**Facility Locator – Backend Documentation**

**Endpoints**

* Facility Locator data is being served up from the vets-api directly (version 0).
* There is an existing effort to use the Facilities API (in `/modules` within the same application) for all VHA facility data.

**Data Sources**

* VHA Facility data is assembled from several different sources, and they all end up in the local PostgreSQL database.
* VHA Facility data is uploaded to the database through a daily Sidekiq job. (See the Moving VHA data sources document).
* PPMS/Community Care data is queried through the PPMS Client – Provider Locator API
* Cemetery, Dental, Mental Health, and Facility website data are pulled in from xml or csv files directly (`/lib/facilities/`).
* VC/VBA/NCA/VHA facility data is pulled in using the `MetadataClient` in the `/lib/facilities` folder.

**Data Response**

Vets-API:

* VHA Facility data is stored in the local PostgreSQL database in the `base\_facilities` table and is returned as JSON using the `VAFacilitySerializer`.
* PPMS/Community Care data is returned as JSON with the `ProviderSerializer`.

Facilities-API:

* Facility data is returned as either JSON, or GeoJSON based upon request type, using `FacilitySerializer` or `GeoSerializer`.

**Performance (issues and solutions)**

* The main performance issues seem to be related to Kong (API Gateway), and may require more servers to be provisioned.
* There are also further optimizations that can likely be done at the DB level and/or in the API itself.
* Community Care requests call out to a 3rd-party API, are also creating a performance hit. A possible solution may be to set up a new daily Sidekiq jobs to pull down the PPMS data (or *at least* the Urgent Care and Pharmacy data) and load it into the local PostgreSQL database.