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IT Talk

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Unifying the Data That Power NASA

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In this Issue

Message from the NASA CIO

NASA's unified data ecosystem ensures that the data we collect are easily discoverable, responsibly mined, and publicly accessible. In this issue, we will take a detailed look at three data management tools that are elevating the way we find, use, and share data at the agency:

- The Agency Data Catalog centralizes metadata to enhance data discovery for researchers and data analysts while supporting data governance.
- The Enterprise Data Platform transforms trusted data into actionable results through curated datasets, reports, and visualizations.
- The Open Data Portal makes over 25,000 datasets freely accessible to researchers, educators, businesses, and the public.

In addition, we are continually looking for ways to update our IT platforms to improve the customer service experience for NASA workers. We will learn about how the Token Future Transformation Initiative streamlines the token activation process by allowing users to register their RSA tokens through a self-service portal. At Goddard Space Flight Center, we will read about their new P-Card Request tool that leverages a built-in approval functionality, reducing communication friction between requestors and approvers.

We also need your help in optimizing our storage capacity on SharePoint Online and Teams. By efficiently managing your files stored on SharePoint Online and Teams sites, we can reduce unneeded storage, resulting in improved performance with faster access and search times for everyone.

And lastly, we are excited to welcome the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's (JPL's) new IT leadership that will help shape the next era of JPL's computing, cybersecurity, and data capabilities!

With gratitude,

Jeff Seaton

NASA Chief Information Officer

Workplace and Collaboration Services (WCS) News and Updates

Check out the latest news from WCS (all links are internal to NASA):

- *Saving Outlook Contacts to Your iPhone or iPad*
- *Getting to Know Adobe Acrobat*
- *Introducing Microsoft 365 Copilot Chat Light*
- *Windows 10 to Windows 11 In-Place Upgrades - Current Windows 10 Users*
- *Windows 11 23H2 Feature Enablement Update - Current Windows 11 Users*
- *AT&T FirstNet Rapid Response and Static IP Address Now Available to Order*
- *MiFi Device Refreshes Now Available*
- *Teams Enhancements: Schedule Channel Messages, Share Contacts in Channels, Request Annotation Sessions, Simplified Meeting Notes, and More*
- *See What's New with ICAM*

JPL Announces New IT Leadership Appointments

By Whitney Haggins, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

This spring, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) announced three key IT leadership appointments, reinforcing its commitment to advancing its computing, cybersecurity, and data capabilities. These appointments reflect JPL's commitment to building a strong, forward-looking foundation in IT, cybersecurity, and data strategy.

Amanda Hezel Appointed Deputy Chief Data & Information Officer

JPL has appointed Amanda Hezel as the Deputy Chief Data & Information Officer (CDIO) and Deputy Director for Enterprise Technology, Strategy and Cybersecurity. With a 35-year tenure at the Laboratory, Hezel has held diverse leadership roles spanning business operations, security, and IT, including managing an award-winning Laboratory data center consolidation project and most recently serving as the Chief Information and Security Officer. In her new role, Hezel will work directly with CDIO Matthew Decker, leveraging her strong leadership and execution focus to shape and implement JPL's computing and software technology vision while overseeing enterprise IT operations.

Alex Cervantes Takes Helm as Chief Information Security Officer

Alex Cervantes was named JPL's new Chief Information Security Officer (CISO). With nearly two decades of experience at JPL, Alex brings a balanced background of ground systems engineering, mission cybersecurity, and leadership experience. His collaborative style and technical breadth and depth, honed through direct involvement with missions like GRAIL, Mars Science Laboratory, and M2020, have established him as a respected and balanced leader. As former Deputy CISO, Alex is now leading efforts to embed cybersecurity into the JPL domains and to build stronger partnerships across JPL and NASA.

Daria Topousis Named First Lead Institutional Data Strategist

CDIO Matthew Decker has appointed Daria Topousis as JPL's first Lead Institutional Data Strategist. With over 25 years at JPL, Topousis will be instrumental in developing strategies and roadmaps for JPL's vast data assets, exploring opportunities to integrate cutting-edge data science and AI capabilities throughout the Lab. Her extensive experience includes successfully managing initiatives in data and content management, including her work overseeing Content & Search Services, implementing the Institutional Knowledge Graph, launching JPL's Microsoft 365, managing the NASA Engineering Network, and leading JPL's implementation of NASA's External Access Management for improved collaboration.

Unifying the Data That Power NASA

By Data & Analytics Services Team, Office of the Chief Information Officer

From Earth orbit to interplanetary space, NASA missions generate a universe of data. But in an agency as vast and diverse as NASA, finding the right dataset, or even knowing it exists, can be a mission of its own.

That's changing.

NASA has launched and updated a trio of powerful tools that work jointly to transform how we discover, govern, and use data. This includes the newly developed Agency Data Catalog, the reimagined *Open Data Portal*, and a revitalized Enterprise Data Platform (EDP). Together, these efforts are designed to bring structure, accessibility, and meaning to NASA's vast information ecosystem.

A New Map for NASA's Data Landscape

At NASA, data have traditionally lived in isolated systems, siloed by firewalls, or unfindable on private drives. Now, with the Agency Data Catalog, NASA teams can locate, explore, and understand data assets from across the agency, ranging from HR and personnel data to the latest scientific data from our missions. Built on Microsoft Purview, the catalog brings together technical metadata, ownership information, and usage context to serve as an internal guide for what data exist, where they live, and how they can be reused.

The *Agency Data Catalog* (link internal to NASA) serves a wide range of users—from data scientists and analysts to researchers and technical staff—and includes both public and non-public datasets. When datasets are flagged as public in the catalog, they are automatically prepared for publication on NASA's *Open Data Portal*.

Launched in the spring of 2025, the Agency Data Catalog is already enabling a new level of cross-mission collaboration, reducing duplicative work and strengthening data governance across centers.

Powering the Platform Behind the Scenes

Connected with the Agency Data Catalog is the upgraded *Enterprise Data Platform (EDP)* (link internal to NASA). This modern, cloud-based foundation allows secure sharing, advanced analytics, and role-based access, enabling efficient and responsible data use across the agency.

With EDP, data from different parts of NASA are brought together in one place, making it easier to share, analyze, and turn data into useful insights. By connecting directly to the Agency Data Catalog, when data are made available through the EDP, the metadata are automatically integrated into the Agency Data Catalog. This connection helps to break down data silos and improve discoverability in support of NASA's FAIRUST principles by making data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable, Understandable, Secure, and Trustworthy.

The EDP governs, stores, and processes all data added to the platform, freeing users to focus on insights and action rather than data preparation. It supports a wide range of agency data, including personnel, finance, and contracts, and gives users the ability to choose the analytics tool that works best for them, such as Databricks, Tableau, and Power BI.

EDP empowers the agency's workforce with tools that are fast, intuitive, and built for the way NASA works. The platform is designed to grow with NASA's needs and lays the groundwork for future capabilities like AI and machine learning. As a unified analytics platform, the EDP simplifies and accelerates data science, engineering, and business processes by consolidating data ingestion, analysis, and AI/ML tasks into a centralized environment, turning NASA's raw data into action.

NASA employees interested in exploring EDP capabilities can submit a service ticket and receive a consultation.

Sharing Our Knowledge with the World

The work that begins inside NASA doesn't stay there. The agency's *Open Data Portal*, was recently enhanced to publish high-quality, better-organized public metadata, working in concert with *code.nasa.gov* and *API.nasa.gov*.

Data.nasa.gov is part of a trio of public-facing tools that connects the world with NASA's open data and applications. The data.nasa.gov platform houses more than 25,000 public datasets and over 3.5 million files, and its reach continues to grow. It works alongside code.nasa.gov, which provides access to open-source NASA code, and *API.nasa.gov*, NASA's official API portal that improves access to publicly available data, including imagery and mission information.

In 2024 alone, these tools have experienced strong demand, with more than 70 million API requests and nearly 160,000 open-source code job runs, demonstrating the interest and impact of the agency's open data and software platforms. As new datasets, APIs, and codebases are added, these platforms will continue to evolve, expanding the resources available to the public and increasing their scientific and societal impact. NASA teams interested in learning more can connect with NASA Data Stewards by submitting a *service ticket*.

Whether it's a researcher in Houston or a program analyst at Ames updating their publicly available data in the EDP, a ripple effect occurs, empowering citizen scientists, developers, and researchers around the world to turn the latest NASA data into discoveries of their own.

The Future Is Connected

Together, these platforms represent a move toward smarter stewardship, greater transparency, and a more unified approach to treating data as a strategic asset.

As NASA prepares for the next generation of exploration, the ability to harness the full potential of our data will be just as critical as rockets and rovers. With the Agency Data Catalog, Open Data Portal, and Enterprise Data Platform, NASA is equipping itself with the tools needed to carry knowledge forward.

At NASA, data isn't just about what's known, it's the key to discovering what's next, creating what's needed, and inspiring what's possible.

New Two-Factor Token Infrastructure (TFTI) Issuance Initiative Launching Summer 2025

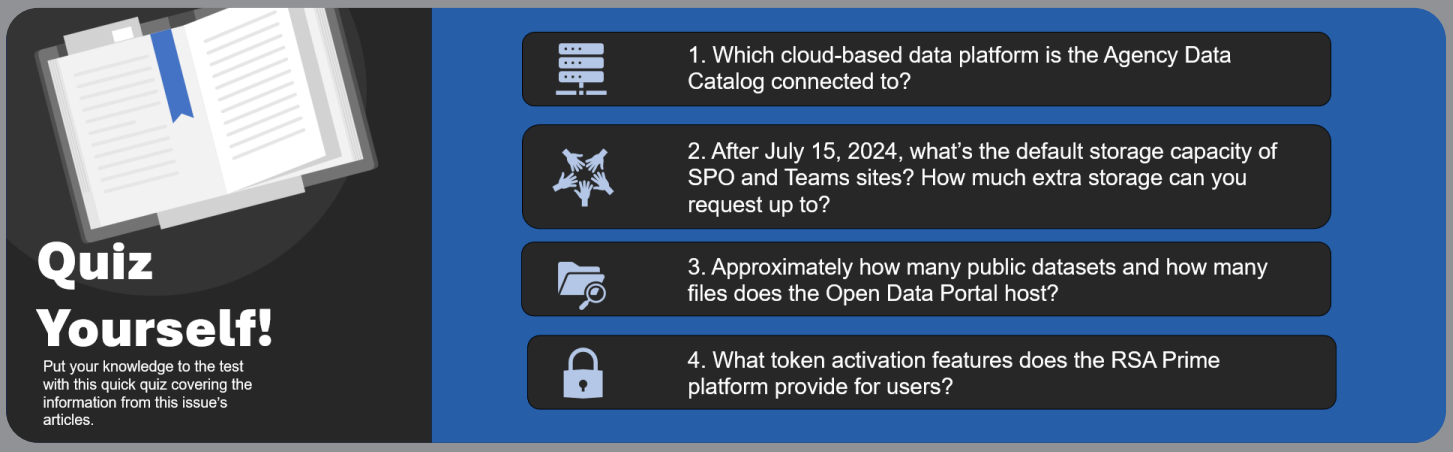
By Jennifer Ickes, ICAM Communications Lead, Marshall Space Flight Center

Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) is streamlining the process of registering RSA SecurID tokens with the upcoming launch of the Two-Factor Token Infrastructure (TFTI) Issuance Initiative. Set to debut in late Summer 2025, this enhancement will significantly improve efficiency by reducing the time and effort required for token activation.

Through integration with **RSA PRIME**, a user-friendly self-service portal, end users will be able to complete token registration in just a few simple steps. The portal enables users to set their PINs, activate their tokens, and they may return at any time for assistance throughout the token's life cycle.

This initiative will eliminate the need for extended phone support with Enterprise Service Desk agents, allowing staff to focus on more critical support needs—ultimately improving productivity across the board.

To learn more, visit the *TFTI website* (link internal to NASA).



I Need More Space!!!

By Kellie White, Workplace & Collaboration Services, Marshall Space Flight Center

Understanding and Managing Teams and SharePoint Online Storage Capacity

It is important for users to understand the storage limits of Teams and SharePoint Online (SPO) sites and how to check current storage usage. This understanding is key to planning what additional capacity a site owner may need in the near term, if any. The majority, 96 percent, of Teams and SPO sites are under current capacity limits of 100 gigabytes (GB).

But without attention to, and proper management of, documents through version control, retention, and archiving, storage levels can creep up quickly. Learn how to monitor your site's storage and make informed decisions when planning for future needs. This is increasingly important as Site Owners will incur charges for sites over 100 GB starting on October 1, 2025.

Know Current Storage Limits

All SPO and Teams sites created on or after July 15, 2024, have a default storage capacity of 10 GB with the ability to request up to 100 GB (in increments) at no cost, through the *M365 support portal* (all links internal to NASA). SPO and Teams sites created before July 15, 2024, have a storage limit set to the storage usage as of July 15, 2024, plus an additional storage size added for growth. Sites 10 GB and under were set to a 12 GB limit, and sites over 10 GB had an additional 20 percent storage added for growth.

Visit *SharePoint Online: Collaboration Data and Storage Management Changes* to learn more about the changes being implemented, and use the links below to learn more about each topic:

- *Know My Site's Current Storage Usage*
- *Understand the Retention Policy*
- *Request Additional Storage Capacity*
- *How to Reduce the Size of a Site's Storage*
- *How to Delete a SharePoint Online Site That Is No Longer Needed*
- *Determining Where to Store Documents*

Meeting a Presidential Mandate: NASA Goddard's New P-Card Request Tool Streamlines Procurement

By Hilary Jackson Gambale, Strategic Communications Specialist, Goddard Space Flight Center

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has successfully implemented a new Purchase Card (P-Card) Request Tool that streamlines the procurement process in response to recent presidential administration mandates. These changes dramatically reduced the number of P-Card holders at Goddard from hundreds to fewer than 30, creating an urgent need for a centralized procurement system.

The new tool addresses a significant organizational challenge. Previously, most divisions and branches had their own P-Card holders and internal request processes. With the mandate changes, many employees now need to request purchases through cardholders outside their organizational units, requiring a standardized approach to cross-organizational purchases.

"The P-Card Request Tool automatically routes each request to the correct approvers and cardholders while keeping requestors informed throughout the entire process," explains the tool's developer, Shaun Piazza, AppDev Team Lead. "It significantly reduces manual communication, making it easier for both requestors and approvers to navigate the new P-Card environment."

Built using Microsoft's SharePoint Online, Power Automate, and Power Apps technologies, the solution leverages built-in approval functionality that sends notifications directly through Microsoft Teams. This allows approvers to quickly review and respond to requests. Upon completion, all approvals are captured in a PDF document stored with the request documentation for reference.

What makes this tool particularly remarkable is its rapid development. The initial version was created in just one week to meet tight administrative deadlines, with continuous improvements released based on user feedback. Since its launch on April 2, 2025, the system has already processed over 1,200 P-Card requests with steadily growing adoption.

Enhancements have included adding a review step for P-Card holders to reduce rejections due to incomplete documentation, support for comments, capability for P-Card holder delegates, and functionality for marking requests as canceled or completed.

NASA Goddard employees can access the Request Tool through the agency's SharePoint site, where they can submit new requests and easily track the status of submissions already in progress. A comprehensive user guide is also available to assist with navigation.

This initiative demonstrates NASA's adaptability in quickly developing effective solutions to administrative challenges while maintaining procurement oversight, ensuring that the agency's important scientific and engineering work can continue without unnecessary procedural delays.

IT Talk

Answers to Quiz on page 7

1) The Enterprise Data Platform (EDP); 2) 10GB; 100GB; 3) More than 25,000 public datasets and 3.5 million files; 4) Enables users to set their PINs, activate their tokens, and they may return at any time for assistance throughout the token's life cycle.

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