



Office of Technology Strategies
VA Enterprise SOA Capabilities
Design Pattern
Public Forum
Washington, DC | June 25, 2015

Executive Summary

Purpose: The purpose of this Public Forum was to provide an opportunity for VA and external experts and stakeholders to learn about the VA Enterprise SOA Capabilities Design Pattern, and provide feedback prior to finalizing, publishing, and implementing of the Design Pattern.

Background: The Technology Strategies Design Patterns Team has been soliciting input on the VA Enterprise SOA Capabilities Design Pattern. We collaborated with a variety of stakeholders, including internal VA subject matter experts (SMEs), external government SMEs, industry vendors, and members of academia. This Public Forum represented the final stage of stakeholder engagement in the Design Pattern development process.

Overview: The TS Design Pattern Team presented the final draft of their updated Design Pattern. An introduction of the department was provided by Stephany Perez-Cohen followed by an overview presented by Joe Brooks of the Office of Technology Strategies. Harpreet Narang and Michael Dance of the Design Patterns Team presented the draft Design Pattern and covered the details of its content and development. Stakeholders from various OI&T offices and organizations, both internal and external to VA, shared their questions, comments, and insights related to the content covered in the presentation. The presentation and Q&A session lasted roughly 1 hour.

Key Discussion Points:

Key items discussed during the Q&A portion of the public forum are paraphrased and summarized below.

- This document is considered an update to the original SOA VistA design pattern from 2013. It reflects some changes in capabilities and enterprise services.
- Kenneth Laskey: Middleware should align with the Design Pattern, not the other way around.
- Kenneth Laskey: Design Patterns should have a description of capabilities to satisfy requirements, not specific infrastructure elements. eMI is implementation.
- We focused on eMI in the initial SOA DP, but we have since discovered the need for defining more general infrastructure capabilities that could be fulfilled by other integration middleware platforms, such as the VIERS ESB.
- The document refers to the TRM for approved technologies, but try to ensure that “best-of-breed” technologies are used without duplicating the TRM.
- We referenced existing processes to identify, promote, and implement SOA systems and services to work around not having fully-formed SOA governance. This is cited in Section 3 of the Design Pattern.

- We removed references to SOAP vs. REST-based interfaces because that issue is better suited for lower-level design guidance.
- We have tried to achieve a separation between high-level capabilities and implementation details.
- Mary Mitchell: The Service Portfolio Planning process is published and will be refined as a result of the ESS Summit. Published Service processes: http://vawww.oed.wss.va.gov/process/maps/process_map_SPDL.pdf
- The ESS Summit in August will provide more insight to further improve the document.
- Tony Seeger: We want to move forward in MyHealthVet because we are building out the APIs and we need the service bus. It is the way to go and we want to jump on that bandwagon.
 - Kenneth Laskey: The whole point is that this will be the easy path soon.
- Joe Brooks: You cannot tell people to do something new without the policy to go with it. We realize that. But we need to put something up front to stay ahead of you because projects are still going on every day. We are trying to stay ahead but it's hard to stay ahead, because to do these things right it takes at minimum a couple of months and we need help from all of you. Some of you are not going to agree with the document but that's fine, because we're going to keep refining the document and the design pattern until we have something everyone wants to use.
- Keith Cox: Joe, the point is if what we need is design and implantation mandates, then write those. Don't say they're design patterns. What you're doing talks about doing design patterns in the more classic definition. But these are really implementation mandates, and you should call them that.
 - Joe Brooks: I brought that issue up to my leadership, changing the name of what we're doing, but they didn't want to do it. I'll bring it back up again.
- Keith Cox: We used to have enterprise architectural requirements a dozen years ago but we don't have those today, which is why everyone does what they want. That's what we should have. It should be easy enough to say "everyone has to use the service registry," but we can't bring ourselves as an organization to say that.
- Keith Cox: If this is all optional, what's the point of spending three years on this?
 - Joe Brooks: I agree with you, we need to get mandates signed. And that will happen eventually, but meanwhile we need to do something. Right now, we need to get back to the document, since we got off on a tangent.
- Keith Cox: Section 3.5 of this design pattern document answers the requirements for a design pattern. It isn't trying to backfill governance that doesn't exist. Be clear about what the document/design pattern focuses on addressing. Focusing on governance is a distraction.
- John Mandala: I work on the Enterprise Security Architecture team. Does anyone have any idea what's actually occurring in the SOA Center of Excellence group? Because it sounds like there are elements of governance being implemented, but they haven't actually been explained. Can you talk about that? (Typing) Would like to know a contact for SOA COE Team to understand their role/s/governance support.

- Joe Brooks: I can't speak for them. We've been working in conjunction with some of them. I don't know who's on the call who can speak to that. But I don't think our folks in the office are comfortable answering that question.
- Terry Luedtke: There are several COE processes on ProPath. I'm looking for the exact processes now. Randy Brown is leading that effort.
- John Vrooland: SOA without governance is a bunch of services.
- Narasa Susarla: The pattern assumes that all non-VistA data sources will be accessed through DAS?
 - Hannah Wald: Yes, that is the idea. All the SOA services will go through eCRUD to access all the non-VistA data stores.

Next Steps:

The TS Design Pattern Team will finalize the Design Pattern document to address feedback from this Public Forum, and begin formal approval staffing. Updates will include additional inputs regarding architectural guidance and references to implementation guidance. The document will be edited to ensure Section 508 compliance, and the final approved version will be posted onto the ASD TS public-facing website: http://www.techstrategies.oit.va.gov/docs_design_patterns.asp

Appendices:

- A. Attendee List
- B. Presentation Slide Deck

Appendix A: Attendee List

Attendee	Organization
Marcus Baggs	ASD
Dirk Barrineau	PD
Richard Beaudoin	PD
John Beaufait	SDE
Steven Behr	BAH
Michael Bell	Constellation West
Joe Brooks	VA TS
Keith Cox	PD
John Davis	VHA
Sebastian Dudek	VBA
Regina Harrison	VHA
Michael Dance	BAH
Semir Hasedzic	BAH
Thomas Henry	IBM

Edward Kelly	SDE
Rene Kinsey	PD
Nicholas Lins	VBA
Terry Luedtke	ASD
Mary Mitchell	AVOW
Harpeet Narang	BAH
Stephany Perez Cohen	BAH
William Santry	OCS
Tony Seeger	VHA
Narasa Susarla	Leidos
Steven Taaffe	VHA
John Vrooland	VHA
Hannah Wald	BAH
Kevin Weinstein	BAH

Appendix B: Presentation Slide Deck



Enterprise SOA
Capabilities Design