VA TECHNOLOGY ACQUISITION CENTER INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

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VA | **U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs**
Office of Information and Technology

Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) at VA

What's an API?

Think of an API as a server in a restaurant.

Imagine you are sitting at a table with a menu of choices to order from. The kitchen is the part of the system that will prepare the order, and the server is the critical link that communicates your order to the kitchen and delivers the finished food back to your table.

The API performs a similar function. The API is the messenger, or server, that takes your order or request and tells the system—in this analogy, the kitchen—what to do. Then the API delivers the response back to you, just as a server takes delivers you the food from the kitchen.

LIGHTHOUSE
DEVELOPED APIs

CERTIFIED
DEVELOPERS

SOFTWARE AND
APPLICATIONS

VETERAN
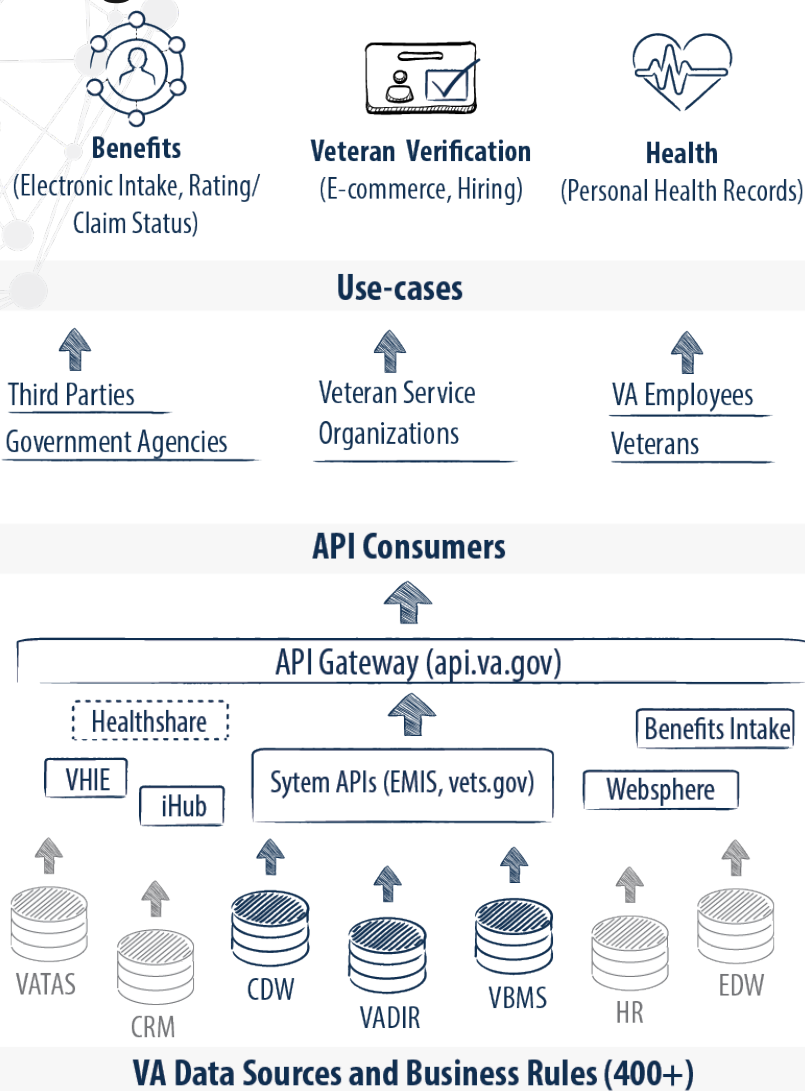
JSON

```
{
    "eyeColor": "blue",
    "name": "Drew Myklegard",
    "gender": "male",
    "company": "VA",
    "email": "david.myklegard@va.gov",
    "phone": "+1 {(2025070910)}}",
    "address": "810 Vermont Ave, Washington, DC, 20403"
}
```

VA's API Management Vision

Benefits
(Electronic Intake, Rating/
Claim Status)

Veteran Verification
(E-commerce, Hiring)

Health
(Personal Health Records)

Use-cases

Third Parties
Government Agencies

Veteran Service
Organizations

VA Employees
Veterans

API Consumers

API Gateway (api.va.gov)

Healthshare

Benefits Intake

VHIE

iHub

Sytem APIs (EMIS, vets.gov)

Websphere

VATAS

CRM

CDW

VADIR

VBMS

HR

EDW

VA Data Sources and Business Rules (400+)

Composing and Managing a Large Number of APIs

Standards based: VA's APIs are standards based—enabling streamlined, secure, and seamless data access and data exchange flows, promoting interoperability and standardizing the way our systems talk to each other and interact with external systems.
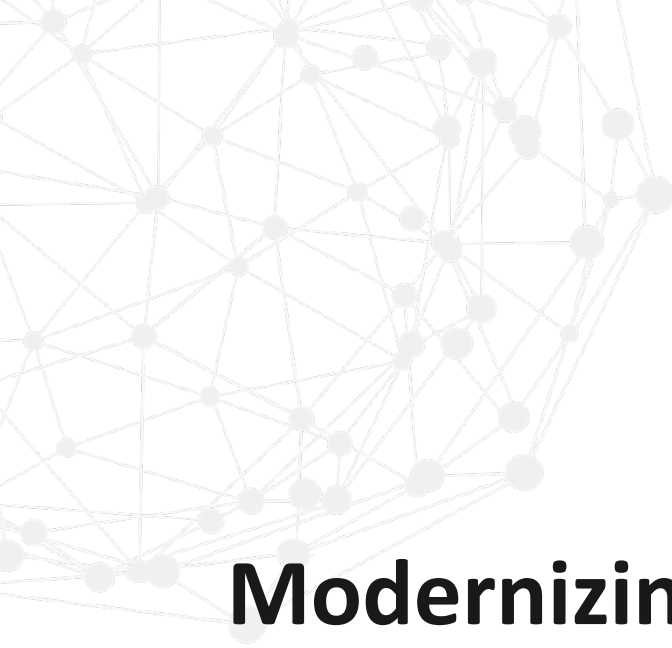
Future proof: As needs change, our API Management Platform will be able to support unanticipated future requirements by providing a flexible framework that will allow VA to quickly scale innovative solutions and eliminate old databases without disrupting user experience.

Veteran-centric: Our open API framework enables rapid innovation in core VA functions—such as Health, Benefits, Burial and Memorials—by adopting an outside-in, Veteran-centric approach to creating APIs that are managed as products and consumed by developers within and outside of VA.

Data driven: Our API Management Platform will be the "front door" to VA's vast data stores—giving developers the ability to design technology solutions that leverage our data and serve our Veterans.

Modernizing technology acquisitions

Micro-purchases

- Micro-purchases will play a big role in the development of the VA's API Management Platform ecosystem –allowing developers to bid on short-term projects needed to build out a consistent architecture, security controls, strategy, roadmap, and outreach approach.

- New micro-consulting work statements will be added to our [GitHub site](#).
  - Active micro-consulting work statements:
    - API Landscape Analysis and Near-term Roadmap
    - API Outreach
  - Draft micro-consulting work statements out for comment:
    - Governance Models in Public and Private Sector
    - Lighthouse Lab Developer Outreach

Micro-purchasing timeline

Potential MCS
1. Vision from product owner
2. Input into GitHub
3. Buy-in from team
4. SME move MCS to draft

Published for Feedback
1. CO publish on GitHub
2. Receive vendor feedback
3. Revise MCS statement
4. Draft cost documentation
5. VOA packet submitted

Out on the Street
1. Publish to vendors as issue
2. Respond to questions
3. Receive proposals
4. Technical evaluations

Post Award
1. Schedule Kick Off
2. Clarify Deliverables
3. Execute Work
4. Receive Deliverables

Idea Creation | **Day 0** | **Day 7** | **Day 14** | **Day 21** | **Day 28** | **Day 56** | **Day 63**

Draft Internal
1. TAC Review
2. Discuss Cost
3. Draft VOA Packet
4. CO Approves MCS

Review for Release
1. Complete Pre Solicitation Process
2. Acquisition Package Complete
3. Funding is Secured (2237)
4. Final Team Review
5. CO Approves Release to GitHub

Award
1. Vendor Selection
2. Develop Pre-Award Documents
3. Award to Vendor and Announce on GitHub

Close Out
1. Acquisition Closeout
2. Project Closeout
   (Communications / Promote)

GitHub

Open-source deliverables

- In addition to leveraging micro-purchases, VA is publishing all micro-consulting deliverables on GitHub.

- Why is this important?
  - Government Reuse
  - Creates Partnerships
  - Open Accountability

What we need from industry

- VA plans to post dozens more micro-purchasing work statements in the future for API engineering, development, design, product management, security, and more via the VA micro-consulting GitHub community.

- This is a new acquisitions approach, and we want feedback from the vendor community.
  - Join our GitHub community, leave feedback on micro-purchasing statements.

- We are actively working to setup a Micro-Consulting Center of Excellence so everyone at VA can leverage micro-purchasing.

- We want our API Management Platform to succeed, and we know we can't do that without the talents of the vendor community.

QUESTIONS?