Use of Web Measurement and Customization Technologies

Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum 10-22 (M-10-22), “Guidance for Online Use of Web Measurement and Customization Technologies,” authorizes agencies to employ web measurement and customization technologies for the purposes of improving the Federal Government’s services and behavior online. OMB defines web measurement and customization technologies as technologies that are used to remember a customer’s online interactions with a website or online application in order to conduct measurement and analysis of usage or to customize the user’s experience.

OMB M-10-22 delineates the following three “tiers” of web measurement and customization technologies for the purposes of describing their functionality:

a. Tier 1—Single Session. This tier encompasses any use of single session web measurement and customization technologies.

b. Tier 2—Multiple Session Without Personally-Identifiable Information (PII). This tier encompasses any use of multi-session web measurement and customization technologies when no PII is collected (including when the agency is unable to identify an individual as a result of its use of such technologies).

c. Tier 3—Multiple Session With PII. This tier encompasses any use of multi-session web measurement and customization technologies when PII is collected (including when the agency is able to identify an individual as a result of its use of such technologies).

Agencies may use Tier 1 and Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies without formal approval as long as they—(1) otherwise comply with M-10-22 and all other relevant policies; (2) provide clear and conspicuous notice in their online Privacy Policy citing the use of such technologies; and (3) comply with their internal policies governing the use of such technologies.

Proposals to use Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies, however, must use “opt-in” functionality and are subject to a review and approval process that requires each such proposed use to—(1) be reviewed by the Senior Agency Official for Privacy; (2) be published for a 30-day public notice and comment period, unless exempted by the Chief Information Officer (CIO); (3) be reconsidered in light of any public comments received; and (4) receive explicit written approval from the CIO.

Within the Department of the Treasury, the Assistant Secretary for Management (ASM) serves as the Senior Agency Official for Privacy (SAOP) and the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Systems also serves as the Department’s Chief Information Officer. Additionally, under current Department of the Treasury Directive (TD) 81-08, paragraph 2, the authority to approve the use of Tier 2 and Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies may only be granted by the Secretary of the Treasury. Because M-10-22 no longer requires an agency head to approve such uses, and because the ASM is the promulgating authority for TD 81-01, the ASM currently has the authority to grant an exception that would allow either the ASM or the CIO—rather than the Secretary of the Treasury—to approve the proposed uses herein.

At the time of this notice, the Treasury SAOP has reviewed the proposed uses of Tier 3 web measurement and customization technology.
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The purpose of the web measurement and/or customization technology.

The United States Mint is replacing its Integrated Retail Information System, the system it currently uses to manage its numismatic products and services, with the Order Management System II (OMS II). OMS II is a next generation online retail sales and fulfillment system that will allow the United States Mint to continue to conduct its numismatic program in a productive, reliable and secure manner, while at the same time providing the online consumer an experience comparable to electronic commerce (eCommerce) retail industry standards. OMS II will use Tier 2 and 3 web measurement and customization technologies to maximize the marketing capabilities of the OMS II environment and to improve the functionality and shopping experience the United States Mint offers its customers.

The nature of the information collected, tracking Tier, and technology used.

To maximize the marketing capabilities of the OMS II environment and to improve the functionality and shopping experience the United States Mint offers its customers in the online store, OMS II will employ both Tier 2 and Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies. There are four types of visitors to the United States Mint’s online store who will encounter OMS II’s web measurement and customization technologies: (1) Nonregistered Online Visitors; (2) Registered Online Shopping Account Customers; (3) Unregistered Online Single Transaction Customers; and (4) Online Visitors Who Subscribe to Email Communications from the United States Mint. For each type of visitor to the online store discussed below, the following information will be provided: (a) the nature of the information collected; (b) the web measurement and/or customization technology usage (Tier 2 or 3); and (c) the technology used to track the visitor’s information.

(1) Nonregistered Online Visitors (“Nonregistered Visitors”). These are individuals who visit the United States Mint’s online store, but do not register for an online shopping account, make any purchases or subscribe to receive emails (e.g., newsletters) from the United States Mint.

(a) The nature of the information collected. Certain information is automatically collected from all Nonregistered Visitors to the online store using cookies (files that are placed on a website visitor’s computer to track and collect information). If Nonregistered Visitors go to the online store (without first disabling first-party cookies) solely to read or download information—and do not, for example, send e-mail to the United States Mint or complete an online form or opt-in to certain data collections and uses (by purchasing online, creating an account or subscribing to a newsletter)—the United States Mint collects and stores only the following information:

• Networking: the domain used to access the Internet and connection speed;

• When/Where: the date, time, and region from which the online store was accessed;

• Content: pages visited and files downloaded in the online store;

• Referrer: the Internet address of a website that may have referred or linked the visitor to the online store; and

• Device/Browser: the user’s browsing and purchasing behaviors while in the online store (but not on the rest of the United States Mint’s website or other sites to which the user
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navigates after leaving the online store), and other technical information about the
computer or device used to access the online store (e.g., operating system, screen
resolution and color, Flash/Java support, language).

When Nonregistered Visitors navigate to the United States Mint online store without first
disabling first-party cookies, they are assigned an auto-generated visitor identifier to track
their browsing and purchasing behavior while they remain in the online store (the tracking
ends if the Nonregistered Visitor leaves the online store and navigates to other parts of the
United States Mint site or to other sites). The United States Mint automatically collects the
geo-location data contained in the first six digits of the internet protocol (IP) address
(“truncated” [not the full] IP address) and device settings. IP addresses allow a website (e.g.,
the United States Mint’s online store) to recognize the device when the device owner visits
the site. Because the truncated IP address reveals only broad geo-location data (i.e., a
particular region), it is not PII. This information is collected whether or not an individual
who navigates to the online store is a Registered Customer (see below) or has logged into his
or her customer profile.

(b) The web measurement and/or customization technology usage Tier. Generally, Nonregistered
Visitors will only encounter Tier 2 tracking (no PII associated with their browsing and
purchasing behavior). They will not encounter Tier 3 tracking (association of their OMS II
stored PII with their browsing and purchasing behavior) unless they opt in to the use of these
technologies by becoming Registered Customers, Single Transaction Customers, or Email
Subscribers.

(c) The technology used to track the visitor’s information. A Tier 2 session cookie will be used
to track the Nonregistered Visitor’s information. This means that as soon as the
Nonregistered Visitor leaves the online store to navigate to another website (even other parts
of the United States Mint’s website), the tracking ends (and only begins again the next time
they visit the online store without first disabling first-party cookies).

(2) Registered Online Shopping Account Customers (“Registered Customers”). The United States
Mint provides customers the option of creating a registered account. These Registered
Customers are individuals who visit the United States Mint’s online store, register for an account
and make purchases online.

(a) The nature of the information collected. During registration, Registered Customers must
provide: name (first and last), physical address, phone number, email address, login name,
password, product and communication preferences, billing and delivery address (including
country, city, county, state and zip code), order history and credit card payment information.
In accordance with the online store’s Terms of Service, by providing this PII, the customer is
also warranting that he or she is 18 years of age or older. Registered Customers are also
required to select and answer one of many security questions available (the responses to
which contain PII).

(b) The web measurement and/or customization technology usage Tier. Registered Customers
only encounter tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies (not linked to their
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PII) during their visits to the online store that predate their registration. If customers wish to register to create an online shopping account, the United States Mint also requires that they explicitly agree (i.e., opt in) to the use of their full IP address (not merely the truncated [geo-location] version collected for online store Nonregistered Visitors) to track their browsing and purchasing behavior within the online store using a Tier 3 persistent cookie. This Tier 3 cookie is used to associate Registered Customers’ browsing and purchasing behavior with other information they provide to the online store. The full IP address is PII because it can conceivably be traced to an individual when combined with other information (e.g., information from the Internet service provider regarding the account holder from whom the IP address originated, plus additional information from the owner of the account).

(c) The technology used to track the visitor’s information. The Registered Customer’s browsing and purchasing behaviors are tracked using a persistent cookie that associates the customer’s PII (name, billing and shipping address, phone number, email address, payment, birth month (if provided), and credit card information, product and communication preferences and order history) with his or her browsing and purchasing behavior (e.g., pages in the online store visited, products viewed and purchased etc.).

For United States Mint customers who already have an existing online shopping account when the United States Mint launches OMS II, the United States Mint will invite each of these customers to confirm his or her registration. During the confirmation process, preexisting customers will be asked to agree to become a Registered Customer in OMS II by explicitly opting in to the use of persistent cookies to monitor their online store browsing and purchasing behavior and have it associated with their other account information. They will also be required to create a new password to maintain access to their account and account services. To do this, existing customers will need the answer to their security question that they provided when they first registered for an account on the online store.

(3) Unregistered Online Single Transaction Customers (“Single Transaction Customers”).

Customers do not need to create an online shopping account to make an online purchase.

(a) The nature of the information collected. To make an online purchase of any kind (Registered Customer or Single Transaction Customer), the United States Mint requires information such as the customers’ credit card data, telephone number, name, and e-mail and postal addresses for customers or the gift recipient. In accordance with the online store’s Terms of Service, by providing this PII, the customer is also warranting that he or she is 18 years of age or older.

(b) The web measurement and/or customization technology usage Tier. Single Transaction Customers only encounter Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies (not linked to their PII) during their visits to the online store that predate their making an online store purchase or subscribing to United States Mint email communications. When Single Transaction Customers make a purchase, they are opting-in to certain collections and uses of their browsing and personal information. Single Transaction Customers must explicitly agree (i.e., opt in) to have their full IP address (not the truncated version collected for Non-Registered Visitors) and their browsing and purchasing behavior tracked within the online store and associated with other information they provide to the online store.
(c) The technology used to track the visitor’s information. Single Transaction Customers’ browsing and purchasing behaviors are tracked using a persistent cookie that associates their PII (First name, last name, telephone number, email address, billing address, shipping address, credit card information, [including expiration date and security code] credit card data) with their browsing and purchasing behavior. A customer’s browsing and purchasing behavior will be associated with additional types of PII if the Single Transaction Customer also conducts other transactions in the online store (e.g., becomes an Email Subscriber).

(4) Online Visitors Who Subscribe to Email Communications from United States Mint (“Email Subscribers”). Online store visitors have the option of becoming Email Subscribers to receive e-mail communications (promotional/informational newsletters) from the United States Mint with general information about its products and services. Email Subscribers can (but need not) be customers who purchase products and services from the United States Mint. Therefore, these visitors can also be Single Transaction Customers or Registered Customers.

(a) The nature of the information collected. When an online store visitor becomes an Email Subscriber, the United States Mint collects information including the Email Subscriber’s name, e-mail address, birth month, and browsing and purchasing (if any) behavior. In accordance with the United States Mint online store’s Terms of Service, by providing this PII, the customer is also warranting that he or she is 18 years of age or older.

(b) The web measurement and/or customization technology usage Tier. Email Subscribers who are neither Registered Customers nor Single Transaction Customers at the time they subscribe to email communications from United States Mint only encounter Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies during their visits to the online store that predate their email communication subscription or online registration or purchase. Email Subscribers must explicitly agree (i.e., opt in) to allow their browsing and purchasing behavior to be tracked using a Tier 3 persistent cookie which is associated with other information they provide to the United States Mint online store.

(c) The technology used to track the visitor’s information. Email Subscribers’ browsing and purchasing behavior is tracked using a Tier 3 persistent cookie that associates their PII (name, e-mail address, and birth month) with their browsing and purchasing behavior. Email Subscribers’ browsing and purchasing behaviors will be associated with additional types of PII if the Email Subscriber also conducts other transactions in the online store (e.g., becomes a Registered Customer or Single Transaction Customer).

The purpose and use of the information collection.

31 U.S.C. sections 5111(a)(3) and 5136 authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare and distribute numismatic items and establishes the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund from which the United States Mint may draw funds for the purpose of bureau operations and programs, including the production, administration, distribution, marketing, purchase, sale, and management of coinage and numismatic items. Information collected by OMS II Tier 2 and Tier 3 web measurement and
customization technologies is used to support United States Mint operations and programs and will be used solely for the purposes of such operations and programs.

Information collected through the use of Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies will provide the United States Mint with insights necessary to enhance online customers’ browsing experiences and effectively focus marketing efforts to optimize customer engagement. Information collected through the use of Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies will improve online store navigation for customers who create a registered customer account by allowing them the opportunity to customize website settings based on interests and needs and saving them from having to provide duplicative information each time they make a purchase. In addition, it will enable the United States Mint to create market segmentation groups and perform marketing analytics that it will use to provide customers with personally-customized marketing recommendations.

Whether and to whom the information will be disclosed.

Information collected by OMS II web measurement and customization technologies will not be shared with external agencies or otherwise except with explicit permission from the individual customer and in accordance with the Privacy Act and the Freedom of Information Act.

The privacy safeguards applied to the information.

The United States Mint applied the principles of “privacy by design” to this system. This means that privacy has been addressed as a requirement throughout OMS II’s acquisition, design, and development lifecycle and will remain a priority during operations. Procurement agreements require that service providers and subcontractors must comply with Federal, Department of the Treasury, and United States Mint privacy and information security policies, regulations and directives. All contractors and subcontractors working in the development and maintenance of the system and program are required to sign non-disclosure agreements requiring that they use the information related to the program only for United States Mint purposes. Pursuant to M-10-22 and TD 81-08, the United States Mint will not, under any circumstances, use OMS II web measurement and customization technologies:

a. to track individual-level user activity on the Internet outside of the United States Mint online store (i.e., no tracking is even done on other parts of the United States Mint’s website);
b. to share the data obtained through such technologies, without the user’s explicit consent, with other departments or agencies except pursuant to the routine uses stated in the system of records notice (Treasury/ United States Mint - .009 – Order Management System (OMS), replacing United States Mint .009, “Retail Sales System”);
c. to cross-reference without the user’s explicit consent, any data gathered from web measurement and customization technologies against PII in a way that will make it possible to identify a particular individual with their online browsing and purchasing behavior;
d. to collect PII without the user’s explicit consent in any fashion.

In addition to the privacy by design requirements incorporated throughout the procurement and development process, United States Mint employee and contractor employee access to OMS II information will be restricted to the least amount required to accomplish their assigned duties. Further, all such employees are required to complete annual security and privacy awareness training and sign the
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IT System User Rules of Behavior. The Rules of Behavior outline the appropriate and mandatory behavior of all those using United States Mint’s IT systems or systems operated on behalf of the United States Mint.

Information maintained by OMS II will be safeguarded and retained in accordance with all Federal, Department of the Treasury, and United States Mint security and privacy regulations, directives, and guidelines. For additional information about the specific privacy safeguards applied to OMS II, review the OMS II privacy impact assessment: Treasury/United States Mint - .009 – Order Management System (OMS), replacing United States Mint .009, “Retail Sales System.”

The data retention policy for the information.

Electronic information in OMS II is being evaluated to establish the proper maintenance and disposition of records contained in the system. Information will be maintained in a secure environment to ensure that no records are destroyed until a retention schedule is officially approved by the Archivist of the United States.

Whether the technology is enabled by default or not and why.

OMS II Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies are enabled by default and gather aggregate and anonymous data for analytical and marketing purposes. Pursuant to M-10-22, only Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies require opt-in functionality.

OMS II Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies are not enabled by default; they are only enabled after a Nonregistered Visitor explicitly opts in to become a Registered Customer, Single Transaction Customer, and/or Email Subscribers. Nonregistered Visitors are notified at the time they create a registered customer account, make a purchase, or subscribe to receive United States Mint marketing information via email that they are opting-in to the use of Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies. The notification includes notices that their browsing and purchasing behavior will be tracked and that information collected will be associated with their customer profile and the email address provided.

How to opt-out of the web measurement and/or customization technology.

While OMS II Tier 2 web measurement and customization technologies are enabled by default, all visitors to the United States Mint’s online store (whether they previously opted in or not) may disable first-party browser cookies to prevent their browsing and purchasing behavior from being associated with any particular customer, IP address, or other PII during their visit to the online store. Registered Customer, Single Transaction Customer, and/or Email Subscribers, however, must enable first-party browser cookies before making a purchase in the online store (after which, they are free to, once again, disable first-party cookies until they wish to make another purchase).

In addition to disabling browser cookies before visiting the online store, visitors may opt-out of OMS II uses of Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies by not creating a registered customer account, canceling an existing account, subscribing to newsletters and notification services, and/or refraining from using the online store to purchase United States Mint numismatic products.
Statement that opting-out still permits customers to access comparable information or services.

Declining to opt-in to OMS II Tier 3 web measurement and customization technologies will not prevent a customer from accessing information on the United States Mint’s online store. Declining to opt-in, however, will prevent customers from using the online store to place orders for United States Mint numismatic products. As an alternative to the bureau’s online store, customers who choose not to opt-in may place orders for United States Mint numismatic products by using the United States Mint’s toll-free customer service line (800-872-6468 or TTY 888-321-6468), placing a mail order (United States Mint, PO Box 71191, Philadelphia, PA 19176-6191), or visiting a United States Mint point of sale (i.e., in person) location.

The identities of all third-party vendors involved in the measurement and customization process.

OMS II is a turn-key system developed, provided, and maintained by PFSweb, Inc. Procurement agreements require PFSweb, Inc. and subcontractors to comply with Federal, Department of the Treasury, and United States Mint privacy and information security policies, regulations and directives. While PFSweb, Inc. is responsible for the development and maintenance of the OMS II environment, other third-party vendor applications support OMS II web measurement and customization processes. Those third-party vendors are as follows: AgilOne, Demandware, IBM Digital Analytics, and Google Analytics. For detailed information about how each of these third-party vendors supports OMS II web measurement and customization processes, please review the OMS II privacy impact assessment entitled: eCommerce End-to-End Solution: Order Management System II (OMS II), available at http://www.treasury.gov/open/Pages/open-notices.aspx.