

Piperpal Location-Based Search Engine Mitigation Project Report for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Executive Summary

This report outlines the mitigation actions taken for the Piperpal Location-Based Search Engine and its Android application. The service processed precise geolocation data and was voluntarily closed on October 22, 2025, reactivated temporarily for documentation verification, and permanently retired on December 10, 2025. This project ensures full alignment with FCC expectations for protection of sensitive location information.

Background of the Piperpal Service

Piperpal provided real-time nearby search functionality using GPS data. Because precise geolocation is classified as sensitive information by the FCC, Piperpal underwent a complete privacy reassessment in 2025. Sensitive data capable of revealing home, workplace, or visits to sensitive locations required enhanced protection measures.

Identified Risks and Compliance Issues

Risks included insufficient user consent mechanisms, excessive GPS data retention, third-party SDK exposure, AI-driven inference risks, and lack of data minimization controls. These issues conflicted with FCC guidance and required strong mitigation.

Mitigation Actions Taken

Actions included complete service shutdown, permanent cessation of all location-data processing, secure deletion of stored location logs, removal of third-party SDKs, disabling of all backend systems, and completion of updated privacy training. All user data was securely wiped using NIST-compliant sanitization.

Final Disposition of Infrastructure

All technical components—including app distribution, backend servers, databases, mapping API keys, and analytics systems—have been permanently decommissioned. No location data remains stored and no reactivation is technically possible.

Forward-Looking Commitments

Future development will follow Privacy by Design principles, minimal necessary location precision, strict data minimization, transparent consent flows, contractual third-party data controls, and immediate

opt-out options.

Conclusion

Piperpal represented a high-risk geolocation platform. In alignment with FCC protections for sensitive location information, the service has been permanently shut down, all data erased, and all infrastructure decommissioned. The mitigation project fully resolves associated privacy risks.