

The Security Scoop

July 2018

VA Enterprise Cloud Solutions

What is Cloud Computing?

Cloud computing is a model for enabling ubiquitous, convenient, on-demand network access to a shared pool of configurable computing resources (e.g., networks, servers, storage, applications, and services) that can be rapidly provisioned and released with minimal management effort or service provider interaction.

Learn more about [cloud computing](#).



Looking for cloud resources to share with VA stakeholders? Visit the [Cybersecurity Technology and Metrics \(CTM\) Security Center](#) to download printable [posters and infographics](#).

Why is VA Migrating Applications to the Cloud?

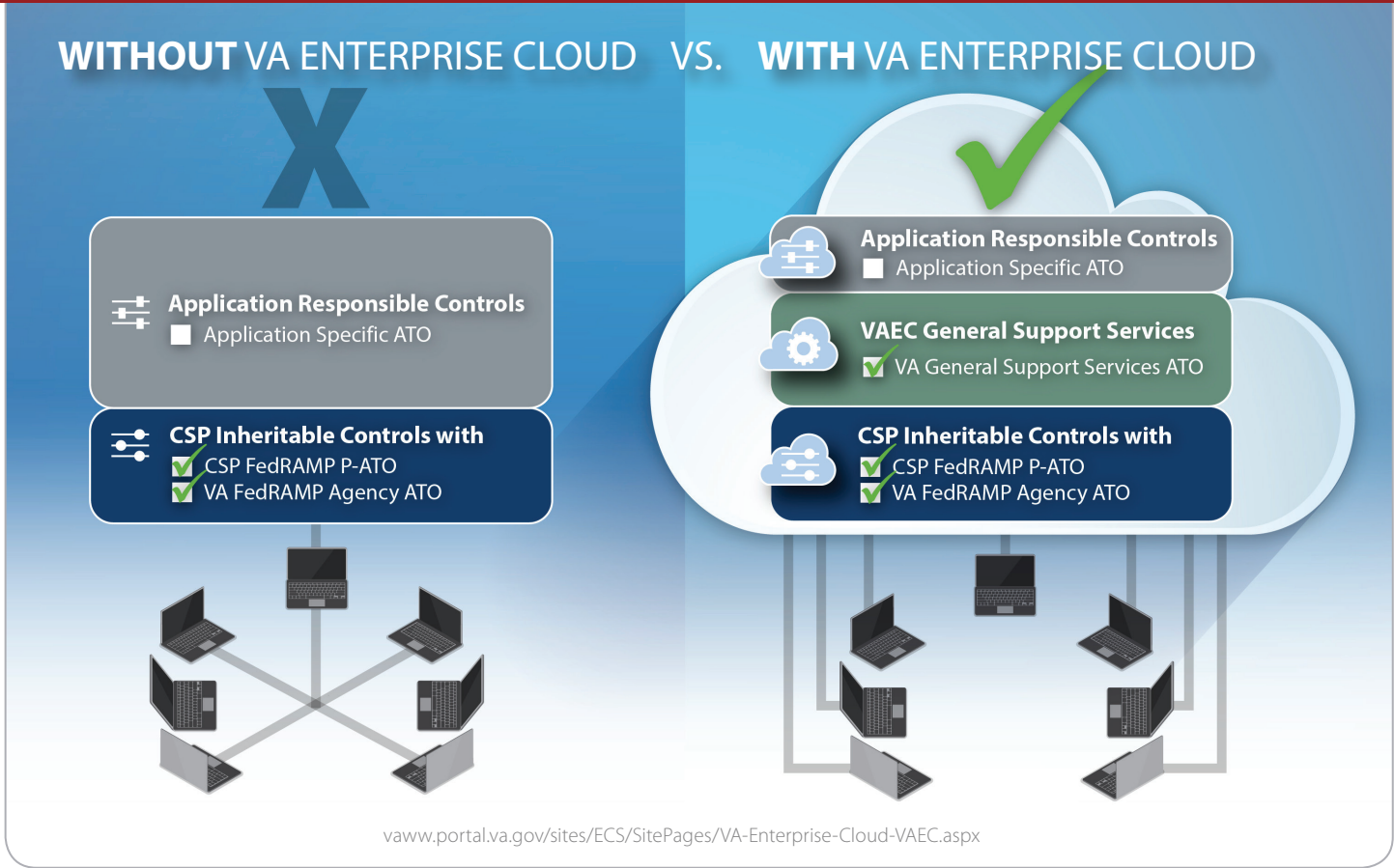
VA currently has applications operating in many environments including VA data centers and a variety of different cloud environments. Applications must manage and solve multiple issues such as security, network, Active Directory integration and others. Doing this on an application by application basis results in operating environments which are project-specific, siloed, redundant, and ineffective.

Migrating select applications to the cloud enables VA to leverage greater economies of scale provided by commercial Cloud Service Providers (CSPs) using a scalable, on-demand approach. Leveraging the

cloud also enables VA to move away from a capital expense (e.g., buying lots of hardware) to an operating expense model (pay what you use, when you use it).

The Enterprise Cloud Solutions Office (ECSO) in the Enterprise Program Management Office (EPMO) has developed the [VA Enterprise Cloud \(VAEC\)](#), which will host all suitable VA cloud applications including new systems and existing applications migrating to the cloud. The ECSO team will work with project managers and business owners to determine an application's suitability for the VAEC.

Use of the VAEC is required based on the [VA Cloud Policy](#) memo jointly issued by the OIT's Demand Management and



Strategic Sourcing offices. To support this effort, the ECSO, working with the Technical Acquisition Center (TAC), has developed [cloud contract vehicles](#) and artifacts to be used to acquire cloud services.

[Cloud.gov](#) is an alternative to the VAEC for projects with a Moderate security impact profile.

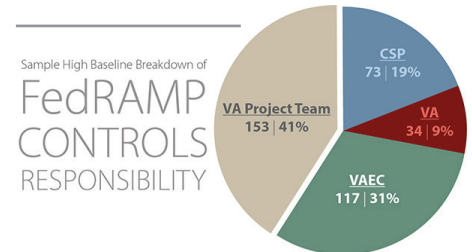
Need help getting started? Email ECSO with your question or comments: VAITECIntakeMailbox@va.gov, submit a [service request](#), or stay up to date with the latest information by signing up for [VAEC updates and critical information](#).

What is VA Enterprise Cloud?

The VA Enterprise Cloud or VAEC is a multi-vendor platform for the development and deployment of VA cloud applications. The VAEC provides a set of common, [general support services \(GSS\)](#) such as authentication and performance monitoring which each application can leverage, speeding and simplifying the development of new applications in or migration of existing applications to the cloud. The VAEC also implements many of the NIST, FedRAMP and VA-required security controls reducing the time each application should take to obtain a VA Authority to Operate or ATO.

Initially, the VAEC will include the two leading commercial cloud platforms: [Amazon Web Services \(AWS\)](#) and [Microsoft Azure](#). Both have met stringent federal security requirements including a FedRAMP High authorization.

The VAEC will also include an on-site, VA Private Cloud, for applications with data sensitivity, technical architecture or performance requirements that require them to be hosted in an on-premises cloud. The VA Private Cloud is planned to be available in FY19 via a Service Level Agreement Modification (SLAM) with Information Technology Operations and Services (ITOPS).



Want to learn more about the VAEC? Check out the [VA Enterprise Cloud FAQs](#) or download the [VA Enterprise Cloud Factsheet](#).

What General Support Services (GSS) will be provided?

To simplify support and development, the GSS provided to each cloud environment (initially AWS and Azure and eventually the VA Private Cloud) will be the same where possible. The initial GSS which will be offered can be found in [General Support Services V1.0](#).

Additional support services are planned including certificate management, DNS, LDAP and application performance monitoring.



Get your new PIV card!

Unless you recently replaced your PIV, all VA employee and contractor PIV cards expire on or before Aug. 6, 2018. Due to the large volume of requests for new cards, anticipate longer processing times and plan ahead to replace your PIV card early. Employees are required to have a PIV card to enter VA buildings and connect to the VA network as referenced in [Appendix F of VA Handbook 6500](#) (Control IA-2, page F-87).

Follow these four simple steps to get your new card and to ensure continuous access to the VA network and VA systems:

1 CONTACT YOUR SPONSOR

If you are unsure of your sponsor, please contact vacohspd12pmo@vaco.gov. Contractors will need their Contracting Officer's Representative to initiate sponsorship.

2 ENROLL

Once you notify your sponsor, your local PIV Credential Issuance Facility will call you to enroll. They will take your picture and fingerprints.

3 PRINT

The facility will print your new PIV card, which will activate your certificates.

4 VERIFY

A fingerprint match will verify your identity. You will select a six-digit PIN, sign your acceptance agreement, and get your card.

For more information, visit the [PIV Card Reissuance](#) website.