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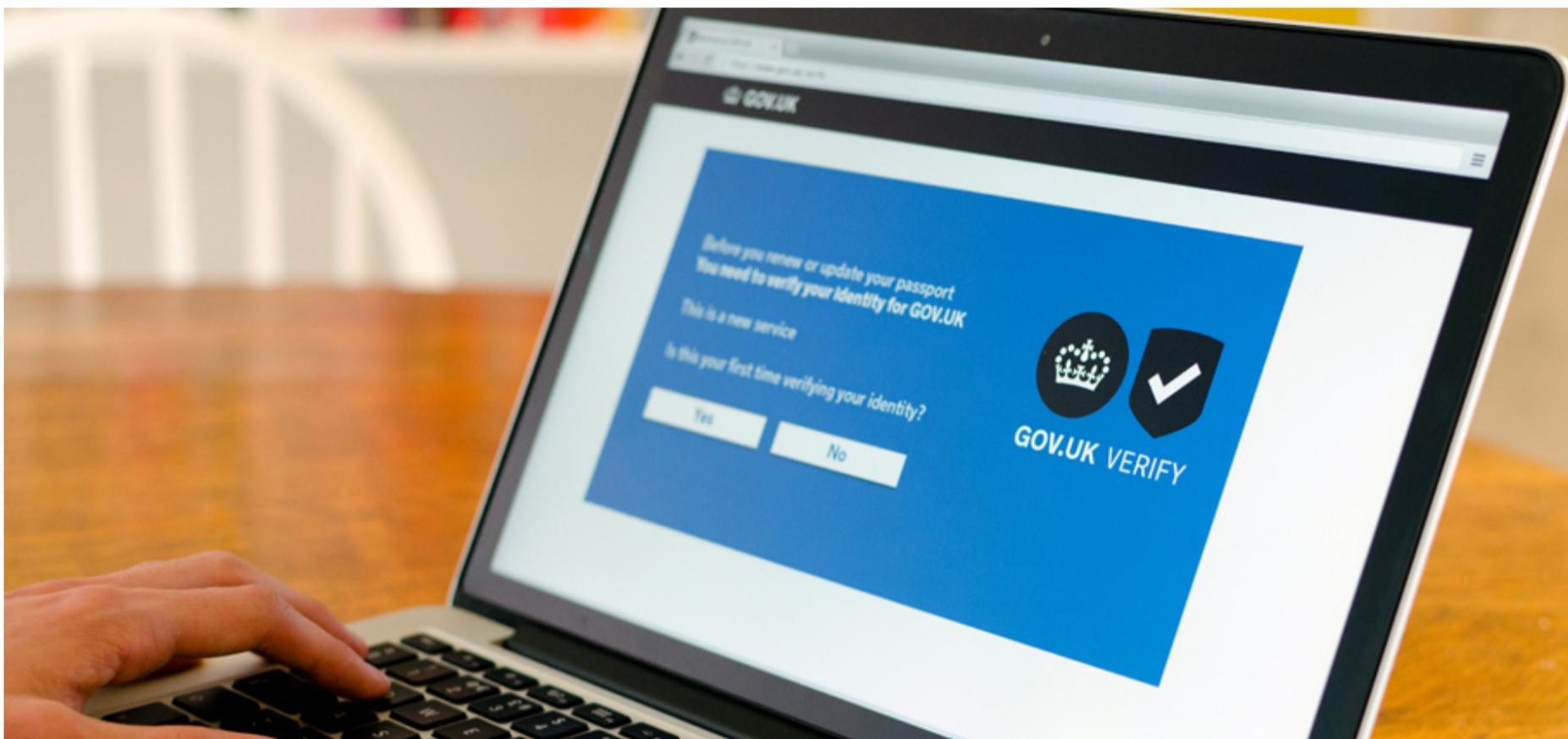
Guidance

Introducing GOV.UK Verify

Published 17 June 2015

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GOV.UK Verify

The new way to prove who you are online,
so you can use government services safely.



GOV.UK VERIFY

GOV.UK Verify is the new way to prove who you are online so you can use government services safely, like viewing your driving licence or assessing your tax.

GOV.UK Verify is being built by Government Digital Service (GDS), working with government departments, private sector and privacy consumer groups.

1. Introduction

When you're using digital services, you need to be sure that your privacy is being protected and your data is secure. Government departments providing services online need to know it's you (not someone pretending to be you), and to ensure your information is safe.

GOV.UK Verify is more secure than usual methods of proving who you are, because there's no central storage of information.

2. How GOV.UK Verify works

GOV.UK Verify uses certified companies to check it's you.

Verifying your identity takes around 15 minutes, online. After that it takes less than a minute to verify your identity each time you need to use a GOV.UK service.

The certified company you choose performs some checks before verifying your identity to GOV.UK, such as questions only you know the answer to. You're also asked to enter a code you receive on your mobile phone.

Your identity is verified by a certified company each time you want to use a service. You choose the certified company (you can choose as many as you like, and you can change at any time). You don't have an account with government.

This strictly limits the information any certified company or government has about you: no-one has more information than the minimum to perform their function, and there is no central storage of information.

Watch a longer video (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://identityassurance.blog.gov.uk/2015/06/16/how-gov-uk-verify-works-a-film/>) that explains more.

3. Status

GOV.UK Verify is being tested in public beta (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/help/beta>) with users and these departments and services:

- Renew your tax credits online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/renewtaxcredits>), with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- Claim a tax refund (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/claim-tax-refund/too-much-tax-taken-from-your-pay>) (HMRC)
- Claim for redundancy and monies owed (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/claim-redundancy>), with the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)
- Log in and file your Self Assessment tax return (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/log-in-file-self-assessment-tax-return>) (HMRC)
- Claim rural payments (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/rural-payments>), with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
- Help friends or family with their tax (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/help-friends-family-tax>) (HMRC)
- Check or update your company car tax (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://www.gov.uk/update-company-car-details>) (HMRC)

User feedback will inform continuous improvements and further testing.

In 2015 more companies will join the programme for certification, and more services (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/https://identityassurance.blog.gov.uk/2015/05/14/the-next-6-months-services-that-plan-to-start-using-gov-uk-verify-2/>) and government departments will start to use GOV.UK Verify.

GOV.UK Verify will continue to engage with industry, public and private sectors through the Open Identity Exchange (OIX) (<https://web.archive.org/web/20150703094923/http://oixuk.org/>).

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