access to Treasury records raises a row](#)

*Editor's note: This article has been updated with further context.*



## Go deeper



Rebecca Falconer  
Updated Feb 3, 2025 - Business

## Treasury sued over DOGE access to sensitive data





Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Democratic Rep. Gerry Connolly, joined by fellow lawmakers and employees and supporters of U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) outside USAID headquarters on Monday. Photo: Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images

Three federal employees' unions are suing the [Trump](#) administration in an attempt to stop the Treasury from sharing confidential data with the [Elon Musk](#)-run Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

**Why it matters:** The lawsuit that was [filed](#) in D.C. federal court Monday alleges Treasury Secretary [Scott Bessent](#) allowed DOGE representatives access to the [Bureau of the Fiscal Service](#), which manages the U.S. government's accounting, central payment systems and public debt.

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Jan 20, 2025 - Business

## Musk's DOGE targeted by union lawsuit ahead of Trump's executive order



Vivek Ramaswamy and Elon Musk, with his son, depart the Capitol building in Washington, in December. Photo: Craig Hudson for The Washington Post via Getty Images

The newly formed [Department of Government Efficiency](#), or DOGE, will operate within the U.S. government, according to a fact sheet connected with an executive order expected Monday to establish the new entity, [Semafor reported](#).

**Why it matters:** It was not known at this point how the new department, [co-led by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy](#), would be structured to pursue its mission of cutting government spending.

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## Lawmakers demand answers on DOGE's database access

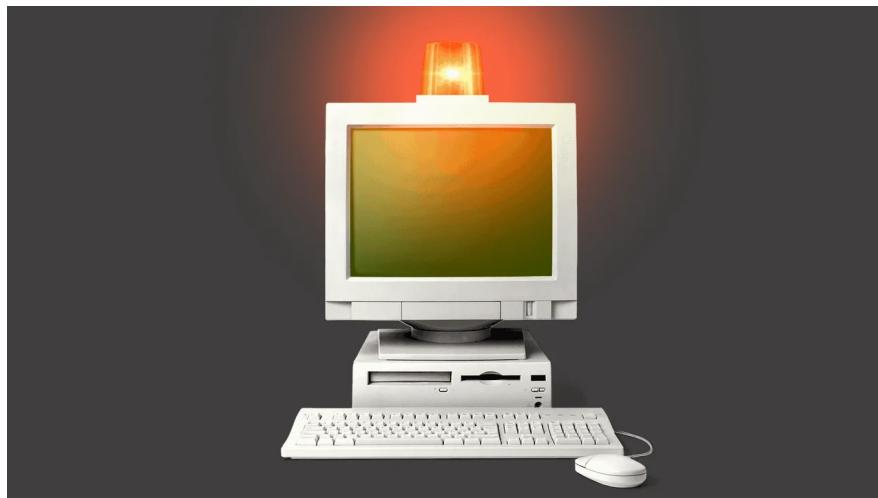


Illustration: Aida Amer/Axios

Democratic lawmakers are raising alarms about the security implications of Elon Musk's DOGE team's [potentially unsanctioned access](#) to sensitive government databases.

**Why it matters:** Several questions remain about the legality of the Department of Government Efficiency's work, including whether the staffers had proper security clearances and if their work [violated](#) federal privacy laws.

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