What does the DARA do?

The DARA document articulates several goals:

- Assess the current state of data aggregation across the federal government and create a roadmap for reaching the target state
- Define interoperability requirements for data aggregation enterprise investments
- Define a reference architecture that enables entity resolution, data correlation, and disambiguation across multiple federal databases
- Specify requirements for instituting a federated approach and possible enhancements to investments
- Encourage the use and evolution of standards
- Serve as a broad, general reference architecture that guides the creation of more specific, concrete solution architectures
- Define metrics for scale and performance
- Provide direction to agencies for implementing a federated approach and assessing possible organizational impacts

Harmonizing the entire federal government and mandating standards takes time. The DARA is an important step toward establishing consistency, organizational expectations, and terminology.

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How to Use the DARA

1. Complete the self-assessment process (see the 5-step approach on page 14, section 3.7.1) to determine your data aggregation system's maturity, making use of the detail provided in each of the DARA domains to assure an accurate self-evaluation.
2. Using the evaluation results as a baseline, build a roadmap to achieve higher maturity levels.
3. Assess your organization's maturity against the Maturity Matrix to determine your readiness in comparison to other federal government entities. This will assist you to more effectively allocate resources.

Understanding that agencies across the whole of government will do the same, the maturity of data aggregation systems, over time, will increase and enable increased aggregation and interoperability. In the meantime, making the system information available as it is described in the System Profile informs other mission partners of your system's capabilities, and creates the opportunity to begin sharing information now.

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