

Immigration Client Locator – Browser Extension

A Google Chrome browser extension that automates the monitoring of individuals through the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Online Detainee Locator System (ODLS). Through this automation, the extension regularly searches for and archives individuals' detention location and status, and notifies users when changes occur.

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About this Extension

The Immigration Client Locator is a [Google Chrome browser extension](#) which supports family members, legal representatives, and advocates in monitoring the location of individuals detained by United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP). This extension automates the tracking of individuals through [ICE's Online Detainee Locator System \(ODLS\)](#), a public website which provides information on the status and location of detained individuals.

This extension does this by:

- 1. Automatically querying for updates and sending notifications when they occur:** The ODLS does not provide users with notifications when a person is moved through facilities, released, or deported. This information can only be obtained manually by repeatedly searching the site. The Immigration Client Locator automates searches and provides notifications when an individual's status or location has changed.
- 2. Creating an auditable history of detention:** The ODLS only provides users with information on the *current status or location* of a person. To address this, the Immigration Client Locator saves the facilities and statuses of a person every time it searches the ODLS, creating a history of detainment. To support this information, this extension takes screenshots and creates archived versions of the ODLS pages which display this information.
- 3. Searching for all permutations of a name:** Searching the ODLS by a person's name is often inconsistent, particularly when middle names are involved. Users may need to enter the middle name(s) as part of the first or last name, or exclude them altogether, to retrieve the correct results. To address this, the Immigration Client Locator searches all permutations of a person's name and returns all the results for users to choose from.

Given the sensitive nature of this information, this extension makes use of the browser's storage, meaning that the information is **saved locally to the user's computer and not shared with anyone else.**

Quick Start Guide

This section provides instructions for getting started with this extension.

Installation

Prerequisites

The Immigration Client Locator is a browser extension for Google Chrome. If you do not have Chrome, [you will first need to install it.](#)

Installing the Immigration Client Locator

Once Google Chrome is installed, visit [the Immigration Client Locator's Chrome Web Store](#) page and select **Add to Chrome**.

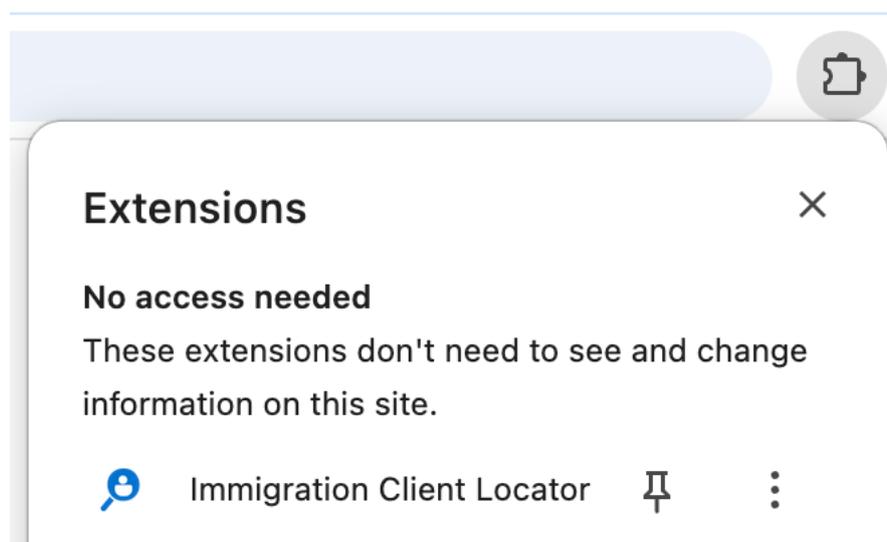
Uninstalling the Immigration Client Locator

If you would like to uninstall this extension:

1. Visit [the Immigration Client Locator's Chrome Web Store](#) page.
2. Find **Immigration Client Locator** in the list of extensions and click **Remove from Chrome**, click Remove again in the popup which asks you to confirm.

Start following someone

To begin using the Immigration Client Locator, click the puzzle icon in the top right corner of your Chrome Browser's toolbar and select Immigration Client Locator from the list of extensions.



To start following your first person, click on the **Search for a Person** tab. Here, you will be prompted to choose between two search types: **A-Number** and **Biographical Information**. Select the search option that best suits your case:

1. **A-Number (preferred):** This is the most reliable search method when the individual's A-Number — a unique 9-digit number provided by ICE or CBP — is available. The user will also need to provide the individual's country of birth. The user will also be prompted to assign a display name for use within the extension. Choose a name that is helpful and easy to remember for tracking purposes.
2. **Biographical Information:** If the A-Number is not known, a user can search by the individual's full name and country of birth. This search will return all possible matches for the same name (for example, if two detainees from the same country share the same name; both will be shown). If there are multiple matches, the extension will ask you to choose which result, if any, matches the person of interest.

Once you have entered the person's information, press search. In the **Followed Persons** tab, you will see this person with a status of **Currently Searching**.

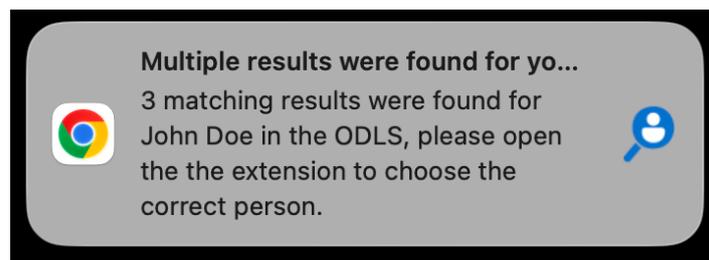
What happens while searching

Once searching, you should see the browser open a window which automatically interacts with the ODLS.

1. **Do not close this window:** It will do so on its own, otherwise the search will be cancelled.
2. **Browser extensions only work when the browser is open:** This means that although the extension automatically queries a person in the ODLS, it can only do so when the browser is open. If you do not use Chrome often, it may be helpful to occasionally open the browser to ensure queries occur regularly.

Understanding search results

Once the search is complete, the window searching the ODLS will automatically close and you will receive a notification with the results.



In the **Followed Persons** tab the person’s status will be updated depending on the records found in the ODLS. Possible statuses after a first search include:

Following	A single individual with this information was found in custody
Multiple Matches	Multiple individuals with the same name and country of birth were found in custody
Not Found	No results were found in the ODLS at this time

If the person’s status is **Following** or **Multiple Matches**, the extension is now ‘following’ them and will regularly query the ODLS for automatic updates. If the person’s status is **Multiple Matches**, the **Followed Persons** tab will also provide a list of all results found in the ODLS. To receive the most updated date information, it is recommended to select which result, if any, matches the person of interest.

Conversely, if the person’s status is **Not Found**, the extension will not execute automatic searches in the future for this person. That said, you can use the **Check for updates** button next to the person’s name at any time.

What to expect while following someone

Information about each person you search for will be displayed in the **Followed Persons** tab. This information is comprised of *personal details*, such as the person’s name, country of birth or A-Number as well as the extension’s *search history* for them. The search history will list each query the extension has made for this person, with a timestamp and the results which were found in the ODLS, including the person’s detention facility, if available.

John Doe

Status	Following ⓘ	<button>Check for updates</button>
Country of Birth	Mexico	<button>Stop following</button>
Last Capture Timestamp	17/11/2025, 17:00:15	<button>Download captures</button>
Last Known Location	Example Facility, CA	

~ View capture history

Capture Timestamp	Full Name	Status	Detention Facility
17 Nov 2025 17:00 GMT	John Doe	Following	Example Facility, CA

By default, the Immigration Client Locator will query the ODLS for updates every 24 hours for persons whose status is **Following** or **Multiple Matches**. This means that you will occasionally see a popup window automatically open, search the ODLS and close after some time. If you find these searches disruptive, [you can disable automatic queries or change their frequency in the extension’s settings](#).

If there are changes to a person’s results, such as the person being listed under a new facility or no longer showing up in the ODLS altogether, the extension will send you a notification and update the information in the **Followed Persons** tab.

Such updates may change the status of a person and the extension behavior in monitoring them. Possible statuses while tracking a person include:

Following	The person of interest was found in the ODLS during the last query. The extension will continue to automatically query for this person (unless disabled by settings).
Stopped Following	User clicked the Stop following button for this person. This indicates that the last search for this person in the ODLS was successful, but that the extension will no longer automatically query for this person. Users can restart these queries by using the Check for updates button.
No Longer Appears in the ODLS	This person was found in the ODLS during one or more previous searches but is no longer found. This may indicate removal from ICE custody due to release or deportation or simply that ICE has incorrectly updated this person's detention information. The extension will discontinue automatic queries for them (unless automatic queries for removed persons are enabled in the settings).
Error Occurred	An error occurred when searching the ODLS for updates. The extension will attempt a query for this person again after some time.

Downloading information about a followed person

In addition to tracking and notifying users of updates in a person's status and location, this extension preserves evidence of each search in the form of screenshots and archived versions of the ODLS website.

To download this information, press the **Download captures** button next to a person's name. This will create a zip package which will be saved to your download folder. You will need to unzip this package to access the files (steps for: [Windows](#) / [Mac](#) / [Linux](#)).

Inside this package you will find:

1. **A CSV file** that compiles all data collected by this extension while tracking the person, including each searches timestamp, matching results, and search criteria used.
2. **A series of folders** which contain screenshots, proof of timestamp, and archived versions of the ODLS which evidence each search and its results.

See the [Downloadable data guide](#) for a detailed walkthrough about the files in these packages.

Extension Features

This section provides documentation for features supported by the Immigration Client Locator extension.

Searching all permutations of a name

Searching the ODLS by a person's first and last name is often inconsistent, particularly when middle names are involved. Users may need to enter middle name(s) as part of the first or last name, or exclude them altogether, to retrieve the correct results.

To address this, this extension's **Biographical Search** feature in the **Search for a Person** tab, will prompt users for the person's full name. Users should provide their first, last, and **all middle names**. The extension will then search and return results for all permutations of this full name. For example, if the name is Jon Doe Smith, the extension will search the ODLS for:

1. First Name: Jon Doe, Last Name: Smith
2. First Name: Jon, Last Name: Doe Smith
3. First Name: Jon, Last Name: Smith

It is important to note: Biographical Searches must have a minimum of a first and last name. In the example above, the extension will not execute a search for just 'Jon' or 'Doe.'

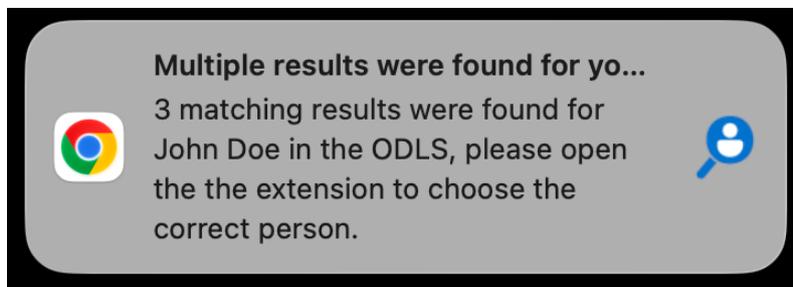
Managing followed persons

There are a series of blue buttons next to each person in the **Followed Persons** tab which allow management of their information in the extension. Below is a list of actions which are available—depending on the person's status—and their use.

Check for updates (Any status)	Triggers a query for updates in a person's status or location. If results are found, their status will be set to Following or Multiple Matches depending on the number of results.
Stop following (Following, Multiple Matches or Error)	This button will cease automatic queries for a person and change their status to Stopped Following .
Cancel search (Currently Searching)	This will cancel an active search for a person and close the associated popup. If the person was already in the list of followed persons, their status will be reverted. If this was the first search for this person, they will be removed.
Download captures (Any status)	Downloads all data and evidence associated with a person.
Delete (Stopped Following, Not Found or No Longer Appears in the ODLS)	This will delete all records associated with a person and remove them from the Followed Persons tab.

Notifications

To reduce the burden on the user, this extension provides Google Chrome notifications when a person's status/location has changed, or action is required. To ensure these notifications are visible, enable alerts and disable silencing of notifications.



Notifications are sent when:

1. Multiple results are found during an initial search. The user will need to select the correct person in the **Followed Persons** tab.
2. A person's detention location or status has changed.
3. Results no longer appear for a person who was previously found in the ODLS.

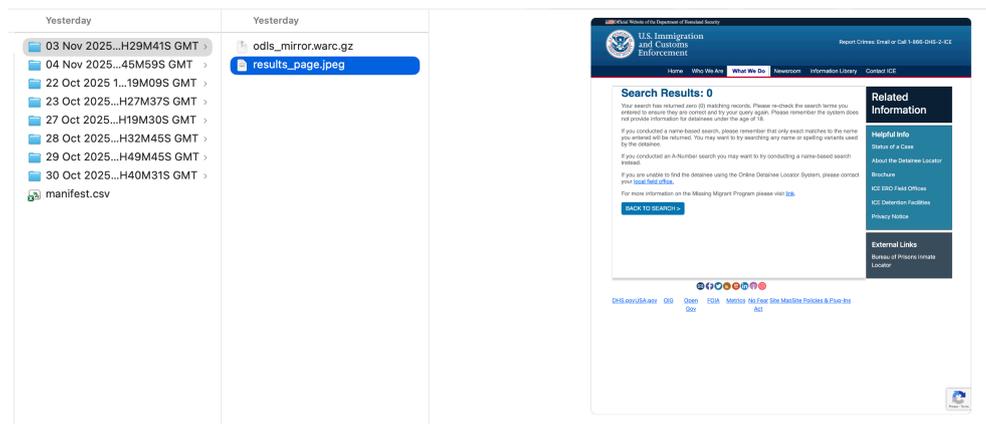
Settings

Users can adjust this extension's behavior via the **Settings** tab. Options include:

1. **Auto Query:** By default, auto-querying is enabled. This means that once the user starts tracking someone, the extension will automatically search for updates without needing input. If automatic queries are disruptive, they can be disabled, and the queries can be executed manually.
2. **Auto Query Frequency:** If auto-querying is enabled, a user can set how often the extension executes these queries. By default, it checks every 24 hours, but this can be less frequent or as often as every 12 hours.
3. **Continued automatic queries for removed persons:** This determines whether the extension will continue to search for a person after they no longer appear in the ODLS. This is useful in cases where removal from the system is due to data entry error, and they may reappear after some time.
4. **Duration for automatic queries for removed persons:** Sets the length of time (in hours) for which this extension will continue to query for a person that no longer appears in the ODLS. If left blank, this will be indefinite.

Downloadable data guide

As outlined above, users can download packages containing all information collected while tracking a person. Each package includes a file named **manifest.csv** along with a set of folders that contain supporting evidence.



manifest.csv

This spreadsheet aggregates all data points captured from the ODLs while tracking a person. Each row in this spreadsheet represents a **single search result** when the extension queried the ODLs. The columns for this table include:

Capture Timestamp	Date and time (in GMT time zone) of the search result
Full Name, ODLs Status, Detention Facility Name, Detention Facility State, Detention Facility Address	These columns display the person’s status and detention facility as is shown in the ODLs. These columns may be empty due to missing data within the ODLs.
WARC File	The file path pointing to the archived version of the ODLs which preserves this result.
Results Page Screenshot, Facility Page Screenshot	These columns provide file paths pointing to screenshots of the ODLs when the search was made.
Capture Metadata Proof of Timestamp File	These columns provide file paths to metadata and timestamp proof for the evidence created.
Search Type	Search type used (A-Number or Biographical)
Country of Birth, A-Number (optional), First Name (optional), Last Name (optional)	These columns provide the search inputs used for which the result was returned. The columns are dependent on the search type used.

It is important to note that when a person’s status is **Multiple Matches**, this spreadsheet will have multiple rows with the same timestamp as there are multiple results for the search.

Supporting evidence

The downloaded package also includes several folders named with date and time stamps (e.g., "02 Nov 2025 23H31M12S GMT"). Each date/time stamp represents the exact time a search was conducted and corresponds to the value in the **Capture Timestamp** column of the **manifest.csv** file. These folders contain the documented evidence associated with the corresponding rows in the manifest. In each folder there are four types of files:

Screenshots

These are screenshots that the extension took of the ODLS when the search was executed. Here, there are two possible pages which are screenshotted:

1. **Results Page:** A page which lists all the results, if any, that the ODLS returned.
2. **Facility Pages:** A page providing additional information about the facility where the person was detained. This will be created if the extension finds a matching person, and the facility page is linked.

WARC files (archived webpages)

There will also be a file titled **odls_mirror.warc.gz**. These files are [WARC files](#), which capture all web page content and network requests made when visiting a webpage. Using this information, these file types allow users to recreate the ODLS website exactly as it appeared at the specific time the extension visited the page and applied the provided search criteria.

To view a WARC file, users will need software or a website that can read these files. A commonly used platform is [ReplayWeb.page](#):

1. Open [ReplayWeb.page](#) and drag **odls_mirror.warc.gz** file into the page.
2. Click on the loaded page and select **Resources** at the top.
3. Find and click the row with '**https://locator.ice.gov/odls/**' in the **URL** column.

You will now be able to search for the person and review the results as they were at the time of the capture. Note that, users will only be able to search for their detainee in this archived web page using the same search used when they started following the person. All other functionalities will be limited or cause errors.

Manifest and Proof of Timestamp

Finally, these folders will contain **manifest.json** and **timestamp.tsr**. These files provide metadata about the captured evidence and include a cryptographically signed certificate confirming that the timestamp recorded in the CSV file corresponds to the actual time when the evidence was created.