



Continuity of Veteran Care during EHR Migration and beyond:

VISTA Data Project

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***A Joint Interagency Project with the
U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency***



- VA-DoD Interagency Project
- Leverages DoD-developed EHR migration technology and approach
- Provides security, audit, analysis, and migration for all veteran data
- Creates Master Veteran Data Model for all veteran data
- Enables Master Veteran Data Repository for all veteran data
- Execution 2016-2018
- <http://vistadataproject.info>



History of VHA/DHA Health Management Systems

DHCP is the common base system

VHA: 151 hospitals; 820 clinics; 300 vet centers; + other (total 1700 care sites)
DHA: 57 hospitals; 350 clinics + other

VHA: 131 VISTA systems operational (since 1981)
DHA: 101 CHCS systems operational (since 1985)
Total: 232 DHCP-based systems across VHA-DHA

DHCP-based systems

Common technology projects

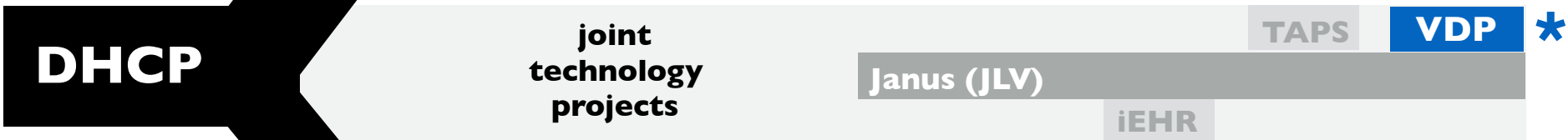
VHA-specific interface and workflow

DHA-specific interface and workflow

Veterans Health Administration (VHA)



Common Base System



Defense Health Administration (DHA)



While DHCP was initially the same in VHA and DHA, it has diverged over time. The most significant fork occurred in 2004 when DHA standardized and migrated a large portion of operational data and functions from CHCS to CDR and MDR databases. Currently the variety, volume, and function of CHCS data is approximately one-third that of VISTA.

1980 1990 2000 2010 2017

VHA-specific		VISTA	CPRS				
Common	DHCP			JLV	iEHR	TAPS	VDP
DHA-specific		CHCS		AHLTA / CDR		Genesis	

Note: Time scale simplified for clarity

- 1981 - DHCP - Decentralized Hospital Care Program - VA Fileman database and applications [VHA]

1985 - CHCS - (DHCP renamed to) Composite Health Care System; modified for DHA use [Leidos (SAIC)]

1994 - VISTA - (DHCP renamed to) Veterans Information Systems Technology Architecture [VHA]

1997 - CPRS - Computerized Patient Record System - graphical interface and workflow [VHA]

2004 - AHLTA/ CDR/ MDR - Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application [Northrup Grumman]
- 2003 - Janus - Interagency viewer (renamed to JLV in 2011) [DHA-VHA]

2011 - iEHR - Integrated Electronic Health Record [SMS]

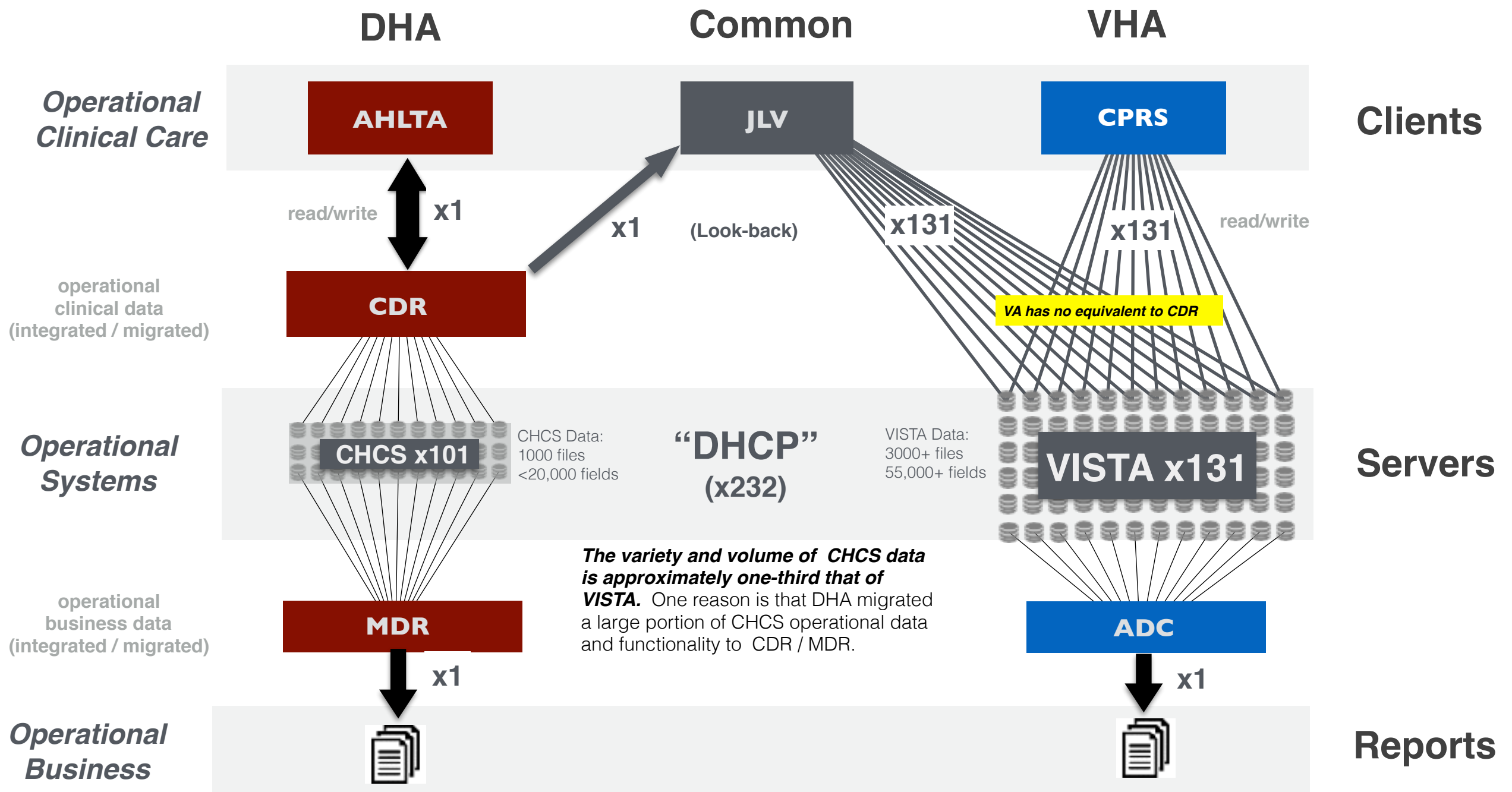
2013 - TAPS - Transition Application Plan Support [DHA-VHA]

2016 - MHS Genisys (COTS EHR - Cerner)

* 2016 - VDP - VISTA Data Project [DHA-VHA]



Current State of VHA/DHA Systems



DHA has standardized and migrated much its operational clinical and business data from CHCS into CDR, allowing read-write access to longitudinal health data while retiring CHCS, without loss of continuity of care.

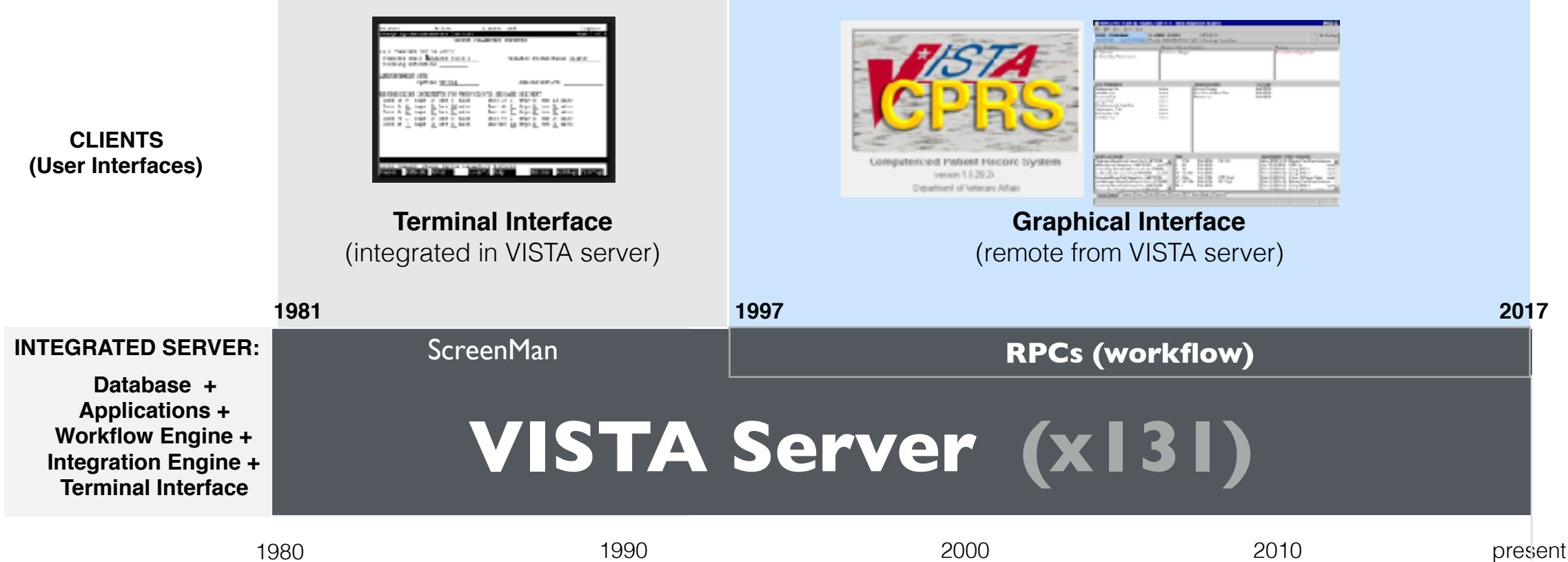
VHA has not yet decided on its long-term strategy for migration of longitudinal Veteran operational business and clinical data. There is no equivalent of a CDR in VHA. VA remains fully dependent on VISTA for all clinical and business operations.

AHLTA - User Interface
CHCS - Composite Healthcare System (All operational data)
MDR - Military Data Repository (Operational business data)
CDR - Clinical Data Repository (Operational clinical data)

CPRS - User Interface
VISTA - VA Information Systems Architecture (All operational data)
ADC - Austin Data Center (Operational business data)



VA workflow: Captured in VISTA Server



Because the VISTA server's remote procedure call (RPC) interfaces captures all the clinical and business operational workflow of the CPRS client, migrating VISTA "server-first" captures and ensures VA continuity of care and business processes.



VISTA Data Project

*Phase I: Stepwise Server Migration
while maintaining Continuity of Care*

Key Features - Phase I (FY16-17)

- Proven, stepwise VISTA Server migration
- Provides seamless continuity of care (CPRS/JLV)
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Care Model
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Business Model
- Allows retirement of legacy MUMPS VISTA [spaghetti]
- Provides COTS / EHR migration foundation

Current VISTAs

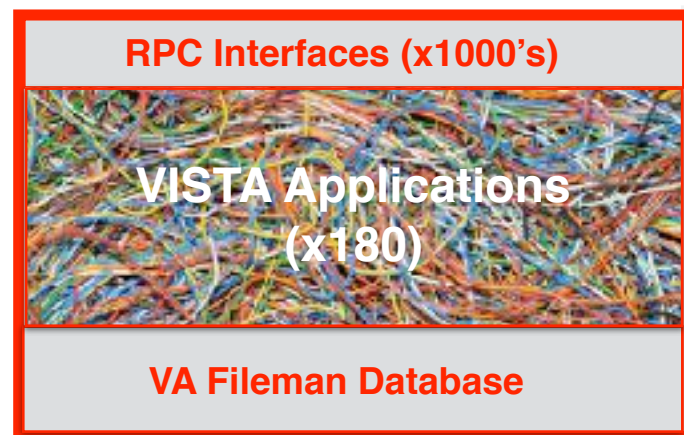


RPC
Interfaces
(x 1000s)



or

*Insecure
Asymmetric
Opaque
Legacy MUMPS
Code-driven
Interfaces*



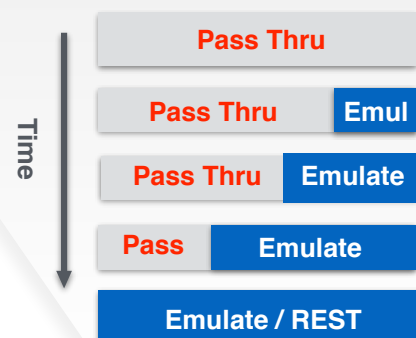
**VISTA
Server**

**MUMPS-driven VISTA Server
(maintenance and growth issues)**

Key Features

- Measurable, Stepwise Migration from Legacy VISTA server
- Leverages DoD-funded migration tooling for VA systems
- Migrates to model-driven server, based on CPRS blueprint
- Executable Master Data Model, regression tested
- **Maintains continuity of care:**
 - CPRS continues to run without change
 - JLV continues to run without change
- Provides new National Veteran Care Services interface
- Enables new, mobile and web clients

Stepwise, Measurable Server Migration



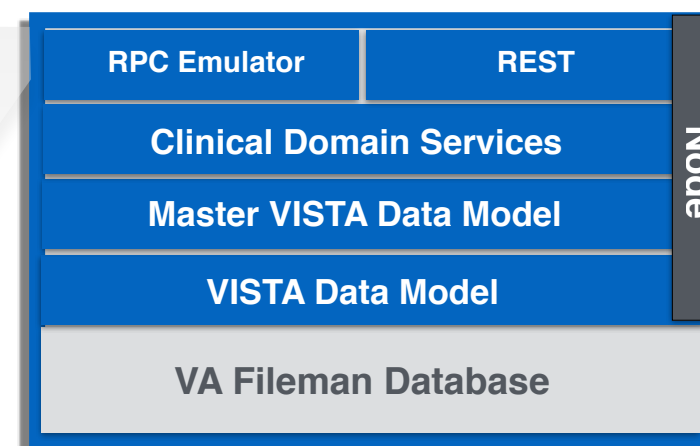
VISTA Data Project



or



*Single
Secure
Symmetric
Modern
Model-driven
Interface*



**New
Server**

**Structured VISTA Server
(mainstream, extensible technology)**

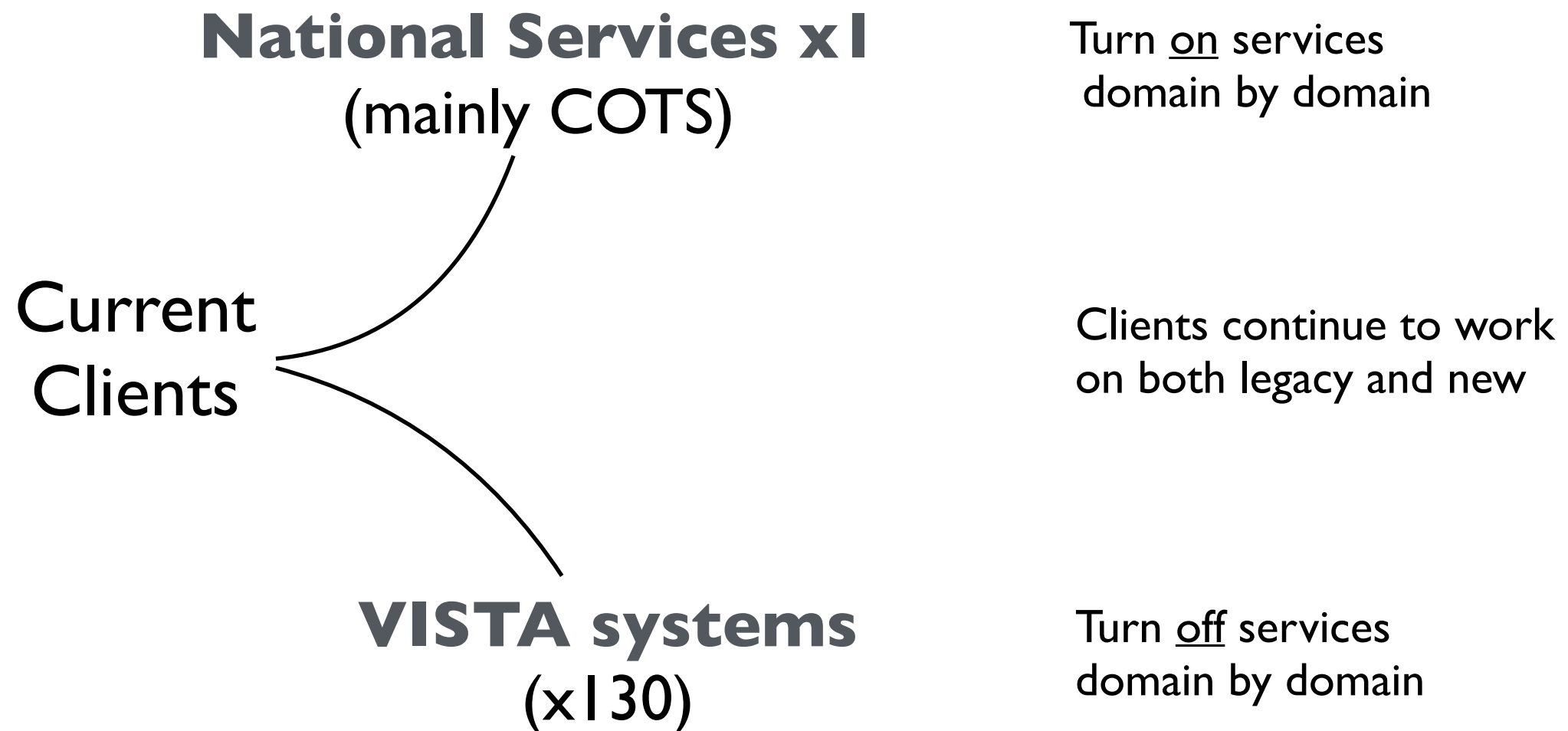
- M Legacy VISTA (MUMPS)
- Master Data Model - Node.js Driven VISTA (no MUMPS)

Strategic Benefits

- **New, maintainable veteran care server** based on **mainstream technology**
- New web and mobile clients enabled with mainstream technology
- Current clients (CPRS/JLV) supported and enforce continuity of VA Care coverage
- **May now safely incrementally retire legacy MUMPS VISTA [spaghetti]**
- (Some) Clinical Domain Services may be implemented over COTS (**EHR Migration**)

- Leverage proven stepwise VISTA Server migration
- Provides seamless continuity of care (CPRS/JLV)
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Care Model
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Business Model
- Allows retirement of legacy MUMPS VISTA application
- Provides national COTS / EHR migration

VISTA Server and Services Migration: Allow clients to continue to work while services are migrated from decentralized VISTA systems to a centralized national service, domain by domain.





VISTA Data Project

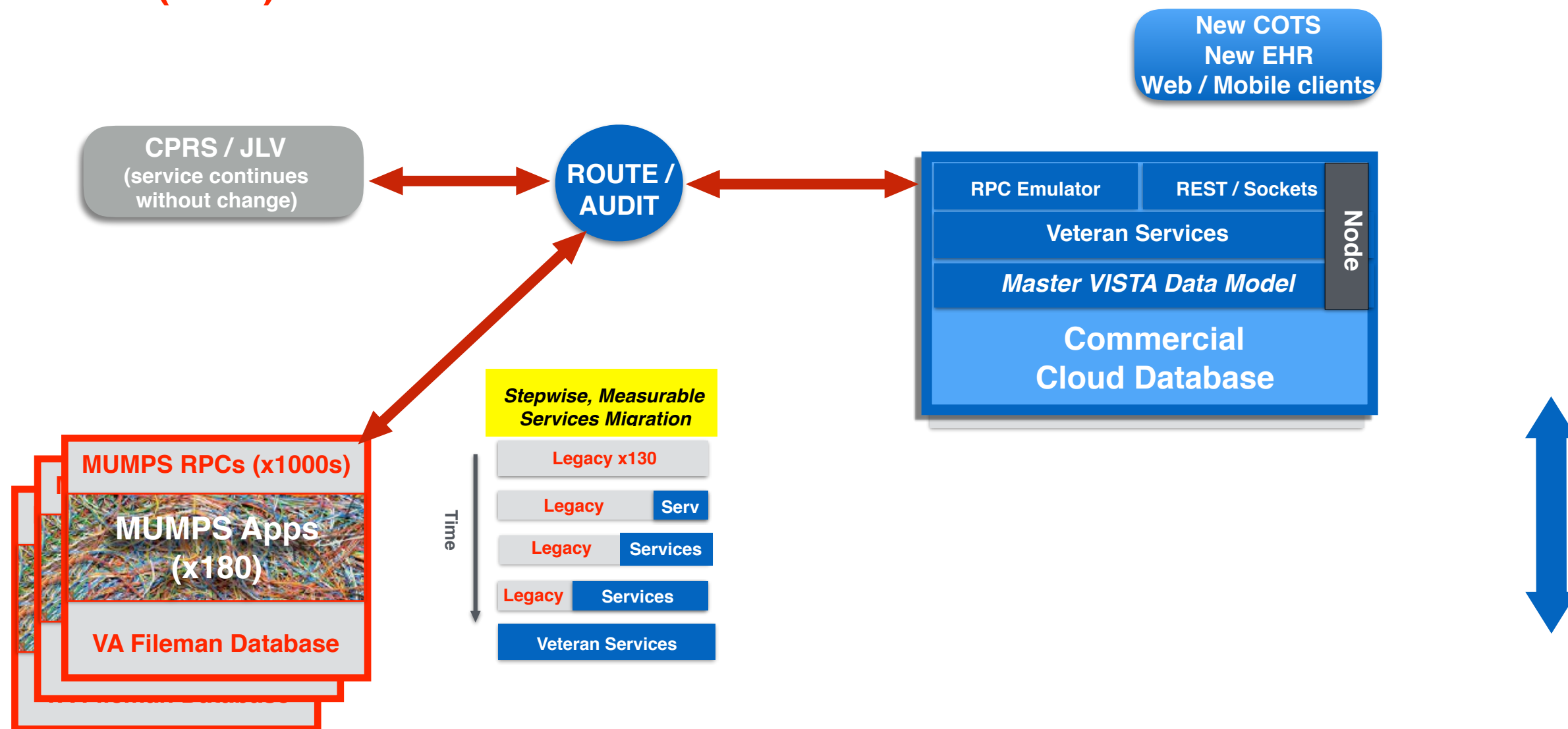
*Stepwise Server Migration
to single Centralized Services*

Key Features - Phase II (FY18-19)

- Leverage proven stepwise VISTA Server migration
- Provides COTS / EHR migration foundation

Decentralized VISTA Systems (x130)

Centralized Veteran Care Services



**130 x Local Legacy VISTA Servers
(insecure and due for retirement)**

**Model-backed Cloud Service
(mainstream, modular, extensible)**

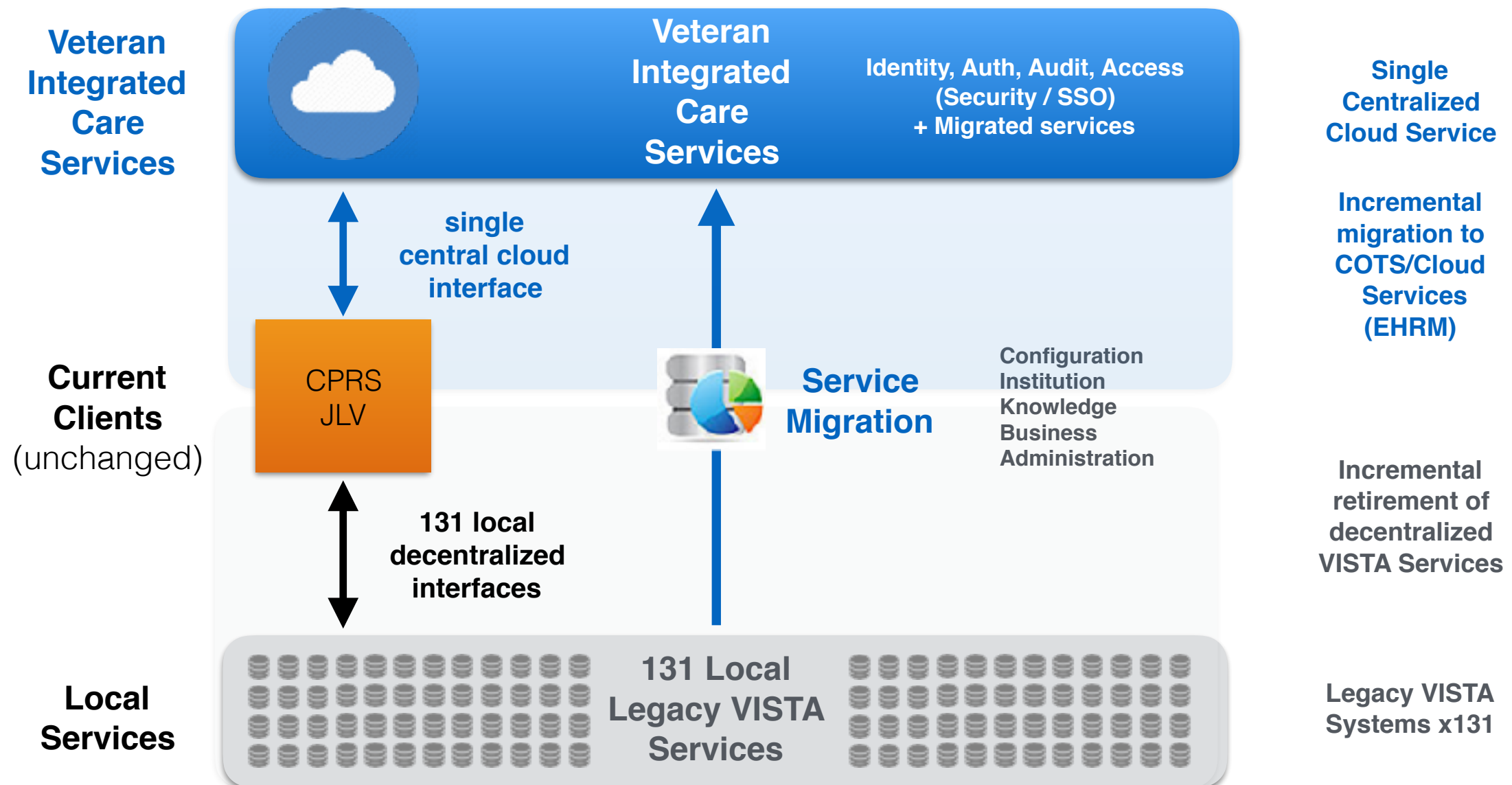
VISTA Data Project

Phase II: National services migration to Centralized Cloud-based Services

Key Features - Phase II (FY18-19)

- Leverage proven stepwise VISTA Server migration
- Provides seamless continuity of care (CPRS/JLV)
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Care Model
- Formalizes and preserves Veteran Business Model
- Allows retirement of legacy MUMPS VISTA application
- Provides national COTS / EHR migration

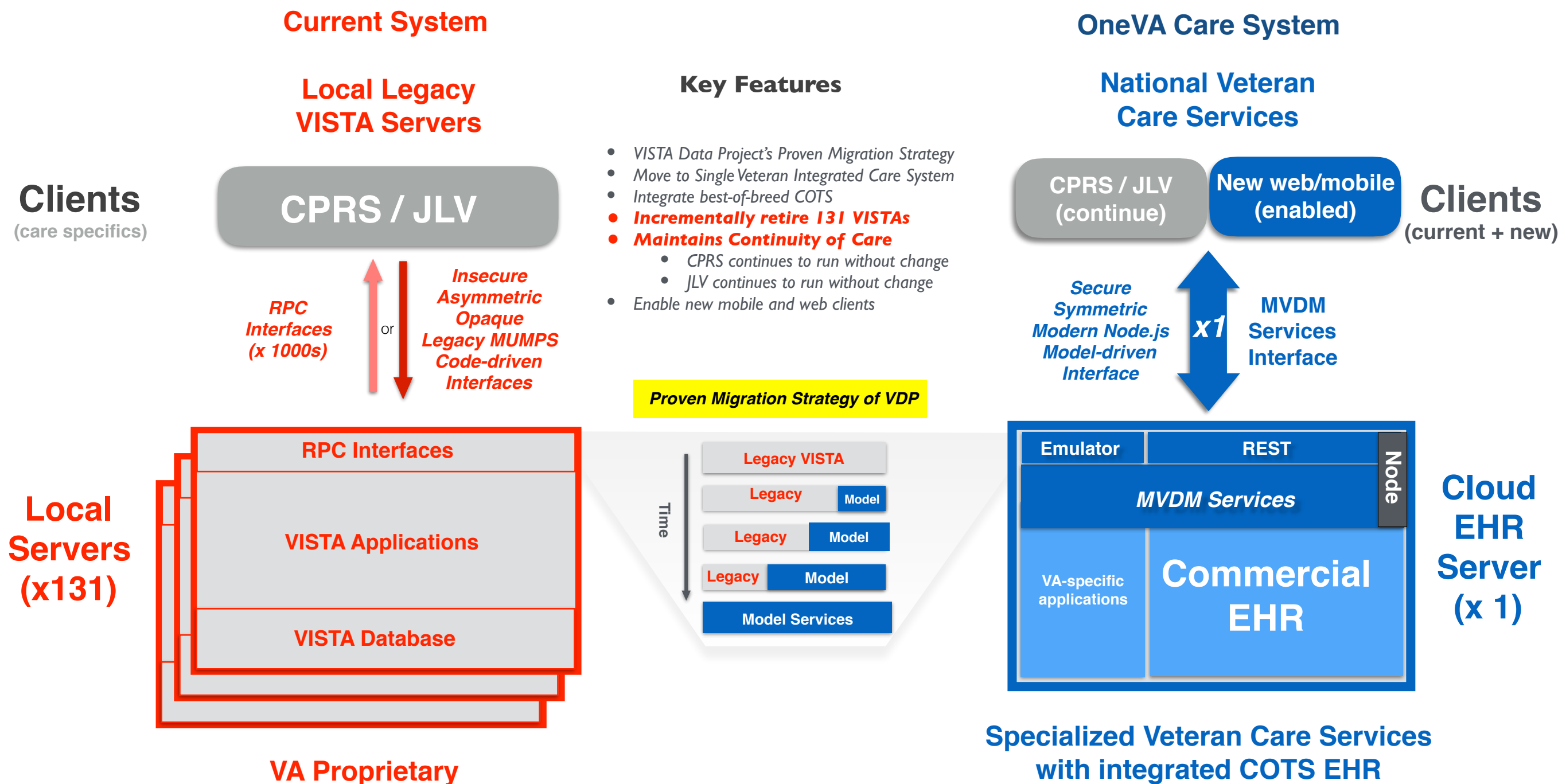
Approach: Incrementally deconstruct and **migrate VistA services to Best-of-Breed national cloud services which are backwards-compatible to existing VistA clients**; then re-route VistA clients to these new national services instead of any local VistA. SAFE: Non-disruptive. Incremental migration to Best of Breed COTS / services with no impact on current end-users. The clients remain unchanged; only the back-end services change, invisible to the end-user.



VA EHR Migration

PROPOSED

Migrate to COTS/Cloud-based National EHR following the proven VISTA Data Project strategy



- M** Legacy VISTA (MUMPS)
- Blue** Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM) Services
- Light Blue** Industry Standard Modules (NEW)

Strategic Benefits

- Single Integrated Veteran Care System
- Guarantees continuity of veteran care and services during migration
- VA stops maintaining features available in COTS / Cloud EHR
- Easily add new clients and services for providers and veterans



Resources

Web: ***vistadataproject.info***

Github: ***github.com/vistadataproject***

Contact: ***rafael.richards@va.gov***

VISTA Data Project

Stepwise Server Migration while maintaining Continuity of Care

*Enables Cloud-based, COTS-integrated
National Veteran Care Services
Preserving Continuity of Care*

Supports the current...

Enables the new...

Clients



CPRS



JLV



VPR



**web mobile
commercial**

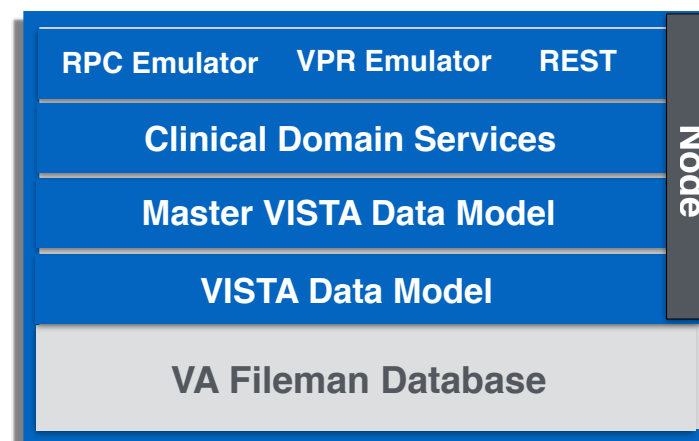
Current and
New Clients

*Security
Enhanced*

*Veteran
Care Specifics
maintained*

*Secure
Symmetric
Modern Node.js
Model-driven
Interface*

Servers



**node
VISTA**

**New, Structured VISTA Server
(mainstream, modular, extensible)**



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VA Community Care *June 8, 2017*



***A Joint Interagency Project with the
U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Health Agency***





VA EHR migration: A Big Data Problem

Objective *VA needs to migrate from VISTA to a new EHR, while*

- Providing continuity of all care and business processes
- Preserving all historical Veteran data - both clinical and business, and
- Making all historical data accessible and computable going forward

Problem *VA has 30+ years of business and clinical data contained in 131 VISTA systems, each with a specialized, unique data model.*

Solution **VISTA Data Project: “Data migration follows Model migration”**

- Phase I (2016-17): Make all Veteran data in all VISTA systems securely accessible, usable, and computable using a single, standardized, national Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM)
- Phase 2 (2017-18) Based on the MVDM, create a full fidelity copy of all data from all VISTA systems in a single, centralized, commercial cloud-based Master Veteran Data Repository (MVDR)



VA EHR Modernization:

A Big Data Problem

Objective ***VA needs to migrate from VISTA to a new EHR, while***

- Providing continuity of all care and business processes
- Preserving all historical Veteran data - both clinical and business, and
- Making all operational data accessible and usable going forward

Problem

- ***VA has 30+ years of business and clinical data contained in 131 VISTA systems, each with a specialized, unique data model, BUT***
- ***VA has no master operational data repository (like DHA's CDR) to preserve and make available all clinical and business operational data to enable continuity of services during migration and beyond.***

Solution

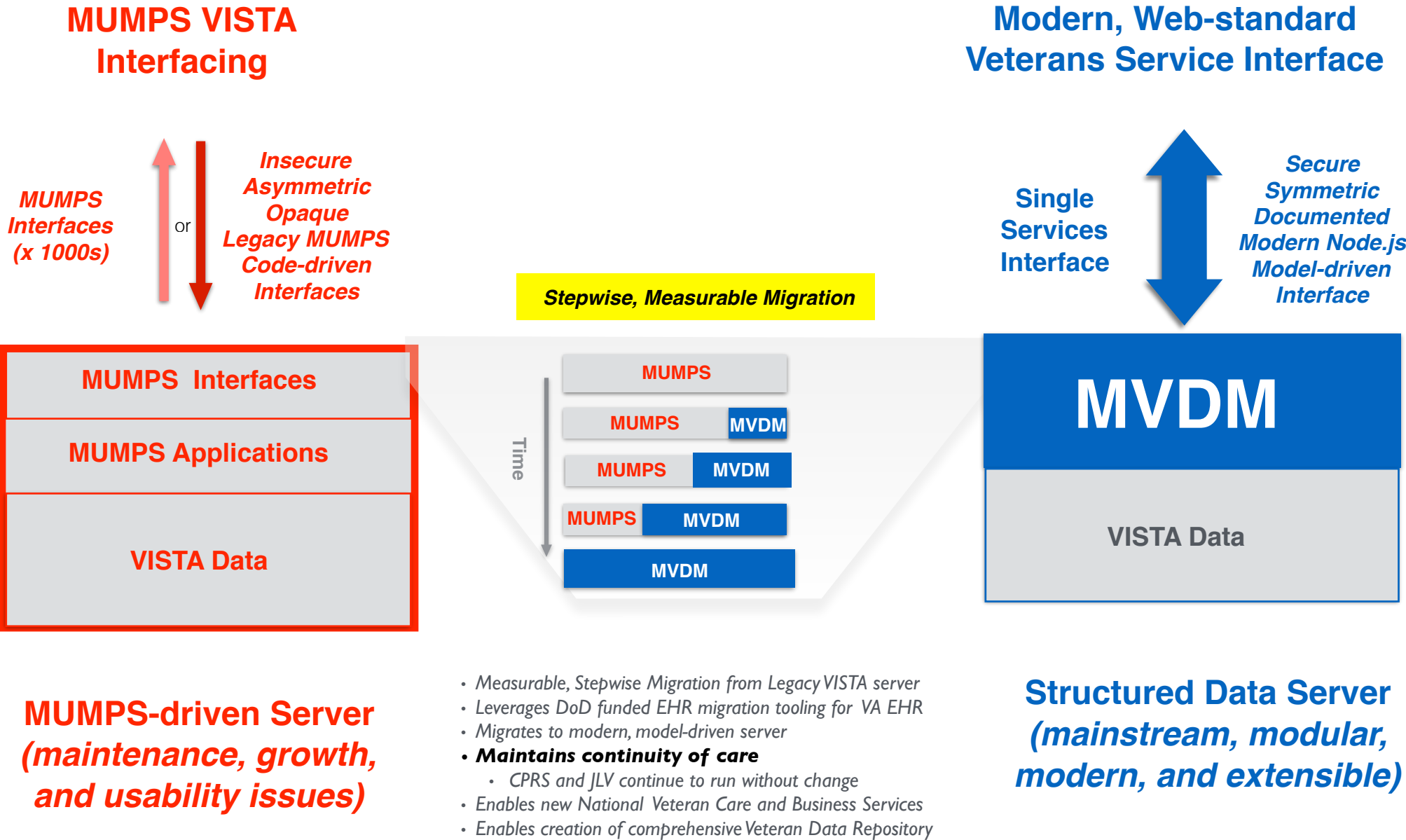
Following DHA's risk mitigation strategy: Create a full fidelity copy of all data from all current VA VISTA systems in a single, centralized, commercial, cloud-based, operational data repository - the Veterans Data Repository (VDR) - to provide continuity of care and services during EHR migration and beyond.



VISTA Data Project

Stepwise measurable migration of current VISTA data and applications to the Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM) while maintaining Continuity of Care

The MVDM is derived from the native as-is Veteran Data Model of all 131 VISTA Systems and describes with full fidelity all operational clinical and business data





VISTA Data Project

Stepwise measurable migration of current VISTA data and applications to the Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM) while maintaining Continuity of Care

VISTA Data Project Secure Read and Write Interface for VA VISTA Demo DevDocs Github

VISTA Data Project

The Veterans Information Systems Technology Architecture (VISTA) is the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs comprehensive integrated clinical, business, and administrative information system that supports the operations of over 1100 VA hospitals and clinics nationwide.

The VISTA Data Project is a new data-centric, model-driven approach to VISTA master data management, interfacing, and security. VISTA's data model - the roadmap to all of VA's institutional, business, and clinical processes and data - has evolved organically over the past 35 years, but has not been surfaced and leveraged in computable form.

Now, for the first time, VA's native transactional healthcare data model - the VISTA Data Model - will be comprehensively exposed, enriched, and operationalized as a single, secure, symmetric read-write, server-side interface for all clinical operational VISTA data.

The VISTA Data Model (VDM) is in turn normalized across all local VISTA system data models to create a national, standardized **Master VISTA Data Model (MVDM)**, allowing transactions across all VA VISTA systems with a single, standard, secure, veteran-centric, service-based mechanism, **MVDM Services**:

Code-driven VISTA

- Current Clients (CPRO, JLV, VLER, ...)
- RPC Legacy Interfaces (x 1000s)
- Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Legacy Interfaces
- VA Applications
- VA Fileman Database
- MUMPS VISTA

Goals

- Secure current clients
- Enable new clients

Model-driven VISTA

- Current and NEW Clients (Security Enhanced)
- Veterans Service Interface
- Secure Symmetric Modern Node.js Model-driven Interface
- RPC Emulator
- MVDM Services
- Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM)
- VA Fileman Database
- Node VISTA

Remote Procedure Call (RPC) Isolation and Security Transition

Legend:

- Legacy VISTA (MUMPS)
- Modernized / Rebuilt / Evolved VISTA (present and future)
- Master Veteran Data Model (MVDM) / Node.js - Driven VISTA (new clients)

Website

<http://vistadataproject.info>

Demo

<http://vistadataproject.info/demo>

Docs

<https://github.com/vistadataproject/documents>

Contact

rafael.richards@va.gov



Master VISTA Data Model

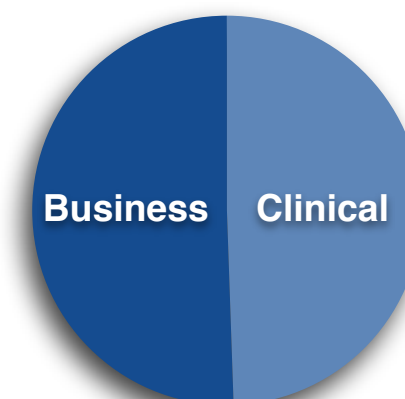
Enables National Veteran Clinical and Business Services Migration

More than 50% of VISTA data is VA Business function

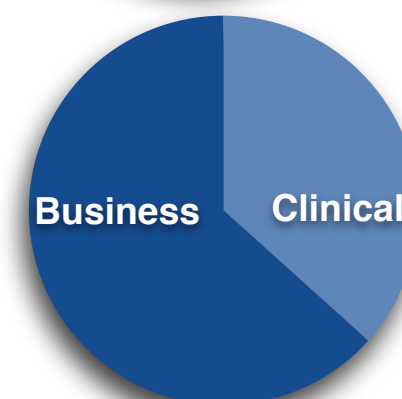
Content of largest 30 files in a VISTA system

	#	File	Count
Clinical	P1	IMAGE (2005)	5,728,923
Business	P2	AR TRANSACTION (433)	5,595,597
Clinical	P3	GMRV VITAL MEASUREMENT (120.5)	5,582,099
Clinical	P4	V CPT (9000010.18)	5,533,193
Business	P5	ENROLLMENT/ELIGIBILITY UPLOAD AUDIT	5,525,976
Clinical	P6	ORDER (100)	5,243,872
Clinical	P7	TIU DOCUMENT (8925)	4,588,982
Clinical	P8	VISIT (9000010)	4,465,018
Clinical	P9	OUTPATIENT ENCOUNTER (409.68)	4,385,585
Business	P10	BCMA MEDICATION LOG (53.79)	3,901,198
Clinical	P11	V POV (9000010.07)	3,640,303
Clinical	P12	V PROVIDER (9000010.06)	3,446,623
Business	P13	ACRP TRANSMISSION HISTORY (409.77)	3,122,925
Business	P14	TRANSMITTED OUTPATIENT ENCOUNTER	2,697,388
Business	P15	IMAGE ACCESS LOG (2006.95)	2,524,259
Business	P16	PATIENT ENROLLMENT (27.11)	2,386,762
Business	P17	IB COPAY TRANSACTIONS (354.71)	2,291,380
Business	P18	BCMA REPORT REQUEST (53.69)	2,119,037
Business	P19	INTEGRATED BILLING ACTION (350)	2,065,742
Business	P20	CLAIMS TRACKING (356)	1,989,049
Business	P21	ADT/HL7 PIVOT (391.71)	1,987,001
Clinical	P22	PRESCRIPTION (52)	1,863,696
Business	P23	ORDER CHECK INSTANCES (100.05)	1,486,470
Business	P24	UNIT DOSE EXTRACT DATA (728.904)	1,475,497
Business	P25	ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE (430)	1,466,346
Clinical	P26	V HEALTH FACTORS (9000010.23)	1,462,325
Business	P27	IVM FINANCIAL QUERY LOG (301.62)	1,439,880
Business	P28	IVM TRANSMISSION LOG (301.6)	1,285,905
Business	P29	IB BILL/CLAIMS DIAGNOSIS (362.3)	1,264,869
Business	P30	BCMA UNABLE TO SCAN LOG (53.77)	1,239,098

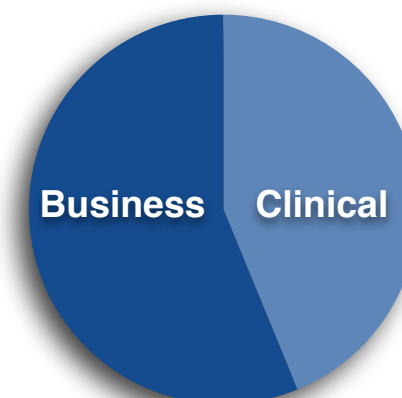
Total files	91,804,998
Clinical files	40,211,696
Business files	51,593,302



**VISTA
Packages
(total 180)**



**VISTA
Files
(largest 30)**



**VISTA
Data
(>90 million)**



Master VISTA Data Model

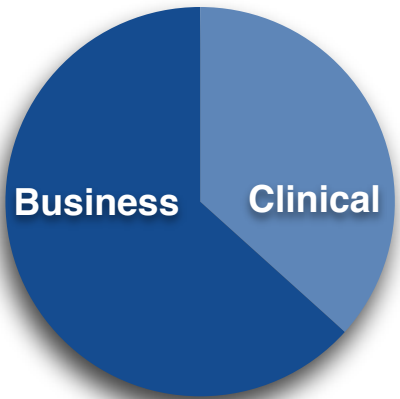
Enables National Veteran Clinical and Business Services Migration

More than 50% of VISTA data is VA Business function

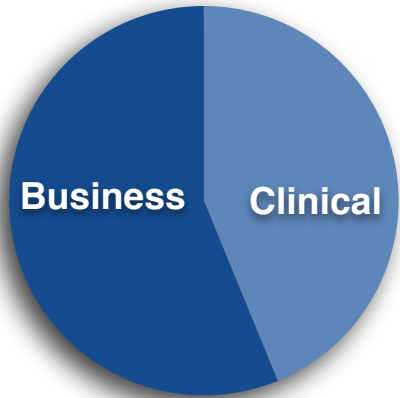
**VISTA
Packages
(total 180)**



**VISTA
Files
(largest 30)**



**VISTA
Data
(>90 million)**

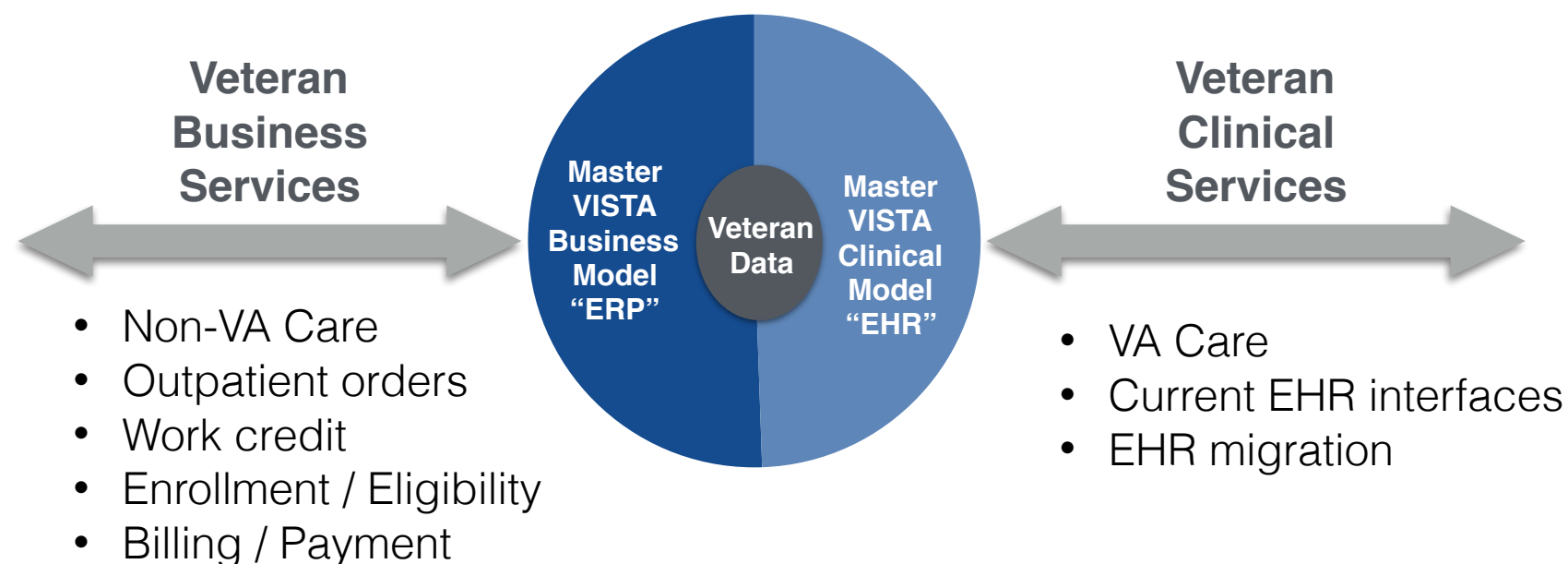




Master Veteran Data Model

Enables National Veteran Clinical and Business Services Migration

Master VISTA Data Model



*VISTA Packages
(total 180)*



*VISTA Files
(largest 30)*



*VISTA Data
(>90 million)*

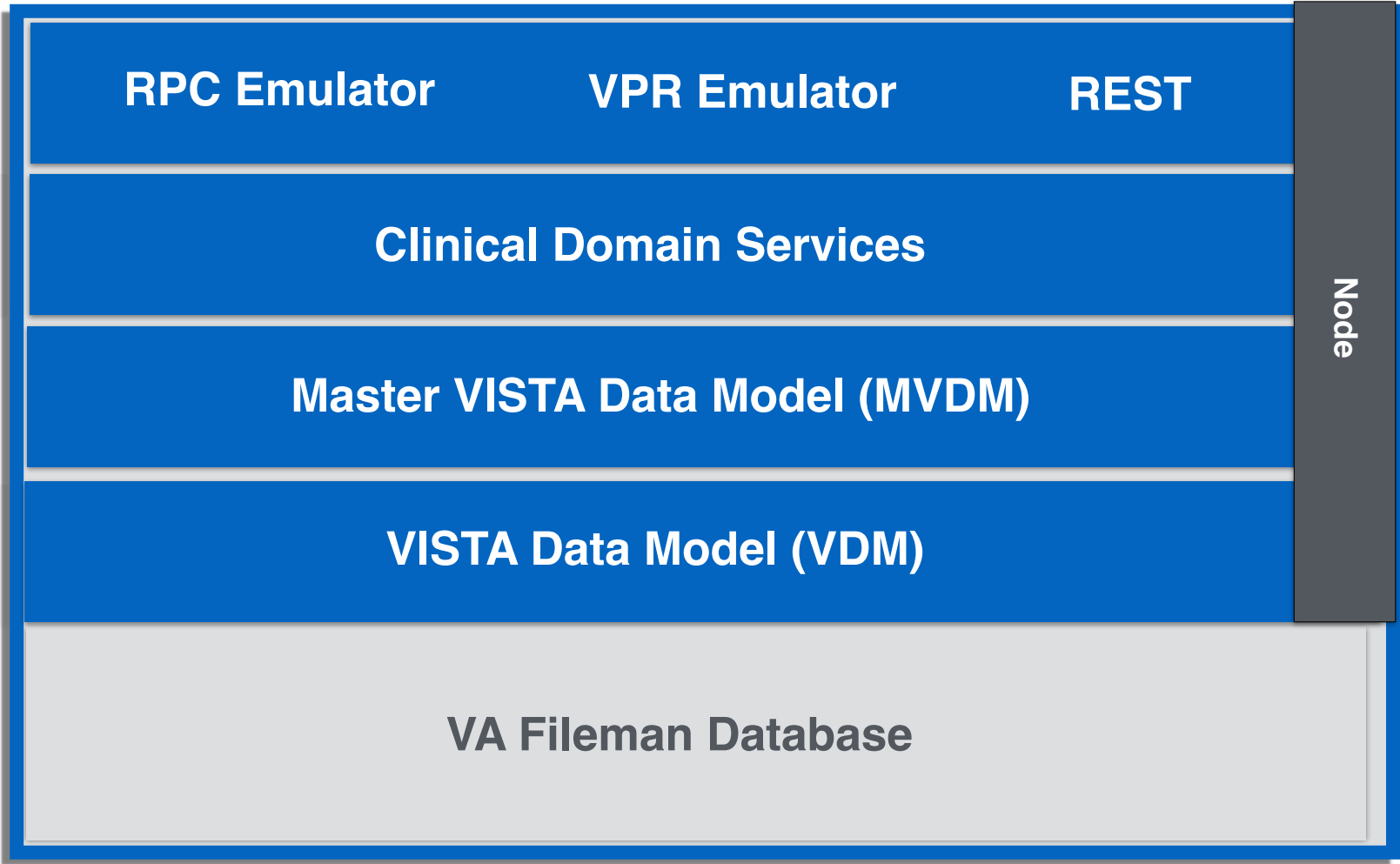




nodeVISTA Stack

Clean, Modular, Separation of Functionality

- Emulation and New Interfaces
- All reduce to same service interactions
- (Problem, Pharmacy ...) Services over MVDM
- Patient level selection and security
- Normalizes VDM
- Distinguishes Veteran and Patient/Clinical specifics
- A Clean “CRUD+R”/Events paradigm
- Transparent JSON of the native model
- **Read for 100% data in FileMan**
- Write Tested for MVDM covered classes
- All interaction through formal FileMan API
- Only FileMan changes fix Data Dictionary (DD)

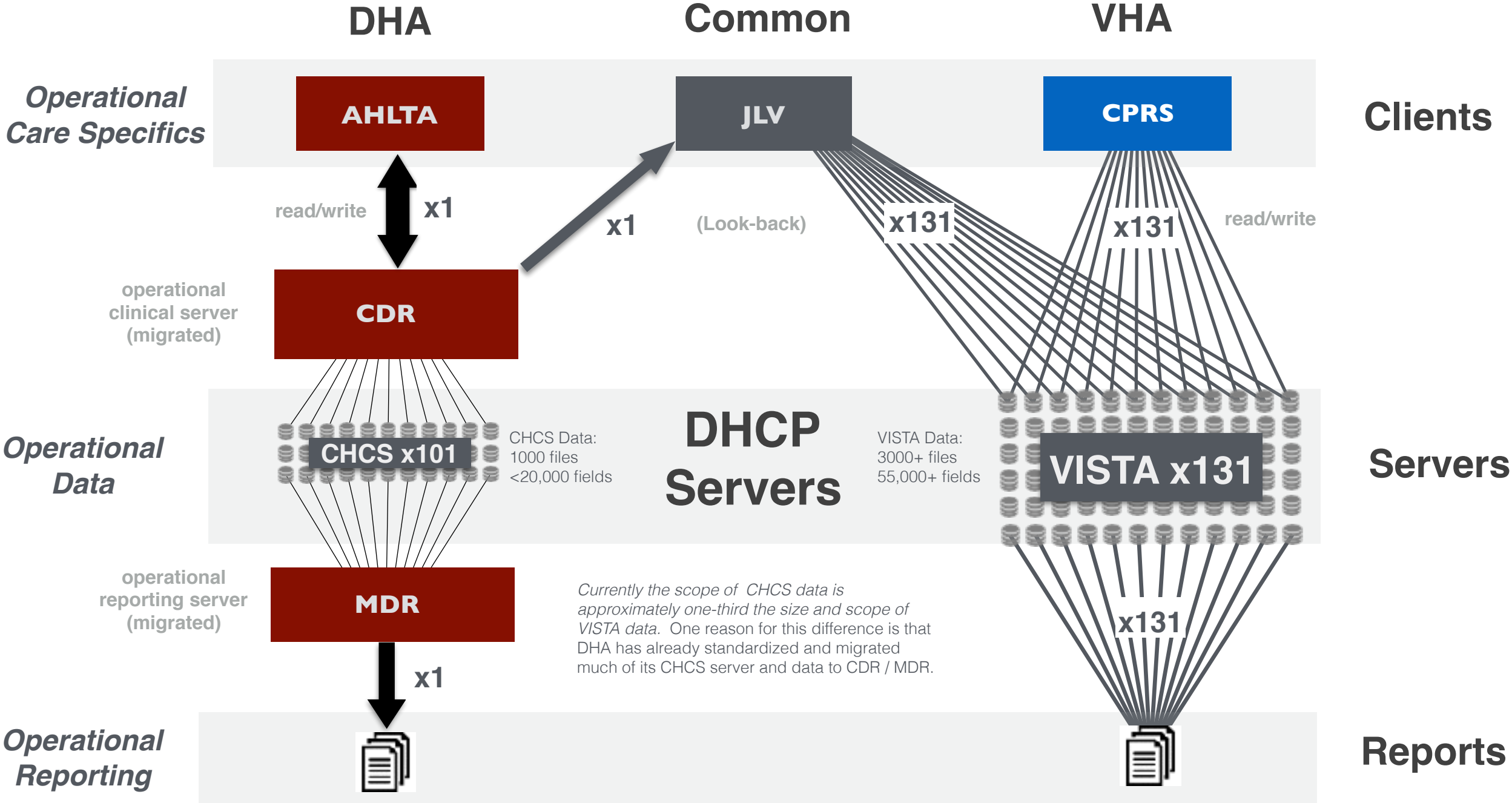


Structured VISTA Server
(mainstream, modular, extensible)

 Javascript/Node.js



Continuity of Care Risks in migrating from DHCP Servers (CHCS/VISTA)



DHA migrated its operational server and data to MDR / CDR in 2004.

VHA has not migrated its operational server or data.

DHA	Source	Migration	Risk
Military-specific care	AHLTA	?	?
DoD Custom Reports	CHCS x101	MDR (read-only)	MEDIUM
Longitudinal Care (Look-back)	CHCS x101	CDR (read-only)	LOW

VHA	Source	Migration	Risk
Veteran-specific care	VISTA x131	NONE	HIGH
VA Custom Reports	VISTA x131	NONE	HIGH
Longitudinal Care (Look-back)	VISTA x131	NONE	HIGH



CPRS: Blueprint for VA Longitudinal Care

CPRS is VISTA to Physicians, and Embodies Veteran Care specifics

Veteran-specific

Built specifically around veteran care policies and practice



Department of Veterans Affairs

Memorandum

Date: OCT 17 2012

From: Deputy Under Secretary for Health for Operations and Management (10N)

Subject: National Patient Record Flag for High Risk for Suicide

To: Network Director (10N1-23)
Chief Medical Officer (10N1-23)
Network Mental Health Liaisons

1. The purpose of this memo is to provide guidance for the implementation of a new Category I Patient Record Flag (PRF) for High Risk for Suicide.

Agent Orange

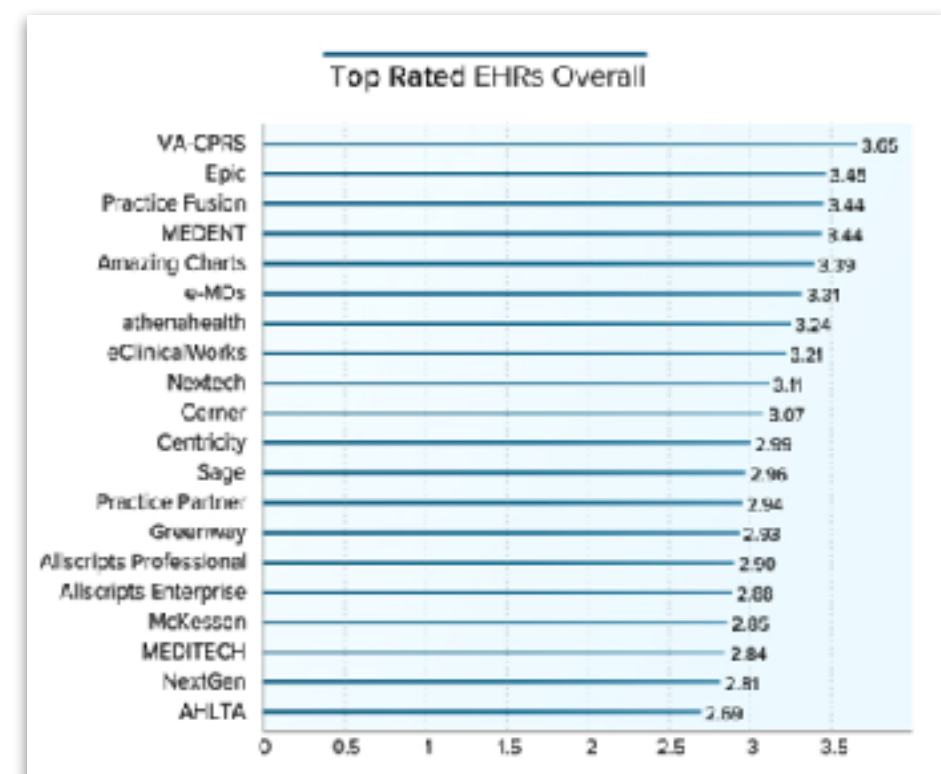
Agent Orange (AO) is an herbicide that was used in Vietnam between 1962 and 1971 to remove unwanted plant life that provided cover for enemy forces. The VA has recognized the following conditions as associated with but not necessarily caused by exposure to Agent Orange:

- AL Amyloidosis
- Diabetes (type 2)

Physicians favorite

Medscape EHR Report 2016: Physicians Rate Top EHRs

Carol Peckham, Author; Leslie Kane, Sr. Director, Medscape Business of Medicine; Susanna Rosensteel, Editor | August 25, 2016

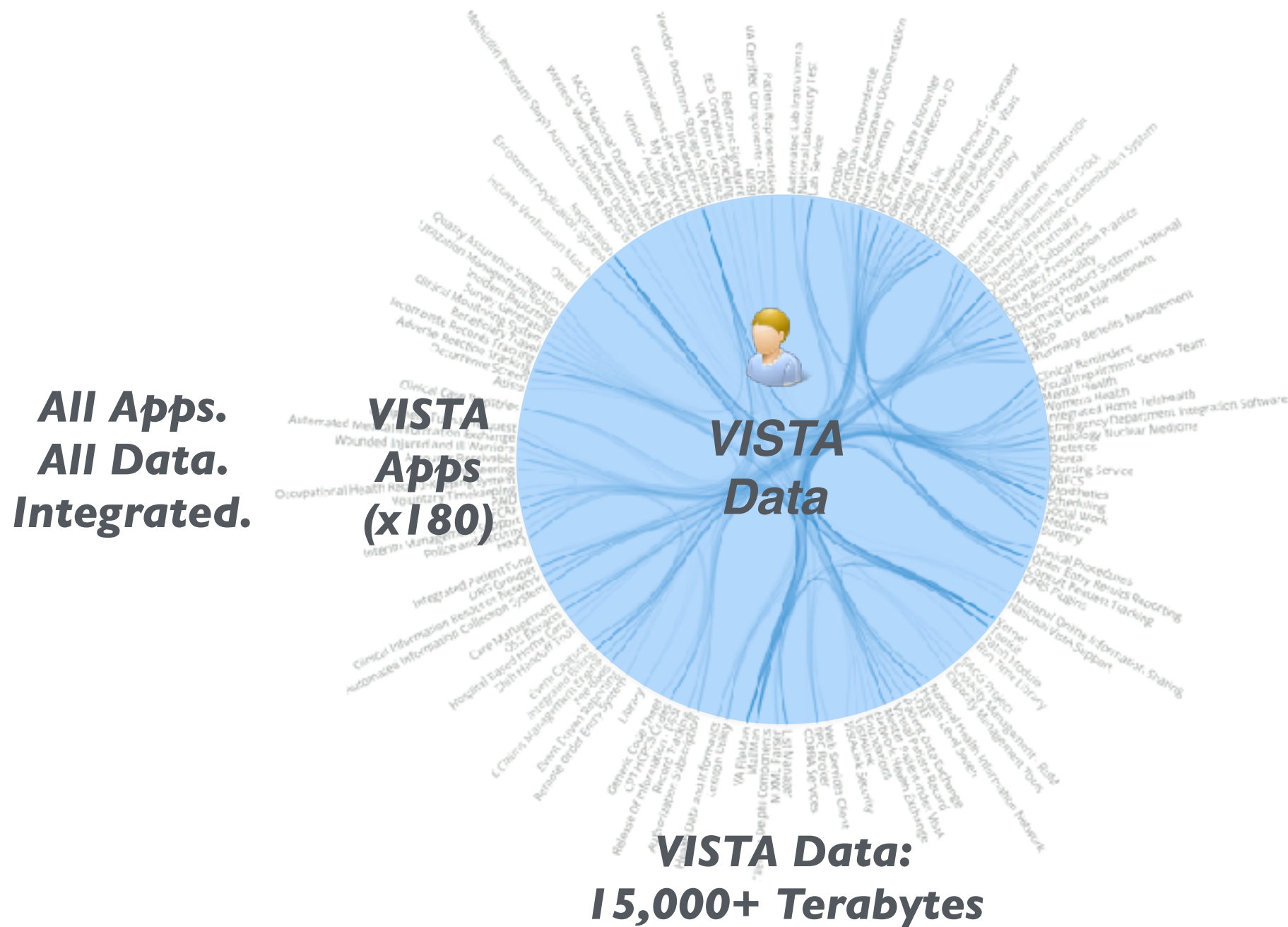


<http://www.medscape.com/features/slideshow/public/ehr2016>

Opportunity:
Supporting CPRS (for a period) ensures continuity of Veteran and VA-specific care and practices as VA's EHR is migrated.

Veterans Information Systems Technology Architecture (VISTA)

Single, Integrated Inpatient/Outpatient Veteran-Centric Health Information Platform



Single Integrated Veteran-Centric Information Platform

The data architecture of VISTA consists of over 180 applications for clinical care and administration integrated within a single common database.

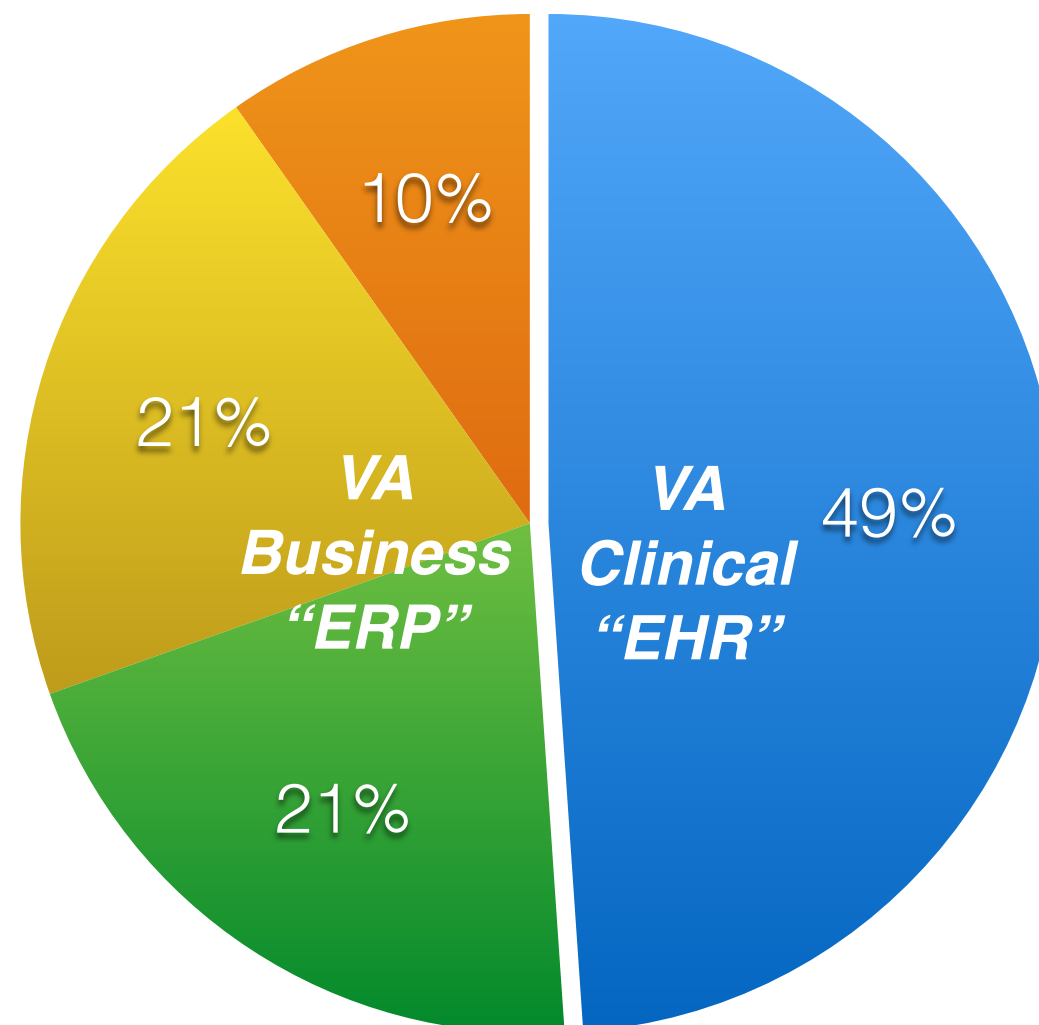
Both business logic (Applications) and data (Database) are managed within the same data-application transaction engine. This provides the tight integration of applications to data, and to a single common integrated database.

The integration between VISTA applications (outer ring) and VISTA data (inner circle) is visualized, showing the data flow between 180 applications and the shared, single, common patient data.

VISTA Applications

VISTA is comprised of 184 Applications. Approximately half are for VA Business functionality (administrative, financial, infrastructure, and regulatory compliance). The remaining half are VA Clinical functionality (enterprise, integrated inpatient/outpatient electronic health record).

Half of VISTA's functionality supports VA's Business, administrative, financial, infrastructure, and regulatory compliance.



Half of VISTA's functionality is clinical - providing the VA's enterprise integrated inpatient/outpatient electronic health record (EHR) system.

VA VISTA is comprised of 184 Applications in the following functional domains:

- Clinical ("EHR")
- Financial/Admin ("ERP")
- Infrastructure
- Extensions

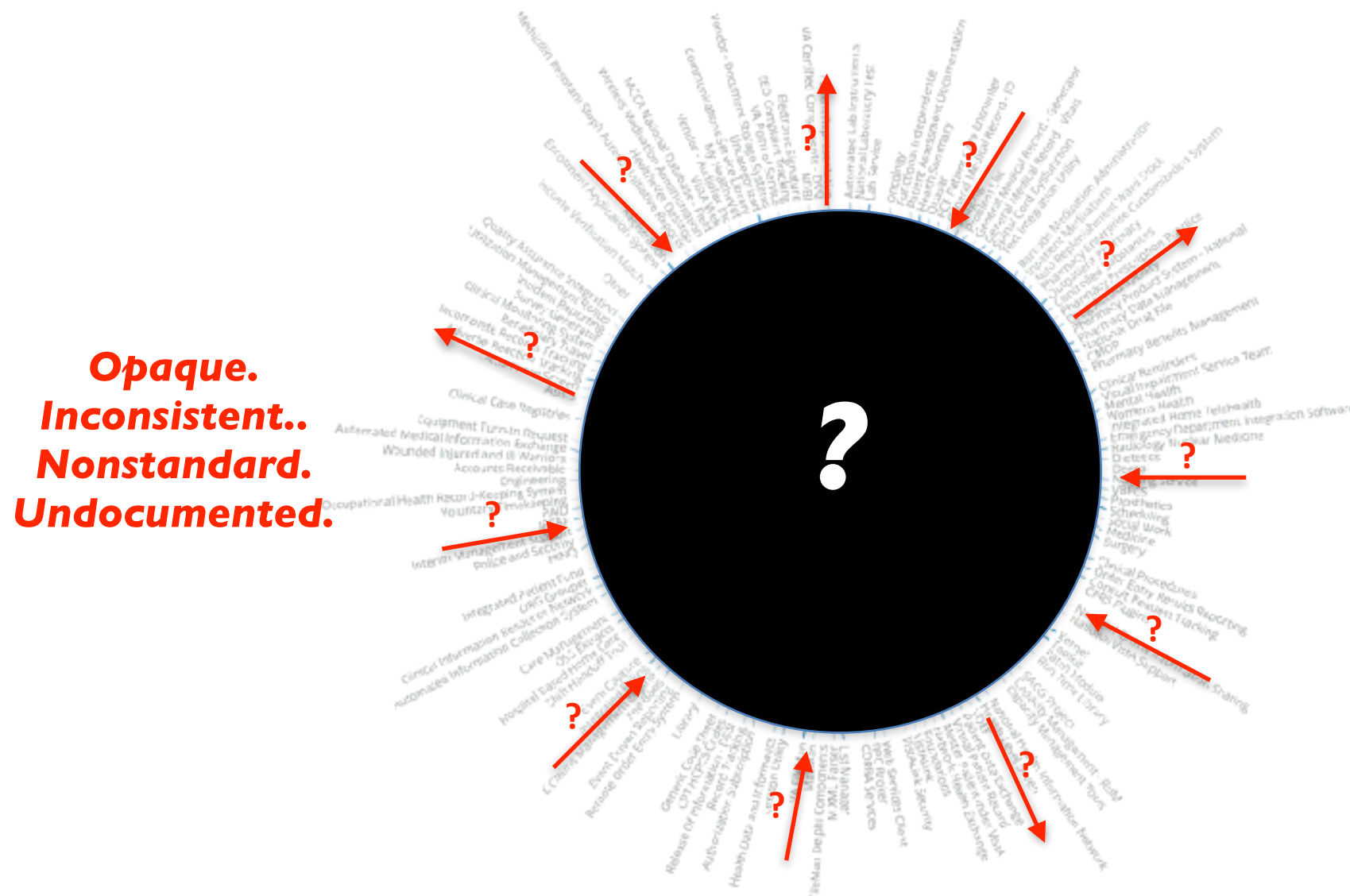
Clinical (EHR)	90
Financial/Admin:	38
Infrastructure:	38
Extensions (HEV)	18

For full list of applications and documentation, see
VISTA Documentation Library:

<http://www.va.gov/vdl>

VISTA Data: Interfacing Challenges

Code wrappers obfuscate VISTA Data.



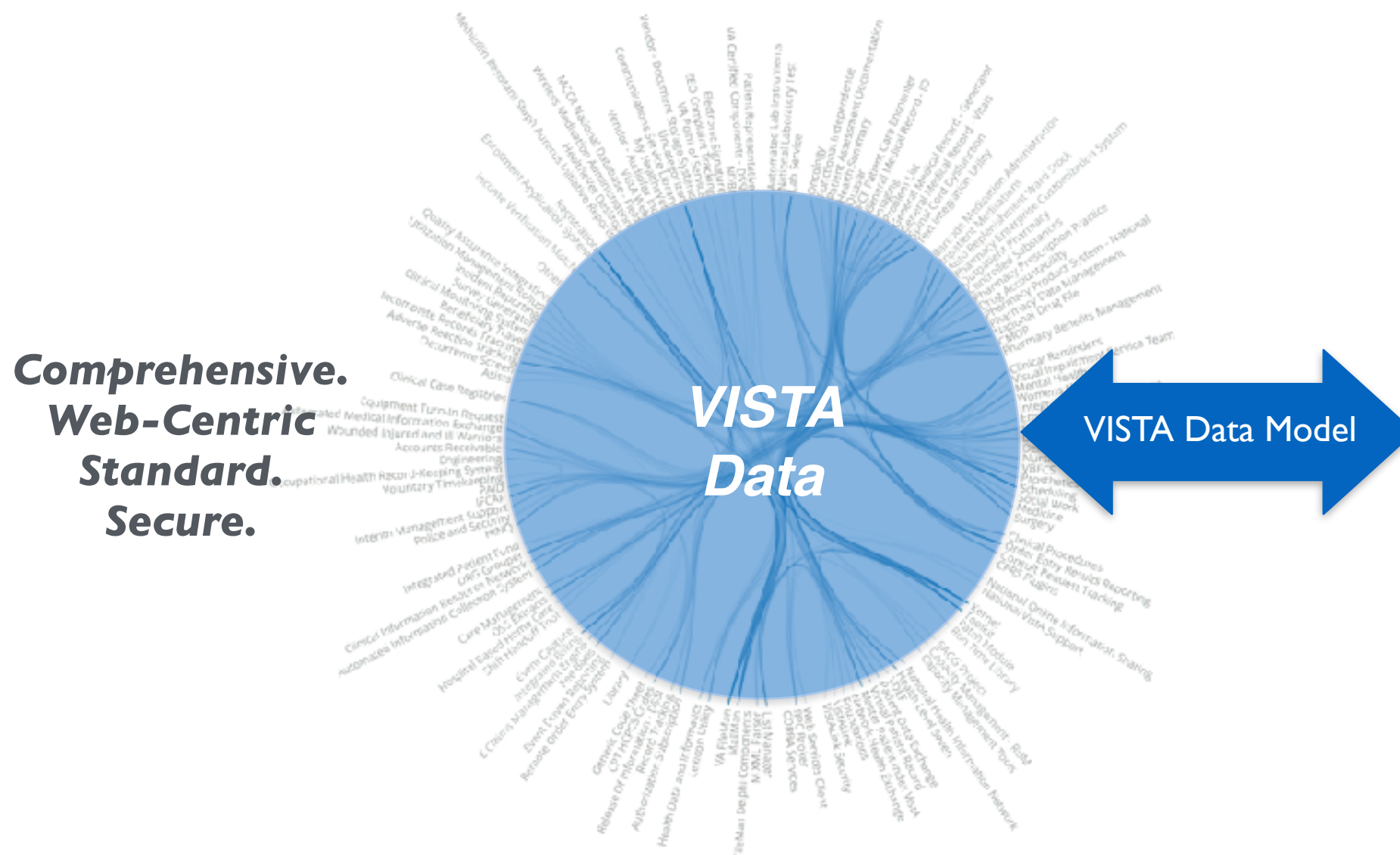
**Code-centric
interfacing obfuscates
VISTA data within a
“Black Box”**

Code-centric interfacing has no logical connection to any of the internal structures, context, or definition of the data within VISTA. Code-centric interfacing lacks any uniform method to comprehensively or securely expose or interface to VISTA data. As a result, there are thousands of hard-coded opaque, unique MUMPS interfaces called RPCs (remote procedure calls).

These MUMPS RPC “wrappers” add an additional layer of obfuscation of the native data model and structures by “encapsulation” making the system even more opaque and difficult to maintain.

VISTA Data: Interfacing Modernization

Exposing VISTA's Data Model makes data accessible



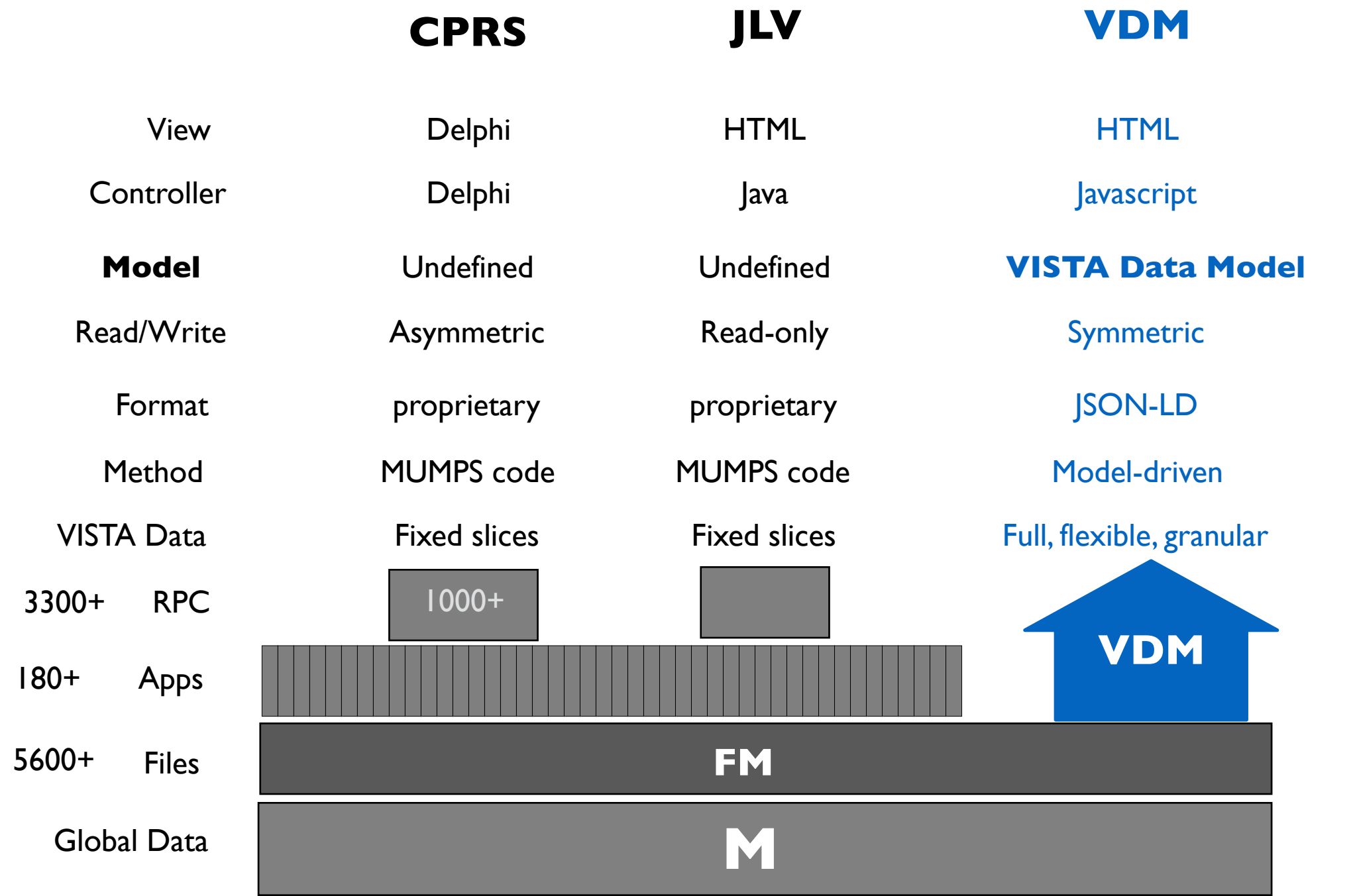
**Model-centric
interfacing makes all
VISTA data accessible.**

Surfacing all data, metadata, and structures **internal** to VISTA - its true, native, operational VISTA data model - allows secure read-write **external** to VISTA with a single common, industry-standard, web-centric Linked Data Model.

Representing VISTA's internal data model as industry-standard, machine-processable Master VistA Data Model enables external interfacing and integration at web-scale.



VISTA Interfacing Evolution



VISTA Data Model (VDM) can access all data spanning 180+ applications with full granularity and definition because the fully exposed VISTA Data model logically bridges all applications through their native data dictionaries. No legacy APIs, HL7, RPCs, or MUMPS code. Just data. All of it. Defined. Structured. Secure.

MUMPS technology

Web technology

VISTA Interfaces: Leveraging VISTA Data

Terminal Interfaces

Graphical Interfaces:

Full client: CPRS (full read-write transactional interface)

Thin client: JLV, VistAWeb, HMP (read-only)

Data Interfaces

RPCs - CPRS, MDWS, VPR (HMP, JLV), HEV

System Interfaces

HL7

Data Analytics

CDW, VINCI

For full list of VISTA interfaces, see:

<http://www.va.gov/vdl>

VA Migration Service:
Allow clients to continue to work while services are
migrated from decentralized VistAs to centralized COTS
services domain by domain

MVDM
MongoDB

centralized
COTS service x1

turn on services
domain by domain

Current
Clients



```
graph LR; CC[Current Clients] --> C1[centralized COTS service x1]; CC --> D131[decentralized VistA services x131]
```

clients continue to work
on both legacy and new

RPCs
MUMPS

decentralized
VistA services x131

turn off services
domain by domain

3 data entry: vitals, allergies, problems
CPOE: pharmacy, lab