**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**
WASHINGTON DC  20310-0200

SAIS-ADD (25-1rrrr)

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Data Platform Guidance

1. References. See Enclosure 1.

2. Purpose. To clarify approved data platforms, allowable low-code/no-code activity within a data platform and required governance of low-code/no-code activities within data platforms. This memorandum revises and supersedes reference 1a.

3. Background.

    a. Data platforms are a key technology enabler for the Secretary of the Army's priority for creating a data centric Army (reference 1b). Data platforms provide an approved and accredited environment to execute the Decision-Driven Data Concept of Operations (CONOPS) (reference 1c) Army Data and Analytics Process.

    b. On 1 April 2022, the Army Chief Data and Analytics Officer (CDAO) identified five approved data platforms (reference 1a) for enterprise use with the intent of focusing Army activities into just a few platforms to increase community cooperation, visibility, and efficiency by encouraging shared environments, reduce redundancy, and improve cybersecurity through limiting platform growth.

    c. Since April 2022, the Army has approved a Capability Requirements Document (reference 1d) for a next generation data platform that reinforces the role of shared user space and enables the Decision-Driven Data CONOPS, as well as begins identifying a reference architecture that promotes data sharing across programs. Additionally, the Army has provided guidance on adoption of agile software practices and development, security, and operations (DevSecOps) software pipelines (reference 1e). Within this broader software context, data platforms provide an opportunity for low-code/no-code[1] software development associated with data analytics.

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[1] low-code/no-code: software development consisting of rapid assembly of limited, customer-facing [applications | solutions] which require minimal or no manual computer programing effort.

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4. Guidance. Effective immediately:

    a. Allowable data platforms.

       (1) In accordance with reference 1f, Army Organizations will only utilize DoD Approved Data Platforms (DADP) (see Enclosure 2) and will not create new data management platforms for business mission activities without the explicit approval of the Army CDAO. Additionally, the platforms identified in Enclosure 2 will be reviewed yearly to ensure appropriateness and adequate coverage of Army modernization.

       (2) When an Army organization determines that the DADP are not sufficient to complete a particular mission or objective, the organization can request an exception to the Army CDAO (SAIS-ZB) through the Army Data Board. The request should include sensible and functional information to thoroughly justify the deviation (e.g., the mission, the DADP flaw, deficiency, or limitation; the alternate platform; how the new platform closes a DADP gap; the strategic use of the new platform; etc.) for the Army CDAO consideration and subsequent DoD CDAO approval.

    b. Allowable low-code/no-code activities.

       (1) Each approved data platform has an approved requirement defining its scope and an approved Authority to Operate and Authority to Connect that defines the platform's accreditation boundary and security controls. Users are allowed to perform low-code/no-code activities consistent with the approved scope of the platform requirement and approved accreditation boundaries.

       (2) If the low-code/no-code activities fall within the approved system cybersecurity boundary and approved operational requirements, these activities do not require a separate DoD Information Technology (IT) Portfolio Repository (DITPR)/Army Information Technology Registry (AITR) number, a Clinger-Cohen certification, or a separate Enterprise Mission Assurance Support Service (eMASS) entry. The activities utilize the data platform documentation. DADP can host low-code and no-code capabilities.

    c. Data Platform Governance. The proponent/owner for an approved data platform is required to maintain a governance body (e.g., a Steering Committee or Configuration Control Board) responsible for reviewing activities within the data platform to ensure low-code/no-code activities lie within the requirements scope and accreditation boundary.

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5.  Exceptions.

    a. This guidance does not include (1) data platforms within the Defense Research and Engineering Network, (2) data platforms integrated into legacy applications in direct support of transactional activities, (3) data platforms in support of intelligence activities, (4) experimental/pilot efforts or (5) locally managed platforms. These data platforms do not need an Army CDAO approval to operate.

    b. This guidance does not address data platforms in support of mission command warfighting activities, however, as they are of interest to senior Army leaders, Army organizations must review the mission command platforms against platforms listed in Table 1, Enclosure 2 to identify possible synergy or commonalities.

6.  Responsibility. The Army CDAO has oversight responsibility for data platforms.

7.  Points of Contact.

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Encls

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Superintendent, Arlington National Cemetery
Director, U.S. Army Acquisition Support Center

CF:
Principal Cyber Advisor
Director of Enterprise Management
Director, Office of Analytics Integration
Commander, Eighth Army

# REFERENCES

a. HQDA CDAO memorandum (Data Platforms), 1 April 2022

b. SECARMY message (Message from the Secretary of the Army to the Force), 8 February 2022

c. Mission Command Center of Excellence Combined Arms Center (Decision-Driven Data Concept of Operations), 6 July 2023

d. HQDA CDAO (Army Data Platform 2.0 Capability Requirements Document), 16 May 2023

e. DEPSECDEF memorandum (Department of Defense Software Modernization), 2 February 2022

f.  DEPSECDEF memorandum (Creating Data Advantage), 5 May 2021

g. Information Technology: Additional Responsibilities of Chief Information Officers, 10 U.S.C., Subtitle A, Part IV, Chapter 131, Section 2223(b) (2007)

h. Clinger-Cohen Act, 40 U.S.C., Subtitle III, Section 11315 (1996)

i.  Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Section 3506 (2006)

j.  Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C., Section 3520 (2006)

# DOD APPROVED DATA PLATFORMS (DADP)

| Platform | Proponent/Owner | Approved Use |
|---|---|---|
| ADVANA | OUSD Comptroller | Broad use, authoritative source for audit data |
| Army Vantage | CDAO/Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems | Broad Army use, non-audit data |
| Army Resource Cloud | DCS, G-8 | Army program and budget data |
| Gabriel Nimbus | ARCYBER/Program Executive Office Intelligence, Electronic Warfare and Sensors | Cybersecurity |
| Army Person-Event Data Environment (PDE) | ASA (Manpower and Reserve Affairs)/Army Analytic Group | Personnel data analysis and research |
| Army Intelligence Data Platform (AIDP) | DCS, G-2 / INSCOM | Broad Army use, intelligence data and intelligence workflow integration |

**Table 1: Authorized Army Data Platforms for Enterprise Activities**