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1. Introduction

The Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA) published the Data Reference Model (DRM) Version 2.0 on November 17, 2005. FEA states that the primary purpose of the DRM is to enable information sharing and reuse across the federal government. FEA indicates that main mechanisms are the use of standard data descriptions, the discovery of common data, and the promotion of uniform data management practices. The DRM describes various artifacts that government agencies can generate from their data architectures. Although the DRM can be applied a single agency, it can also be applied within a Community of Interest (COI) that crosses traditional boundaries within the agency or closes gaps between cooperating agencies.

Veterans Affairs (VA) Enterprise Architecture (EA) applies DRM 2.0 to both internal and external COIs. The VA enterprise COI includes all VA administrations (NCA, VBA, and VHA) as well as VA enabling missions such as Information Technology (IT), Finance and Accounting, and Human Resources. The VA is a member of a special COI with the Department of Defense (DoD) that is enabling improved Veteran data sharing between the two agencies.

The DRM Map sub-menu item provides a detailed discussion of the alignment between current VA efforts within the VA COIs and the DRM major standardization areas.

Reference(s):

- FEA Data Reference Model.pdf