# MAST Accounts

Anyone can use the MAST tools to search for hosted data. However, certain services and data require a MAST account. This article describes the means to establish an account, and to obtain authorizations where needed.

**On this page...**

- Anonymous Use
  - Protected Data
- User Accounts
  - Who Needs a MAST User Account?
- Auth.MAST Tokens
- CasJobs Accounts
- For Further Reading...

## Anonymous Use

Anyone can use the MAST Portal to search for hosted data; anonymous users may preview and retrieve any publicly-available data. You do not need a user account to access most data in MAST, MAST documentation, or the Archive Help Knowledge Base. If you have a MyST account, using the Login feature in MAST web tools is optional.

## Protected Data

Be aware that recent data from active missions are often protected for an Exclusive Access Period (EAP). During the EAP the Principal Investigator team has the opportunity to analyze and prepare their data for publication, and only authorized and authenticated users may retrieve the data. After the expiration of the EAP (denoted by the Release Date in MAST interfaces), the data become accessible to everyone without restriction.

EAP data can be queried from the MAST Portal, from the Hubble search interface, or from a MAST Application Programming Interface (API). EAP data are indicated in MAST interfaces in different ways, including.

## User Accounts

User accounts enable MAST applications and services to authenticate individual users to the system. This is necessary only for some circumstances. Certain services also require prior authorization to use them, and authenticating via log-in is an essential step in that process.

User accounts for MAST are managed by STScI's Single Sign-On (SSO) system. SSO allows you to use your MyST credentials to log on to certain web-based services at the Institute, including the MAST Portal, the HST search interface, the STScI Grant Management System (ST GMS), and the Astronomer's Proposal Tool. Rather than have each service maintain separate user accounts, logging in through the SSO Portal means remembering only one username and password.

If you have ever been a named Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-Investigator (Co-I) on an HST or JWST proposal, or have ever received a research grant managed by STScI, you probably already have a MyST account. You can verify whether you already have a MyST account with the MyST lookup tool by entering your email address. You may create a new account from the MyST home page.

## Who Needs a MAST User Account?

User accounts are only needed for certain purposes, as described in the sub-sections below. Logging in to one of the MAST applications will authenticate your identity during the lifetime of your MAST session.

**Login:** Be sure to log in to the MAST application before attempting actions that require authentication. The appearance of the login menu differs depending upon the application. After login it is possible to access information about your MyST account.

**Log-out:** If for security reasons you must log out of a Portal session (e.g., if you are obliged to share your workstation), go to [https://auth.mast.stsci.edu/sessions](https://auth.mast.stsci.edu/sessions). That page will contain an entry for each active MAST session for which you are logged in. Click the Log Out button to terminate the session in question. Then visit the SSO portal to log out of the MyST system: [https://ssoportal.stsci.edu/idp/profile/Logout](https://ssoportal.stsci.edu/idp/profile/Logout).
Subscriptions to Data

Subscribing to data notifications for active missions requires a log-in. You may subscribe to be informed when data are first received in the Archive, are reprocessed for some reason, or have become public.

Currently, subscriptions for data notifications are only available through the MAST Portal.

Accessing EAP Data

Previewing and retrieving EAP protected data requires both authentication and authorization. EAP data can be accessed from the MAST Portal, from the Hubble search interface, or from a MAST Application Programming Interface (API).

Data Authorization

Principal Investigators (PIs) for approved observing programs with HST or JWST are automatically authorized to access data from their program(s).

Each PI must, for each active program, authorize access for Co-Investigators and other collaborators using the MyST interface. (This does not apply if the EAP for a program has expired.) To do this:

1. Go to MyST and click the Launch button in the Registered User panel to login
2. Click the Launch button in the Update panel to modify your user settings (shown in the figure at left)
3. Select the Manage Access to Exclusive Access Science Data menu, then click the relevant program to add users

You can also use the MyST interface to change your password, or to update other information in your user profile.

Accessing JWST Engineering Data

Currently access to JWST Engineering data is restricted to authorized individuals. Log in to the Engineering Database Interface, or use an Auth.MAST token with the Engineering Database API.

Using the MAST HelpDesk Portal

The MAST HelpDesk Portal provides links to certain MAST resources, and after logging in you can submit requests for assistance and track the responses to your questions.

Using the HelpDesk Portal is optional. You may instead simply send e-mail to archive@stsci.edu.

Auth.MAST Tokens

MAST also offers API token authorization for programmatic access to EAP data. Users with a MyST Account can find instructions on creating and using these tokens on the auth.MAST documentation page. With a valid token in place, authorized users will then be able to retrieve MAST EAP data through Astroquery or cURL scripts. See the video on Using Auth.MAST Tokens in the Demos and Tutorials chapter of the Portal Guide. The steps are simply:

1. Navigate to the Tokens page and click the Create Token button.
2. Record the long, alpha-numeric string in the environment variable $MAST_API_TOKEN, preferably in your .bashrc file.
CasJobs Accounts

MAST's environment for supporting complex queries against large catalogs, CasJobs, requires a separate account which is not managed by STScI's SSO system. You may register for a CasJobs account.

For Further Reading...

- Portal Guide
- MyST Portal
- Exclusive Access Data
- Program Subscriptions and Notifications
- Auth.MAST Documentation