# Veterans Affairs Interoperability Principles Checklist

This checklist is used by VA programs, contracting, developers, and vendors to verify they adhere to VA’s Interoperability Principles.

MISSION DRIVEN: Does the solution align with VA’s [mission](https://department.va.gov/about/) and [strategic objectives](https://department.va.gov/about/va-plans-budget-finances-and-performance/) inform, focus, and drive priorities and decisions?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution aligns with VA’s [mission](https://department.va.gov/about/). | Yes or No |

ETHICALLY GROUNDED: Does the solution promote ethically strong practices relating to business, data, and engineering by infusing the culture with [I CARE values](https://www.va.gov/about_va/mission.asp) and [VA's Ethics Principles](https://digital.va.gov/employee-resources/ethics-principles-for-access-to-and-use-of-veteran-data/)?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution promotes VA’s core [I CARE values](https://department.va.gov/about/#:~:text=Our%20Core%20Values%20%E2%80%93%20ICARE): Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect, and Excellence. | Yes or No |
| The solution aligns with [VA’s Ethics Principles](https://digital.va.gov/employee-resources/ethics-principles-for-access-to-and-use-of-veteran-data/) for access and use of Veteran Data (examples such as healthcare data, benefits data, etc.). | Yes or No |
| The solution aligns with [VA’s Privacy Principles](https://department.va.gov/privacy/category/resources/fact-sheets/). | Yes or No |

HUMAN CENTERED: Does the solution ensure human usability based on [VA’s Human-centered design](https://www.performance.gov/cx/assets/files/Human_Centered_Design_Discovery_Stage_Field_Guide.pdf) (PDF) and product management goals?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution is effective in that users can achieve their goals accurately, completely, and safely. | Yes or No |
| The solution is efficient in that minimal time and effort is required by system users to achieve their goals. | Yes or No |
| The solution is satisfying to users in that they have positive experiences using the system to achieve their goals. | Yes or No |
| Is the solution accessible and 508 compliant | Yes or No |

TRUSTWORTHY: Does the solution [safeguard information and assure quality](https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=9167) (PDF), management, confidentiality, and integrity of business, data/information, and systems/technology during all phases of interoperability?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution is compliant with all applicable data use agreements. | Yes or No |
| The solution provides a secure system with appropriate user access controls, risk frameworks, and security monitoring and mitigation strategy required by all stakeholders. | Yes or No |
| The solution considers data quality, provenance, and pedigree in the design, implementation, and surveillance monitoring of data exchanges and processes to ensure the right data is available in the right location to the right user at the right time. | Yes or No |
| The solution supports fair and accountable business processes. | Yes or No |

TRANSPARENT AND COLLABORATIVE: Does the solution engage stakeholders across business, data/information, and systems/technology to achieve interoperability in a transparent and collaborative manner?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution incorporates and engages stakeholders appropriately in the process to achieve interoperability. | Yes or No |
| The solution is transparent regarding policies, data use agreements, and risks mitigated. | Yes or No |
| The solution offers training and testing that is comprehensive and appropriately engaging for stakeholders. | Yes or No |
| The solution has processes in place that promotes transparency and collaboration regarding decisions, acquisitions, and changes. | Yes or No |

STANDARDS-BASED: Does the solution leverage internal standards and external standards to accelerate interoperability for business, data/information, and systems/technology?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| Data, terminology, and syntax standards were applied where appropriate. | Yes or No |
| Privacy, security, and identity and access management standards were met. | Yes or No |
| Interface and data exchange standards were met. | Yes or No |
| Processes and workflows are standards-based. | Yes or No |

CULTURE OF LEARNING AND INNOVATION: Does the solution foster a culture of learning and innovation to address interoperability barriers, improve outcomes, and mitigate unintended consequences?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| Effective governance, change management, and strategies are in place to support innovation and learning that addresses interoperability barriers, the improvement of outcomes, and risk management. | Yes or No |
| Effective methods and metrics are in place to evaluate outcomes and processes that support innovation. | Yes or No |
| The solution supports the recognition to leverage scalable innovations using metrics, best practices, and experiences. | Yes or No |
| The solution supports a culture of learning based on metrics, best practices, and experiences. | Yes or No |

COMPOSABILITY\*: Does this solution incorporate composable thinking, business architectures, and technologies to harness the power of adaptability, modularity and extensibility, discovery, autonomy, and orchestration and effectively control emergent behavior?

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| **Checklist Item** | **Answer** |
| The solution incorporates repeatable global activities where appropriate. | Select for yes tab for NoSelect for No |
| The solution incorporates and leverages reusable code where appropriate. | Select for yes tab for noSelect for No |
| The solution incorporates and leverages consistent concept definitions where appropriate. | Select for NoSelect for No |
| The solution applies composable policies, memorandums of understanding, including interagency agreements, and other applicable agreements where appropriate. | Select for yes tab for noSelect for No |

*\*Composability is a system of systems that consist of interchangeable building blocks used to satisfy specific user requirements and is inclusive of composable thinking, composable technologies, and composable business architecture.*