

FOIAXpress



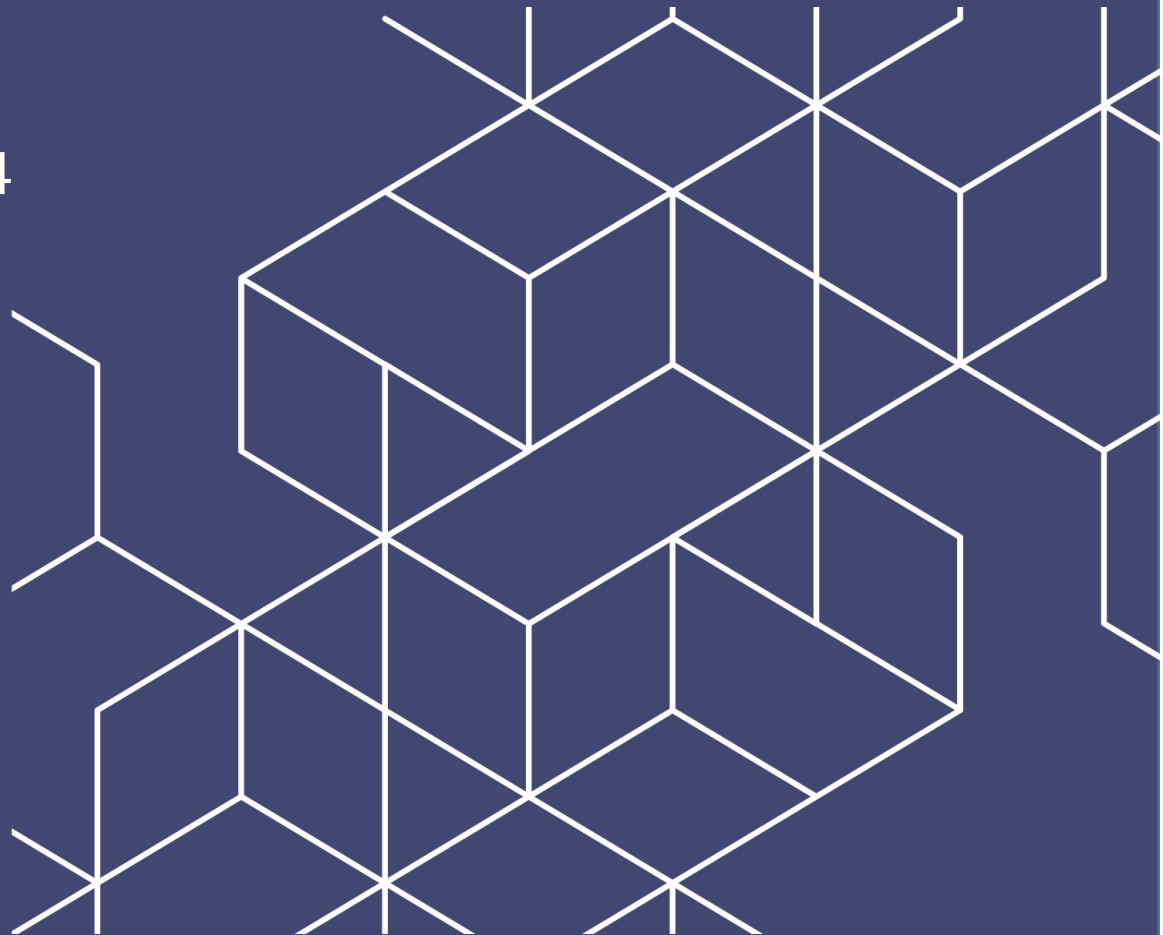
OPEXUS

PAL Release Notes

Version 1.0

v11.7.0

May 2024



FOIAXpress 11.7.0 PAL Release Notes

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1 Release Overview

Welcome to FOIAXpress PAL v11.7.0, our spring release for 2024. Several exciting enhancements have arrived for PAL, including:

- A revised Recommended Documents interface during request intake
- Enhanced abilities for PAL Custom Fields
- Increased usability for the PAL User Action Log
- Migrated PAL SAML Configuration tools into PAL Configuration
- Enabled PIV for MFA for PAL Configuration login

We've also issued several bug fixes in this latest release, including fixes for customer-reported issues around request processing, application administration, document management, and reports.



2 Reading Room Intake Recommendations

ID# 60108, 60109

We’ve made some improvements to our Related Documents feature in the PAL Reading Room. This feature is designed to show a requester any existing materials that match to their request description before they submit their request. This feature is intended to reduce the volume of incoming requests by leveraging the content you already have in your reading room.

On the *Related Documents* screen, users are presented with a list of matching documents to download and review, and must respond to a prompt asking whether they would like to proceed with their request or discard it.

State (Other)

Country

-----Select----

Zip C

Info

Descr
2989

Date
From

Descr

rmation

Related Documents

×

We found released documents that seem to fit your request description

Name	Published	↓	Pages	Size	Kind
Annual Report 2023.zip	December 12, 2023		23	53.18 MB	ZIP archive
John Smith Emails.pdf	December 1, 2023		2	1.13 MB	PDF document
Office Return Plan.pdf	October 17, 2023		4	15.80 MB	PDF document
Mask Policy.png	February 12, 2022		1	5.56 MB	PNG image
Employee Handbook - April 2019.pdf	April 28, 2019		40	33.24 MB	PDF document

Discard Request
I found what I was looking for

Submit Request
None of these seem right

Actions taken on the Related Documents screen, including which documents were downloaded, and whether they discarded or proceeded with their Request, are included in the User Action Log.

To enhance the effectiveness of this feature, we’ve now enabled it by default. However, you can easily switch this feature off if desired.



3 PAL Administration Updates

3.1 PAL Custom Field Functionality Enhancements

ID# 63468

We've enhanced the functionality of PAL custom fields, including both the ability to attach files directly to these fields, and increasing the character limit on these fields to 2000 characters.

3.2 PAL User Action Log

ID# 63109

In addition to capturing User Actions regarding PAL Reading Room suggested documents, we've also updated the User Action Log interface for enhanced clarity. Changes include:

- Changed the title of "Requester Login Date Range" to simply "Date Range"
- Changed the "For the Year" label to "For the Calendar Year"
- Remove the note at the bottom of the screen.
- "Year to date" changed to "From Year to Current Date"

3.3 PAL SAML Configuration

ID# 52690, 52091, 59658

We've added a SAML SSO option to the *Authentication Configuration* page within PAL Configuration, allowing administrators to enable SAML SSO directly from PAL Configuration. Simply select the **SAML SOO** radio button under *Authentication Options* to show the configuration fields:



User Interface Updates

Authentication Configuration

Please complete all the required fields marked with an asterisk(*).

Authentication Options

☐ Forms ☒ SAML SSO

SAML Settings

Purpose of SAML Configuration: Sign In

Service Provider

*Issuer/Entity ID/Name:

This screen contains all fields previously found in the separate SAML Configuration application, including the *SAML Field Mapping* configuration:

Name ID Format:

Authentication Context:

Authentication Context Comparison:

Signature Certificate Text:

Encryption Certificate Text:

Certificate Path:

☐ Sign Authentication Request

☐ Want SAML Response Signed

☐ Want Assertion Signed

☐ Want Assertion Encrypted

☐ Encrypt Logout Name ID

☐ Force Authentication

☐ Sign Logout Request

☐ Sign Logout Response

☐ Disable In Response To Check (Not recommended)

SAML Field Mappings

Pal Field	Provider Field	Description	Action
middle name	middle_name	middle name	Delete
Email	email	email address	Delete
First Name	first_name	first name	Delete
Last Name	last_name	last name	Delete

Add

Note: Updates on Authentication Configuration may trigger the PAL application to restart automatically.
If your changes are not reflected in the PAL application, then please try to restart the PAL application manually from the server.

Save

Note that to configure the SAML SSO from PAL Configuration, the PAL configuration application must have permission to the PAL application folder with full control. If this is not



applicable, the legacy PAL SAML Configuration tool is still available to configure SAML SSO for PAL.

Additionally, a query string is no longer required in the assertion URL for IAL2 Proof of Identity. Existing configurations will not be impacted by this change.

3.4 PAL Config MFA Using PIV

ID# 70107

For organizations using Forms authentication to access PAL Configuration, we now offer multi-factor authentication using a PIV card. MFA via PIV works by validating the subject of the user's certificate against a pre-configured value.

You can enable PIV based authentication from the *Security Configuration* screen (**Administration > Security Configuration**). Under the *MFA Type for PAL Admin Login* drop-down, select **PIV**:

A screenshot of the 'Security Configuration' screen. It features two labels: 'MFA Type For Pal Admin Login' and 'Admin Login OTP Expiry Time'. Below these are 'Save' and 'Clear' buttons. A dropdown menu is open for the MFA Type, showing options: 'None', 'Email', 'SMS', and 'PIV'. A red arrow points to the 'PIV' option, which is circled in red. The 'Admin Login OTP Expiry Time' field has a unit of 'minutes'.

To link each user to the PIV, we added a new *Certificate Subject* field to the *Edit User* screen called. Use this field to populate PIV Subject values for your users. This field is only available if the application is configured to use Forms authentication.

Note: PIV based MFA is only supported for Windows Server 2016, but we're continuing to test in additional configurations to expand availability of this feature.

4 Bug Fixes

We've corrected numerous bugs and issues in v11.7.0, as outlined in the following sections.

ID	Description
62721	Folders with titles that contain a colon cannot be opened in the PAL Reading Room; users can no longer create or edit a Folder Name to include a colon.
34587	Fixed a PAL bug that caused issues when using the browser's back button to return to the PAL Home Page.
24761	Fixed an where requests submitted via PAL without being associated with an email address caused issues when attempting to edit that requester's profile.
55910	Resolved an issue where files with apostrophes in the filename could not be uploaded to PAL.
59508	Fixed a bug where PAL header images were allowed to be sized beyond the boundaries of the header, inadvertently cutting off the image.

