

# techline

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## GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys)

### GPO Launches FDsys Public Beta

The first release of GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) launched as a public beta on January 15, 2009 and enhances the searching and browsing capabilities currently found on *GPO Access*. All of the information currently available on *GPO Access* will be migrated into FDsys. In order for the robust search capabilities in FDsys to work properly, the information being migrated must be analyzed and

parsed. Parsing is the process of extracting information from a content file and storing that information as metadata. Metadata is used by various FDsys processes, including search and browse. The migration of data will be completed on a collection by collection basis (i.e. the Federal Register, Congressional Bills, *Congressional Record*) and at launch FDsys will contain eight collections.

These collections include:

- **Compilation of Presidential Documents**
- **Congressional Bills**
- **Congressional Documents**
- ***Congressional Record***
- **Congressional Reports**
- ***Federal Register***
- **Public and Private Laws**

The expected completion date to migrate the remainder of the *GPO Access* content to FDsys is mid-2009. After a collection has been migrated, any new content added to that collection will be available within FDsys and *GPO Access*. Prior to the completion of the overall migration effort, FDsys and *GPO Access* will exist in parallel. Launching FDsys prior to the completion of data migration offers several benefits. Users will be able to take advantage of the enhanced searching capabilities for the most sought-after information

**Try it for Yourself**  
<http://fdsys.gpo.gov>

#### Get the Latest Information

GPO has posted detailed information about GPO's Federal Digital System (FDsys) at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys>. You can find a wealth of information on all aspects of FDsys including:

- ***Federal Digital System: System Releases and Capabilities and Federal Digital System: Requirements Document***;
- Release schedule with details of the major capabilities of each release.

**Give Us Your Feedback**  
<http://fdsys.blogspot.com/>  
[pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov)

immediately. In addition, since development of the second release of FDsys has already begun, launching the system in January allows us to elicit feedback and make changes to the system in the second release. GPO welcomes all comments or questions pertaining to FDsys via email at [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov).

The features available in the first release are extensive and the system will have a significant impact on how people access government information. Users are able to search across all content without having prior knowledge about how the information is stored. By defaulting to a simple search box, similar to common search engines, searching for information should be intuitive to most users. After a user performs a search, filters are displayed which allow the search results to be easily narrowed down.

The system also offers advanced searching capabilities, such as entering criteria for the collection, title, author, and/or citation number. Beyond searching for information, users are able to browse documents by collection, congressional committee, or date. In addition to the content being available through FDsys, search engines will also be able to crawl and index publicly available content within the system.

Establishing the authenticity of government information is essential in today's digital world. FDsys identifies content as "authentic" through the application of a digital time stamp upon ingest. FDsys interfaces with GPO's Automated PDF Signing System for the application of digital signatures on PDF files available through the public search engine. The appearance of the GPO Seal of Authenticity ensures that users can be confident the version of information they are viewing is official. GPO is signing Congressional bills and Public and Private laws ingested into FDsys.

The storage capacity of FDsys is highly scalable in order to support the large amount of data and has the ability to accommodate changes to technology, hardware, software, and location without requiring a

## Major Capabilities by Release

**Future releases of FDsys will continue to enhance the capabilities of the system. The major capabilities of FDsys by release are listed below.**

### Highlights of Release 1

- Search across multiple collections with a single search box
- Faceted search (filters)
- Content available in packages with MODS and PREMIS metadata
- Authenticated documents with digital signatures
- Simple, advanced, and retrieve by citation search options
- Browse government publications
- Search within search results
- Suggested spelling for search terms
- Document in Context feature for Congressional Record, Federal Register and Compilation of Presidential Documents
- Persistent, predictable links
- Contextual help features

### Release 2

- Congressional submission of content and jobs (orders)
- User notifications for content

### Release 3

- Government agency submission of content and jobs (orders)
- Documented interface (API) to allow search by non-GPO systems
- Capability to ingest converted (digitized) content
- Navigation of relationships between publications
- Delivery by RSS, email, and FTP
- Granularity support

## an FDsys update

### Release 4

- Automatically gather information from Federal agency websites (harvest)
- Enable digital preservation processes
- Capability to acquire, integrate, or link content from external sources
- Content recommendations based on user preferences
- Automatically execute saved searches
- Online GPO bookstore interface
- Output metadata in multiple formats, including MARC, ONIX, and ASCII
- Customizable alert services, help features, and search preferences
- Near duplicate detection
- Customizable user interfaces and mobile support

### Release 5

- Detailed billing information
- Customizable billing reports
- Tools to support document creation
- Estimating capabilities
- Enhanced job tracking
- Collaborative working environment for content creation
- Ability to interface with Federal agencies' internal procurement systems to transmit orders

major system redesign. GPO's adoption of the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model in the FDsys design provides the necessary technological environment for a trusted digital repository. The domain-neutral OAIS model provides the scalability, extensibility, and interoperability required for a system of this magnitude. •

### First New Collection on FDsys – Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents

On January 20, 2009 the Office of the Federal Register (OFR), which is part of the National Archives, created a new publication, called the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents*. The *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* is available through FDsys. The online Daily Compilation will replace the printed *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*. Like its predecessor, the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* will contain formal Presidential orders and statements, remarks at press conferences, messages to Congress, agencies, and foreign leaders, as well as other materials released by the White House Press Secretary. Material appearing in the *Daily Compilation* is edited for accuracy and annotated with additional information to provide an authoritative record of the Presidency. As an FDsys Web publication, the *Daily Compilation of Presidential Documents* will reach a much broader audience and will be updated frequently, as information is released by the White House press office.

The *Daily Compilation* project is a joint effort of the OFR/GPO partnership. OFR and FDsys program staff have joined forces to make the *Daily Compilation* the first publication specifically engineered for the new FDsys platform. In the coming year, GPO and the OFR will launch new web services on FDsys. The *Daily Compilation* is just one aspect of the GPO/OFR partnership's commitment to provide state-of-the-art information services to the American people. •



**MIKE WASH** *GPO's Chief Information Officer*

**Does the system have a backup in the event of a malfunction or emergency?**

FDsys is guaranteed to be operational 99.7% of the time. The system is designed to handle 20,000 concurrent users and is being deployed at an offsite location with backup power. In the event a crash occurs, the system will have a backup instance that is identical to the live system that can be brought up within a matter of minutes. The backup instance planned should be in place in mid-2009 and system data will be constantly copied to the backup instance so no content will be lost in the event of an emergency. •

**FDsys**

**Mike Wash** Chief Information Officer  
**Scott Stovall** Director of Programs and Technology  
**Selene Dalecky** Program Manager  
**Brenda Washington** Administrative Support

**Communications**

**Carrie Gibb** Program Communications

**Technology**

**Deng Wu** Lead Innovation Specialist  
**George Barnum** Content System Manager

**Program Management**

**Kirk Knoll** PMO Associate Director  
**Matt Landgraf** Lead Program Planner  
**Adam Schwartz** Program Planner  
**Magan Mohrmann** Program Planner  
**Kate Zwaard** Lead Program Planner  
**Lisa LaPlant** Lead Program Planner  
**Kirk Petri** Program Planner  
**Blake Edwards** Program Planner

**Contact Information** [pmo@gpo.gov](mailto:pmo@gpo.gov)  
<http://www.gpo.gov/projects/fdsys.htm>  
 202.512.1080