



CHANGES TO OSF PROJECTS: OVERVIEW AND Q&A WEBINAR

CHANGES TO OSF PROJECTS

Q&A

Question	Is the funding strain on OSF primarily from the loss of federal funding, increased web activity due to generative AI scraping of OSF content, or both?
Answer	It's a combination of factors, rather than federal funding or AI-related activity alone. COS has historically relied heavily on both federal and private philanthropic grants, and securing funding from both sources has become more challenging. Increased downloading and activity related to generative AI adds costs, but the larger expense is maintaining OSF's broad and complex infrastructure—including cloud services, security, integrations, software development, and accumulated technical debt. Together, these revenue and expense pressures made OSF's current scope difficult to sustain over the long term. You can read more in these blog posts: https://www.cos.io/blog/osf-changes-a-note-to-users and https://www.cos.io/blog/osfs-next-chapter-building-for-impact-and-long-term-resilience .

Question	As a result of project discontinuation, will more protocol registration types allow for file attachments? For context, many of my teams write up a complete protocol before registering it to OSF. The full protocol used to be linked to the registration via projects, but, now that those are going away, will OSF allow for researchers to attach the full protocols directly to the registration?
Answer	OSF supports protocol registration through the registration workflow with several templates available to meet your specific needs. Many support uploading a file in the template to allow you to include the protocol file. For more about registration templates available on OSF see https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Select-a-Registration-Template-1g4YO

Question	How do the changes affect embargoed preregistrations? Will it still be possible to share anonymized view-only links if they have not been created before February 2027?
Answer	Registrations (including embargoed registrations) are not affected by the OSF transition; view only links on embargoed registrations are not affected by the transition.

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Question	How about creating components to create view-only links for anonymized peer-review alongside preregistrations? Will I still be able to create components and view-only links to materials I like to share with a preregistration?
Answer	You will no longer be able to create new components or projects after November 16; view only links are able to be created/deleted by project admins after February 2027 https://help.osf.io/article/711-read-only-project-access . Additionally, you can still create view only links for your embargoed registrations as you do now. And this is also true for a registered component. See this help guide for how: https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Create-a-View-Only-Link-VOL--p0Wv4

Question	I sometimes worry about storing research protocols, specifically regarding the word count that might be flagged by Turnitin as self-plagiarism. What would you recommend?
Answer	Turnitin could theoretically scrape registered protocols and flag them as self-plagiarism if the journal uses that service. To protect yourself, always cite your protocol or registration and explain in the text that the work was registered and provide a link to it. Journal staff that are providing a good faith service will be able to quickly see what you've done and should not penalize the practice.

Question	For those of us who have shared public projects already, should we move future projects to Zenodo or Figshare? I was wondering if there were any major differences between the two.
Answer	We recommend keeping your projects on OSF if they are "done" and you don't need to keep making changes to them. We will keep those accessible. For future projects, you should definitely evaluate alternatives. We summarize features and link to more resources of other generalist repositories like figshare and Zenodo in this guide: https://help.osf.io/article/735-choosing-a-repository .

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Question	I have several studies with you. Will you maintain the same services for my studies as I have now?
Answer	Yes, if you leave your content on the OSF we will continue to remain accessible at the current location (URL) https://help.osf.io/article/743-store-content-on-the-osf

Question	For those of us who currently have projects on OSF, are we able to add more materials to existing projects until February 2027?
Answer	You are able to continue to add materials to projects until Feb 18, 2027 after which they will become read-only, you will only not be able to create new components in a project or create new projects after November 16, 2026. https://help.osf.io/article/711-read-only-project-access

Question	As part of this integrated resource network, will we still be able to edit metadata sections of existing resources (e.g., the Wiki sections of existing repos), so that we can continue linking to external resources instead of adding within OSF?
Answer	The projects can be modified until February 18, 2027. After this, the metadata, wiki, files, etc. will not be editable and enter a read-only state.

Question	I have 3 systematic reviews with you. What does that imply for me with these changes?
Answer	If those systematic reviews were published on OSF using the registration workflow and/or the Systematic Review Template, they will not be impacted by the changes. If the reviews were uploaded as a file in a project, we recommend registering them using the Systematic Review Registration Template. https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Select-a-Registration-Template-1g4YQ

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Question	This feels pretty challenging for projects that have been preregistered but have not yet come to fruition. How can we link from the existing project data OUT to other resources?
Answer	For projects with a preregistration, you have the ability to add research outputs to your registration using https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Add-Resources-to-your-Registration-wypiz , where you can get DOIs for publications or add DOIs from data added to another repository like Zenodo. We recommend sharing outputs at a repository (guidance on selecting one here https://help.osf.io/article/735-choosing-a-repository) and then link the provided DOIs to your preregistration as described here: https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Add-Resources-to-your-Registration-wypiz . Before the project becomes read-only in Feb 2027, you can add additional links to the wiki or project description to make them available for visitors to the project to know where they can find additional resources.

Question	Would it be fair to characterize the changes as a move from an all-in-one solution, to an actual framework that interconnects other more specialized tools? If that is the case, are you planning to keep OSF completely free for end-users - in line with the spirit of "Open Science"? Are you planning to build up synergies with other open knowledge platforms (e.g., hypothes.is, Connected Papers, reproducible science platforms, etc.)?
Answer	Yes, integration with complementary tools is a priority. More ways to connect to data repositories, code, papers, etc with registered study plans on OSF is aligned with the OSF future direction. OSF has examples of this now with the 13 integrations with storage providers, repositories, and citation managers. See more about the OSF vision and future direction here: https://www.cos.io/product-roadmap OSF will remain completely free for researchers to use.

Question	Does that mean coding registration will stop by next November?
Answer	Registration workflows will remain available. Only the OSF Projects workflow will be changing in November.

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Question	Protocol registration will remain open?
Answer	Registering protocols using the OSF Registration workflow will continue as it is now. However, registering using an existing project will be disabled on Feb 19, 2027.

Question	I understand there are alternative sites and repos to store data etc. but I have projects on OSF who have been cited in publications, so I will have to create a new project on an alternative site or a new project with preregistration on OSF when I update the material for this project. What do you recommend? Is there a way you can link the existing project (that will become read-only) and relative DOI to a new location?
Answer	We understand this will be a common use case. If you've already published or cited a public OSF project, the transition to read-only does not impact that citation and access. All of those links will continue to work as they do now. If you're moving content elsewhere and need a redirect, there is an easy process for letting us know so we can properly manage it and ensure there isn't any confusion about access and citation. Help guide on redirecting project URLs and DOIs: https://help.osf.io/article/750-redirect-my-doi-or-url

Question	The project will be updated so I will have to move it or create a new one somewhere else. So whoever tries to access the read-only project on OSF will not see the latest version. What I am asking is what you recommend to do in this case? Can you link the existing URL and DOI to a new location?
Answer	Yes, we can support a redirect to the new location. This guide has more information: https://help.osf.io/article/750-redirect-my-doi-or-url

Question	We've experienced a lot of 'errors' while viewing/accessing our existing projects. Do you expect the environment to get more stable as this process progresses?
Answer	Please send any examples of errors to support@osf.io . Ensuring OSF remains reliable and performant to support open science practice adoption is a critical priority for COS and will be further enabled by reducing the scope of OSF.

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Question	Will we be able to have a DOI for a protocol registration? For scoping reviews and systematic review protocols?
Answer	If those systematic reviews and protocols were published on OSF using the registration workflow and/or the Systematic Review Template, they will not be impacted by the changes. If the reviews were uploaded as a file in a project, we recommend registering them using the Systematic Review Registration Template. https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Select-a-Registration-Template-1g4YO All registrations on OSF receive DOIs when they are made public.

Question	Post-transition, will it be possible to insert a re-direct link or is it truly immutable at that point?
Answer	If you leave your content on the OSF the current URL/DOI will continue to function, if you need to move content then there is the ability to request a redirect link https://help.osf.io/article/750-redirect-my-doi-or-url

Question	After the transition, will we have to pay to register our project on OSF?
Answer	No, we intend to continue to offer OSF as a free service for researchers as a public good infrastructure. We do offer institutional services for a fee that help a research institution support their community with implementing open scholarship practices, and support the sustainability of shared public infrastructure.

Question	Can people still download the data if it's a completed project?
Answer	Yes, in the read-only state, files are still downloadable from the project https://help.osf.io/article/711-read-only-project-access

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Question	Do protocol registrations allow for amending attached files? Typically my researchers would make amendments to their full, attached protocol via projects (e.g., they would upload it as version 2); will they be able to do so via OSF registrations?
Answer	We have not allowed for updating files in registrations, however that is a frequent feature request and we are potentially implementing that in the future.

Question	If we choose to go the DOI redirect route for some items, will materials in OSF be removed after the DOI redirect is complete? Or will materials remain read-only in OSF?
Answer	We will replace the landing page with one that features the new location, and the DOI metadata will note an “obsoletedby” relationship pointing to the new DOI.

Question	For preregistration and preprint, any differences between members and non-members following these recent changes?
Answer	No, all users are affected in the same way by these changes.

Question	We use view-only links to share a private dataset on request which cannot be shared publicly. What replacement of this workflow would you suggest?
Answer	Zenodo has similar functionality, however metadata is typically public on that platform. https://help.zenodo.org/docs/share/link-sharing/

Question	There was a question in the chat that might get lost regarding OSF meeting sites.
Answer	OSF meetings were discontinued in June 2025, however all content in meetings is public and will remain accessible on the OSF.

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Question	Will it still be possible to keep track of which registrations are all connected to each other (e.g., because they all use data from the same study), given that you can no longer link registrations to projects?
Answer	We recommend using the resources feature on the registration to connect the data to each one: https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Add-Resources-to-your-Registration-wvypiz . This will also ensure that the metadata records represent the relationship.

Question	Canadian specific question: What kind of free collaborative file-sharing environments can you recommend to those of us who are working cross-institutionally and need to (privately) share our work and planning on something hosted on Canadian servers?
Answer	Aside from Google Docs or OneDrive, we do not have resources available for regional recommendations because of the large number of regions and the wide range of use cases. I recommend engaging your institutional librarians and support staff. That being said, here is a Canadian platform (based on Dataverse) that might be useful: https://borealisdata.ca/. In Canada specifically, you can use Borealis for non-active data sharing if you are affiliated with a partnered institution https://borealisdata.ca/#partners

Question	We used to register protocols through projects, now will we have to change for registries?
Answer	Sharing a protocol in an OSF project will not be available after Feb 2027. We recommend using the registration workflow to register the protocol in the OSF Registry to receive a time-stamped record and DOI for your protocol. See more on the registration workflow in OSF Registry here: https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations

Question	How will registrations being embargoed currently be affected?
Answer	Embargoed and public registrations will not be affected by this change.

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Question	Is it correct to say that the entire infrastructure of OSF will be the same with the exception of functioning as a data repository?
Answer	Sort of. OSF Projects were used for many different use cases; some research and desired, some not research and not so desired. All of those use cases that relied on OSF Projects specifically will no longer be supported. What remains is dedicated workflows for study planning and sharing preprints, as well as enabling connections to other artifacts of a research activity to those plans and outcomes.

Question	Are there recommendations where to share open material? For open code Github seems to be the best place. But does anybody have experience with sharing study procedures, questionnaires, etc.?
Answer	We have guidance about sharing many types of content https://help.osf.io/article/748-what-do-i-do-with-my-research-content and https://help.osf.io/article/755-what-do-i-do-with-my-non-research-content

Question	Any limitations on preregistrations associated with a free account (non-member account)?
Answer	Preregistration workflows remain, and will be increasingly improved as a result of reducing the additional scope of OSF.

Question	I am an undergraduate student. If I would like to start using OSF for a research project, is there a way to start a project in the new Lifecycle Open Science or do I have to still use the old setup? Thanks.
Answer	We recommend exploring the study planning workflows on OSF, and beginning to use these for your research initiatives. https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#OVERVIEW-OtDQ_

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Question	One of the unique features of OSF that has not been described as being affected but will no longer be functional is its use as a collaborative space for active research that happens across institutions. What recommendations do you have for this case apart from just Google/One Drive?
Answer	We link to a number of project management tools in this guide: https://help.osf.io/article/757-project-management

Question	I normally use an open-ended preregistration template and attach a Word doc or PDF where I write down everything I want to preregister. Since we cannot drop and store any files in OSF, I assume I won't be able to do that. Am I right that we will not be able to directly attach any documents and files to preregistrations?
Answer	Uploading a file as part of a registration will still be enabled, but limited to 5GB total (which is the same as it is now).

Question	The total upload and storage limit for files attached to an OSF is 5GB. Is this still going after these changes?
Answer	Data limits will remain the same for OSF registrations moving forward.

Question	Will project components still be available i.e., in the study planning workflows or the new project workflow?
Answer	New projects and components will not be able to be created after November 16, and projects/components will be read-only after February 19, 2027 https://help.osf.io/article/711-read-only-project-access

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Question	Are there any changes to the benefits for members following these updates?
Answer	The OSFI services remain unchanged (SSO, insights dashboard, metrics reports, etc). We will be in touch soon about some additional pilot programs for members.

Question	Will it be possible to add files to a preregistration in the future (for example; I want to update files later e.g., more detailed information of materials or add data files etc.) - at the moment I have to use components in the respective project for this kind of added information (materials, data etc.). Will there be alternatives alongside preregistrations?
Answer	Currently, you will want to use the resources feature to link to those updated files: https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Add-Resources-to-your-Registration-wvpiz. We are currently investigating improvements that will enable logged updating of the attached files on a registration. Going forward, you can upload those files to Zenodo and connect them to your OSF registration by adding the DOI created on Zenodo in the resources tab of the registration. https://help.osf.io/article/330-welcome-to-registrations#Add-Resources-to-your-Registration-wvpiz

Question	If I have created my preregistrations in the past within projects -> do I need to do something moving the preregistrations out of a project before deleting the projects?
Answer	If your preregistration is a file within a project, write us at support@osf.io . We may be able to help you with converting these to a registration.

Question	Can I use an add-on feature for preregistration in the future?
Answer	No new add-on connections will be possible on projects after February. Add-ons are not currently enabled on registrations, but enabling integrations on registrations is on the OSF roadmap.

CONTACT US FOR INQUIRIES

Email

support@osf.io

Website

www.osf.io



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