Privacy Impact Assessment for the VA IT System called:

OCTO Octonaut

Veteran's Health Administration

Office of the Chief Technology Officer

eMASS#: 2511

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System Contacts:

System Contacts

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Abstract

The abstract provides the simplest explanation for "what does the system do?".

OCTO Octonaut (PAWS-API) is a backend system that provides a way for a Veteran to check their eligibility to train a service dog under the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members (PAWS) program. Currently, the only way to enroll/verify eligibility is to send an email directly to the facility. This will allow Veterans to check their initial eligibility before that step, improving the Veteran experience, and lowering the burden on facilities by checking eligibility prior to engaging with the Veteran.

Prior to engaging with the PAWS-API, after logging into VA.gov, a Veteran can request their eligibility for the program from a VA.gov web page. VA.gov's Vets-API backend service will send their Integrated Control Number (ICN) to the PAWS-API to determine if they are eligible.

Upon receiving the request, the PAWS-API will then send the ICN to the Lighthouse Service History and Eligibility API's (LH API) Veteran Verification endpoint to retrieve an authentication token for the Veteran. The ICN and this token are cached for ten minutes in the PAWS-API Database (as a way to improve system performance). Once a token has been acquired, the PAWS-API will use the token to request the Veteran's disability rating information from the LH API's Disability Rating endpoint. The PAWS-API Server then performs in-memory calculations using the disability rating and related medical diagnostic codes, to return a yes/no value of eligibility. This value is sent back as a response to the original request from Vets API.

Overview

The overview is the most important section of the PIA. A thorough and clear overview gives the reader the appropriate context to understand the responses in the PIA. The overview should contain the following elements:

1 General Description

A. What is the IT system name and the name of the program office that owns the IT system?

PAWS-API; Program office: Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)

B. What is the business purpose of the program, IT system, or technology and how it relates to the program office and agency mission?

The PAWS-API provides a way for a Veteran to check their eligibility to train a service dog under the Puppies Assisting Wounded Service Members (PAWS) program.

C. Who is the owner or control of the IT system or project?

VA owned and VA operated

2. Information Collection and Sharing

D. What is the expected number of individuals whose information is stored in the system and a brief description of the typical client or affected individual?

Number: less than 50; Individuals: Veterans

E. What is a general description of the information in the IT system and the purpose for collecting this information?

Integration Control Number (ICN): Enterprise identifier for a veteran, serves as the key to access a patient record. This number will be used to retrieve disability rating and medical diagnostic codes.

Disability rating: Used to calculate eligibility for the program.

Medical records: Used to calculate eligibility for the program.

F. What information sharing conducted by the IT system? A general description of the modules and subsystems, where relevant, and their functions.

PAWS-API provides read-only privilege to data.

ICN: received from the connected upstream system (Vets-API)

Disability Rating/Medical records: received from Lighthouse Eligibility API

G. Is the system is operated in more than one site, and if so, a description of how use of the system and PII is maintained consistently in all sites and if the same controls are used across sites?

The system will only be hosted at one site, the VA-controlled Cloud Computing Environment, Veterans Affairs Enterprise Cloud (VAEC) Amazon Web Services (AWS). The system and data will reside in the VAEC AWS GovCloud environment.

3. Legal Authority and SORN

H. What is the citation of the legal authority to operate the IT system?

The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a (e), Section 208, E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130, Appendix I are the legal authority to permit the collection, use, maintenance and sharing of personally identifiable information (PII), either generally or in support of a specific program or information system.

I. If the system is in the process of being modified and a SORN exists, will the SORN require amendment or revision and approval? If the system is using cloud technology, does the SORN for the system cover cloud usage or storage?

PAWS-API is a tenant of the Lighthouse Delivery Infrastructure (LHDI) (VASI#2890). The SORNs do cover cloud usage and are not in need of revision

4. System Changes

J. Will the completion of this PIA will result in circumstances that require changes to business processes?

No, completion of this PIA will not cause circumstances that require changes to business processes.

K. Will the completion of this PIA could potentially result in technology changes?

No, completion of this PIA will not cause resultant technology changes

Section 1. Characterization of the Information

The following questions are intended to define the scope of the information requested and collected as well as the reasons for its collection as part of the program, IT system, or technology being developed.

1.1 What information is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained in the system?

Identify and list all Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) that is collected and stored in the system, including Individually Identifiable Information (III), Individually Identifiable Health Information (IIHI), Protected Health Information (PHI), and Privacy- Protected Information. For additional information on these information types and definitions, please see VA Directives and Handbooks in the 6500 series (https://vaww.va.gov/vapubs/). If the system creates information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the information the system is responsible for creating.

If a requesting system receives information from another system, such as a response to a background check, describe what information is returned to the requesting system.
This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority To Collect, and AP-2, Purpose Specification.

The information selected below must match the information provided in question 2.1 as well as the data elements columns in 4.1 and 5.1. It must also match the information provided in question 3.4 of the PTA.

Please check any information listed below that your system collects, uses, disseminates, creates, or maintains. If additional SPI is collected, used, disseminated, created, or maintained, please list those in the text box below:

- ☐ Name
- ☐ Social Security Number
- ☐ Date of Birth
- ☐ Mother's Maiden Name
- ☐ Personal Mailing Address
- ☐ Personal Phone Number(s)
- ☐ Personal Fax Number
- ☐ Personal Email Address
- ☐ Emergency Contact Information (Name, Phone Number, etc. of a different individual)
- ☐ Financial Information
- ☐ Health Insurance Beneficiary Numbers Account numbers
- ☐ Certificate/License numbers[1]
- ☐ Vehicle License Plate Number
- ☐ Internet Protocol (IP) Address Numbers
- ☐ Medications
- ☒ Medical Records
- ☐ Race/Ethnicity
- ☐ Tax Identification Number
- ☐ Medical Record Number
- ☐ Gender
- ☒ Integrated Control Number (ICN)
- ☐ Military History/Service Connection
- ☐ Next of Kin
- ☒ Other Data Elements (list below)

[1] *Specify type of Certificate or License Number (e.g., Occupational, Education, Medical)

Other PII/PHI data elements: Disability Rating

PII Mapping of Components (Servers/Database)

PAWS-API consists of **2** key components (servers/databases/instances/applications/software/application programming interfaces (API). Each component has been analyzed to determine if any elements of that component collect PII. The type of PII collected by **PAWS-API** and the reasons for the collection of the PII are in the table below.

Note: Due to the PIA being a public facing document, please do not include server names in the table. The first table of 3.9 in the PTA should be used to answer this question.

Internal Components Table

Component Name (Database, Instances, Application, Software, Application Program Interface (API) etc.) that contains PII/PHI	Does this system collect PII? (Yes/No)	Does this system store PII? (Yes/No)	Type of PII (SSN, DOB, etc.)	Reason for Collection/ Storage of PII	Safeguards
Elasticache Redis DB	No	Yes	ICN	Caching layer to improve processing time	Encrypted in transit, encrypted at rest, Password protected, available only by system interface within the same Cluster
Node.js Application	Yes	No	ICN, Disability Rating, Medical Records	To retrieve records and calculate eligibility for the program	Data is stored only in memory for the amount of time it takes to process the calculation (milliseconds)

1.2 What are the sources of the information in the system?
These questions are related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.

1.2a List the individual, entity, or entities providing the specific information identified above. For example, is the information collected directly from the individual as part of an application for a benefit, or is it collected from other sources such as commercial data aggregators?

ICN: Collected from Individual via VA.gov interaction.

Medical Records/Disability Rating: Collected from connected API.

1.2b Describe why information from sources other than the individual is required? For example, if a program's system is using data from a commercial aggregator of information or data taken from public Web sites, state the fact that this is where the information is coming from and then in question indicate why the system is using this source of data.

The user does not maintain their own medical records, the system must collect the information from a downstream service, which is then used to calculate the eligibility determination.

1.2c Does the system create information (for example, a score, analysis, or report), list the system as a source of information?

The system (PAWS-API) calculates during the session on VA.gov and returns the yes/no eligibility value but does not store that value.

1.3 How is the information collected?

These questions are related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and IP-1, Consent.

1.3a This question is directed at the means of collection from the sources listed in question 1.2. Information may be collected directly from an individual, received via electronic transmission from another system, or created by the system itself. Specifically, is information collected through technologies or other technologies used in the storage or transmission of information in identifiable form?

ICN: Collected from individual via electronic transmission from Vets-API after the user has logged in to VA.gov.

Medical Record/Disability Rating: Collected from Lighthouse API via TLS transmission.

Data from the VA systems that source the PAWS-API are collected, processed, and safeguarded in accordance with VA Handbook 6500 and FIPS 140-2 encryption and data processing standards. All access to data is through API.

1.3b If the information is collected on a form and is subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act, what is the form's OMB control number and the agency form number?

Information is not collected on/from a form.

1.4 How will the information be checked for accuracy? How often will it be checked?

These questions are related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, and DI-2, Data Integrity and Integrity Board.

1.4a Discuss whether and how often information stored in the system is checked for accuracy. Is information in the system checked against any other source of information (within or outside your organization) before the information is used to make decisions about an individual? For example, is there a computer matching agreement in place with another government agency? For systems that

receive data from internal data sources or VA IT systems, describe the system checks to ensure that data corruption has not occurred during transmission.

The PAWS-API is not storing information directly. The integrity of the data is based on the integrity controls in place from where the information is requested. All the information will be checked at the source end. Information collected and processed will be safeguarded in accordance with VA Handbook 6500 and FIPS 140-2 encryption and data processing standards.

1.4b Does the system check for accuracy by accessing a commercial aggregator of information, describe this process and the levels of accuracy required by the contract?

No, it does not access a commercial aggregator of information.

1.5 What specific legal authorities, arrangements, and agreements defined the collection of information?

List the full legal authority for operating the system, specifically the authority to collect the information listed in question 1.1. Provide the authorities in a manner understandable to any potential reader, i.e., do not simply provide a legal citation; use statute names or regulations in addition to citations. Legal authorities include Federal laws, regulations, statutes, and Executive Orders. This question is related to privacy control AP-1, Authority to Collect

The Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a (e), Section 208, E-Government Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-347), and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-130, Appendix I are the legal authority to permit the collection, use, maintenance and sharing of personally identifiable information (PII), either generally or in support of a specific program or information system.

1.6 <u>PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Characterization of the information</u>

Consider the specific data elements collected and discuss the potential privacy risks and what steps, if any are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks. (*Work with your System ISSO to complete this section)*

Consider the following Fair Information Practice Principles (FIPPs) when assessing the risk to individual privacy:

<u>Principle of Purpose Specification:</u> Explain how the collection ties with the purpose of the underlying mission of the organization and its enabling authority.

<u>Principle of Minimization:</u> Is the information directly relevant and necessary to accomplish the specific purposes of the program?

<u>Principle of Individual Participation:</u> Does the program, to the extent possible and practical, collect information directly from the individual?

<u>Principle of Data Quality and Integrity:</u> Are there policies and procedures for VA to ensure that personally identifiable information is accurate, complete, and current?
This question is related to privacy control AR-1, Governance and Privacy Program, and AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment.

Follow the format below when entering your risk assessment:

Privacy Risk: PAWS-APIs processes Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Personal Health Information (PHI) which can be used to identify a Veteran, VA Patient or individual. If this information is breached or disclosed inappropriately then this could result personal or financial harm to the individual whose data was exposed and provide a negative impact on the VA.

Mitigation: Data processed by PAWS-API is protected in accordance with VA Handbook 6500 and FIPS 140-2 encryption and data in-transit protection standards. All systems and individual with access to the system will be approved, authorized, and authenticated before access is granted by VA Project Manager and System Owner. VA annual privacy and security training compliance will be enforced for all VA employees, contractors, and vendors. PAWS-API makes use of OAuth 2.0 and SAML standards and uses the principle of privilege for granting access to the endpoints and data.

Section 2. Uses of the Information

The following questions are intended to clearly delineate the use of information and the accuracy of the data being used.

2.1 Describe how the information in the system that will be used in support of the program's business purpose.

Identify and list each use (both internal and external to VA) of the information collected or maintained. This question is related to privacy control AP-2, Purpose Specification.

PII/PHI Data Element	Internal Use	External Use
ICN	Retrieval of Medical Records/Disability Rating	Used by Lighthouse API to retrieve information
Disability Rating	Used to assess eligibility of the individual	Not used
Medical Records	Used to assess eligibility of the individual	Not used

2.2 What types of tools are used to analyze data and what type of data may be produced?
These questions are related to privacy controls DI-1, Data Quality, DI-2, Data Integrity and Integrity Board, and SE-1, Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information.

2.2a Many systems sift through large amounts of information in response to a user inquiry or programmed functions. Systems may help identify areas that were previously not obvious and need additional research by agents, analysts, or other employees. Some systems perform complex analytical tasks resulting in, among other types of data, matching, relational analysis, scoring, reporting, or pattern analysis. Describe any type of analysis the system conducts and the data that is created from the analysis?

The system uses the Medical Records (diagnostic codes) and Disability Rating to calculate the eligibility of the user. The calculation results in a yes/no response based on the analysis.

2.2b If the system creates or makes available new or previously unutilized information about an individual, explain what will be done with the newly derived information. Will it be placed in the individual's existing record? Will a new record be created? Will any action be taken against or for the individual identified because of the newly derived data? If a new record is created, will the newly created information be accessible to Government employees who make determinations about the individual? If so, explain fully under which circumstances and by whom that information will be used.

No new record is established or created. The eligibility determination is returned to the user immediately, if requested again a new eligibility determination is made for each subsequent request.

2.3 How is the information in the system secured?

These questions are related to security and privacy controls SC-9, Transmission Confidentiality, and SC-28, Protection of Information at Rest.

2.3a What measures are in place to protect data in transit and at rest?

The data is transmitted via TLS, encrypted in transit and at rest.

2.3b If the system is collecting, processing, or retaining Social Security Numbers, are there additional protections in place to protect SSNs?

The system does not collect or process SSNs.

2.3c How is PII/PHI safeguarded in accordance with OMB Memorandum M-06-15?

The PAWS-API runs entirely in the VAEC AWS cloud and therefore satisfy the requirements of OMB Memorandum M-06-15.

2.4 <u>PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Use of the information.</u>

Describe any types of controls that may be in place to ensure that information is handled in accordance with the uses described above. Example: Describe if training for users of the project covers how to appropriately use information. Describe the disciplinary programs or system controls (i.e. denial of access) that are in place if an individual is inappropriately using the information.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

<u>Principle of Transparency:</u> Is the PIA and SORN, if applicable, clear about the uses of the information?

<u>Principle of Use Limitation:</u> Is the use of information contained in the system relevant to the mission of the project?

This question is related to privacy control AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing, AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training, and SE-2, Privacy Incident response.

2.4a How is access to the PII determined?

PAWS-API grants access using the principle of least privilege; only granting access to the data requested by the consumer, consented by the individual, and approved by the System Owner.

The Veteran must log in to VA.gov with OAuth2/SAML to transmit a request with their ICN.

2.4b Are criteria, procedures, controls, and responsibilities regarding access documented?

Security controls are in place to ensure data is used and protected in accordance with legal requirements, VA cyber security policies, and VA's state purpose for using the data. Audits are performed to verify information is accessed and retrieved appropriately. The following implemented Privacy Controls are in accordance with NIST SP 800-53-rev-4: Rules of Behavior, Two Factor Authentication, VA Privacy and Security Training, VA Safeguard and Awareness Training.

2.4c Does access require manager approval?

Yes, System Owner approval is required for access.

2.4d Is access to the PII being monitored, tracked, or recorded?

Logging is in place as to the number of requests received (no PII tracked in logs)

2.4e Who is responsible for assuring safeguards for the PII?

The VA system owner

Section 3. Retention of Information

The following questions are intended to outline how long information will be retained after the initial collection.

3.1 What information is retained?

*Identify and list all information collected from question 1.1 that is **retained** by the system.*
This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal

The user's ICN is stored for 10 minutes in an encrypted caching layer to improve system performance, then deleted.

3.2 How long is information retained?

In some cases, VA may choose to retain files in active status and archive them after a certain period of time. State active file retention periods, as well as archived records, in number of years, for the

information and record types. For example, financial data held within your system may have a different retention period than medical records or education records held within your system, please be sure to list each of these retention periods. ***The VA records officer should be consulted early in the development process to ensure that appropriate retention and destruction schedules are implemented.*** *If the system is using cloud technology, will it be following the NARA approved retention length and schedule? This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.*

10 minutes

3.3 Has the retention schedule been approved by the VA records office and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)?

An approved records schedule must be obtained for any IT system that allows the retrieval of a record via a personal identifier. The VA records officer will assist in providing a proposed schedule. The schedule must be formally offered to NARA for official approval. Once NARA approves the proposed schedule, the VA records officer will notify the system owner. Please work with the system Privacy Officer and VA Records Officer to answer these questions.
This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

3.3a Are all records stored within the system of record indicated on an approved disposition authority?

The PAWS-API is not a system of record does not store information.

3.3b Please indicate each records retention schedule, series, and disposition authority?

The PAWS-API is not a system of record does not store information.

3.4 What are the procedures for the elimination or transfer of SPI?

Explain how records are destroyed, eliminated or transferred to NARA at the end of their mandatory retention period. Please give the details of the process. For example, are paper records shredded on site, or by a shredding company and accompanied by a certificate of destruction, etc.? This question is related to privacy control DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

PAWS-API does not store information.

3.5 Does the system, where feasible, use techniques to minimize the risk to privacy by using PII for research, testing, or training?

Organizations often use PII for testing new applications or information systems prior to deployment. Organizations also use PII for research purposes and for training. These uses of PII increase the risks associated with the unauthorized disclosure or misuse of the information. Please explain what controls have been implemented to protect PII used for testing, training and research. This question is related to privacy control DM-3, Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training and Research.

PAWS-API provides a Test/Sandbox testing environment which functions with mock/test (non-PII/PHI) data. Use or disclosure of consumer information (including non-personalized or anonymized data) is prohibited for any reason unless consented to by the user.

Revokable consent by the Veteran is required. This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) also serves as notice of the Lighthouse Eligibility APIs Assessing. As required by the

eGovernment Act of 2002, Pub.L.107–347 §208(b)(1)(B)(iii), the Department of Veterans Affairs "after completion of the [PIA] under clause (ii), make the privacy impact assessment publicly available through the website of the agencies. VA System of Record Notices (SORNs) which are published in the Federal Register and available online.

3.6 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Retention of information

Discuss the risks associated with the length of time data is retained and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks. (Work with your System ISSO to complete all Privacy Risk questions inside the document this section).

While we understand that establishing retention periods for records is a formal process, there are policy considerations behind how long a project keeps information. The longer a project retains information, the longer it needs to secure the information and assure its accuracy and integrity. The proposed schedule should match the requirements of the Privacy Act to keep the minimum amount of PII for the minimum amount of time, while meeting the Federal Records Act. The schedule should align with the stated purpose and mission of the system.

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

Principle of Minimization: Does the project retain only the information necessary for its purpose? Is the PII retained only for as long as necessary and relevant to fulfill the specified purposes?

Principle of Data Quality and Integrity: Has the PIA described policies and procedures for how PII that is no longer relevant and necessary is purged?
This question is related to privacy controls DM-1, Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information, and DM-2, Data Retention and Disposal.

Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk: PAWS-APIs processes Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Personal Health Information (PHI) which can be used to identify a Veteran, VA Patient or individual. If this information is breached or disclosed inappropriately then this could result personal or financial harm to the individual whose data was exposed and provide a negative impact on the VA.

Mitigation: Data processed by PAWS-API is protected in accordance with VA Handbook 6500 and FIPS 140-2 encryption and data in-transit protection standards. All systems and individual with access to the system will be approved, authorized, and authenticated before access is granted by VA Project Manager and System Owner. VA annual privacy and security training compliance will be enforced for all VA employees, contractors, and vendors. PAWS-API makes use of OAuth 2.0 and SAML and uses the principle of privilege for granting access to the endpoints and data.

Section 4. Internal Sharing/Receiving/Transmitting and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the scope of information sharing/receiving/transmitting within VA.

4.1 With which internal organizations is information shared/received/transmitted? What information is shared/received/transmitted, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted?

NOTE: Question 3.9 (second table) on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.

Identify and list the names of any program offices, contractor-supported IT systems, and any other organization or IT system within VA with which information is shared.

State the purpose for the internal sharing. If you have specific authority to share the information, provide a citation to the authority.

For each interface with a system outside your program office, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with the specific program office, contractor-supported IT system, and any other organization or IT system within VA.

Describe how the information is transmitted. For example, is the information transmitted electronically, by paper, or by some other means? Is the information shared in bulk, on a case-by-case basis, or does the sharing partner have direct access to the information?
This question is related to privacy controls AP-2, Purpose Specification, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures, TR-1, Privacy Notice, and UL-1, Internal Use.

Data Shared with Internal Organizations

List the Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with	***List the purpose of the information being shared /received with the specified program office or IT system***	***List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/received/transmitted) with the Program Office or IT system***	***Describe the method of transmittal***
Lighthouse Service History and Eligibility API	Used to calculate eligibility analysis	ICN Disability Rating Medical Records	TLS network connection via VA Network
VA.gov Vets-API	Used to retrieve records from Lighthouse API	ICN	TLS network connection via VA Network

4.2 <u>PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Internal sharing and disclosure</u>

Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information within the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks. (Work with your System ISSO to complete all Privacy Risk questions inside the document this section).

This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Internal Use.

Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk: The privacy risk associated with handling PII is that sharing data within the Department of Veterans' Affairs could happen and that the data may be disclosed to individuals who do not require access which heightens the threat of information being misused.

Mitigation: The principle of need-to-know is strictly adhered to for the PAWS-API staff. Only support staff with a clear business purpose are allowed access to the system and the information processed therein.

Section 5. External Sharing/Receiving and Disclosure

The following questions are intended to define the content, scope, and authority for information sharing external to VA, which includes Federal, State, and local governments, and the private sector.

5.1 With which external organizations (outside VA) is information shared/received? What information is shared/received, and for what purpose? How is the information transmitted and what measures are taken to ensure it is secure?

Is the sharing of information outside the agency compatible with the original collection? If so, is it covered by an appropriate routine use in a SORN? If not, please describe under what legal mechanism the IT system is allowed to share the information in identifiable form or personally identifiable information outside of VA.

NOTE: Question 3.10 on Privacy Threshold Analysis should be used to answer this question.

Identify and list the names of any Federal, State, or local government agency or private sector organization with which information is shared.

For each interface with a system outside VA, state what specific data elements (PII/PHI) are shared with each specific partner.

What legal mechanisms, authoritative agreements, documentation, or policies are in place detailing the extent of the sharing and the duties of each party? For example, is the sharing of data compatible with your SORN? Then list the SORN and the applicable routine use from the SORN. Is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Computer Matching Agreement (CMA), or law that mandates the sharing of this information?

Describe how the information is transmitted to entities external to VA and what security measures have been taken to protect it during transmission.
This question is related to privacy control UL-2, Information Sharing with Third Parties

Data Shared with External Organizations

List External Program Office or IT System information is shared/received with	***List the purpose of information being shared / received / transmitted with the specified program office or IT system***	***List the specific PII/PHI data elements that are processed (shared/received/transmitted)with the Program or IT system***	***List the legal authority, binding agreement, SORN routine use, etc. that permit external sharing (can be more than one)***	***List the method of transmission and the measures in place to secure data***
None				

5.2 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: External sharing and disclosure

Discuss the privacy risks associated with the sharing of information outside the Department and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks.

If no External Sharing listed on the table above, ***(State there is no external sharing in both the risk and mitigation fields).***

Discuss whether access controls have been implemented and whether audit logs are regularly reviewed to ensure appropriate sharing outside of the Department. For example, is there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), contract, or agreement in place with outside agencies or foreign governments.
Discuss how the sharing of information outside of the Department is compatible with the stated purpose and use of the original collection.
This question is related to privacy control AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers, and AR-4, Privacy Monitoring and Auditing

Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk: This system does not share data or information with external systems.

Mitigation: This system does not share data or information with external systems.

Section 6. Notice

The following questions are directed at providing notice to the individual of the scope of information collected, the right to consent to uses of the information, and the right to decline to provide information.

6.1 Was notice provided to the individual before collection of the information? If yes, please provide a copy of the notice as an Appendix-A 6.1 on the last page of the document. Also

provide notice given to individuals by the source system (A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act notice on forms, or a system of records notice published in the Federal Register.) If notice was not provided, why not?

These questions are related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, and TR-2, System of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements, and TR-3, Dissemination of Privacy Program Information.

6.1a This question is directed at the notice provided before collection of the information. This refers to whether the person is aware that his or her information is going to be collected. A notice may include a posted privacy policy, a Privacy Act statement on forms, or a SORN published in the Federal Register, Notice of Privacy Practice provided to individuals for VHA systems. If notice was provided in the Federal Register, provide the citation.

The VHA Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP)
https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/ViewPublication.asp?pub_ID=9946
explains the collection and use of protected health information to individuals receiving health care from VA. The NOPP is mailed every three years or when there is a major change to all enrolled Veterans. Non Veterans receiving care are provided the notice at the time of their encounter.

This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) also serves as notice of the PAWS-API Assessing. As required by the eGovernment Act of 2002, Pub.L.107–347 §208(b)(1)(B)(iii), the Department of Veterans Affairs "after completion of the [PIA] under clause (ii), make the privacy impact assessment publicly available through the website of the agencies.

6.1b If notice was not provided, explain why. If it was provided, attach a copy of the current notice.

Notice is provided as part of the privacy policy of the consumers of the API (VA.gov) where users are prompted to provide revokable consent. This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) also serves as notice of the PAWS-API Assessing. As required by the eGovernment Act of 2002, Pub.L.107–347 §208(b)(1)(B)(iii), the Department of Veterans Affairs "after completion of the [PIA] under clause (ii), make the privacy impact assessment publicly available through the website of the agencies.

6.1c Describe how the notice provided for the collection of information is adequate to inform those affected by the system that their information has been collected and is being used appropriately. Provide information on any notice provided on forms or on Web sites associated with the collection.

The PAWS-API is not a system of record does not require a SORN.

6.2 Do individuals have the opportunity and right to decline to provide information? If so, is a penalty or denial of service attached?

This question is directed at whether the person from or about whom information is collected can decline to provide the information and if so, whether a penalty or denial of service is attached. This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent, IP-2, Individual Access, and IP-3, Redress.

PAWS-API does not collect PII information; It sources Veteran record information via the Lighthouse Eligibility APIs from sources within the VA and passes the information through to authorized consumers. Information is requested when it is necessary to administer benefits to veterans and other potential beneficiaries. While an individual may choose not to provide information, this may prevent them from obtaining the benefits necessary to them. The individual shall not be denied any right, benefit, or privilege provided by law because of refusal to disclose to VHA an SSN (see 38 CFR 1.575(a)).

6.3 Do individuals have the right to consent to particular uses of the information? If so, how does the individual exercise the right?

This question is directed at whether an individual may provide consent for specific uses, or the consent is given to cover all uses (current or potential) of his or her information. If specific consent is required, how would the individual consent to each use? This question is related to privacy control IP-1, Consent.

Information is used, accessed and disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a, Title 38 USC 5701, Confidential Nature of Claims, Title USC 7332 and the HIPAA Privacy Rule 45 CFR.
Individuals are provided with a copy of the Notice of Privacy Practices that indicates when information will be used without their consent and when they will be asked to provide consent. Information is used, accessed and disclosed in accordance with the Privacy Act, 5 USC 552a, Title 38 USC 5701, Confidential Nature of Claims, Title USC 7332 and the HIPAA Privacy Rule 45 CFR.

Individuals or their legal representative may consent to the use or disclosure of information via a written request submitted to their facility Privacy Officer. Individuals also have the right to request a restriction to the use of their information. The written request must state what information and/or to whom the information is restricted and must include their signature and date of the request. The request is then forwarded to facility Privacy Officer for review and processing. Individuals may also request to Opt-Out of the facility directory during an inpatient admission. If the individual chooses to opt-out, information is not disclosed from the facility directory unless otherwise required by law.

6.4 <u>PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Notice</u>

Describe the potential risks associated with potentially insufficient notice and what steps, if any, are currently being taken to mitigate those identified risks. (Work with your System ISSO to complete all Privacy Risk questions inside the document this section).

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:

<u>Principle of Transparency:</u> Has sufficient notice been provided to the individual?

<u>Principle of Use Limitation:</u> Is the information used only for the purpose for which notice was provided either directly to the individual or through a public notice? What procedures are in place to ensure that information is used only for the purpose articulated in the notice?

This question is related to privacy control TR-1, Privacy Notice, AR-2, Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment, and UL-1, Internal Use.
Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk: There is a risk that VA employees and Individuals will not know that applications built using PAWS-API process or contain Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and other Sensitive Personal Information (SPI) about them.

Mitigation: The PAWS-API mitigates this risk by ensuring that individuals are provided notice of information processing and notice of the system's existence.

This Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) also serves as notice of the PAWS-API Assessing. As required by the eGovernment Act of 2002, Pub.L.107–347 §208(b)(1)(B)(iii), the Department of Veterans Affairs "after completion of the [PIA] under clause (ii), make the privacy impact assessment publicly available through the website of the agencies.

Section 7. Access, Redress, and Correction

The following questions are directed at an individual's ability to ensure the accuracy of the information collected about him or her.

7.1 What are the procedures that allow individuals to gain access to their information?

These questions are related to privacy control IP-2, Individual Access, and AR-8, Accounting of Disclosures.

7.1a Cite any procedures or regulations your program has in place that allow access to information. These procedures, at a minimum, should include the agency's FOIA/Privacy Act practices, but may also include additional access provisions. ***For example, if your program has a customer satisfaction unit, that information, along with phone and email contact information, should be listed in this section in addition to the agency's procedures. See 5 CFR 294 and the VA FOIA Web page at http://www.foia.va.gov/ to obtain information about FOIA points of contact and information about agency FOIA processes.***

PAWS-API does not collect PII information. It sources Veteran record information via the Lighthouse Eligibility APIs from sources within the VA and passes the information through to authorized consumers. All VA System of Records Notices (SORNs) for sources utilized by the PAWS-API address record access, contesting records and notification procedures.

7.1b If the system is exempt from the access provisions of the Privacy Act, please explain the basis for the exemption or cite the source where this explanation may be found, for example, a Final Rule published in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)?

PAWS-API does not retrieve information by a personal identifier and is not covered by the Privacy Act.

7.1c If the system is not a Privacy Act system, please explain what procedures and regulations are in place that covers an individual gaining access to his or her information?

PAWS-API is a Privacy Act System. PAWS-API does not store information, including PII/PHI.

7.2 What are the procedures for correcting inaccurate or erroneous information?

Describe the procedures and provide contact information for the appropriate person to whom such issues should be addressed? If the correction procedures are the same as those given in question 7.1, state as much. This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

PAWS-API does not collect PII information. It sources Veteran record information via the Lighthouse Eligibility APIs from sources within the VA and passes the information through to authorized consumers. All VA System of Records Notices (SORNs) for sources utilized by the PAWS-API address record access, contesting records and notification procedures.

7.3 How are individuals notified of the procedures for correcting their information?

How are individuals made aware of the procedures for correcting his or her information? This may be through notice at collection or other similar means. This question is meant to address the risk that even if procedures exist to correct information, if an individual is not made fully aware of the existence of those procedures, then the benefits of the procedures are significantly weakened. This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

PAWS-API does not collect PII information. It sources Veteran record information via the Lighthouse Eligibility APIs from sources within the VA and passes the information through to authorized consumers. All VA System of Records Notices (SORNs) for sources utilized by the PAWS-API address record access, contesting records and notification procedures.

7.4 If no formal redress is provided, what alternatives are available to the individual?

Redress is the process by which an individual gains access to his or her records and seeks corrections or amendments to those records. Redress may be provided through the Privacy Act and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and also by other processes specific to a program, system, or group of systems. ***Example: Some projects allow users to directly access and correct/update their information online. This helps ensures data accuracy.***
This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress, and IP-4, Complaint Management.

The PAWS-API does not support modification of any records as it functions simply to retrieve and transmit data from sources systems. Formal redress for access and contest/correction of records in the source systems are outlined in the VA System of Records Notices (SORNs) for sources utilized by the PAWS-API.

7.5 PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: Access, redress, and correction

Discuss what risks there currently are related to the Department's access, redress, and correction policies and procedures for this system and what, if any, steps have been taken to mitigate those risks. ***For example, if a project does not allow individual access, the risk of inaccurate data needs to be discussed in light of the purpose of the project. For example, providing access to ongoing law enforcement activities could negatively impact the program's effectiveness because the individuals***

involved might change their behavior. *(Work with your System ISSO to complete all Privacy Risk questions inside the document this section).*

Consider the following FIPPs below to assist in providing a response:
Principle of Individual Participation: Is the individual provided with the ability to find out whether a project maintains a record relating to him?

Principle of Individual Participation: If access and/or correction is denied, then is the individual provided notice as to why the denial was made and how to challenge such a denial?

Principle of Individual Participation: Is there a mechanism by which an individual is able to prevent information about him obtained for one purpose from being used for other purposes without his knowledge?
This question is related to privacy control IP-3, Redress.

Follow the format below:

Privacy Risk: There is a risk that Veterans whose records contain incorrect information may not receive notification of any changes. Furthermore, incorrect information in a Veteran's record may result in improper identification. Additional risk is introduced if Veterans do not know how to request access, redress, and correction of their information.

Mitigation: By publishing this PIA the VA makes the public aware of the unique status of applications and evidence files. Furthermore, the SORNs provide information for members of the public who have questions or concerns about applications and evidence files.

Section 8. Technical Access and Security

The following questions are intended to describe technical safeguards and security measures.

8.1 What procedures are in place to determine which users may access the system, and are they documented?

These questions are related to privacy control AR-7, Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development.

8.1a Describe the process by which an individual receives access to the system?

An individual that is onboarded as a PAWS-API (Octonaut) team member: Accounts ultimately need to be approved by the System Owner before they are created. Once they do, Octonaut adheres to project roles maintained by the VAEC mapped back to VA Active Directory groups (e.g., read-only user, project admin, etc.) depending on the team member's role.

A consumer of the PAWS-API: Follow the principles of least privilege and require approval by the System Owner before access is granted; it is available only via electronic transmission from an approved source (Vets-API) on the VA Network.

8.1b Identify users from other agencies who may have access to the system and under what roles these individuals have access to the system. Who establishes the criteria for what PII can be shared?

There are no non-VA agency consumers of the system.

8.1c Describe the different roles in general terms that have been created to provide access to the system? For example, certain users may have "read-only" access while others may be permitted to make certain amendments or changes to the information.

An individual that is onboarded as a PAWS-API team member: Accounts ultimately need to be approved by the System Owner before they are created. Once they do, Octonaut adheres to project roles maintained by the VAEC mapped back to VA Active Directory groups (e.g., read-only user, project admin, etc.) depending on the team member's role.

A consumer of the PAWS-API: Follow the principles of least privilege and require approval by the System Owner before access is granted; it is available only via electronic transmission from an approved source (Vets-API) on the VA Network.

8.2 Will VA contractors have access to the system and the PII? If yes, what involvement will contractors have with the design and maintenance of the system? Has a contractor confidentiality agreement, Business Associate Agreement (BAA), or a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) been developed for contractors who work on the system?

If so, how frequently are contracts reviewed and by whom? Describe the necessity of the access provided to contractors to the system and whether clearance is required. If Privacy Roles and Responsibilities have been established to restrict certain users to different access levels, please describe the roles and associated access levels. Explain the need for VA contractors to have access to the PII. This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors, and Service Providers.

Contractors have access to PAWS-API, including PII/PHI data. These Contractors perform design, development, maintenance, and operations functions. Before access to the API or PII/PHI, Contractor personnel must pass and receive a VA Public Trust security credential. They must also adhere to VA-mandated trainings before accounts are provisioned for access. Confidentiality, BAA, or NDA's have not been developed for Contractors.

8.3 Describe what privacy training is provided to users either generally or specifically relevant to the program or system?

VA offers privacy and security training. Each program or system may offer training specific to the program or system that touches on information handling procedures and sensitivity of information. Please describe how individuals who have access to PII are trained to handle it appropriately. This question is related to privacy control AR-5, Privacy Awareness and Training.

All VA and Contractor employees must complete VA Privacy, Information Security Awareness, Rules of Behavior (VA 10176), and Privacy and HIPPAA (VA 10203) training prior to accessing VA systems and yearly thereafter.

8.4 Has Authorization and Accreditation (A&A) been completed for the system?

In process.

8.4a If Yes, provide:

1. *The Security Plan Status:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
2. *The System Security Plan Status Date:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
3. *The Authorization Status:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
4. *The Authorization Date:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
5. *The Authorization Termination Date:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
6. *The Risk Review Completion Date:* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>
7. *The FIPS 199 classification of the system (LOW/MODERATE/HIGH):* <<ADD ANSWER HERE>>

Please note that all systems containing SPI are categorized at a minimum level of "moderate" under Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 199.

8.4b If No or In Process, provide your ***Initial Operating Capability (IOC) date.***

July 15, 2024

Section 9 – Technology Usage

The following questions are used to identify the technologies being used by the IT system or project.

9.1 Does the system use cloud technology? If so, what cloud model is being utilized?

If so, Does the system have a FedRAMP provisional or agency authorization? If the system does use cloud technology, but does not have FedRAMP authorization, explain how the Cloud Service Provider (CSP) solution was assessed and what FedRAMP documents and processes were used for the assessment in order to comply with VA Handbook 6517. Types of cloud models include: Software as a Service (SaaS), Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS), Commercial off the Shelf (COTS), Desktop as a Service (DaaS), Mobile Backend as a Service (MBaaS), Information Technology Management as a Service (ITMaaS). This question is related to privacy control UL-1, Information Sharing with Third Parties.

Note: For systems utilizing the VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC), no further responses are required after 9.1*. (Refer to question 3.3.1 of the PTA)*

Yes, AWS VA Enterprise Cloud (VAEC)

9.2 Does the contract with the Cloud Service Provider, Contractors and VA customers establish who has ownership rights over data including PII? (Provide contract number and supporting information about PII/PHI from the contract). (*Refer to question 3.3.2 of the PTA) This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors, and Service Providers.*

<<ADD ANSWER HERE>>

9.3 Will the CSP collect any ancillary data and if so, who has ownership over the ancillary data?

Per NIST 800-144, cloud providers hold significant details about the accounts of cloud consumers that could be compromised and used in subsequent attacks. Ancillary data also involves information the cloud provider collects or produces about customer-related activity in the cloud. It includes data collected to meter and charge for consumption of resources, logs and audit trails, and other such metadata that is generated and accumulated within the cloud environment.
This question is related to privacy control DI-1, Data Quality.

<<ADD ANSWER HERE>>

9.4 NIST 800-144 states, "Organizations are ultimately accountable for the security and privacy of data held by a cloud provider on their behalf." Is this principle described in contracts with customers? Why or why not?
What are the roles and responsibilities involved between the organization and cloud provider, particularly with respect to managing risks and ensuring organizational requirements are met? This question is related to privacy control AR-3, Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers.

<<ADD ANSWER HERE>>

9.5 If the system is utilizing Robotics Process Automation (RPA), please describe the role of the bots.
Robotic Process Automation is the use of software scripts to perform tasks as an automated process that executes in parallel with or in place of human input. For example, will the automation move or touch PII/PHI information. RPA may also be referred to as "Bots" or Artificial Intelligence (AI).

<<ADD ANSWER HERE>>

Section 10. References

Summary of Privacy Controls by Family

Summary of Privacy Controls by Family

ID	Privacy Controls
AP	**Authority and Purpose**
AP-1	Authority to Collect
AP-2	Purpose Specification
AR	**Accountability, Audit, and Risk Management**
AR-1	Governance and Privacy Program
AR-2	Privacy Impact and Risk Assessment
AR-3	Privacy Requirements for Contractors and Service Providers
AR-4	Privacy Monitoring and Auditing
AR-5	Privacy Awareness and Training
AR-7	Privacy-Enhanced System Design and Development
AR-8	Accounting of Disclosures
DI	**Data Quality and Integrity**
DI-1	Data Quality
DI-2	Data Integrity and Data Integrity Board
DM	**Data Minimization and Retention**
DM-1	Minimization of Personally Identifiable Information
DM-2	Data Retention and Disposal
DM-3	Minimization of PII Used in Testing, Training, and Research
IP	**Individual Participation and Redress**
IP-1	Consent
IP-2	Individual Access
IP-3	Redress
IP-4	Complaint Management
SE	**Security**
SE-1	Inventory of Personally Identifiable Information
SE-2	Privacy Incident Response
TR	**Transparency**
TR-1	Privacy Notice
TR-2	System of Records Notices and Privacy Act Statements
TR-3	Dissemination of Privacy Program Information
UL	**Use Limitation**
UL-1	Internal Use
UL-2	Information Sharing with Third Parties

Signature of Responsible Officials

The individuals below attest that the information they provided in this Privacy Impact Assessment is true and accurate.

NANCY KATZ-JOHNSON

Digitally signed by NANCY KATZ-JOHNSON
Date: 2024.07.16 13:17:09 -04'00'

Privacy Officer, Nancy Katz-Johnson

JEFFREY GARDINER

Digitally signed by JEFFREY GARDINER
Date: 2024.07.16 09:54:14 -04'00'

Information System Security Officer, Jeffrey Gardiner

ANDREW FICHTER

Digitally signed by ANDREW FICHTER
Date: 2024.07.16 08:56:38 -04'00'

Information System Owner, Andrew Fichter

APPENDIX A-6.1

Please provide a link to the notice or verbiage referred to in Section 6 (a notice may include a posted privacy policy; a Privacy Act notice on forms; screen shot of a website collection privacy notice).

Link to VA.gov Privacy Policy: https://www.va.gov/privacy-policy/

HELPFUL LINKS:

General Records Schedule
https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/grs.html

National Archives (Federal Records Management):
https://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/grs

VA Publications:
https://www.va.gov/vapubs/

VA Privacy Service Privacy Hub:
https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/OITPrivacyHub

Notice of Privacy Practice (NOPP):
VHA Notice of Privacy Practices

VHA Handbook 1605.04: Notice of Privacy Practices 1605.04