

About Pulse

Pulse is a project of the General Services Administration that measures how U.S. government domains are following best practices for federal websites.

Pulse is also an **experiment** built on automated tools, and is **probably not perfect**. Pulse measures domains over the public internet using open source tools, and its results can be reviewed by anyone.

Frequently Asked Questions

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What does Pulse measure about federal domains?

The first two areas Pulse measures are the use of [HTTPS](#) and participation in the federal government's [Digital Analytics Program](#).

What federal domains are being measured?

Currently, Pulse uses the [official .gov domain list](#) as a starting point, and focuses on domains owned by federal agencies. This also includes a few domains ending in `.fed.us`. Domains ending in other suffixes, such as `.mil` or `.us`, are not included at this time.

Subdomains, such as `portal.hud.gov` or `travel.state.gov`, are not measured at this time.

What is HTTPS, and why does Pulse measure it?

HTTPS provides a secure connection across the internet between websites and their visitors, and is becoming the new baseline for public web services across the internet. As part of this shift, the U.S. federal government is in the process of transitioning **entirely to HTTPS**.

Note that HTTPS generally **does not affect** whether a website is vulnerable to hacking. For more information on what HTTPS does (and doesn't do), [visit the HTTPS FAQ](#).

What is the Digital Analytics Program, and why does Pulse measure participation?

The **Digital Analytics Program** is an important federal government project that gives federal agencies and the public a window into how people use government services.

Any publicly accessible federal website in the executive branch can participate in the **Digital Analytics Program** (DAP). The easiest way for federal websites to get started is to [send the DAP team an email](#).

When was the data last updated on Pulse?

All data was last measured on **May 21, 2020**.

Where can I send feedback?

For questions specific to HTTPS deployment, you may wish to [open an issue on the HTTPS-Only Standard's GitHub repository](#).

For questions specific to the Digital Analytics Program, you can [open an issue on the DAP's GitHub repository](#), or email dap@gsa.gov.

For questions specific to the Universal Accessibility and Design, you can open an issue on the [Pulse GitHub repository](#), or [email Section508.gov](mailto:email@Section508.gov).

Your information about my domain is wrong! Can you please fix it?

If you just changed something about your domain to address an issue on Pulse, be aware that data does not yet automatically refresh on Pulse, and so there may be a delay before your domain's information updates.

If you see a mistake, please send an email to pulse@cio.gov and it will be investigated.

Built in the open as a collaboration between 18F and the Office of Government-wide Policy at the General Services Administration.