



Office of Technology Strategies
Non-Person Entity
Design Pattern
Public Forum
June 18, 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 Non-Person Entity (NPE) Design Pattern, and provide feedback prior to the Design Pattern's finalization, publication and implementation.

Background: The Technology Strategies Design Patterns Team has been soliciting input for the development of the NPE Design Pattern. This involved collaboration efforts with a variety of stakeholders, including internal VA subject matter experts (SMEs), external government SMEs, and industry vendors. 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 Joseph Brooks of the Office of Technology Strategies. Brian James of the Design Patterns Team then presented the draft increment of the 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 approximately 2 hours.

Key Discussion Points:

Problem Statement: An in-depth decision was had surrounding what an NPE is and how it should be defined within VA. The consensus from the attendees was that using an industry standard definition for NPE within VA isn't appropriate and a custom tailored NPE definition should be derived. A determination was made that the NPE DP's definition of NPE would be further enhanced by having an open forum discussion offline.

Business Case: An overview was provided outlining that VA currently knows how to authenticate a person, and how to authorize and audit their activities when they connect directly to a VA system or application. However when a NPE connects to a VA system or application authentication, authorization, and auditing is often is overlooked.

Attendees raised several questions regarding whether or not NPE should be so closely aligned with human interactions. There was also heavy discussion surrounding the fact that VistA was used as the primary use case for the NPE DP. The fact that VistA transactions account for the majority of all VA network traffic was presented as a primary business driver behind the usage of VistA as the primary use case for the DP. A follow-up discussion was requested on the VistA utilization numbers.

Future Capabilities: During the discussion many attendees raised questions regarding the implementation of a Sponsorship process for NPEs. The issued where focused on the who, what, when,

where, and whys of the NPE Sponsorship process, which is at the implementation detail level (out of scope of a DP)

As a Next Step it was requested that an Auditing DP be developed as a follow on to the NPE DP.

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
John Beaufait	
Steven Behr	BAH
Michael Bell	Constellation West
Joseph Brooks	VA – TS
John Burke	OI&T
Tony Chiang	BAH
Keith Cox	VA OI&T
Michael Dance	BAH
Walter Grant	
Regina Harrison	
Semir Hasedzic	MPS
Thomas Henry	
Michael Huddleston	
Jose Huertas	
Brian James	BAH
Eric Jurasas	
Donald Kachman	
Edward Kelly	Bay Pines OIFO
Kenneth Laskey	MITRE
Nicholas Lins	VBA VACO
Terry Luedtke	
Anthony Mallia	VA ESC
Patrick Maloney	VHA

John Manecke	T&H
Jacqueline Meadows-Stokes	VA – TS
Mary Mitchell	AVOW
Stephany Perez Cohen	MPS
Nimish Shah	
Michael Shinozaki	Microsoft
Karie Stapleton	7Delta
Dennis Seymour	
Kevin Troutner	
John Vrooland	
David Zaffery	

Appendix B: Presentation Slide Deck

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