

iOS app

Privacy and on-device data

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What the app stores and where, what the widgets see, why it makes no network request, what sharing sends, how data is deleted, and the tests behind 'Data Not Collected'.

<https://docs.gurbanisoul.com/ios/privacy-and-on-device-data/>

The App Store privacy label for Gurbani Soul is **Data Not Collected**. This page shows what that rests on in the code of `gurbani-soul-ios` at the pinned commit: what the app keeps, where, and the tests that fail if it starts to do more.

Nothing leaves the device on its own

- **No network code.** The app contains no `NSURLSession`, `URLRequest`, web view or network connection, and a source gate fails the build if one appears. It has no third-party packages and no analytics or crash-reporting SDK.
- **No accounts, no tracking, no push.** The privacy manifest declares no tracking, no tracking domains and no collected data types. The only entitlement is the App Group the widgets share.
- **Two links out.** The privacy policy and support pages (`gurbanisoul.com/privacy`, `/support`) open in Safari, outside the app, only when tapped. A reminders screen can open the system Settings app. Every other link is an internal `sggs://` link.
- **Diagnostics stay local.** Crash and performance reports (`MetricKit`) are written to the app's own storage, at most 50, excluded from backups. They leave the device only if you share them from More, and More can delete them.

`gurbani-soul-ios/ios/tests/test_ios_gates.py · test_no_network_code · lines 113-116`

```
def test_no_network_code(self):
    # "No accounts. No network. No tracking." is a store-listing and privacy-label
    claim.
    self.assertEqual(

violations(r"\bNSURLSession\b|\bURLRequest\b|\bWKWebView\b|\bNWConnection\b|^s*import
Network\b"), [])
```

Read from the source at build time — [view these lines on GitHub at a386422](#) .

Source: `ios/tests/test_ios_gates.py` in `gurbani-soul-ios`, read at the pinned commit.

What the app keeps

Data	Where	Holds
The scripture database	the app bundle, read-only	the verbatim corpus; opened <code>mode=ro&immutable=1</code> , never written
Saved verses	a <code>SwiftData</code> store	per verse: the line id, its Gurmukhi and transliteration, Ang, composition id, and when you saved it
Nitnem progress	<code>nitnem-progress.json</code> in the App Group	per bani: where you stopped, when you last read, and the days you completed (at most 400)
My Nitnem	<code>nitnem-plan.json</code> in the App Group	your own sets: order, hidden and added banis
Vaar progress (from 1.4.9)	<code>vaar-progress.json</code> in the App Group	per Vaar: the line you reached, its pauni, when you last read, and when you finished
Widget snapshot	<code>widget-snapshot.json</code> in the App Group	a Hukam verse and its Ang, the pahar-to-raag tables, the clock mode and coordinates, the set names
Settings	the app's preferences	display and reader settings, the last Ang read, reminder times, and the launch-integrity cache
Clock settings	the App Group's preferences	the clock mode and, in Solar mode, your coordinates rounded to two decimal places (about a kilometre); the exact position is never stored, and “Forget location” (from 1.4.0) removes it. From 1.5.0, a yes/no flag records that you chose “Keep” on the travel notice (the clock is showing a saved place far from you); it clears when the place changes and with “Forget location”
Spotlight	the system index	your saved verses (Gurmukhi, transliteration, Ang), so system search can find them; from 1.4.9 also the 54 theme names with their Gurmukhi words and verse counts, which hold nothing about you
Your themes (from 1.4.9)	computed on demand, not stored	the themes your saved verses carry, worked out on the device each time the Themes page opens; a Settings switch turns it off
Diagnostics	Application Support	MetricKit reports, as above

The JSON files fall back to the app's own Application Support folder when the App Group is not available. The saved-verses store is opened with `SwiftData`'s default configuration; the code never names its file or container. If it fails to open twice in a row, the app deletes and recreates it, because a bookmark is a user annotation, never scripture (**the bookmarks ladder**), and clears the saved verses' Spotlight entries with it, so system search never offers a verse that is gone.

What the widgets see

The widget extension never opens the scripture database and writes nothing. It reads the snapshot the app writes after each launch, the Nitnem progress file, and the two clock settings, all in the App Group `group.org.sggs`. Everything it can show is already on the device.

What leaves when you share

Action	Sends
Copy	the verbatim Gurmukhi only
Share	the Gurmukhi and ”— Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Ang N” (or its source, for a non-SGGS line), as text
Share as card	an image of the verse, with the transliteration, the English if it is shown, and the Ang
Share diagnostics	the MetricKit reports, as files

The app never reads the clipboard.

Permissions

Permission	Asked when	Used for
Location, while using the app	you choose “use my location” on the Raag Clock	computing sunrise and sunset for Solar mode
Notifications	you turn a Nitnem reminder on	local reminders; nothing is pushed from a server

There is no background mode, no “always” location and no App Tracking Transparency prompt (the app does not track); the gates test all three, the last through the manifest’s “no tracking, nothing collected” entries. Encryption is declared exempt (`ITSAAppUsesNonExemptEncryption` is false).

The privacy manifest

`PrivacyInfo.xcprivacy` is bundled into the app and the widget extension. It declares two required-reason APIs: `UserDefaults` (CA92.1 for the app’s own settings, 1C8F.1 for the App Group) and file timestamps (C617.1, for the launch-integrity check, which reads the database’s size and modification date). A test keeps the manifest and the code in step.

gurbani-soul-ios/ios/App/Resources/PrivacyInfo.xcprivacy · lines 1-33

```

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<!DOCTYPE plist PUBLIC "-//Apple//DTD PLIST 1.0//EN"
"http://www.apple.com/DTDs/PropertyList-1.0.dtd">
<plist version="1.0">
<dict>
  <key>NSPrivacyTracking</key>
  <false/>
  <key>NSPrivacyTrackingDomains</key>
  <array/>
  <key>NSPrivacyCollectedDataTypes</key>
  <array/>
  <key>NSPrivacyAccessedAPITypes</key>
  <array>
    <dict>
      <!-- CA92.1: the app reads/writes its own UserDefaults. 1C8F.1: the app and its widget
snapshot,
the solar clock choice and rounded coords. -->
      <key>NSPrivacyAccessedAPIType</key>
      <string>NSPrivacyAccessedAPICategoryUserDefaults</string>
      <key>NSPrivacyAccessedAPITypeReasons</key>
      <array><string>CA92.1</string><string>1C8F.1</string></array>
    </dict>
    <dict>
      <!-- LaunchIntegrity.fileFingerprint reads the bundled DB's size + modification date
(files inside the app's own container) to decide whether the cached SHA-256 is
still valid. Never displayed, never transmitted. -->
      <key>NSPrivacyAccessedAPIType</key>
      <string>NSPrivacyAccessedAPICategoryFileTimestamp</string>
      <key>NSPrivacyAccessedAPITypeReasons</key>
      <array><string>C617.1</string></array>
    </dict>
  </array>
</dict>
</plist>

```

Read from the source at build time — [view these lines on GitHub at a386422](#) .

Source: ios/App/Resources/PrivacyInfo.xcprivacy in gurbani-soul-ios, read at the pinned commit.

Deleting data

- **A saved verse:** swipe to delete; its Spotlight entry goes with it.
- **Your location** (from 1.4.0): Raag Clock → Forget location. It goes from the app's settings (with the "Keep" flag) and from the widgets' snapshot; Solar mode shows the fixed clock until you add one again.
- **Your reading history** (from 1.4.0): Reading journey → Clear reading history, after a confirmation. It removes the days you completed and where you stopped in each bani.
- **A bani's reading position:** Start again (the days completed are kept).
- **My Nitnem:** Reset to default.
- **Diagnostics:** More → Delete diagnostics.

- **Everything:** delete the app. iOS removes its containers; the App Group goes with the last app that uses it.

The two controls marked *from 1.4.0*, and the Spotlight clean-up, are not in 1.3.10, the first version on the App Store; there, deleting the app removes that data. They came from gaps found while this page was first written (gurbani-soul-ios #26³); each has a unit test and a UI test in the app repository.

Links

1. https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/gurbani-soul-ios/blob/a386422e90c2c681f9ecc4f7167b4deb6a35fb92/ios/tests/test_ios_gates.py#L113-L116
2. <https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/gurbani-soul-ios/blob/a386422e90c2c681f9ecc4f7167b4deb6a35fb92/ios/App/Resources/PrivacyInfo.xcprivacy#L1-L33>
3. <https://github.com/Algorythmos-AI/gurbani-soul-ios/pull/26>

Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji — Knowledge Base wiki. Generated from commit c3d9360. Updated 27 October 2026. Verified against 693a8f4 on 2026-09-27.
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