



ARCHITECTURE DECISION RECORD (ADR)

Decision Summary: Deprecate BigFix as an Enterprise Utility from the Enterprise Monitoring tools

Approved by the VA Chief Architect (OIT/OCTO) on 4/3/2026

Context

VA relies on a diverse set of server platforms across the enterprise. The existing BigFix capability is no longer aligned with VA's modernization direction and does not adequately support heterogenous or non-RedHat Linux server environments.

Deprecating the existing utility enables VA to adopt a more robust platform that better aligns with architectural principles and enterprise-wide support goals.

Decision

BigFix will be formally deprecated as an enterprise utility.

A replacement solution will be provided as an approved IO platform utility for server management, patching, configuration enforcement, inventory, and monitoring.

Rationale

Transitioning away from BigFix supports VA architectural principles of reuse, alignment, and compliance while enabling adoption of an enterprise-standard toolset with stronger cross platform and operational capabilities.

The recommended replacement utility provides:

- Cross management, operation, and patching of a heterogenous server environment (e.g., Windows, Linux, Unix, etc.) to include non-RedHat Linux environments
- Real-time deployment, verification, reporting, and enforcement implementation of VA baseline configuration, standards, and security controls
- Offline / Air-Gapped Support (e.g., secure or isolated environments)
- Third-Party Patch catalog depth to deploy third-party product and application remediations



- Role-Based Control / Least privilege
- Capability to feed VA enterprise compliance, visibility, and aggregation tools.
Integration with CMDB and other VA tools
- Asset visibility of hardware and software visibility and reporting on managed servers
- Vulnerability correlation - capability to self-develop, customize, and/or deploy cross-platform patches, remediations, and configuration changes
- Capability to feed VA enterprise compliance, visibility, and aggregation tools

Impact(s)

Operational

- Update the TRM to reflect the deprecation of BigFix and onboarding of the replacement solution.
- Inform relevant teams so they can update documentation, support pages, and operational references following approval.
- Coordinate with IO platform teams to ensure the approved replacement utility is available and properly integrated into VA server management workflows.
- The architect.va.gov site will be updated to introduce and describe the established enterprise utilities, emphasizing shared technical functions that support the broader VA ecosystem outside those identified in CodeVA.

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 an 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.