

Question:

Is the Proposal Quick Start (PQS) software FedRamp?

Answer:

No, FedRAMP applies when a government agency's data is being **processed, stored, or transmitted by a third-party cloud vendor** (e.g., using Software as a Service like Salesforce, or Infrastructure as a Service like AWS GovCloud).

Why FedRAMP Doesn't Apply to Standalone Desktop Apps?

The key difference comes down to **where the data resides and who controls the environment**.

- **Desktop Application:** When you install software like **Proposal Quick Start (PQS)** or Microsoft Word on your Windows computer, the application runs **within your organization's security boundary**. The documents you create and analyze with it are stored on your local hard drive or your company's network server. Your company's IT and security teams are responsible for protecting that computer and that network.
- **Cloud Service:** When you use a cloud service, you are sending your data to be stored and processed on **servers owned and managed by a third-party vendor**. FedRAMP's job is to vet the security of that third-party vendor's environment to ensure your data is safe *there*.

Proposal **Quick Start** (PQS) - Security

Security is not an afterthought for Proposal Quick Start (PQS); it is a core principle of its design. The founder's background was in the government contracting world, including holding a Top-Secret clearance, has deeply informed our security-first approach from day one.

Key Security Features:

- **Standalone Operation:** PQS is a desktop application that runs entirely on your local machine. It is built on the Microsoft .NET framework and does not alter your Windows registry or require an internet connection to function.
- **Total User Privacy:** The software does not "call home" or transmit any information back to our servers. We have absolutely no visibility into your documents, your data, or how you use the application.
- **SCIF-Ready Design:** PQS was engineered from the ground up to be fully functional in secure, air-gapped environments, including SCIFs.
- **No Unintended Actions:** The software's code is self-contained and does not use scripts that can spawn other commands. Its only interaction with other programs is to open the Word or Excel reports that it generates, at your direction.