



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
107 ARMY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20310-0107

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12 February 2024

SAIS-AD (25-1rrrr)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Implementation of Data Service Interface Specifications

1. References. See enclosure.

2. Purpose. Provide Army enterprise-wide guidance on the implementation of data service specifications, also referred to as application programming interfaces, as well as data governance guidance.

3. Background. To successfully implement a service-oriented architecture, developers must define and document interfaces¹ (such as application programming interfaces (APIs)). An interface control document (ICD) defines the interfaces, while an information exchange specification (IES) defines the information being exchanged across the boundary. Planning interfaces and exchange specifications carefully are essential to maintain interoperability, maximize utility, and preserve data security. Enabling information sharing through interfaces is a DoD-wide objective expressed in the DoD Data Strategy, Objective 4.2.1 (reference 1a).

4. Guidance. Under the authorities specified in references 1b, 1c, and 1d, and in accordance with references 1a, 1f and 1g:

a. Program Management Responsibilities: For programs under acquisition oversight, the Program Manager is responsible for technical implementation of APIs. For programs already in production and not under acquisition oversight, the Command directing and responsible for the system will appoint a government official responsible for oversight of technical implementation of APIs. Specific technical responsibilities are to:

(1) Implement data interfaces in the form of APIs that do not require proprietary software (such as systems or applications developed using open-source coding) or technology to exchange information between the program and other DoD systems.

(2) Register all Army data interfaces, payloads, data dictionaries, and versioning in the Enterprise Data Service Catalog as per reference 1e.

(3) Implement appropriate Data Steward data life cycle management policies associated with the system data.

¹ Interface - Common boundary between independent systems or modules where interactions take place. (Committee on National Security Systems (CNSSI) 4009 Glossary - 20150406).

SAIS-AD (25-1rrrr)

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(4) Implement access controls for externally facing APIs to only approved data elements with required access controls as per Data Steward Guidance. Program Managers have authority over data access for internally facing APIs.

(5) Implement Authorizing Official cybersecurity controls and guidance over APIs required for authority to operate and authority to connect approval.

b. System Owner Responsibilities: Once in production, the command that operates the system is responsible to maintain the system and its APIs in accordance with the availability agreed to during system design. The system owner is responsible to inform the Data Steward(s) associated with API approval concerning the availability of the API and usage of data traversing the API in accordance with Data Steward guidance. The System Owner will coordinate with the Data Steward nominated Functional Data Managers to establish and manage monitoring for usage, performance, maintenance, and security.

c. API Governance Responsibilities: The CIO and the CDAO will work with Army leaders to integrate appropriate check points into acquisition and authorization processes to certify data accessibility and interoperability is met through interfaces and exchange specifications.

(1) Mission Area Data Officers (MADOs) will identify appropriate data leaders, as categorized in the DoD Data Stewardship Guidebook, who will approve API content and access controls for APIs that are externally facing to the Component or enterprise.

(2) APIs that share data outside of their domain and across the enterprise will require adjudication through the MADO for governance of the API content and will need to be registered in the Army's enterprise data catalog (e.g., Enterprise Data Service Catalog (EDSC)).

5. Points of contact.

a. CIO Policy Inbox: usarmy.pentagon.hqda-cio.mbx.policy-inbox@army.mil.

b. OCIO Architecture, Data and Standards Directorate, Data Division (SAIS-ADD): Mr. Alfred Hull, Data Division Chief, at usarmy.data.management@mail.mil.

Encl

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Chief Information Officer

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REFERENCES

- a. DEPSECDEF (DoD Data Strategy), October 2020.
- b. Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Section 3520 (2006).
- c. Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Section 3511 (2006).
- d. DoDI 8320.07 (Implementing the Sharing of Data, Information, and IT Services in the DoD), 5 December 17.
- e. HQDA CIO memorandum, (Army Data Governance Roles and Responsibilities), 1 July 2022.
- f. SECARMY memorandum (Army Directive 2009-03, Army Data Management), 30 October 2009.
- g. DoD Chief Data Officer Guidance, (DoD Data Stewardship Guidebook), 13 October 2021.
- h. DoD Application Programming Interface (API) Technical Guidance, October 2023.