



ARCHITECTURE DECISION RECORD (ADR)

Decision Summary: Designate Datadog as a utility within the SWF category Application Performance Monitoring (APM)

Approved by the VA Chief Architect (OIT/OCTO) in March 2024

Context

OIT-wide licensing for Datadog is available, providing comprehensive access to its features. Access to Datadog is provisioned via a Max.gov Jira form, ensuring a streamlined process for obtaining the necessary permissions. Support and peer guidance are readily available through the DSWA Slack channel (#public-datadog), fostering a collaborative environment for users. Additionally, extensive documentation and best practices can be found at Datadog Docs, offering valuable resources to maximize the utility of the utility.

Decision

Datadog is designated as a utility within the SWF category Application Performance Monitoring (APM). Datadog is an external, cloud-based APM and observability solution that enables real-time monitoring, alerting, log analysis, and user experience insights for VA applications, including customer-facing endpoints.

Rationale

Datadog is justified as an observability solution due to its external hosting, comprehensive monitoring capabilities, flexible deployment options, and alignment with DevOps best practices. Its use provides critical insights that are not achievable through internally managed tools alone.

Impact(s)

- Update TRM to add Datadog as a utility under Application Performance Monitoring (APM) category.



Architecture and Engineering Services (AES)
Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)
Office of Information and Technology (OIT)

- Inform relevant teams of this recommendation to ensure necessary changes to pages are made upon approval.
- No direct technical or system-level impacts are anticipated aside from TRM updates.

For questions or further clarification, contact the Enterprise Architecture team at ea@va.gov.

Sam Kaldawi
Chief Architect
Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)

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