I have to take down my data release temporarily to correct an error found after the release. What do I do about the DOI?

ANSWER: Great question! A DOI is always supposed to resolve to the landing page of the data release; however, it’s very important to remove from distribution and correct any errors that are detected after the initial release, as you don’t want your data continuing to be available with a known error. What do you do?

This response assumes you’ve read the USGS guidance on revisions to data, and that your revision will not require the assignment of a new DOI for the new version, but will retain the originally assigned DOI.

This situation is more easily addressed if your data product release is distributed from a Trusted Digital Repository (TDR), as it probably has a dedicated landing page from which the data, metadata, and supplementary files are made available for viewing and download. If your data were released through a TDR that provides a landing page to your data release, the following steps apply:

1. You, your data manager, or your TDR contact should decide whether or not to remove public permissions to your original data and metadata files in the TDR.
2. A notice should be placed prominently on the landing page for your data release to inform users of the status of the data.
   a. If you decide to remove access to the data while they are being updated or corrected, explain why, and state that access will be restored soon (an estimated timeframe is helpful to offer, if you can do so).
   b. If you decide to keep the original data available while the revision is underway, provide a notice to the user that states that a corrected version of the data will be published imminently (an estimated timeframe is helpful to offer, if you can do so).
3. Your DOI will continue to resolve to the Location URL of your TDR landing page, with the proper communication to users outlined in (2) above.
4. You also will need to update your DOI in the DOI Tool to indicate a change in status to the data, and the date of that change.
   a. Login in to the DOI Tool and go to the Supplemental Information tab.
   b. In the section for Date(s) and Date Type, choose the 'Date' option, and enter the date (in the format YYYY-MM-DD) on which the data were withdrawn for correction/revision, and choose the Date Type 'Withdrawn' from the picklist. Click the green '+' to Add this to the record. Then click ‘Update Published Record in DataCite’ in the left menu.
5. Once your data and metadata are revised, publish those revised items with public permissions, on your TDR landing page, remove the 'temporarily unavailable' message, and replace it with a statement of the version history of the dataset. Your data manager or TDR contact can assist with this.
6. Login to the USGS DOI Tool and open your DOI record to make the following edit: on the Supplemental Information tab, add a Date Type 'updated' and choose the Date option, enter the YYYY-MM-DD that the updated version was published, and choose 'Update Published Record in DataCite' from the left menu.

If your data were released through a TDR or other hosting solution that does not offer a configurable landing page for your data, you will not be able to post a 'temporarily unavailable' notification to potential users, and removal of your original data may break the persistence of your DOI. DOIs must always resolve; you do not want end users to get a 404 'not found' error if they discover and click on your published DOI. If your DOI won’t resolve to a persistent data release landing page with a 'temporarily unavailable' message after the original data are removed from public access, the following steps apply:

1. You, your data manager, or your TDR contact should remove public permissions to your original data and metadata files at the hosted location.
2. Because your DOI’s Location URL will be inactive during the revision process, you will need to update the DOI to point it to a generic 'tombstone page' that tells users that the data are temporarily unavailable. To use this 'tombstone page', do the following:
   a. Login to the USGS DOI Tool and open your DOI record.
   b. On the Required Information tab, in the Location URL field, remove the original landing page link to your data release, and replace it with the following link: <https://data.usgs.gov/databrowser/doi-messages/temporary.html>. This is the generic USGS temporary tombstone
page for USGS DOIs. It informs users that the data are temporarily unavailable, and advises them to recheck the DOI link at a later date for the updated version of the data release.

c. Follow the instructions in Step 4b above to add a ‘withdrawn’ date on the Supplemental Information tab.

d. Click ‘Update Published Record in DataCite’ in the left menu.

3. When your new version has been approved for release, publish the updated data and metadata files with public permissions, to your original Location URL.

4. Login to the USGS DOI Tool and open your DOI record.

a. On the Required Information tab, in the Location URL field, remove the tombstone page URL and restore the original landing page link to your data release.

b. On the Supplemental Information tab, follow the instructions in Step 6 above to add a Date Type 'updated' and choose the Date option, enter the YYYY-MM-DD that the updated version was published.

c. Choose 'Update Published Record in DataCite' from the left menu.

If your revision is required in order to correct substantial errors detected after release, USGS guidance on revision directs you to obtain a new DOI for the revised version, and to permanently remove the original data from public access. For information about what to do with the original release’s DOI, please see the FAQ for permanent redaction of a data release and its DOI.