

VA ENTERPRISE DESIGN PATTERNS INTEROPERABILITY AND DATA SHARING UTILIZING ENTERPRISE IDENTITIES



Office of Technology Strategies (TS)
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope

This Enterprise Design Pattern addresses persistent issues related to VA's identity services and the ADS for identity data supporting those services. This document addresses goals such as to enhance existing VA enterprise identity management system (MVI) to augment enterprise identity management capabilities across LOBs, promote adoption of, and innovation with, EIs at the LOB and project team level, engage Data Stewardship, Governance Boards, and LOBs in the data definition and development of enterprise business rules for EIs and identity traits, and develop enterprise requirements and standards for reporting suspected or confirmed incidents of identity fraud.

Business Need

Until recently, VA lacked a shared, enterprise-wide system or standard for representing individual people in the real world. Organizational units at the line of business (LOB) level (or lower) used their own separate ways to identify, track, and refer to the people they served. VA had no reliable basis for sharing information about or coordinating service delivery to individual people without shared Enterprise Identities (EIs) to use as a common reference point for those people.

To address that capability gap (and persistent access management issues), VA launched the Identity and Access Management (IAM) program in 2010. All present and future VA systems and applications that use and/or retain Veteran data are required to integrate with the Master Veterans Index (MVI), VA's designated authoritative data source (ADS) for identity data. All VA

LOBs, offices, programs, and project teams now have the EIs they need to address systemic service delivery problems and support new, innovative capabilities and service offerings.

Approach

The goals of this Enterprise Design Pattern are to: Help the IAM program in efforts to continuously improve existing services, deploy new capabilities, and promote productive adoption and use of enterprise identity services; Define terminology associated with managing and using Veteran records; Increase rates of compliance with requirements to integrate with MVI and use EIs. Establish core roles and responsibilities for identity data stewardship and quality assurance in consuming applications; Outline basic requirements to use MVI for reporting suspected or confirmed incidents of identity fraud.

This Enterprise Design Pattern supports the strategic goals of integrating Veteran data, building and maintaining the VA EA, and providing Veterans with more transparent access to their own records. Elements of this Enterprise Design Pattern may be applied to upcoming VA ESS, including future ADS designated under the Enterprise Information Management (EIM) policy.

[Enterprise Design Patterns](#) (EDPs) are developed by TS in coordination with internal and external subject matter experts and stakeholders. An EDP is a reusable capability guidance document that identifies best practice approaches and resources for achieving VA IT strategic objectives. The EDP Team uses industry trends and innovations; enterprise architectural standards; and guiding principles for capabilities and constraints to improve efficiency and effectiveness and define solutions to reoccurring technical problems. The EDP helps guide the design of IT systems and services by VA project teams.