

VA ENTERPRISE DESIGN PATTERNS PRIVACY AND SECURITY MOBILE VETERAN-FACING APPLICATION SECURITY



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

Version 1.0
Date Issued: November 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Scope

The Enterprise Mobile Veteran-Facing Application Security Enterprise Design Pattern document provides enterprise-level capability guidance that identifies security best practices for Veteran-facing mobile applications accessing VA IT resources. It is meant to be limited enough to be usable and broad enough to be reusable as a formalized approach for Veteran-facing mobile application projects that leverage enterprise security capabilities. This document and the corresponding Mobile Veteran-Facing Application Design Pattern will guide projects to implementation resources that will support detailed design specifications.

Business Need

MyVA Presentation that “Assessments informing the [2014-2020] strategic plan told us the VA often provides a fragmented, disjointed experience that results in poor customer service and frustrated Veterans and beneficiaries.” The following issues stem from the current state of mobile security for Veteran Facing Mobile Applications. These issues will severely impact the Veteran’s user experience

Approach

Implementing the mobile security guidelines established in this document for Veteran Facing Mobile Applications will allow VA to meet the Federal security guidelines established for mobile and wireless security. These guidelines provide the following benefits: Allows Veterans to enter their authentication credentials once and gain access to all Veteran Facing applications requiring authentication on a mobile device; Provide protection to any Veteran PHI/PII data

residing on the Veteran's mobile device beyond the mobile device's native security (if activated); Veteran Facing Mobile Applications have gone through standardized development and testing, reducing the risk of unsecured applications being deployed; Secures existing mobile applications without modifications; and allows VA developers to focus on the Veteran's needs when building new applications instead of implementing security capabilities provided by containerization technologies, increasing cost savings to VA.

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.