



SOE Governance Center (SOEGC)

...coordinating technical and business interests supporting the MHS' SOA implementation

Functions of the SOEGC

- Develop SOE Policies, Processes, and Standards
- Establish and Maintain a SOA Portfolio of Common Services, Infrastructure, and Practices
- Define and Execute SOE Governance by Conducting Periodic Project Reviews
- Develop and implement a Scalable Reference Architecture to Communicate SOE Specific Architectural Principles and Guidelines
- Provide Mentoring and Training on SOA
- Define and Execute Project Compliance Reviews
- Drive Business Benefits through Optimizing People, Processes, and Technology

The SOEGC will be responsible for execution of the governance/control model and will provide oversight and perform compliance checks on SOA initiatives at the MHS to ensure adherence to applicable SOE policies.

A key component of the success of a Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) is the introduction and implementation of governance for services. **Without clear governance, services tend to be created in an uncoordinated manner, which can lead to a variety of issues such as inconsistent service contracts, duplication of effort, and silos of interoperable services.**

Leveraging work from other SOE activities, the Military Health System's (MHS) Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) is establishing a SOEGC that will provide oversight and compliance checks for the MHS' SOE implementation efforts.

Background on SOE Efforts at the MHS

In 2010, the Secretaries of Defense and Veterans Affairs mandated as a joint governance and technology approach, that the DoD and VA move towards a net-centric SOE framework. With this in mind, the MHS' OCTO created a strategic initiative to define, implement, and manage the creation of a SOE, aligned with business priorities by providing an organizational framework for instilling, governing, and evolving the culture of 'reuse' and 'sharing' of enterprise assets for improved interoperability and agility in the delivery of health care.

To date, key completed SOE activities include identifying the desired SOA maturity level of the enterprise based on the Open Group Service Integration Maturity Model (OSIMM), performing an "as-is" assessment of the current enterprise SOE maturity level, and completing a gap analysis of the current and to-be SOA maturity levels based upon collected data. Using this information, the MHS was able to outline a series of steps, or Roadmap, that will help transform the MHS from a Level 1 OSIMM standard maturity level to a Level 4/5.

Establishing the SOEGC

In 2012, **the OCTO kicked off its efforts to establish the SOEGC, which will focus on developing the processes, procedures, and guidelines for typical SOA activities and initiatives that need to be executed as part of the MHS' transition to a net-centric environment.** The SOEGC is working to define, refine, and put into effect policies, processes, and standards around multi-organizational use of enterprise SOA artifacts. Preliminary drafts have been completed on policies for documenting services, requesting a waiver of applicability from service governance, and defining the service lifecycle management process.





SOEGC SERVICE OFFERINGS

The SOEGC will **provide guidance on technical standards and best practices for executing SOA initiatives**. It will also enforce standardized development methods and operational procedures and address service-enablement topics, like operational monitoring and security, by establishing Service Lifecycle Management related policies and processes for providers and consumers to identify, analyze, design, built, test, deliver, deploy, maintain, deprecate, and retire services. Service offering areas under the SOEGC include:

Training

prioritize learning areas, establish a learning plan, create learning materials, and execute the learning strategy to disseminate SOE related training to the MHS community

SOA Blueprint

develop and maintain a SOA blueprint that incorporates both standards and execution portions to use as a baseline for the enterprise

Compliance Reviews

conduct periodic reviews of SOA projects for compliance with SOEGC policies, standards, and guidelines in an effort to maintain consistency across SOA initiatives and to ensure interoperability, maintainability, and reliability of services and service-based applications.

SOA Repository

central location for SOA project artifacts, including SOA-related business processes, policies, agreements, architectures, and portfolios.

Ultimately the SOEGC will help assess and prioritize various SOA initiatives, assist in the sequencing of MHS and/or integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) investments, acquiring services, and exposing reusable business services from each domain by maintaining the service catalog thereby facilitating reuse of services and processes.

Members and Partners

The SOEGC reports to the MHS Chief Information Office Management Board (CIOMB) and consist of members that represent MHS divisions, program offices, and the Services. In the near future, the goal is to also include representatives from the Integrated Program Office (IPO), VA, and Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). This multi-disciplinary team of individuals will work together to determine the best strategy for embedding a SOA across the MHS.

