

VA ENTERPRISE DESIGN PATTERNS IT SERVICE MANAGEMENT DISASTER RECOVERY-AS-A-SERVICE



Office of Technology Strategies (TS)
Office of Information and Technology (OI&T)

Version 1.0
Date Issued: May 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope

The Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) Enterprise Design Pattern (EDP) is a supporting guidance document for VA for the use of DRaaS. This EDP provides guidance on identifying DRaaS capabilities within the VA enterprise and integrating DRaaS with existing VA services. This document will also refer to other cloud computing and IT Service Management (ITSM) EDPs, in order to highlight required supplemental activities when using DRaaS.

Business Need

To meet VA and Federal policy mandates, VA must include externally managed DRaaS as part of its IT service offerings. DRaaS can lower costs and use automated virtual platforms to minimize the recovery time that follows a disaster. Minimized recovery time increases VA's Primary Mission Essential Function (PMEF) support. The technologies that VA needs to incorporate for DRaaS will drive decisions on how to optimize people and processes associated with Disaster Recovery (DR). DRaaS is needed across VA to decrease upfront IT re-source investment; create a comprehensive and robust replication for faster standup; enhance performance by providing a dynamic level of critical system protection; allow the availability of high risk-mitigated data; and use hardware resources efficiently.

Approach

This EDP defines a framework for using DRaaS solutions. It addresses criteria for selecting a DRaaS solution; for new environments and legacy systems with DRaaS capabilities; challenges with DRaaS solutions. The DRaaS EDP approach consists of best practices for utilizing DRaaS solutions that are consistent with policy and applicable industry standards, such as provided by

the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST); enterprise criteria for new and legacy systems that execute a DRaaS solution; and DRaaS solutions for mitigating risks.

To select an optimal DRaaS solution that will meet Enterprise DR needs, VA will evaluate a cloud management platform. This evaluation will document consistency across VA in its approach to standardize the use of DRaaS. VA will also conduct an internal DR assessment and follow an enterprise evaluation criterion for DRaaS.

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.