



ARCHITECTURE DECISION RECORD (ADR)

Decision Summary: Designate Apache Kafka as an Enterprise Standard utility within the SWF category Event Management

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

Context

Apache Kafka is a centrally funded and managed utility, which means it does not impose a direct charge on customers. Support, onboarding, and documentation for Kafka are available through the VA Event Bus portal. Integration of Kafka within the VA is subject to the enterprise security and governance policies.

Decision

Kafka (VA Enterprise Event Bus) is included as a SWF Utility that provides an enterprise-grade, event-driven messaging platform enabling real-time data sharing, asynchronous integration, and workflow automation across the VA's systems.

Rationale

Kafka is justified as the VA's standard event streaming platform due to its proven scalability, resilience, and strong fit for modernizing VA's integration and data sharing strategies.

Impact(s)

- Update TRM to add an Event Management category entry for Apache Kafka.
- 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.



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