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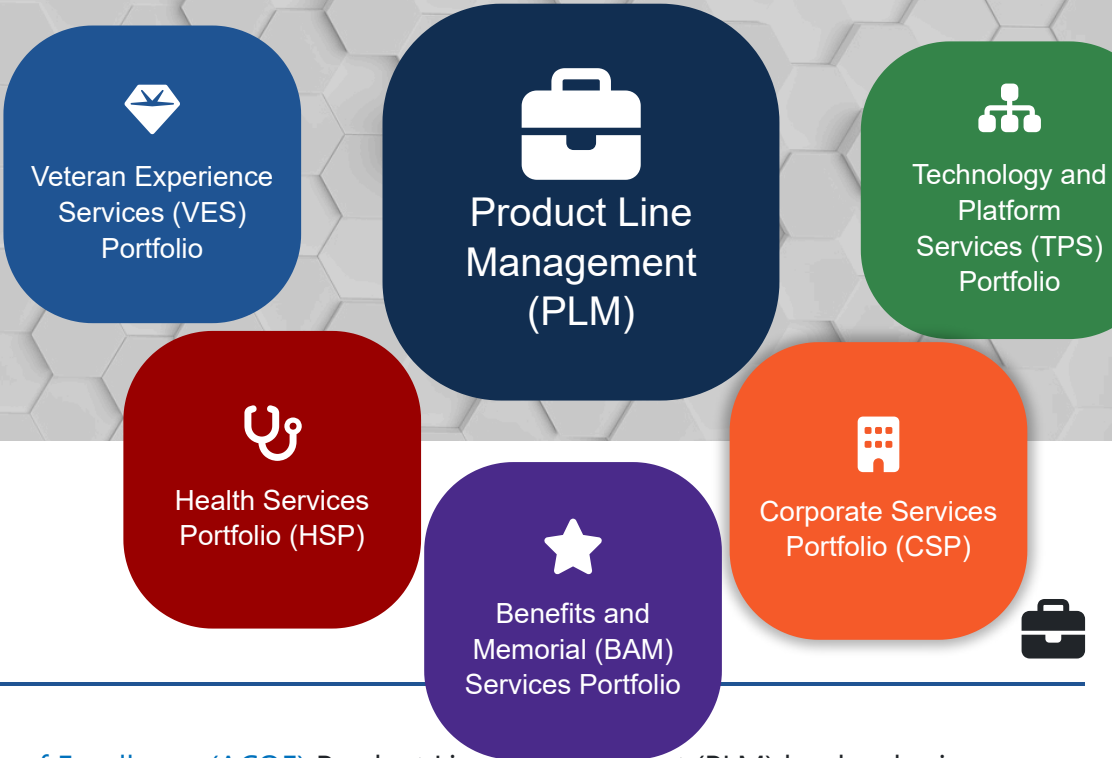
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Product Line Architecture (PLA)

Product Line Architecture (PLA) refers to activities Architecture and Engineering Service (AES) team does to support Product Line Management (PLM). This includes developing architecture artifacts for each Portfolio and Product Line. To view the VA Enterprise Architecture (EA) and Product Lines Current State (PL CS) Dashboards, click the links below:

VA EA Dashboards

PL CS Dashboard



Introduction:

Architecture and Engineering Service (AES) supports the [Agile Center of Excellence \(ACOE\)](#) Product Line Management (PLM) by developing Product Line Architecture (PLA). Activities include planning, research, artifact development, and analysis. AES team helps define current state PLA and recommends target state improvements. VA has multiple mission areas, Veteran services and business functions that fall within product lines defined by ACOE. Product Line Architecture defines critical building blocks for the processes that help deliver against these services and functions. From an investment perspective, PLAs drive decisions for a business case or group of business cases supporting a core mission area or a common or shared service.

PLA Purpose

The purpose of the PLA is to:

- Ensure a business need or performance gap is considered in the enterprise context and is factually based on analysis
- Facilitate deliberate planning, prioritization, and investment decision-making
- Establish/confirm alignment with VA and information technology (IT) strategic goals, performance goals and priorities, and strategies
- Recommend the Portfolio or Product Line (PL) target state with epics that achieve that target state
- Enable prioritization of architectural backlog for input into the IT capital planning and budgeting, alternatives analysis, and acquisition processes

PLAs define the roadmap for a core mission area, business service, or enterprise service. They are driven by business needs and deliver products that improve the delivery of services to VA staff and customers. From an investment perspective, PLAs drive decisions for a business case or group of business cases supporting a core mission area or a common or shared service. The primary stakeholders for PLAs are executives, senior leaders, and their staff who run VA business operations.

The PLA is related to Enterprise Architecture (EA) through three principles: structure, reuse, and alignment. First, the PLA inherits the framework that EA uses, although it may be extended and specialized to meet the specific needs of a core mission area or common or shared service. Second, the PLA methodology reuses important assets defined at the enterprise level including data, common business processes and investments, and applications and technologies. Third, the PLA methodology aligns with elements defined at the enterprise level, such as business strategies, mandates, standards, and performance goals. These principles are essential elements in ensuring PLA value.

PLA Artifacts

To successfully support PLM, AES creates architecture views that present complex information clearly and coherently. One of the principal objectives is to present this information in a way that is understandable to the many stakeholder communities involved in developing, delivering, and sustaining capabilities in support of the stakeholder’s mission. These architecture views divide the problem space into manageable pieces, according to the stakeholder’s viewpoint.

There are five core architecture views identified for each Product Line:

- **OV-1:** The **High-Level Operational Concept Graphic** describes the interactions between the subject architecture and its environment, as well as between the architecture and external systems within the Product Line.
- **OV-5A:** The **Operational Activity Hierarchy** is a high-level view of the hierarchy of the operational activities within the Product Line. This is effectively the VA EA Business Reference Model (BRM) organized in a hierarchal structure limited to business function.
- **SV-1:** The **System Context Description** displays Product Line system relationships to systems within and outside of the Product Line, as well as the interfaces between them. The SV-1 is a bridge between the architecture’s Operational View (OV) and Systems View (SV).
- **SV-5B: Operational Activity to Systems** traceability addresses the linkage between SV-1 and operational activities specified in OV-5A Operational Activity Decomposition Tree. The SV-5B depicts the systems mapped to business functions.
- **Line-of-Sight:** This view displays the relationships between the different architectural layers (Strategy, Business, Data, System, Technology, Hosting) within the VA for each system in the Product Line.

The purpose of these views is to enable business owners, Portfolio Managers, and Product Line Managers to plan and execute product enhancements for their systems.

Product Line Management (PLM) Overview

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Information and Technology (OIT) is strategically shifting toward a Development Security Operations (DevSecOps) approach—focused on collaboration, innovation, Agile principles, and automation—so that it can develop, enhance, maintain, and roll out better products at a faster pace than using the existing separate development and operations processes.

One way that OIT shifted toward DevSecOps was by migrating toward a Product Line Management (PLM) framework and structure. PLM is a strategic model focused on consolidating systems and projects that share a business strategy, objectives, and customers within a common “Product Line.” By aligning workstreams to these Product Lines, there is a gain in efficiencies in infrastructure, automation, and deployment. In

Product Line Management Structure

The diagram illustrates the organizational structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs, organized into five main service areas, each represented by a colored box with a corresponding icon.

- VETERAN EXPERIENCE SERVICES** (Blue box, icon: three people):
 - Customer Master Data Management
 - Data and Analytics
 - Digital Experience
 - Eligibility and Enrollment
 - Veteran Relationship Management
- HEALTH SERVICES** (Red box, icon: stethoscope and three people):
 - Clinical Services
 - Community Care
 - Discovery, Education, and Affiliate Networks (DEAN)
 - Healthcare Environment and Logistics Management
 - Health Informatics
 - Electronic Health Record Modernization
 - Patient Care Services
 - Scheduling
 - VHA Front Office
 - VHA Finance
 - Clinical Imaging
- BENEFITS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES** (Purple box, icon: star and three people):
 - Appeals
 - Benefits Integration and Administration
 - Compensation and Pension
 - Education Veteran Readiness and Employment
 - Insurance
 - Loan Guaranty
 - Memorial Benefits and Services
- CORPORATE SERVICES** (Orange box, icon: building and three people):
 - Acquisition and Property Management
 - Financial Management-
 - Human Capital Management
 - Sec VA / Congressional / Legal Affairs
- TECHNOLOGY AND PLATFORM SERVICES** (Green box, icon: computer monitor and three people):
 - Cyber Security
 - End User Operations
 - Enterprise Cloud Solutions
 - Enterprise Service Management
 - Identity Access Mgmt
 - Platform Management
 - Unified Communications
 - IT Infrastructure Operations and Services
 - Core Network Services

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