

## SPACE-TRACK.ORG DEMONSTRATION

https://www.space-track.org

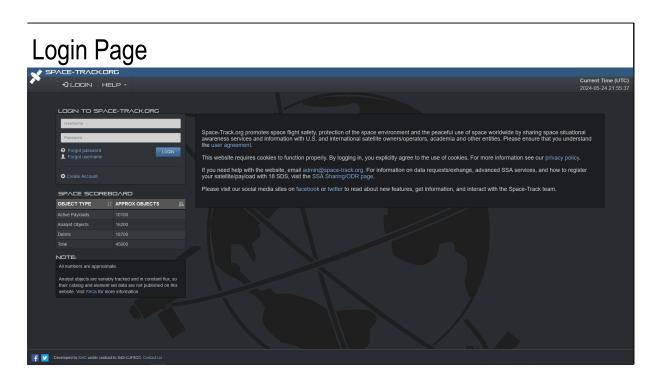
Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of our website, Space-Track.org. Space-Track.org is a Department of Defense website. This website is owned by the United States Space Command – also referred to as USSPACECOM. Daily management of the website is the responsibility of the organizations you see listed here, which include the U.S. Space Forces Space, Space Delta 2, the 18<sup>th</sup> Space Defense Squadron, and the 19<sup>th</sup> Space Defense Squadron. These organizations report to USSPACECOM. For the purposes of this brief, I'll refer to the organizations holistically as USSPACECOM.

## Overview

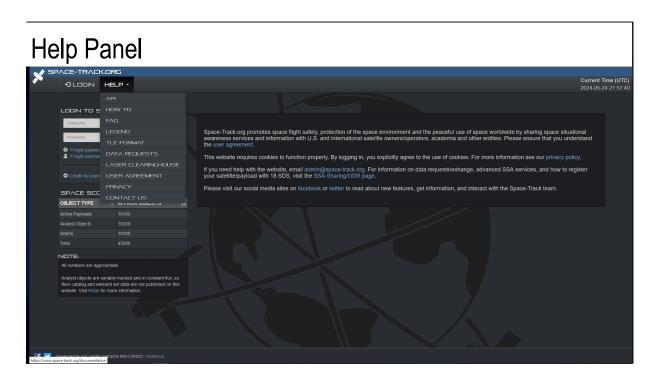
- · Login & Help
- Basic User Access
- Satellite Operator Access



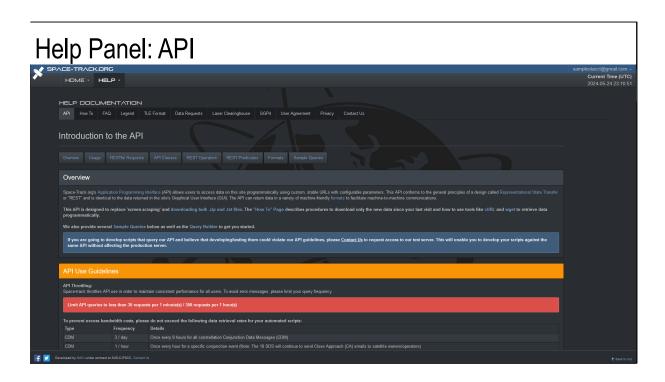
USSPACECOM is responsible for executing the DoD's space domain awareness mission. An important part of this mission is sharing space situational awareness data and services, or "SSA", which include launch support, on-orbit conjunction assessment and collision avoidance support, anomaly resolution support, electromagnetic interference investigation, end-oflife and disposal support, deorbit support and reentry assessment. USSPACECOM provides these spaceflight safety services to promote transparency in the space domain and support the safety of space flight for satellite operators around the world. Space-Track.org is the primary platform for SSA data sharing, and offers a variety of data services. Basic services are available to any registered Space-Track user. Today we have over 180,000 users from over 190 nations. The core products available to basic users includes the satellite catalog, element set data, reentry predictions and decay confirmations. The second level of service is emergency services, which are provided to the owners and operators of active spacecraft. This service includes conjunction data messages, or "CDMs", maneuver information, and, if they are also registered with spacetrack.org, USSPACECOM enables access to the owner/operator directory. For entities who have signed SSA Sharing Agreements with USSPACECOM, we also offer advanced services, which provide expanded information and services on accelerated timelines. Today's demo will focus on basic user access and satellite operator access. It's important to note that while we can provide a variety of SSA data and services, we cannot provide advice to owners/operators, or tell owner/operators what to do. So, we focus on providing high quality SSA data at no cost to empower owner/operators to make informed decisions.



Before we explain the information available through the website, we'll start with the login page where you can access some information without creating a user account. Specifically, you see the Space Scoreboard, which provides daily updates on the number of objects tracked by USSPACECOM.



Under the Help Panel, we have numerous resources to help you interact with Space-Track. We'll focus on three of the main pages – API, How To, and Data Requests – but we highly encourage you to explore the others.

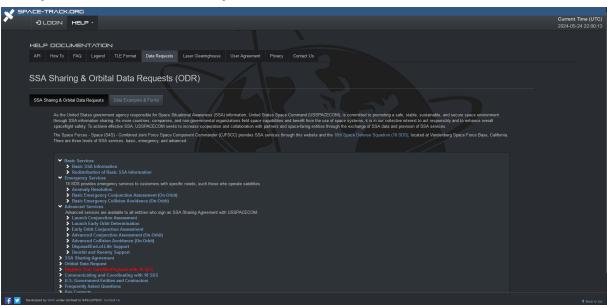


Space-Track has a robust Application Programming Interface, or API, that allows users to provide and retrieve data in an automated, machine-to-machine fashion. While the website features many convenient graphical user interfaces, the strength of the platform is its API. As you can see, this page offers a wealth of guidance on how to leverage the API, and stay within API guidelines to optimize performance of the website. Space-Track averages over a quarter million API queries per day.

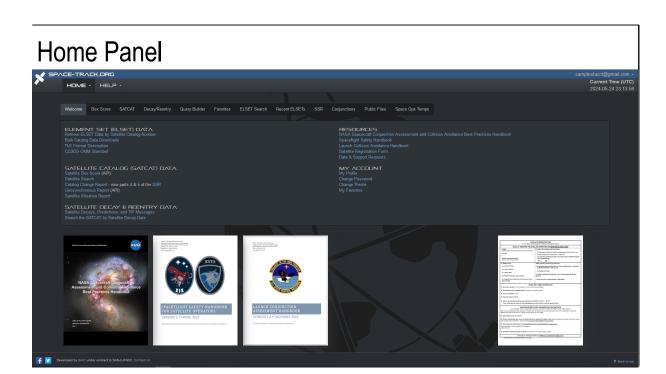


On the 'How To' page you'll find procedures to download only the new data since your last visit and how to use various tools like to retrieve data programmatically. Space-Track also has a testing site where users can test their scripts without impacting the live site.

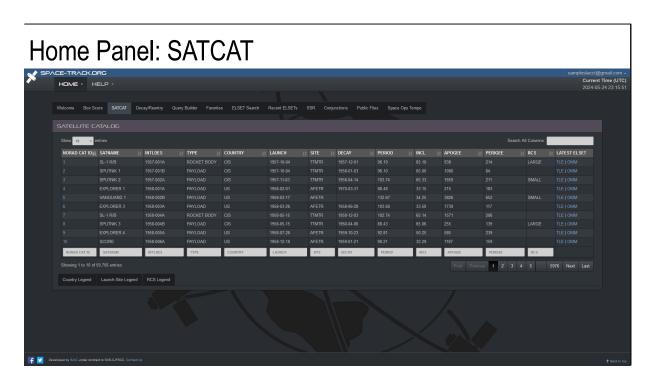
## Help Panel: Data Requests



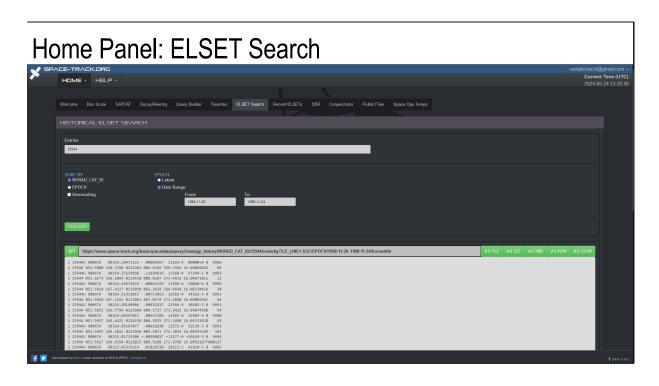
The Data Requests page provides detailed information on our SSA Sharing services, including forms to request data, submit information or register your satellite, as well as examples and explanations of data formats. This is an excellent resource to come back to after we complete today's demonstration. Now we will transition to basic user access.



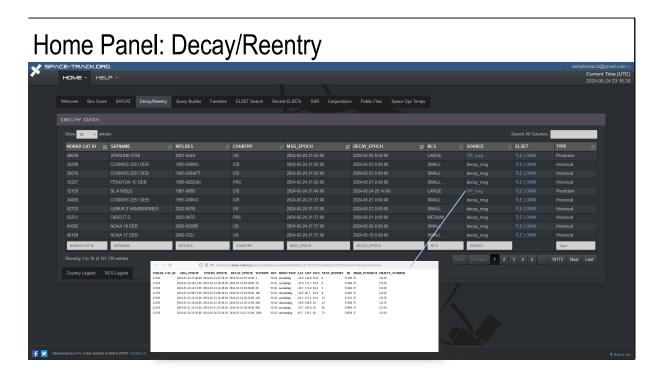
Once you create an account, you'll have access to everything you see here on Space-Track's homepage as a Basic User. The three main components of Basic User access are the Satellite Catalog, Element Set Data, and Satellite Decay and Reentry Data. You'll also find several resources here, such as NASA's Best Practices Handbook, USSPACECOM's handbooks for satellite operators and launch conjunction assessment, and the satellite registration form. The handbooks provide valuable information on conjunction assessment operations and data formats. The satellite registration form is submitted by owner/operators to USSPACECOM and includes all of the information we need in order to provide conjunction assessment services. I'll note that registration of a satellite with space-track.org is different from space object registration with the United Nations pursuant to the Registration Convention, which is handled by the Department of State.



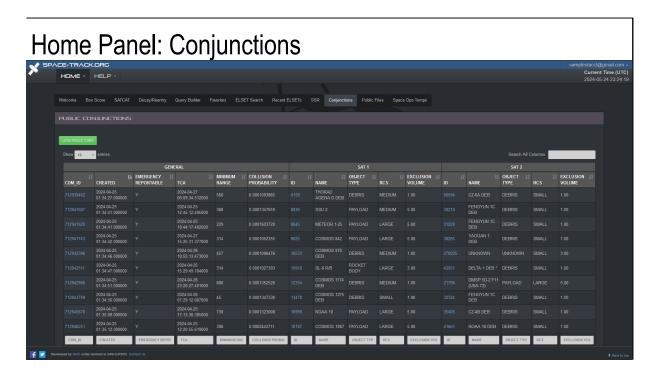
The satellite catalog, or "SATCAT," is a list of space objects of known origin that have been reliably tracked by USSPACECOM. Each entry in the catalog includes the satellite number, common name, international designator, object type, country, launch date, launch site and associated orbital parameters and general size. USSPACECOM updates the SATCAT daily with new objects, recent decays and current orbital parameters. The table also features quick links to the latest element set for each object in the two-line element set format or the Orbit Mean Message format. As you can see, there are currently over 59,000 entries in the catalog. The graphical user interface, or "GUI," allows you to sort by any of the data values using the boxes in each column. More advanced queries can be done through the API or the Query Builder, to determine statistics such as the number of payloads on orbit on a given date in time, or what objects are within a specific orbital regime. Information from the SATCAT is used to build the Box Score, which lists objects by type and on-orbit status for each nation, and the Satellite Situation Report, or SSR, which provides quick links to recently launched and decayed objects.



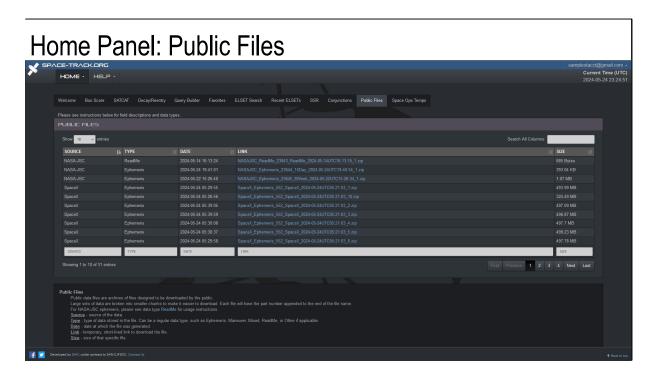
Space-Track hosts a historical database of element sets, referred to as elsets, going back to 1957. The database includes over 200 million elsets, and receives an average of 50,000 new elsets each day. Elsets are updated at least once per day. Just like the SATCAT, elset data can be retrieved through convenient GUIs like this one, or through the API. The API allows you to query the data in multiple formats, including XML, HTML, CSV, KVN or JSON. You can also retrieve elset data through the Recent Elsets page, which provides quick links to specific constellations and orbital regimes, and well-tracked objects of unknown origin. Users are allowed to redistribute elset data through their own platforms, services, or publications, we just ask that Space-Track is cited as the source. If you use a website that relies on element set data, chances are very good that much of it came from Space-Track.org.



The Decay/Reentry page features predictions for uncontrolled reentering objects and orbital decay confirmations. If an object is larger than 1 meter squared, USSPACECOM will process it for reentry assessment and generate Tracking and Impact Prediction – or TIP – messages when it is within 4 days of predicted reentry. The TIP messages, which you can see in the white box, provide the predicated latitude and longitude of atmospheric reentry, with predicted decay epoch. Once the reentry is confirmed, USSPACECOM will issue a decay message. For objects smaller than 1 meter squared, only the decay confirmation is issued. Both of these messages are updated near real-time on Space-Track and maintained in the database. Today, Space-Track hosts over 14,000 TIP messages, and over 100,000 total entries, for past and predicted reentries.

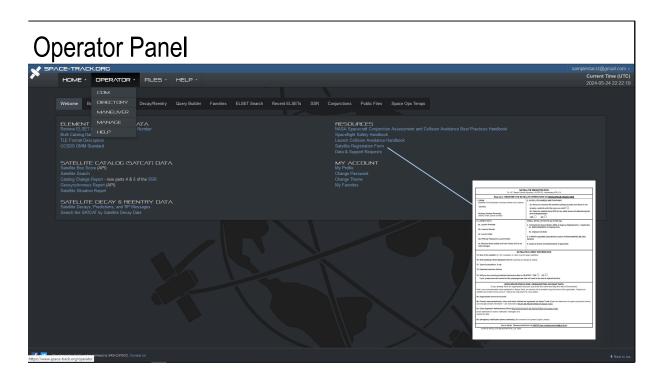


USSPACECOM screens all resident space objects against all other resident space objects for possible conjunctions, regardless of the operational status of the spacecraft. On this page, you can view the basic conjunction details for debris against debris events. Debris includes dead payloads, R/Bs and debris. This page is updated several times per day.

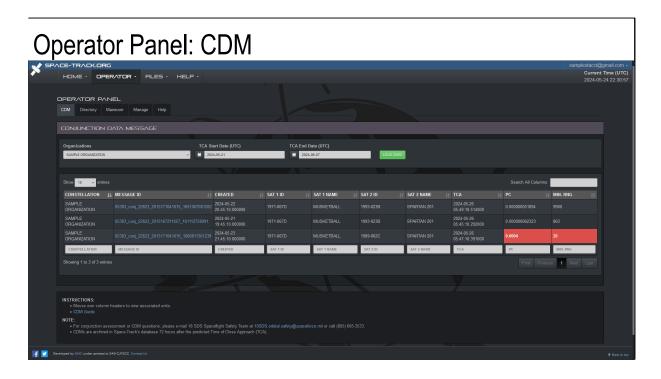


The vast majority of the data on Space-Track.org is sourced from the U.S. Space Surveillance Network. However, we recently created the capability for users to share their data with all other Space-Track users to increase transparency and support spaceflight safety efforts. For example, SpaceX shares all of their predictive ephemeris for their Starlink constellation, and NASA shares data for the International Space Station. We have several other interested satellite operators, so this list will likely grow in the coming year.

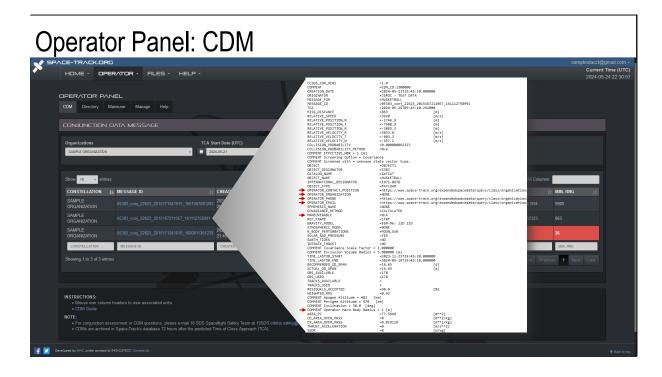
Everything we've covered up to this point is available to all registered users on Space-Track. Now we'll shift to what is available on Space-Track for satellite owners and operators.



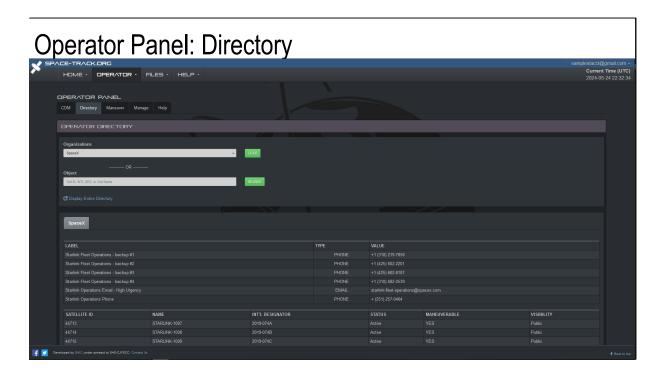
The Operator Panel is exclusively for spacecraft owners and operators who have registered with USSPACECOM. Registration begins with the Satellite Registration Form, which you see here. The form requests basic information about the organization and the spacecraft, launch date and vehicle, and the Space-Track accounts of the owner/operators. Once the satellite launches and is identified, we link the satellite and its information to the owner/operator's space-track.org account. This linkage ensures that only the owner/operators have access to conjunction data messages, or "CDMs" for the satellite. This process also provides access to maneuver information shared by other owner/operators and the Owner/Operator Directory, as well as the ability to manage and share information about specific spacecraft for inclusion in CDMs. We designed the Operator Panel to foster direct communication and coordination between satellite operators. Our intent was to decrease the dependence on USSPACECOM for timely coordination.



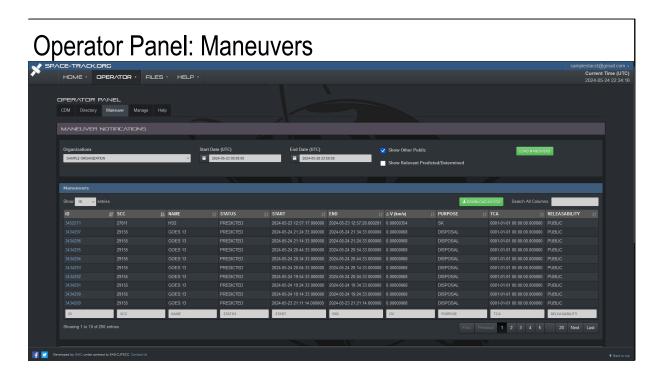
The CDM page allows the owner/operator to view CDMs for all the spacecraft linked to their accounts. An owner/operator may have access to multiple organizations. USSPACECOM performs multiple conjunction assessment screenings per day using our catalog and, if provided, also incorporating owner/operator provided ephemeris. We post an average of 650,000 CDMs per day to Space-Track, in support of 780 satellite organizations and over 10,000 active spacecraft. The table you see here displays the key data points of a CDM and highlights events that meet USSPACECOM's emergency reportable criteria.



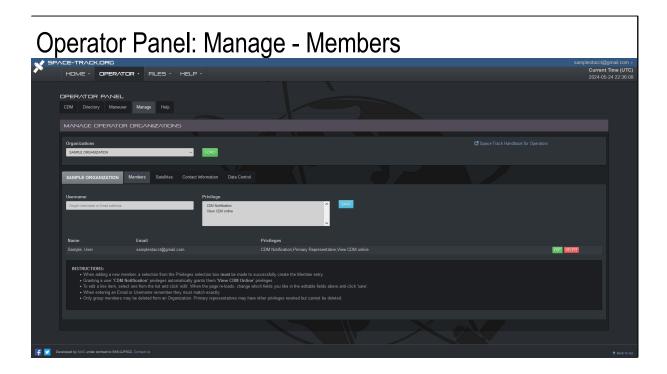
Clicking on the Message ID displays the entire CDM – note the fields with red arrows – all of these are populated by the satellite owner/operator, which we'll discuss on a following slide. CDMs are easily viewable through the GUI but the vast majority of operators access them through the API. Just like other data products on the site, CDMs are available in XML, HTML, CSV, KVN and JSON.



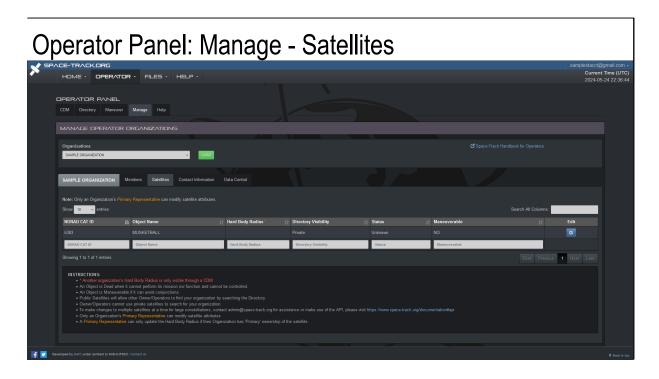
The Operator Directory includes both operator points of contact and spacecraft information. You can retrieve info based on the owner/operator's organization name or the specific satellite. Participation is voluntary and owner/operators can elect to share their info with all other owner/operators or just with USSPACECOM. However, we highly encourage all owner/operators to share their contact information with all other operators to allow for expedient and effective communication on maneuver planning and risk mitigation. The option to share with just USSPACECOM may negatively increase the coordination time required during an emergency, because we must perform an additional step of seeking permission from the other affected owner/operator to share their information.



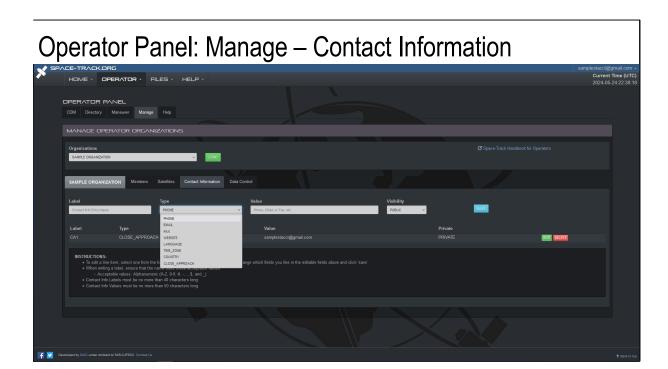
The Maneuver page allows owner/operators to share their planned maneuvers. Just like the contact information, this is purely voluntary and can be shared with only USSPACECOM or with all other owner/operators. Although these maneuvers are often included in the predictive ephemeris that operators submit, the maneuver page provides an easily readable summary of the maneuver plan in the Orbit Parameter Message format.



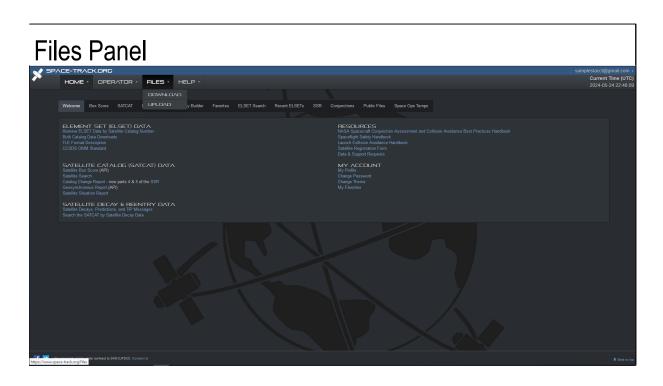
We designed this section of the website to allow owner/operators to easily manage access to their satellite information. One Primary Representative is designated for each organization, who can add and remove members from CDM access, and manage satellite and contact information. On this page, the Primary Representative can add and remove users from CDM access, and control whether they receive notifications for new CDMs or have view-only access.



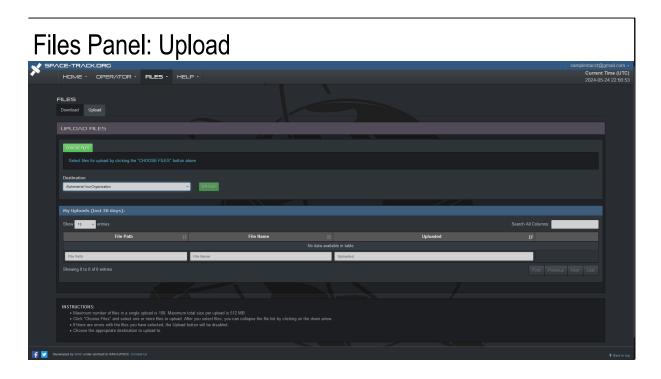
This page lists all of the satellites assigned to an owner/operator. Here, the Primary Representative can modify critical information for each satellite. For status, select unknown, active, or dead. For maneuverability, select yes or no. For Hard Body Radius, a numerical value should be inputted. All of this information can be designated as "Private" which means it is only shared with USSPACECOM. The other option is to designate the information as "Public," to share with all other owner/operators. If designated as "Public," the information will display in the CDM, as seen on the CDM page. We encourage all owner/operators to select "public," because this accelerates information exchange between satellite operators, enabling more educated and effective maneuver planning.



On the Contact Information page, the Primary Representative can share a variety of information on their organization, as seen in the drop-down menu. All of this information is displayed in the Operator Directory. Additionally, if the Primary Representative designates their information as "Public," it will be available in the CDM as a hyperlink to the Directory. In addition to CDMs, USSPACECOM will also send close approach notification emails to owner/operators if they input contact information under the 'CLOSE\_APPROACH' category. The close approach notification contains the key components of the CDM, such as miss distance, probability of collision, and time of closest approach, with a hyperlink to the full CDM on the website.



The Files Panel is where satellite operators may submit their maneuver information and ephemeris for conjunction assessment screening, and download additional data products.



During the satellite registration process, USSPACECOM will create an ephemeris folder and maneuver folder for the owner/operator. The owner/operator should upload their ephemeris to this folder, where it will be automatically transmitted to USSPACECOM for screening. After screening, the resultant CDMs will be posted to Space-Track on the Operator Panel's CDM page. Satellite operators may also upload maneuver information, which will be displayed on the Operator Panel's Maneuver page. For the most part, these folders are only accessible by the Organization and USSPACECOM, however on the next slide we'll see a few exceptions. While this GUI offers a convenient way to upload files, most satellite operators use the API to automate their uploads.



After uploading their files, the owner/operator may view their files in their folders on the Download page. Several satellite operators have elected to share their ephemeris directly with all other satellite operators, which is why you see folders for many other organizations. This is another way to increase transparency across the satellite operator community, and allow for direct communication and data exchange.

## Questions?

Contact us at: SPACEOffice@space-track.org

Thank you very much for your attention today – although this was a rather high-level overview of what Space-Track provides for satellite operators and all registered Space-Track users, we hope we leave you today with a better understanding of the immense amount of data we have to offer and its critical role in global spaceflight safety. We're happy to take questions.

- 1. How does an operator sign up for conjunction assessment services?
  - a. Two things are required. First, the owner/operators of the spacecraft should sign up for basic accounts on Space-Track.org. Next, they should submit a satellite registration form to USSPACECOM, ideally before the spacecraft is launched, but it can be submitted any time. If the form is completely filled out, it will provide all the information we need to set up the owners/operators for conjunction assessment services once the satellite launches.
- 2. What can a satellite operator do to improve the tracking of their object?
  - a. There three important things an owner/operator can do. First, design the spacecraft to be a size of 1U 10cm squared or larger. This is the minimum size that can be reliably tracked by the US Space Surveillance Network. Next, complete and submit the satellite registration form to USSPACECOM prior to launch. This helps us with initial characterization and identification of your object. Finally, we highly recommend that you submit predictive ephemeris to Space-Track for your spacecraft on a routine basis. In addition to using this data for conjunction assessment screenings, we also use it as reference data to update the spacecraft's orbit in our database, which improves the quality of the element sets and conjunction data messages we generate.