



Memo regarding Amazon MTurk cessation of operations

For users of Amazon MTurk for research

Effective September 30, 2026, Amazon will cease the use of MTurk which may affect your research if the platform is being used for your data collection or participant recruitment.

If you are an MTurk user, your immediate action is required to retain access to your data and ensure payment to your participants.

<https://www.mturk.com/help> - For FAQs regarding the closure of mTurk

As an active Requester, you face immediate action items to successfully wind down your operations on Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk) before and after the **September 30, 2026** permanent closure date. Because this shutdown also includes SageMaker Ground Truth and Amazon Augmented AI, any AWS-linked human-in-the-loop pipelines will break if left unmanaged.

The official decommissioning timeline outlines the following specific requirements:

Before September 30, 2026: Wrap Up Active Work

- **Phase Out HIT Submissions:** You can continue publishing Human Intelligence Tasks (HITs) up until September 30. On that date, HIT creation will stop, and any unsubmitted or incomplete HITs remaining in the system will automatically expire.
- **Update Account Payment Info:** Verify your financial data in the MTurk Requester Portal. Amazon requires updated payment settings to successfully process and return your pre-paid requester balances.

October 1 – October 30, 2026: Post-Closure Approvals & Bonuses



- **Review and Approve Completed Tasks:** You are given a strict 30-day post-closure grace period to manually approve or reject any work completed right up until the shutdown.
- **Beware of Auto-Approval:** Any pending HITs left unaddressed by October 30, 2026 will automatically auto-approve and pay out to the workers.
- **Distribute Worker Bonuses:** If you intend to issue performance bonuses to workers for their final tasks, you must execute them through the platform before the October 30 deadline.

Late 2026 – January 2027: Refunds & Data Preservation

- **Reconcile Prepaid Balances:** Amazon has stated that full refunds for remaining prepaid balances will be credited back to your verified payment method within 30 days of the closure. Keep an eye on your standard AWS Billing cycles for final invoices.
- **Export Your Transaction History:** You retain account access to download your historical data and past transaction histories only until January 28, 2027. Ensure you download all CSV files for tax compliance and auditing before this date.

Migration Alternatives

Because Amazon is providing no native migration path or successor platform, you must independently move your data collection and evaluation pipelines elsewhere. The IRB is working with the Office of General Council (OGC) to provide acceptable alternative platforms based on the Terms & Conditions of use and any contractual requirements. This memo will be updated as platforms are identified. Any alternative platforms to be used may require additional institutional review or contracting.

If you will migrate your research activities to another platform, please review the following information:

- **If your research was designated as Exempt** – You may change your platform to one of the accepted alternatives provided by the IRB and OGC without submitting a Modification at this time. Additional alternatives may be acceptable on a case-by-case basis and may require vetting by Office of General Council and/or the University Contracts Office prior to use. Please ensure that any reference to MTurk in your consent language, recruitment, or other participant-facing materials is



changed to the name of your alternative platform(s). Upon the next required Modification submission to the IRB, submit the amended documents and updated protocol outlining the use of the alternative platform for approval.

- **If your research was designated to be Non-Exempt** – You must submit a Modification to the IRB detailing the use of the alternative platform(s) and making any necessary changes to references to MTurk in your approved documents (protocol, consent, recruitment, etc.). Approval of the alternative platform(s) must be obtained prior to using the new platform(s).