

# Contingency Planning Enterprise Design Pattern

Executive Summary

Office of Technology Strategies (TS)



## Scope

Many business functions within Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) are dependent on Information Technology (IT) systems. These include benefits claims processing, disbursement allocation, burial arrangements, and health records. Interruptions and disruptions to these systems could delay health claims processing; disability disbursement; effective treatment of patients by VA physicians; and burial of a Veteran.

## Business Need

This EDP identifies contingency planning gaps within VA and recommends best practices for bridging those gaps. The document can be used to evaluate and update existing policies, and create new policies which will provide the authority and guidance necessary to: mandate developing and maintaining effective contingency plans; develop comprehensive recovery strategies so that systems can be recovered quickly and effectively following a disruption; streamline the current ISCP assessment process required for all systems deemed "Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) High"; and to create an evaluation methodology that assesses the completeness of contingency plans.

## Approach

Solutions for bridging contingency planning gaps within VA include: ensuring authoritative oversight of contingency planning throughout the enterprise; establishing evaluation criteria to determine a contingency plan's compliance with NIST 800-34, Rev. 1 and VA Handbook 6500.8; leveraging a best practice tool that interoperates with the Information System Contingency Planning Assessment (ISCPA), assesses contingency planning within VA, and flags outdated or incomplete system information; and incorporating a training program that better prepares system owners for the contingency planning assessment process.



The TS office within OI&T's ASD, interacts not only with the Enterprise Architecture pillar offices, but also

with multiple external vendors, stakeholders within OI&T, and with strategic offices across the enterprise. TS works closely with IT and business owners to capture business rules and provide technical guidance as it relates to Data Sharing across the enterprise, specifically for interagency operability.

## What are Enterprise Design Patterns?

Reusable templates that guide the enterprise to implement a set of technologies in standard ways

## How do Enterprise Design Patterns relate to the Enterprise?

Enterprise Design Patterns translate OI&T's strategic goals, as documented in the Enterprise Technology Strategic Plan (ETSP), into "real world" direction to guide system design

## How can I learn more about this Enterprise Design Pattern?

Please contact Nicholas Bogden (Nicholas.bogden@va.gov) to learn more

## Where can you find a full list of published EDPs?

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EDPs are also posted to TS in the MAX Federal Community Department of Veterans Affairs-External space at [www.MAX.gov](http://www.MAX.gov)