**Reference Architecture Standard**

**Introduction**
The State of Oklahoma reference architecture is a strategic asset used to manage and align business processes and technology infrastructure with the state’s overall strategic plan. The state’s reference architecture is used as a technology discipline that assesses all aspects of IT services within and between state agencies to improve mission effectiveness, efficient use of resources and cost reduction.

**Purpose**
This document provides guidance on the development and use of reference architecture.

**Standard**
Agencies looking to implement IT solutions for the State of Oklahoma are expected to use and comply with OMES IS’ approach to reference architecture. Specifications on the state’s reference architecture are available upon request by emailing the OMES Service Desk.

The State of Oklahoma’s reference architecture lifecycle:
- New reference architecture needs are identified through research and new vulnerability detection.
- OMES IS researches the capabilities of the industry.
- OMES IS utilizes bake-offs as a process or proof of concept where competing technologies are compared and best product or service is selected.
- Reference architecture solutions are reviewed at a minimum of every 36 months to ensure each solution meets the needs of the state and is consistent with the enterprise strategy.

**Compliance**
This standard shall take effect upon publication and is made pursuant to Title 62 O.S. §§ 34.11.1 and 34.12 and Title 62 O.S. § 35.8. OMES IS may amend and publish the amended standards policies and standards at any time. Compliance is expected with all published policies and standards, and any published amendments thereof. Employees found in violation of this standard may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

**Rationale**
To coordinate and require central approval of state agency information technology purchases and projects to enable the chief information officer to assess the needs and capabilities of state agencies as well as streamline and consolidate systems to ensure that the state delivers essential public services to its citizens in the most efficient manner at the lowest possible cost to taxpayers.

**References**
- [OMES Reference Architecture](#)
Revision history
This standard is subject to periodic review to ensure relevancy.

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