



ARCHITECTURE DECISION RECORD (ADR)

Decision Summary: Establish New Classification Framework for Enterprise Technology Platforms

Approved by the VA Chief Architect (OIT/OCTO) on 2/13/2026

Context

The VA Enterprise Architecture is establishing a standardized set of Enterprise Technology Platform types to improve how technology platforms are classified, discovered, and applied across VA product and service lines. While the Software Factory (SWF) has been effective in defining certified custom software development environments, it does not provide a comprehensive classification framework for the broader set of enterprise technology platforms that support modern solution delivery, including automation, integration, data, analytics, and cloud infrastructure.

In parallel, CODE VA serves as the primary entry point for developer-focused tools and resources across VA. Over time, technology platforms that are not directly related to software development have been surfaced alongside development tools, creating ambiguity about where non-development platforms should be discovered and how they should be evaluated during intake and solution design.

As a result, architecture and product teams may experience uncertainty when identifying appropriate platform types for a given use case, leading to inconsistent platform selection, duplicated capabilities, underutilization of enterprise platforms, and increased time-to-delivery.

To address these challenges, VA Enterprise Architecture is establishing Enterprise Technology Platform types as a foundational classification model that complements the Software Factory and CODE VA, providing a common language for evaluating both development and non-development technology environments across VA.



Decision

Establish Enterprise Technology Platform types as a common classification framework for technology platforms used across VA. These platform types support solution design, intake, and architectural alignment by clearly distinguishing development and non-development technology environments in alignment with the “VA Way” IT vision and strategy.

The VA Enterprise Architecture (EA) website will publish definitions and architectural guidance for each Enterprise Technology Platform type, including representative platforms associated with each type. CODE VA will remain the authoritative source for software development-specific tools, pipelines, and developer guidance.

New Platform Types

The following table identifies the initial Enterprise Technology Platform types and representative VASI systems aligned to each type, as reviewed with the Chief Architect in June 2025. These mappings are intended to support classification and discoverability and do not imply exclusive usage or platform ownership:

Platform Type	Definition	Representative VASI Systems
Custom Application Development	Supports full-stack custom application development with certified pipelines, DevSecOps patterns, and shared infrastructure aligned to VA standards and developer best practices.	• VA.gov - Veteran-Facing Services Platform (2103) • VA Platform One (2618) • Benefits Integration Platform (2295) • Lighthouse Delivery Infrastructure (2890) • Mobile Application Platform (2313) • Clinical Decision Support Platform (2769)
Enterprise Automation and Workflow	Supports process automation and application development through low-code/no-code tools, enabling business users and developers to rapidly create and manage workflows.	• ServiceNow (2231) • SharePoint Online Platform (2943) • Dynamics 365 for Government (2539) • Pega Cloud for Government (2747)



		• Salesforce Government Cloud Plus (2671)
Middleware and Integration	Enables integration and orchestration across systems, including APIs, data pipelines, event streaming, and service mediation to connect distributed applications and services.	• Benefits Enterprise Platform (1898) • DTC Integration Platform (2825) • DSS Enterprise (3342) • Veterans Data Integration and Federation Enterprise Platform (2238)
Data and Analytics	Provides storage and analytics services that can be integrated into a solution.	• Arches (2683) • Summit Data Platform (2266)
Cloud Infrastructure	Delivers scalable hosting environments, infrastructure-as-code provisioning, networking, and cloud services across public and private cloud environments, supporting resilient and portable deployments.	• VAEC Microsoft Azure Gov Service (2437) • VAEC Amazon Web Gov Service (2438) • VAEC AWS Commercial (2656) • VA Enterprise Cloud Microsoft Azure Commercial (2657)

Rationale

The establishment of Enterprise Technology Platform types applies the same architectural discipline, reuse mindset, and standardization approach that has proven effective for Custom Application Development within the Software Factory. The Custom Application Development platform provides a clear architectural model, shared standards, and reusable enterprise capabilities that guide solution design while allowing teams flexibility in implementation.

Extending this architectural approach to other technology domains—such as automation, integration, data, analytics, and cloud infrastructure—enables VA to drive consistent architecture decisions across the enterprise. Defining platform types creates a common architectural language that improves alignment between Enterprise Architecture, solution teams, and program offices, ensuring that platform decisions are evaluated consistently during intake, design, and review processes.



Establishing platform types also promotes reuse by making enterprise capabilities more discoverable and reducing the likelihood of duplicative solutions. By classifying platforms independently of specific tools, ownership, or operational responsibility, VA Enterprise Architecture provides guidance that supports standardization without constraining delivery teams or introducing procurement mandates.

Finally, this approach preserves the role of CODE VA as the authoritative source for software development-specific tooling, while ensuring that non-development platforms are governed through an enterprise architecture lens consistent with the "VA Way" IT vision and strategy.

Impact(s)

Enterprise Technology Platforms represents the enterprise standard for platforms across all of VA and supports the overall goals of reuse, standardization, and interoperability, which are key elements of the "VA Way" IT strategy and vision. This results in the following impacts across VA systems, processes, and stakeholders:

Enterprise Architecture Website (architect.va.gov)

- The architect.va.gov site will be updated to introduce and describe the established Enterprise Technology Platform types.
- Existing platform-related content will be reviewed and aligned to the new classification model, ensuring consistent terminology and clear differentiation between development and non-development platforms.
- The EA website will serve as the authoritative source for platform type definitions and architectural guidance, not tool inventories.

CODE VA (code.va.gov)

- CODE VA will remain the authoritative source for software development-specific tools, pipelines, and implementation guidance.
- The Custom Application Development Platform section on the EA website will explicitly reference CODE VA for detailed developer tooling and certified environments.
- This separation reinforces CODE VA's developer-focused mission and prevents duplication or fragmentation of tool listings.

Architecture Intake and Review Processes

- Architecture and product teams will have a consistent framework for classifying platform usage during intake, solution design, and architecture reviews.



- Platform discussions will be framed around platform types rather than individual tools, improving clarity and reducing repeated evaluation of similar capabilities across portfolios.

Product Teams and Program Offices

- Product teams gain improved visibility into enterprise technology capabilities beyond custom application development, supporting more informed architectural decisions.
- Program offices retain flexibility in tool selection and operational ownership while benefiting from clearer architectural guidance and platform discoverability.

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

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**Disclaimer: The Architecture and Engineering Services (AES) team's recommendation in this ADR is provided solely as architectural guidance and does not imply AES ownership of operational, licensing, or cost responsibilities associated with the adoption of the recommended tool.*

This ADR does not establish the recommended tool as the exclusive solution for the defined use case. Other tools that meet VA requirements may continue to be used or evaluated as part of VA's enterprise technology strategy. Cost considerations, licensing agreements, and operational support for any tool remain the responsibility of the respective program offices and stakeholders.