



Long Range Architecture Plan

...an OCTO strategic focus area supporting multi-year technical and strategic frameworks

Key Benefits

- Defines the relationships and serves to integrate multiple architectures and technology related plans and products under a single "umbrella" document
- Implements the strategic technical vision and informs enterprise stakeholders as to when and how strategic benefits can be realized
- Facilitates adoption of enterprise common services
- Simplifies and streamlines architecture
- Enable rapid, secure delivery and lifecycle support of IT products and services

The LRA plan will be developed in support of the future state technical vision based upon both current and future technical, business and financial requirements

The new Military Health System (MHS) systems architectures look toward unified processing and virtualization for regional information distribution with the goal of helping the health care community access, manage, and transfer required information more efficiently. A Long Range Architecture (LRA) contributes to the goal of evolving current architecture and processes to enable rapid, secure delivery, and life cycle support of IT products and services.

Through a series of strategic activities, this focus area will strive to develop an overarching, technology-focused Long Range Architecture for the enterprise, including 1, 3, and 5-year views, as well as a 10-year vision.

The ultimate objective of the LRA is to provide technical and technology guidance, direction, and specific roadmaps to the future MHS architecture and technology vision. The LRA plan maps in detail where and when the architecture must sequence, but it must first be predicated by a strong knowledge base of product capabilities, technical feasibility, and functional relevancy to the enterprise as a whole. The LRA must consider trade-offs between simplicity and flexibility, and between current costs and long term viability in order to drive the enterprise towards a common, unified technical vision.

The business of clinical, financial, and operational management continues to evolve at record pace across the health care industry. Thus CTOs must continually assess their infrastructure capabilities in terms of flexibility, reliability, adaptability, and scalability both in the "as is" and the "to be" architectures to keep the costs of ownership in check.





KEY ACTIVITIES

Establishing an LRA plan will help to evolve the current architecture and processes to enable rapid, secure delivery and life cycle support of IT products and services. In order to accomplish this initiative, the OCTO has outlined the following key activities:

Activity #1: Analysis of current and future operational capabilities, and other architecture drivers

The OCTO will work with MHS Enterprise Architecture division and Program Offices to identify the current architectures as well as the future target, driven by MHS business trends and forecasts, the MHS' long term strategy, and assumptions on potential changes to the MHS environment.

Activity #2: Identify major IT initiatives, projects, and the enabling technologies to be included in LRA; identify infrastructure dependencies for these initiatives

This activity focuses on defining the vision and scope of the LRA plan, including: define vision, goals and objectives; define scope, constraints and assumptions; identify stakeholders and their roles; high-level timeline for implementation; and leverage the technology forecast developed as part of the OCTO's Innovation Program.

Activity #3: Prioritize investments based on Decision Support methodology assessments

Once requirements are identified and specific capabilities are identified, the OCTO will prioritize capabilities for investment and/or implementation. Near-term prioritization will focus on implementation and investment through the Portfolio and long-term strategy will focus business trends and adaptation to the future environment.

Activity #4: Establish 10-Year MHS architecture technical vision, technology forecast, and architecture technology guiding principles

The OCTO will work with MHS EA and Program Offices to identify the current architectures as well as the future target, driven by MHS business trends and forecasts, the MHS' long term strategy, and assumptions on potential changes to the MHS environment. This section will illustrate the general MHS architecture path to the future, and to help envision transformation strategies.

Activity #5: Develop, document, and adopt technology-focused MHS architecture reference models

One or more technology-focused architecture reference models, similar to those employed with the Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) will be developed and used to guide architecture expression. These will be developed as needed, and should focus on key technology areas such as SOE and Cloud Computing. These architecture reference models will be developed consistent with the DoD architecture models and OASD guidance, and will assist in defining and constraining technology investment and solution architectures and designs.

Activity #6: Complete an architecture transformation roadmap and transition plan

The OCTO will work with enterprise stakeholders to identify a strategy for transitioning to the future state technology architecture. This activity will leverage the established governance process within OCIO to publish, track and manage Program Office adherence to the communicated future state vision. This activity will also create key technology roadmaps relating to key CTO initiatives such as SOE, Innovation, Virtualization, Cloud Computing, and other technologies.

Activity #7: Establish an MHS LRA stakeholder working group

The MHS OCTO will establish a stakeholder working group to support collecting input into the MHS LRA, and to facilitate coordination and consensus as the MHS LRA evolves. The MHS OCTO will establish a charter for this working group, and will initiate regular working sessions in support of the initial and subsequent iterations of the MHS LRA.

Activity #8: Re-evaluate investment sequencing and portfolio changes and the impact on the LRA (annually)

The MHS OCTO and LRA Stakeholder Working Group will continue to assess new operational capability requirements and portfolio changes, including updates the MHS 1,3, and 5-year plans, 10-year technology vision, and technology forecast based on industry assessments, technology reviews, analyses of alternatives, and other data sources.

