SI FOIA Pilot Overview

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SI FOIA PILOT OVERVIEW

The end-to-end redaction solution HHS is piloting uses secure, tailored Super Intelligence (SI) to improve the efficiency and accuracy of document review and release. The system will help HHS implement Radical Transparency by releasing records rapidly and proactively, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in programmatic costs over time.

The pilot system implements SI throughout the FOIA process. From search to delivery, it ingests a broad range of record formats, identifies duplicate records, assists with responsiveness review, and proposes redactions to protect privacy, commercial information or trade secrets, and for other reasons consistent with the statute. As voluminous records are requested daily through the FOIA process, manual tasks were bottlenecks and caused significant delays in HHS's FOIA review. The Department just launched the final step of the FOIA pipeline, an integration with agency record systems which allows FOIA staff to conduct record searches directly.

Leveraging this advanced technology allows the first level of review to be executed more efficiently and gives HHS analysts time to make nuanced judgement calls at the second level review phase, where our expertise has the greatest impact. The pilot technology considers context, provides reasoning for every decision, and references agency guidance and case-specific requirements. All SI suggestions are reviewed and approved by human analysts. So far to date, records submitted for HHS review have met the highest accuracy standard (<5% error rate).

CASE STUDIES AND STATISTICS



13,089 pages in 8 hours and 4 minutes

The pilot technology processed 13,089 pages across 1,102 documents in 8 hours and 4 minutes, applying a total of 148,813 redactions. In the pages manually reviewed, not a single name, personal address, or identifying number was left unredacted. We estimate that processing an equivalent volume through manual review would have required voluminous reviewer-days for a task completed in a single day by SI.

44,811 pages in under a day

In a separate test, the technology processed 13,456 documents (44,811 pages) in 19 hours and 16 minutes – a rate of more than 2,326 pages per hour, with maximum accuracy around the clock. We expect application of this technology to similar records will save the federal government months of processing time and the taxpayers money, while improving outcomes for requesters.

Weeks of work done in less than an hour

The pilot technology reviewed a 17,457 cell spreadsheet in 2 minutes and 29 seconds. In another case, the system reviewed 231,457 cells in a few days. It reviewed both cells that contained only one piece of data, as well as cells that contained 1,100+ word narratives.

