

**U.S. Department of Commerce  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office**



**Privacy Impact Assessment  
for the  
Collection of Multiple Enterprise Tools (COMET)**

- ☒ Concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer  
☐ Non-concurrence of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer

Holcombe Jr, Jamie approved on 2025-02-25T10:20:16.9529261 2/25/2025 10:20:00 AM  
Signature of Senior Agency Official for Privacy/DOC Chief Privacy Officer Date

## U.S. Department of Commerce Privacy Impact Assessment USPTO Collection of Multiple Enterprise Tools (COMET)

**Unique Project Identifier: EIPL-ITMS-01-00**

### **Introduction:** System Description

*Provide a brief description of the information system.*

Collection of Multiple Enterprise Tools (COMET) is a collection of independent application that live on ORACLE's Application Express (APEX) lightweight database. COMET provides United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) an opportunity to develop minor independent applications for business purposes in an easy and cost-effective manner.

Access is granted to the independent applications at the application level but COMET will intercept all failed APEX application log-in attempts and redirect the user to the respective contact page.

The only application within COMET that collects Personally Identifiable Information (PII) is Cybersecurity Role Training and Certification Tracking System (CRTCTS). CRTCTS is a manual, self-reporting database of USPTO employees and contractor's professional certifications and the status of applicable trainings (complete or not complete). Employees enter their information into CRTCTS to assist the USPTO in managing reporting to Department of Commerce (DOC) regarding compliance with DOC Information Technology Security Baseline Policy.

Address the following elements:

*(a) Whether it is a general support system, major application, or other type of system*

COMET is a General Support System.

*(b) System location*

COMET is located on Manassas, VA.

*(c) Whether it is a standalone system or interconnects with other systems (identifying and describing any other systems to which it interconnects)*

**Database Services (DBS):** provides performance monitoring for enterprise and product owned MySQL and Oracle databases. The DBS system is composed of a collection of various versions of database systems that perform analytics and performance statistics

associated with database operations, performance, and integrity. Support services are also provided for developing Automated Information Systems (AISs) such as requirements analysis, database design, and implementation and maintenance strategies of database applications.

**Data Storage Management System (DSMS):** provides secure environment for archival and storage of data and records vital to USPTO's Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery plan.

**Enterprise Software Service (ESS):** provides COMET the active directory to facilitate access management. ESS provides USPTO with a collection of programs that utilize common business applications and tools for modeling how the entire organization works. ESS provides a centralized solution for assisting developers in building applications unique to the organization. Does not store PII for COMET for its applications.

**ICAM Identity as a Service (ICAM-IDaaS):** provides an enterprise authentication and authorization service for COMET and its applications.

**Information Delivery Product (IDP) -** is a Master System composed of the following subsystems: Enterprise Data Warehouse (EDW), Electronic Library for Financial Management System (EL4FMS) and Financial Enterprise Data Management Tools (FEDMT).

**Service Management Platform (SMP):** provides a single system of record for IT services, operations, and business management by automating IT service applications and processes.

*(d) The way the system operates to achieve the purpose(s) identified in Section 4*

Individuals can access COMET applications only when on USPTO's network. USPTO users, with application-level access, use single-sign-on to access the application. The users can then review the information within the applications database in a user-friendly way. Depending on the application, the user may amend or add information to the application. If the user has a need and the application allows, the user can export data at the application level, to conduct further analysis of the information.

*(e) How information in the system is retrieved by the user*

Information at the application level is retrieved by authorized users at the appropriate privilege level.

*(f) How information is transmitted to and from the system*

Information in the system is transmitted to and from the system through HyperText Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) browser. It ensures the confidentiality, integrity and authentication during communication by employee encryption through Transport Layer Security. HTTPS works transmits information by initiating a secure connection, having a key exchange and encryption setup, secures data transmission and ensures data integrity and authentication prior to ending the session.

*(g) Any information sharing*

COMET applications may have interactive reports, Comma-separated values (CSV), Excel, Hyper Text Markup Language (HTML) and Portable Document Format (PDF) which enables the individuals to email data from the application as necessary.

*(h) The specific programmatic authorities (statutes or Executive Orders) for collecting, maintaining, using, and disseminating the information*

5 U.S.C. 4118; 5 U.S.C. 301; and 35 U.S.C. 2. CRTCTS is the only application that collects, maintains, and (could potentially) disseminate PII.

*(i) The Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category for the system*

Moderate

**Section 1: Status of the Information System**

1.1 Indicate whether the information system is a new or existing system.

☐ This is a new information system.

☐ This is an existing information system with changes that create new privacy risks. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Changes That Create New Privacy Risks (CTCNPR)</b>					
a. Conversions	<input type="checkbox"/>	d. Significant Merging	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. New Interagency Uses	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Anonymous to Non-Anonymous	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. New Public Access	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Internal Flow or Collection	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Significant System Management Changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Commercial Sources	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Alteration in Character of Data	<input type="checkbox"/>
j. Other changes that create new privacy risks (specify):					

☐ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is not a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment.

☒ This is an existing information system in which changes do not create new privacy risks, and there is a SAOP approved Privacy Impact Assessment.

## **Section 2: Information in the System**

2.1 Indicate what personally identifiable information (PII)/business identifiable information (BII) is collected, maintained, or disseminated. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Identifying Numbers (IN)</b>					
a. Social Security*	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Financial Account	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Taxpayer ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Passport	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Financial Transaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Employer ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Alien Registration	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Vehicle Identifier	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Employee ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	i. Credit Card	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Medical Record	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. File/Case ID	<input type="checkbox"/>				
n. Other identifying numbers (specify): Uploaded certificates may have other identifying markers, such as certificate number					
*Explanation for the business need to collect, maintain, or disseminate the Social Security number, including truncated form:					

<b>General Personal Data (GPD)</b>					
a. Name	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	h. Date of Birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	o. Financial Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Maiden Name	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Place of Birth	<input type="checkbox"/>	p. Medical Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Alias	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Home Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	q. Military Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Gender	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Telephone Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	r. Criminal Record	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Email Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	s. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/>
f. Race/Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	t. Mother's Maiden Name	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>	n. Religion	<input type="checkbox"/>		
u. Other general personal data (specify):					

<b>Work-Related Data (WRD)</b>					
a. Occupation	<input type="checkbox"/>	e. Work Email Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	i. Business Associates	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Job Title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	f. Salary	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Proprietary or Business Information	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Work Address	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Work History	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Procurement/contracting records	<input type="checkbox"/>

d. Work Telephone Number	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Employment Performance Ratings or other Performance Information	<input type="checkbox"/>		
l. Other work-related data (specify): training data and certifications proving qualification for serving in certain roles					

<b>Distinguishing Features/Biometrics (DFB)</b>					
a. Fingerprints	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Scars, Marks, Tattoos	<input type="checkbox"/>	k. Signatures	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Palm Prints	<input type="checkbox"/>	g. Hair Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	l. Vascular Scans	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. Voice/Audio Recording	<input type="checkbox"/>	h. Eye Color	<input type="checkbox"/>	m. DNA Sample or Profile	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. Video Recording	<input type="checkbox"/>	i. Height	<input type="checkbox"/>	n. Retina/Iris Scans	<input type="checkbox"/>
e. Photographs	<input type="checkbox"/>	j. Weight	<input type="checkbox"/>	o. Dental Profile	<input type="checkbox"/>
p. Other distinguishing features/biometrics (specify): Uploaded certificates may have other identifying markers, such as signatures					

<b>System Administration/Audit Data (SAAD)</b>					
a. User ID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	c. Date/Time of Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	e. ID Files Accessed	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. IP Address	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	f. Queries Run	<input type="checkbox"/>	f. Contents of Files	<input type="checkbox"/>
g. Other system administration/audit data (specify):					

<b>Other Information (specify)</b>

2.2 Indicate sources of the PII/BII in the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Directly from Individual about Whom the Information Pertains</b>					
In Person	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hard Copy: Mail/Fax	<input type="checkbox"/>	Online	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Email	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify):					

<b>Government Sources</b>					
Within the Bureau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other DOC Bureaus	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Federal Agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, Local, Tribal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Foreign	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify):					

<b>Non-government Sources</b>					
Public Organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Data Brokers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Third Party Website or Application			<input type="checkbox"/>		

Other (specify):
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### 2.3 Describe how the accuracy of the information in the system is ensured.

The accuracy of the information is ensured by obtaining it from the ESS, active directory, or directly from the individual. Active directory information is populated by the individual which they are then able to review and/or update themselves, or work with Human Resources (HR) to update it at the source system.

The system is secured using appropriate administrative physical and technical safeguards in accordance with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) security controls (encryption, access control, and auditing). Mandatory IT awareness and role-based training is required for staff who have access to the system and address how to handle, retain, and dispose of data. All access has role-based restrictions and individuals with privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. The USPTO maintains an audit trail and performs random, periodic reviews (quarterly) to identify unauthorized access and changes as part of verifying the integrity of administrative account holder data and roles. Inactive accounts will be deactivated and roles will be deleted from the application.

### 2.4 Is the information covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the information is covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act. Provide the OMB control number and the agency number for the collection.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the information is not covered by the Paperwork Reduction Act.

### 2.5 Indicate the technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed. (Check all that apply.)

Technologies Used Containing PII/BII Not Previously Deployed (TUCPBNPD)			
Smart Cards	<input type="checkbox"/>	Biometrics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Caller-ID	<input type="checkbox"/>	Personal Identity Verification (PIV) Cards	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are not any technologies used that contain PII/BII in ways that have not been previously deployed.
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## **Section 3: System Supported Activities**

- 3.1 Indicate IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns. *(Check all that apply.)*

Activities			
Audio recordings	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building entry readers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Video surveillance	<input type="checkbox"/>	Electronic purchase transactions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify): Click or tap here to enter text.			

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are not any IT system supported activities which raise privacy risks/concerns.
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#### **Section 4: Purpose of the System**

- 4.1 Indicate why the PII/BII in the IT system is being collected, maintained, or disseminated. *(Check all that apply.)*

Purpose			
For a Computer Matching Program	<input type="checkbox"/>	For administering human resources programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
For administrative matters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	To promote information sharing initiatives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
For litigation	<input type="checkbox"/>	For criminal law enforcement activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
For civil enforcement activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	For intelligence activities	<input type="checkbox"/>
To improve Federal services online	<input type="checkbox"/>	For employee or customer satisfaction	<input type="checkbox"/>
For web measurement and customization technologies (single-session)	<input type="checkbox"/>	For web measurement and customization technologies (multi-session)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):			

#### **Section 5: Use of the Information**

- 5.1 In the context of functional areas (business processes, missions, operations, etc.) supported by the IT system, describe how the PII/BII that is collected, maintained, or disseminated will be used. Indicate if the PII/BII identified in Section 2.1 of this document is in reference to a federal employee/contractor, member of the public, foreign national, visitor or other (specify).



USPTO user's information is used to manage general log-in access to applications within COMET. The application within COMET, CRTCTS, has information regarding USPTO user's that have been identified in a certain role that requires specific qualifications be maintained per DOC requirements. The individual will be able to log-in to the system and confirm if they are in that role and identify if they have completed the necessary training. If a professional certification is required the individual will upload the professional certificate and provide the certification information, such as date the certification was obtained, certification ID number, and certification expiration.

- 5.2 Describe any potential threats to privacy, such as insider threat, as a result of the bureau's/operating unit's use of the information, and controls that the bureau/operating unit has put into place to ensure that the information is handled, retained, and disposed appropriately. (For example: mandatory training for system users regarding appropriate handling of information, automatic purging of information in accordance with the retention schedule, etc.)

In the event of computer failure, insider threats, or attack against the system by adversarial or foreign entities, any potential PII data stored within the system could be exposed. To avoid a breach, the system has certain security controls in place to ensure the information is handled, retained, and disposed of appropriately. Access to individual's PII is controlled through the application, and all personnel who access the data must first authenticate to the system at which time an audit trail is generated when the database is accessed. These audit trails are based on application server out-of-the-box logging reports reviewed by the Information System Security Officer (ISSO) and System Auditor and any suspicious indicators such as browsing will be immediately investigated and appropriate action taken. Also, system users undergo annual mandatory training regarding appropriate handling of information.

NIST security controls are in place to ensure that information is handled, retained, and disposed of appropriately. For example, advanced encryption is used to secure the data both during transmission and while stored at rest. Access to individual's PII is controlled through the application and all personnel who access the data must first authenticate to the system at which time an audit trail is generated when the database is accessed. USPTO requires annual security role based training and annual mandatory security awareness procedure training for all employees. All offices of the USPTO adhere to the USPTO Records Management Office's Comprehensive Records Schedule that describes the types of USPTO records and their corresponding disposition authority or citation.

## **Section 6: Information Sharing and Access**

- 6.1 Indicate with whom the bureau intends to share the PII/BII in the IT system and how the PII/BII will be shared. *(Check all that apply.)*

Recipient	How Information will be Shared		
	Case-by-Case	Bulk Transfer	Direct Access
Within the bureau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DOC bureaus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Federal agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State, local, tribal gov't agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign governments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Foreign entities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify):	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ The PII/BII in the system will not be shared.

- 6.2 Does the DOC bureau/operating unit place a limitation on re-dissemination of PII/BII shared with external agencies/entities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the external agency/entity is required to verify with the DOC bureau/operating unit before re-dissemination of PII/BII.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the external agency/entity is not required to verify with the DOC bureau/operating unit before re-dissemination of PII/BII.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, the bureau/operating unit does not share PII/BII with external agencies/entities.

- 6.3 Indicate whether the IT system connects with or receives information from any other IT systems authorized to process PII and/or BII.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Yes, this IT system connects with or receives information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII. Provide the name of the IT system and describe the technical controls which prevent PII/BII leakage:</p> <p>DSMS ESS ICAM-IDaaS SMP IDP</p> <p>NIST security controls are in place to ensure that information is handled, retained, and disposed of appropriately. For example, advanced encryption is used to secure the data both during transmission and while stored at rest. Access to individual's PII is controlled through the application and all personnel who access the data must first authenticate to the system at which time an audit trail is generated when the database is accessed. USPTO requires annual security role based training and annual mandatory</p>
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	security awareness procedure training for all employees. All offices of the USPTO adhere to the USPTO Records Management Office's Comprehensive Records Schedule that describes the types of USPTO records and their corresponding disposition authority or citation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, this IT system does not connect with or receive information from another IT system(s) authorized to process PII and/or BII.

6.4 Identify the class of users who will have access to the IT system and the PII/BII. *(Check all that apply.)*

Class of Users			
General Public	<input type="checkbox"/>	Government Employees	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Contractors	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Other (specify):			

### **Section 7: Notice and Consent**

7.1 Indicate whether individuals will be notified if their PII/BII is collected, maintained, or disseminated by the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided pursuant to a system of records notice published in the Federal Register and discussed in Section 9.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided by a Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy. The Privacy Act statement and/or privacy policy can be found at: <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/privacy-policy">https://www.uspto.gov/privacy-policy</a>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, notice is provided by other means.	Specify how: This PIA serves as notice. See Appendix A
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, notice is not provided.	Specify why not:

7.2 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify how:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to decline to provide PII/BII.	Specify why not: The individuals do not have the opportunity to decline to provide the PII/BII. The information that is requested to be entered into COMET by the individual is required for them to perform their duties.

7.3 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of

their PII/BII.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify how:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII.	Specify why not: The individuals do not have the opportunity to consent to particular uses of their PII/BII within COMET. The COMET applications, collect the least amount of PII/BII allowed to complete their USPTO tasks.

7.4 Indicate whether and how individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, individuals have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify how: For the sub application, CRTCT'S individual can log directly into the system and update the training information about themselves.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, individuals do not have an opportunity to review/update PII/BII pertaining to them.	Specify why not: For COMET and its application, the PII data points: name, employee ID and email address, the individual would need to contact HR to have the information updated.

## **Section 8: Administrative and Technological Controls**

8.1 Indicate the administrative and technological controls for the system. *(Check all that apply.)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All users signed a confidentiality agreement or non-disclosure agreement.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All users are subject to a Code of Conduct that includes the requirement for confidentiality.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff (employees and contractors) received training on privacy and confidentiality policies and practices.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to the PII/BII is restricted to authorized personnel only.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to the PII/BII is being monitored, tracked, or recorded. Explanation: Access information is logged into audit logs for the system.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The information is secured in accordance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act (FISMA) requirements. Provide date of most recent Assessment and Authorization (A&A): 5/20/2025 <input type="checkbox"/> This is a new system. The A&A date will be provided when the A&A package is approved.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199 security impact category for this system is a moderate or higher.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-122 and NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5 recommended security controls for protecting PII/BII are in place and functioning as intended; or have an approved Plan of Action and Milestones (POA&M).
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A security assessment report has been reviewed for the information system and it has been determined that there are no additional privacy risks.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Contractors that have access to the system are subject to information security provisions in their contracts required by DOC policy.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Contracts with customers establish DOC ownership rights over data including PII/BII.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Acceptance of liability for exposure of PII/BII is clearly defined in agreements with customers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (specify):

- 8.2 Provide a general description of the technologies used to protect PII/BII on the IT system. *(Include data encryption in transit and/or at rest, if applicable).*

PII within the system is secured using appropriate management, operational, and technical safeguards in accordance with NIST requirements. Such management controls include a review process to ensure that management controls are in place and documented in the System Security Privacy Plan (SSPP). The SSPP specifically addresses the management, operational, and technical controls that are in place and planned during the operation of the system. Operational safeguards include restricting access to PII/BII data to a small subset of users. All access has role-based restrictions and individuals with access privileges have undergone vetting and suitability screening. Data is maintained in areas accessible only to authorized personnel. The system maintains an audit trail and the appropriate personnel is alerted when there is suspicious activity. Data is encrypted in transit and at rest.

## **Section 9: Privacy Act**

- 9.1 Is the PII/BII searchable by a personal identifier (e.g, name or Social Security number)?

- ☒ Yes, the PII/BII is searchable by a personal identifier.
- ☐ No, the PII/BII is not searchable by a personal identifier.

- 9.2 Indicate whether a system of records is being created under the Privacy Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552a. *(A new system of records notice (SORN) is required if the system is not covered by an existing SORN).*

As per the Privacy Act of 1974, "the term 'system of records' means a group of any records under the control of any agency from which information is retrieved by the name of the individual or by some identifying number, symbol, or other identifying particular assigned to the individual."

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes, this system is covered by an existing system of records notice (SORN). Provide the SORN name, number, and link. <i>(list all that apply):</i> <a href="#">OPM/GOVT-1</a> – General Personnel Records <a href="#">COMMERCE/DEPT-25</a> – Access Control and Identity Management System
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, a SORN has been submitted to the Department for approval on <u>(date)</u> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, this system is not a system of records and a SORN is not applicable.

## **Section 10: Retention of Information**

10.1 Indicate whether these records are covered by an approved records control schedule and monitored for compliance. *(Check all that apply.)*

### [General Records Schedules \(GRS\) / National Archives](#)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There is an approved record control schedule. Provide the name of the record control schedule: General Records Schedule 3.1 - System development records -Temporary. Destroy 5 years 2013-0005after system is superseded by a new iteration, or is terminated, defunded, or no longer needed for agency/IT administrative purposes, but longer retention is authorized if required for business use.  General Records Schedule 3.1 - 020 Information technology operations and maintenance records – Temporary: Destroy 3 years after agreement. General Records Schedule 3.1 - Configuration and change management records. Temporary: Destroy 5 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, there is not an approved record control schedule. Provide the stage in which the project is in developing and submitting a records control schedule:
<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, retention is monitored for compliance to the schedule.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, retention is not monitored for compliance to the schedule. Provide explanation:

10.2 Indicate the disposal method of the PII/BII. *(Check all that apply.)*

<b>Disposal</b>			
Shredding	<input type="checkbox"/>	Overwriting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Degaussing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deleting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify): Some systems within COMET do allow for data deletion.			

## **Section 11: NIST Special Publication 800-122 PII Confidentiality Impact Level**

11.1 Indicate the potential impact that could result to the subject individuals and/or the organization if PII were inappropriately accessed, used, or disclosed. *(The PII Confidentiality Impact Level is not the same, and does not have to be the same, as the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 security impact category.)*

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Low – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a limited adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a serious adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.
<input type="checkbox"/>	High – the loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to have a severe or catastrophic adverse effect on organizational operations, organizational assets, or individuals.

11.2 Indicate which factors were used to determine the above PII confidentiality impact level.  
(Check all that apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Identifiability	Provide explanation: COMET collects information that can be used to identify an individual however the information collected on an individual is limited to their qualifications to complete a specific role assigned to them.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quantity of PII	Provide explanation: COMET collects, maintains, or disseminates PII about USPTO employees and contractors. The types of information collected, maintained, used, or disseminated by the system that are identifiable include: name, email, and certificate information.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Data Field Sensitivity	Provide explanation: The number of records collected generate a minimal amount of PII. There are general data points about all USPTO employees and contractors potentially within COMET and its sub-applications. CRTCTS has information regarding around 200 USPTO employees and/or contractors, which the individual will provide their qualifications for their role.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Context of Use	Provide explanation: The types of identifying information within COMET are of a low sensitivity level.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Obligation to Protect Confidentiality	Provide explanation: USPTO privacy policy requires the PII information collected within the system to be protected in accordance with NIST SP 800-122, Guide to Protecting the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Access to and Location of PII	Provide explanation: Access is limited to USPTO employees and contractors connected to USPTO's network. The application CRTCTS which has more PII, has role-based access.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other:	Provide explanation:

## **Section 12: Analysis**

12.1 Identify and evaluate any potential threats to privacy that exist in light of the information collected or the sources from which the information is collected. Also, describe the choices that the bureau/operating unit made with regard to the type or quantity of information collected and the sources providing the information in order to prevent or mitigate threats to privacy. (For example: If a decision was made to collect less data, include a discussion of this decision; if it is necessary to obtain information from sources other than the individual, explain why.)

The PII in this system poses a risk if exposed. System users undergo annual mandatory training regarding appropriate handling of information. Physical access to servers is restricted to only a few authorized individuals. The servers storing the potential PII are located in a highly sensitive zone within the cloud and logical access is segregated with network firewalls and switches through an Access Control list that limits access to only a few approved and authorized accounts. USPTO monitors, in real-time, all activities and events within the servers storing the potential PII data and personnel review audit logs received on a regular bases and alert the appropriate personnel when inappropriate or unusual activity is identified.

12.2 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required business process changes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required business process changes. Explanation:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required business process changes.

12.3 Indicate whether the conduct of this PIA results in any required technology changes.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, the conduct of this PIA results in required technology changes. Explanation:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No, the conduct of this PIA does not result in any required technology changes.