

Department of Veterans Affairs

OFFICE OF INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY FY 2016-2020 PLANNING GUIDANCE



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

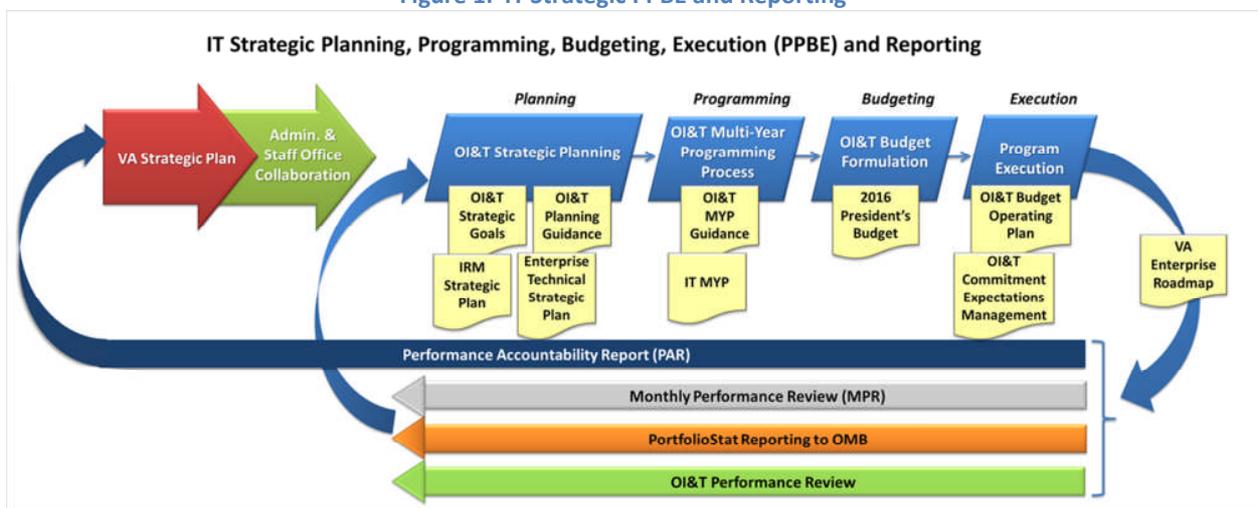
The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Information Technology (OI&T) FY 2016-2020 Planning Guidance, as outlined in this document by the Chief Information Officer (CIO), establishes the plan for ensuring OI&T spending and resource allocation will meet VA's strategic goals and objectives for the next five years and beyond. This document identifies the technology needs and solutions for achieving these strategic goals while aligning IT investment decisions with broader organizational, budget, and program planning decisions. Specifically, OI&T plans to meet the emerging business and IT needs of the agency as it moves toward a Veteran-centric operating environment by focusing investment on three key IT priority areas: Improve and Evolve Information Security, Advance Agile Interoperability and Information Sharing, and Reduce Total Lifecycle Cost of IT.

This OI&T Planning Guidance outlines a vision of the capabilities required to meet not only the existing technology needs of VA, but also provides a roadmap to a more robust, secure, cost-effective, and innovative IT infrastructure. The intent of this document is not to fully describe all investments planned for the next five years in support of OI&T and VA Strategic Goals, rather, it provides strategic direction and guidelines with which all IT programs must comply as they develop solutions to VA's business needs. This planning guidance assumes that the material weaknesses will be remedied in 2014.

I. INTRODUCTION

The VA FY 2016-2020 Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution (PPBE) cycle begins with development and implementation of the VA Strategic Plan and the Information Resource Management Plan. These top-level documents provide the framework for integrating planning with programming and budgeting (alignment of capabilities and requirements to resources) in the IT PPBE cycle. To that end, a key outcome of the OI&T planning process is that it provides positive linkage of OI&T’s strategic planning horizon to the FY 2016-2020 IT Multi-Year Programming process. As a result, this guidance lays out priorities for resource allocation for the VA FY 2016 President’s Budget, to enable achievement of the Secretarial and the CIO’s vision, goals and priorities—a framework by which “strategy drives budget.”

Figure 1: IT Strategic PPBE and Reporting



The IT PPBE process is an information resources management tool with four interrelated phases consistent with the Department’s IT objectives, policies, and strategies (Figure 1). Its purpose is to identify capability requirements (Planning), match them with resource requirements (Programming), translate them into budget proposals (Budgeting), and evaluate spending (Execution) to determine how well the desired IT capabilities will be met (through Commitment Expectation Tracking). OI&T’s adaptation of PPBE is in the early stages of maturation and it is developing detailed processes and governance structures. The purpose of “Planning” is to establish technology requirements and solutions to achieve VA strategic goals, objectives, and strategies while ensuring that information resources management decisions integrate with organizational planning, budgeting, procurement, financial management, human resources, and program decisions in mind.

OI&T anticipates supporting business requirements for an agile and secure IT environment, managing competing funding priorities, mitigating security issues, implementing infrastructural efficiencies against stovepipes, and expanding mobile access for staff and Veterans. This plan focuses on the CIO priorities as captured in Figure 3.

VA FY 2014-2020 Strategic Plan Goals

VA built on its FY 2013-2019 goals and objectives through shifting its FY 2014-2020 focus from improvements within a service or benefit delivery program to coordination and integration across programs and organizations, measuring performance by the ultimate outcome for the Veteran, and putting the Veteran in control of how, when, and where they wish to be served. The FY 2014-2020 strategic goals are statements (Figure 2) of what VA wants to achieve to advance its mission and address challenges and opportunities.

Figure 2: VA FY 2014-2020 Strategic Plan Goals

Strategic Plan Goal	Brief Description
Empowering Veterans to Improve Their Well-being	VA will work to ensure Veterans are empowered, independent, self-sustaining, and well equipped for civilian life
Enhance and Develop Trusted Partnerships	VA recognizes the importance of and embraces the opportunities to work with other Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal organizations, Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs), Military Service Organizations (MSOs), labor unions, nonprofits, and private industry to better serve Veterans and eligible beneficiaries
Manage and Improve VA Operations to Deliver Seamless and Integrated Support	Demonstrate alignment of transformational IT programs and initiatives to VA strategic goals and objectives (transformation programs and initiatives encompass both mission applications and the supporting infrastructure)

CIO Strategic Priorities and OI&T's Goals

To actualize the OI&T mission and vision and plan the necessary activities, VA's CIO has developed five strategic priorities, identified in Figure 3 and detailed in Appendix B, to provide OI&T leadership the necessary strategic guidance for effective decision-making. These strategic priorities take into account the future technical vision as described in the IT Roadmap and combine it with VA strategic goals and objectives and the CIO priorities. These five priorities, Customer Service, Next Generation Information Security, Product Delivery, Transparent Operational Metrics, and Fiscal Management, flow directly into OI&T's Goals as shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Mapping of CIO Priorities to OI&T Goals



VA is moving to a Veteran-centric environment focused on serving Veterans in a comprehensive, proactive manner in order to provide Veterans with high quality and efficiently delivered

benefits and services. The VA must factor the challenges of rising healthcare costs and variable funding allocations into the development of this environment.

To achieve this environment – as articulated in VA strategic goals and objectives, Agency Priority Goals (APGs), and guided by the VA CIO's goals, objectives and priorities – the supporting information environment is moving from disparate stove-piped processes and systems to a unified environment of integrated, interoperable business processes and technical services. Through this transformation, VA will shift focus from making improvements within a program or benefit delivery program to coordinating and integrating across programs and organizations to focus on the delivery of services.

Business Trends Impacting IT

OI&T relies on well-defined business needs in order to deliver products that meet emerging customer needs while building infrastructure in line with industry and partner trends. While individual business needs may vary across IT projects, OI&T has identified business drivers that align to the VA's larger trends, challenges, and opportunities for the next 15-20 years. These VA business drivers focus on the following:

- The need to provide the same or more new services to an expanding and aging Veteran demographic in an atmosphere of decreasing budgets;
- The influx of disability claimants starting to use VA as their primary health care provider;
- The transformation of the health industry from a facility- and provider-centric model for the delivery of clinical services to a geographically dispersed, patient-centric model for the delivery of clinical and non-clinical health services at a location convenient to the patient;
- The need to partner with more non-VA service providers, to provide holistic services, including private and non-profit partners; and
- The continuously evolving and increasing cyber threat to US Government and VA information systems.

II. Emerging IT Needs for FY 2016-2020

In order to meet the broader VA strategic vision, the above business drivers direct the focus of VA IT planning towards three key IT Priority Areas:

1. Improve and Evolve Information Security
2. Advance Agile Interoperability and Information Sharing
3. Reduce the Total Lifecycle Cost of IT

As OI&T plans for FY 2016-2020, the IT Priority Areas will inform the decisions on IT investments that meet evolving VA business needs, and improve and enhance existing infrastructure. OI&T will support all three priorities by investing in faster, more agile ways to develop products and services. This will enable OI&T to support the cost-effective method by which VA will securely deliver healthcare and benefits to Veterans over the next five years.

Improve and Evolve Information Security

As the healthcare industry and VA business functions transform to meet Veteran and patient needs, OI&T will need to continuously improve and invest in enhanced cyber security policies, standards and technologies. There is proliferation of cyber capabilities from threat sources that go beyond large-scale national security threats. VA, like all government institutions, is a target for non-target specific (e.g., computer viruses), organized crime (e.g., identity theft), and intentional and unintentional human (e.g., information leaks) agents.

This IT investment priority aligns to the CIO's Strategic Priority for "Next Generation Information Security," with the goal of VA meeting the highest standards for protecting sensitive Veteran and employee information. This includes only delivering the right information, to the right person, at the right time.

In order to meet this goal, OI&T has identified the following key steps:

- Develop a five-year plan for an OI&T Cyber Security solution to secure Veteran data;
- Develop a resilient Cyber Security Architecture across the VA enterprise domain which is capable of supporting a robust, customer-centric mobile application framework;
- Improve VA incident and vulnerability management capabilities and forensic tools to proactively respond to cyber related events;
- Establish Attribute-Based Access Control at the data level, then enforce via system, operational and tactical controls; and
- Complete implementation of PIV only authentication.

Advance Agile Interoperability and Information Sharing

The shift in the broader healthcare industry from a provider- and facility-centric clinical services delivery model to a geographically dispersed, patient-centric health services delivery model that brings care services to the veteran requires all VA applications meant for clinical and non-clinical Veteran services to be designed for use on any type of desktop or mobile end user device. In addition, the effective delivery of either health- or benefits- related services requires that all VA customer service personnel have access to a single, holistic view of the Veteran.

The CIO identified "Product Delivery" as a Strategic Priority, with the goal for OI&T, and more broadly the VA, to become a more agile, customer focused, delivery organization. Strategically, VA can meet these challenges by providing secure, reliable, and well-designed products to authorized users in a way that enables business process streamlining.

Specifically, over the next five years, OI&T plans to ensure its programs follow these key steps:

- Use and develop Enterprise Shared Services (ESS) which rely on authoritative data sources;
- Eliminate stovepipes and capability gaps/overlaps between VA healthcare and benefits information systems; and
- Use ESS to implement a single logical source for Service member and Veteran personnel records.

Furthermore, focusing OI&T investments on interoperability and information sharing will have a secondary impact on Customer Service and Transparent Operational Metrics, two of the CIO's Strategic Priorities. As OI&T delivers products that meet industry data and interoperability standards, Veterans using VA systems will have access to greater self-service capabilities and the information stored in VA's partner systems will be accessible to VA staff who administer healthcare and benefits to Veterans. Finally, as OI&T removes silos across its organization and modernizes legacy systems, VA will have greater access to Veteran and VA program data for analysis and performance measurement.

Reduce Total Lifecycle Cost of IT

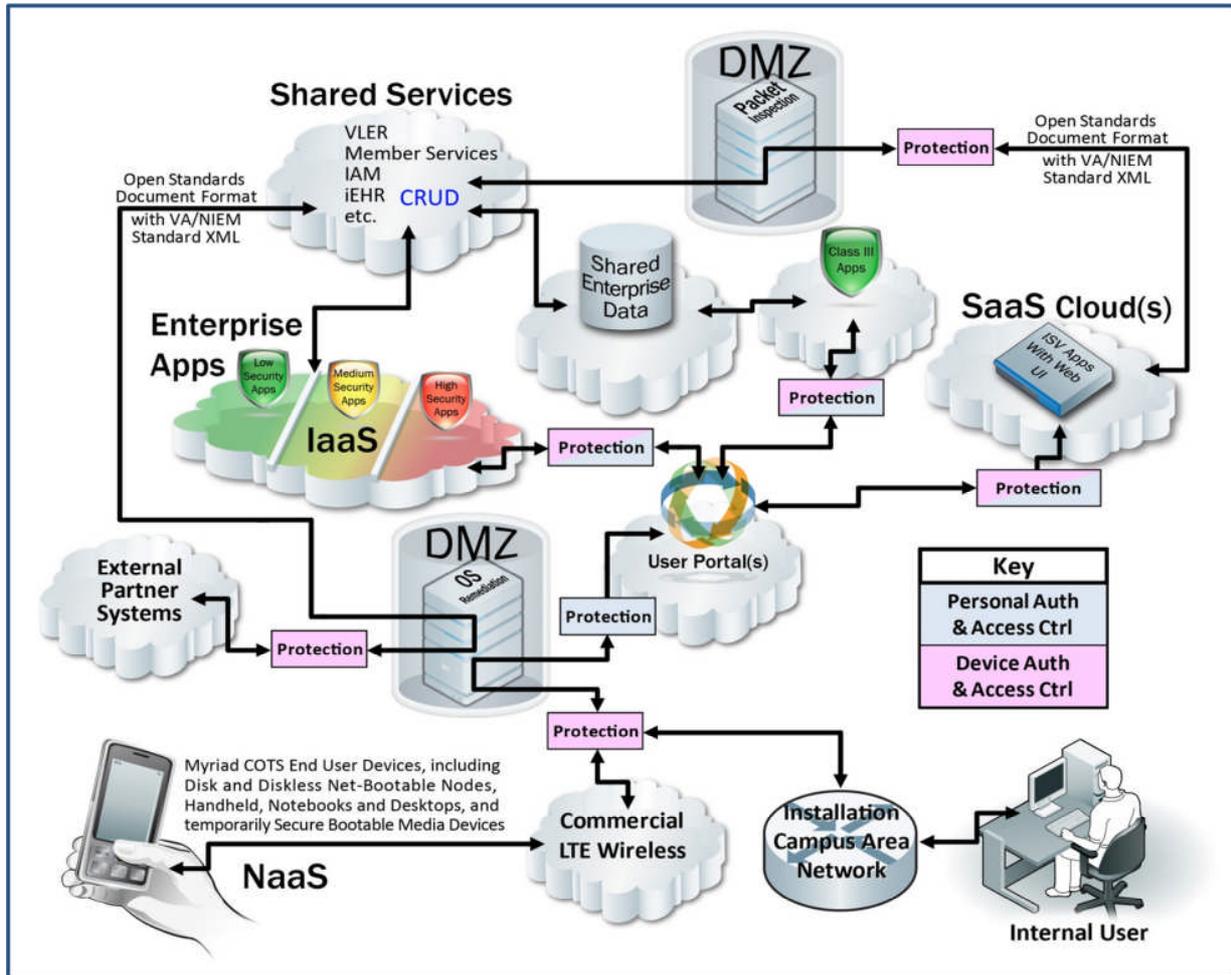
Over the next five years, new technology requirements will exceed current and forecasted OI&T budget and resource allocation. The CIO has specifically identified Fiscal Management as a Strategic Priority, and challenged OI&T to meet the rising demand for IT services despite budget constraints. Therefore, OI&T must focus on investing in and developing more cost-effective delivery methods. In addition to the previous investment priorities (Agile Interoperability and Information Sharing), the following key steps will allow OI&T to meet the rising demand for IT services despite budget constraints.

- Maximize the use of commercial off the shelf or open source products and services;
- Migrate to the most economical IT infrastructure, including mobile and cloud system architecture; and
- Improve OI&T investment and decision making processes.

III. FY 2016-2020 Key Priority Implementation

The IT Roadmap (Figure 4) describes VA's information technology (IT) vision—looking at specific emerging innovations and projecting its role and impact on future VA operations. This future (target) state view of VA's IT infrastructure environment intends to guide enterprise-wide IT planning and decision-making. The IT Roadmap plays a key role in influencing VA's IT budget, technology investments, and strategic decisions necessary to transform and modernize VA's IT capabilities to best serve our Nation's Veterans. To that end, VA has established approaches to better monitor and account for IT deliverables through incremental and agile development (i.e., delivering IT functionality in increments of six months or less). This also includes increased focus on security, effectiveness, and efficiency while decreasing IT lifecycle costs by eliminating unnecessary program overlaps and duplicative IT projects and consolidating IT infrastructure through the mandatory use of enterprise shared services.

Figure 4: IT Roadmap



The IT Roadmap, approved and published in 2012, describes a robust and secure IT environment that will provide VA with the flexibility needed to become more effective and efficient at what it does. The availability of information on any device, anywhere, at any time will help make conducting critical tasks more efficient and less labor intensive. VA will provide internal users and mission partners a robust, agile, interoperable infrastructure that provides connectivity, computing capability, and approaches for delivery of integrated services to Veterans, while supporting VA's execution of strategies. The infrastructure outlined in the IT Roadmap identifies two critical components of the future VA technology environment.

- A single, consistent, and holistic view of each Veteran available to all VA users with a need to know, including Veterans Health Administration (VHA), Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), and corporate users as well as critical business partners, enabling the proactive delivery of services in a more effective and efficient manner
- New applications can be developed much faster and easier using enterprise shared services for information security, access, storage and other common capabilities, making it possible for VA OI&T, open-source communities, and even end users to quickly and easily develop "user apps" without application-specific "back-ends"

Ultimately, this vision will lead to more cost effective investments in technology, and will open new doors to opportunities for service and benefits delivery that currently do not exist. The following list of attributes (Figure 5) captures the essence of VA's technology vision.

Figure 5: Essential Attributes to VA's Technology Vision

1	Device Freedom - VA staff and Veterans have the flexibility to utilize any approved device that may or may not be hardwired into VA's network that can be used as a portal for information for the end user or used by staff to perform their duties.
2	Location Freedom - VA staff and Veterans are unencumbered by their physical location in accessing information.
3	Temporal Freedom - VA staff and Veterans are able to access information at any time.
4	User Interface (UI) Freedom - VA staff and Veterans are able to access information unencumbered by device-dependent or proprietary user interfaces and standards.
5	Secure Authentication - Devices and people are authenticated at appropriate points using separate services that are not mutually dependent.
6	Data Security – Information is protected as it traverses through the network and is kept in a data store that serves as the “single source of truth.”
7	Browser Independent Applications – Enterprise applications are built as dynamic websites that adapt to how browsers need to translate and display information.
8	Reusable Shared Services – Enterprise applications and external partner systems utilize common services to exchange, process and present information.
9	Best of Breed Applications – VA adopts best-of-breed Commercial Off the Shelf (COTS) and Government Off the Shelf (GOTS) solutions vetted through a rigorous “buy or build” governance process.
10	Persistent Data – Shared Enterprise Data approaches combined with Enterprise CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) services provide effective, efficient, and secure exchange and retention of information.
11	Utility Computing – VA leverages technologies that allow the acquisition and provisioning of capabilities and services enabling adoption of a utility/commodity cost model.
12	On Demand Capacity – VA leverages technologies that provide elasticity, scalability, and speed in the acquisition and provisioning of capabilities and services.

The IT Roadmap effectively implements the key IT Priority Areas identified above through the essential attributes, thus meeting the strategic priorities set by the CIO. A mapping of the essential attributes to the key IT Priority Areas are documented in Appendix C.

IV. Planning Guidance

OI&T is focused on completing the FY 2016-2020 update to the first-Annual IT Strategic Planning Guidance of FY 2015-2019, to complement and inform the FY 2016-2020 IT Multi-Year Program. This includes identification of the proposed planning horizon and near-term activities in the first

quarter of 2014 and the identification of opportunities for divestiture, reduction, reinvestment (i.e., growth), or expansion of OI&T's priorities and capabilities. In turn, this will result in a significant decrease in the total number of independent-, program-, project-, or application-level databases across VA, resulting in increased information security and sharing capabilities.

FY 2020 OI&T Vision

The OI&T FY 2016-2020 Strategic Planning Guidance is predicated on meeting the highest priority operational imperatives. All new functional (customer-facing) IT capabilities shall be planned, designed, and funded in a way that is commensurate with mobile and cloud design patterns, with minimal dependencies for operation from government assets from data center to desktop within the required timeframe and in compliance with the VA Enterprise Architecture (EA). The IT commitment focuses first on the required end user experience, as the critical success factor to determine the sufficiency of underlying systems engineering, need fulfillment, and measurement of success. Appendix D captures specific, tactical recommendations for investment prioritization to support the alignment between this planning guidance and execution.

Operation and maintenance of all capabilities shall be funded over the FY 2016-2020 planning cycle, limited to those components bearing a direct "line-of-sight" connection to accomplishing VA strategic goals and objectives in the long term and the FY 2016 Strategic Program Initiatives (SPIs) in the short term. For capability-based budgeting for PPBE at the project level, the IT program shall include all development costs plus the fully allocated, pro rata operation and sustainment costs over that project's total life cycle, or through FY 2020, whichever is earlier.

VA should implement this FY 2020 end-state vision in phases with milestones and other management controls to create the opportunity for mid-course corrections and risk management needed to respond to changing circumstances. These should align with the trade-space priorities identified below.

OI&T FY 2016-2020 Trade-Space Priorities

These trade space priorities derive from OI&T's IT Roadmap. The IT Roadmap provides the "to-be" vision—the proposed future state of IT environment and capacities needed to meet today's and tomorrow's technology requirements through a 2015 timeframe and a foundation for 2016-2020. These trade space priorities are in three categories: areas for increased investment, areas for continued steady state investment, and areas for reduced investment. Appendix D captures these specific recommendations.

APPENDIX A – Acronyms

This document uses the following acronyms:

Acronym	Definition
AI	Accessibility of Information
APG	Agency Priority Goals
COTS	Commercial Off the Shelf
CRUD	Create, Read, Update, Delete
CS	Cyber Security
DAS	Data Access Service
DMS	Data Management Service
DoD	Department of Defense
DS	Digital Strategies
EA	Enterprise Architecture
ESS	Enterprise Shared Services
FY	Fiscal Year
GOTS	Government Off the Shelf
IaaS	Infrastructure as a Service
IT	Information Technology
MSO	Military Service Organizations
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
OI&T	Office of Information Technology
PPBE	Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution
RRTF	Ruthless Reduction Task Force
SCIP	Strategic Capital Investment Planning
SPI	Strategic Program Initiatives
TRM	Technical Reference Model
VA	Veterans Affairs
VBA	Veterans Benefits Administration
VHA	Veterans Health Administration
VSO	Veteran Service Organizations

APPENDIX B - CIO Strategic Priorities Descriptions

Strategic CIO Priority	Goal	Description
Customer Service	Maintain and improve OI&T's customer relationships	OI&T's number one organizational priority that focuses on maintaining and improving OI&T's relationships with its customers
Next Generation Information Security	Meet the highest standards protecting sensitive Veteran or employee information	Embodies VA's commitment to meeting the highest standards in protecting sensitive Veteran and employee information
Product Delivery	Provide secure, reliable, and well-designed products to become a more agile, customer-focused, delivery organization	represents OI&T's commitment to provide secure, reliable, and well-designed products on schedule for VA's Administrations and staff offices to ensure success of the Agency Priority Goals (APGs)
Transparent Operational Metrics	Develop operational metrics to measure performance and use those metrics to drive management decision-making	Include a variety of operational metrics that provide the ability to measure key processes and adjust accordingly, thereby improving the use of staff resources, and supporting better investment decisions
Fiscal Management	Implement mature fiscal management processes and tools such that there is complete transparency for every IT dollar spent	Crucial to meet the rising demand for IT services in a constrained budget environment. Efforts such as the Ruthless Reduction Task Force (RRTF) and the Strategic Capital Investment Planning (SCIP) process are designed to optimize use of the IT budget

APPENDIX C - OI&T Goals Alignment to IT Roadmap

The following table represents an alignment of OI&T goals to the three emerging IT needs and the attributes of the IT Roadmap, which represent the implementation of these goals.

OI&T Goals		1. Be a Trusted Strategic Partner to VA Administrations and Staff Offices in Driving VA Mission Objectives	2. Be a Recognized Leader in Information Resource Management, Operational Excellence, Security and Innovation	3. Be a Value Driven, Effective and Efficient IT Organization
IT Roadmap Attributes	Device Freedom	X	X	
	Location Freedom	X	X	
	Temporal Freedom	X	X	
	User Interface Freedom	X	X	
	Reusable Shared Services	X	X	X
	Browser Independent Applications	X	X	
	Best of Breed Applications	X	X	
	Data Security	X	X	
	Secure Authentication	X	X	
	Utility Computing			X
	On Demand Capacity			X
	Persistent Data		X	X

Note: Each attribute may help implement more than one OI&T Goal.

APPENDIX D – FY 2016-2020 Trade-Space Priorities: Investment Prioritization Guidance

Areas for increased investments:

As the VA anticipates changes in the next five years, a large number of currently deployed Veterans will be returning home. Estimates are anticipated to be as much as 200,000 military personnel who will need, require, or expect benefits from the VA.

This FY 2016-2020 IT Plan considers that the increasing number of Veterans will drive upward the level of functionality and transaction volume of information technology services that will be required to support these Veterans. Systems in place today will be inadequate (too expensive; insufficient functionality; insufficient capacity and reliability; insufficient agility) as technology access (self-service) is demanded by individual Veterans. Without a transformation in management of IT, VA will not keep up with the demand for services, while being responsive to reductions in Federal spending. Without funding to support the many new medical facilities that are being added or updated, the IT systems will falter.

In addition, new mandates impose requirements with short implementation timeframes. To fund these initiatives, VA will need to find efficiencies elsewhere in IT operations. VA must plan to face this reality.

The VA PPBE process and priorities has been developed with these considerations in mind, and funding requirements will reflect the impact of increased Veteran service, as well as increased numbers of VA employees required to support these Veterans.

Areas for continued level of investment:

- a. Maintain VA hiring (on-boarding) process.
- b. Maintain OAL/TAC and FSC payments.
- c. Maintain existing wireless infrastructure.
- d. Maintain support for critical legacy applications/initiatives, as demonstrated by (and limited to) direct “line-of-sight” connection (dependency) for accomplishment of VA strategic goals and objectives
- e. Lifecycle Refresh – adequately address in FY 2015-2019 Plan for future years:
 - (1) IT infrastructure shall be identified in such a way that it’s direct relationship to specific applications (by name) and, in turn, to specific VA Strategic Plan and Goals (by name; Agency Priority Goals) can be shown. This direct linkage is the critical element of life cycle management of TCO to implement and operate every new business capability in VA.
- f. Enterprise visibility - including the associated instrumentation and processes – such that any device or link to the VA network can be seen and actively monitored and such that data is gathered to support capacity planning, service level measurement and other key metrics and analysis.
- g. Communications systems and infrastructure commensurate with the demand placed on them by approved initiatives
- h. Maintain investments in technology and processes to ensure transparency in actual expertise of employees

Areas for reduced level of investments

- a. Initiate an infrastructure optimization plan, based on a baseline study to identify and prioritize opportunities
- b. Stop Class 3 software development:
 - (1) To support the VA migration to open source software, promote innovation, and configuration management, all local ("Class 3") software development shall be performed on the next planned release of VistA by OSEHRA. Concepts for new IT capabilities originating from the field shall be encouraged and promoted, and follow the processes established by OSEHRA for new projects. No new "Class 3" software development will take place at the local level on the current production version of VistA except via the innovation office and in the OSEHRA eco-system.
- c. Cease adding single-purpose data repositories to the VA portfolio.
- d. Do not build applications relying upon specific releases of proprietary software
- e. Do not purchase nor maintain desktop printers, move to manage print services
- f. Limit computing devices to one per user (i.e., one device that communicates and computes).
- g. In conjunction with cost containment objectives for mobile devices and related voice/data plans, users will have a single voice device unless there are compelling economics to the contrary.
- h. Reduce the number and cost of IT Support Contracts (less expensive support through competition, cost and quality metrics, past performance, incentive approaches; more self-service through App Store and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), more Open Source products, self-healing networks; predictive analytics and outage prevention through enterprise management framework implementation):
 - (1) Knowledge/technical consultant/advisory contracts may be a category requiring additional support within established constraints.
- i. Phase out legacy systems meeting the below criteria:
 - (1) Poor industry support/obsolescence: e.g., BDN.
 - (2) Low volume of transactions; high maintenance cost; redundant systems.
 - (3) Replaced by new systems (e.g., Enterprise Service Bus (ESB) replacement of VITRIA).
- j. Continue to reduce local commodity purchases.
- k. Programs should use virtualization vs. dedicated servers and environments (e.g., development/test environments) in accordance with release architecture.
- l. Programs will not acquire or build program unique development, test or production environments.
- m. VA will build and operate robust development, test and production environments as enterprise shared services.
- n. Reduce VA office space; move to collaboration spaces and workforce hoteling (adopt private sector best practice hoteling model).
- o. Reduce the data center power consumption per business transaction through greater virtualization, IT asset utilization (use of available capacity), and exploration of viability of solid state memory.
- p. Network management (move to commercial communications provisioning of users).
- q. Adopt VOIP and reduce analog telephony (phone and fax).
- r. Reduce expenses for (and/or) optimize all IT tools used to support IT.

- s. Consider skipping implementation of releases of commercial products where new features do not make a demonstrable contribution to enhanced execution of VA mission.
- t. Eliminate Dual Storage of PAC Images in VistA imaging. Advantages of VI storage include:
 - (1) Sharing of images with DoD and across VISNs;
 - (2) Single source of images for desktop viewing, ROI, etc.;
 - (3) Ability to swap out PACS without migrating all images with less reliance on commercial vendor;
 - (4) VA has a 75 year storage requirements that should be done at the VA level, rather than having each VISN come up with their own very long term storage solutions; and
 - (5) Analysis needs to be conducted on the need for a redundant storage solution for backup purposes.
- u. Retire Education Benefits CH32 (VEAP) and move its capabilities to another of the VBA applications. Sunset Ch. 32 as the application may cost more to keep “on” than the benefit it provides the Veteran.
- v. Retire Covers and MAP-D as their functionality is replaced by new systems.
- w. Retire BIRLS/VADS and move its capabilities to another of the VBA applications. The purpose of this initiative is to assess the viability of the BIRLS/VADS legacy architecture, given progress on VBMS, DOD/VA data sharing, DAS, and potential overlap with VADIR and EDW. Scope includes development and execution of a POAM to optimize and/or eliminate BIRLS/VADS.
- x. In the short term, standardize the version of MDWS for use across OI&T; this project is related to, and a subset of, ETL Optimization.