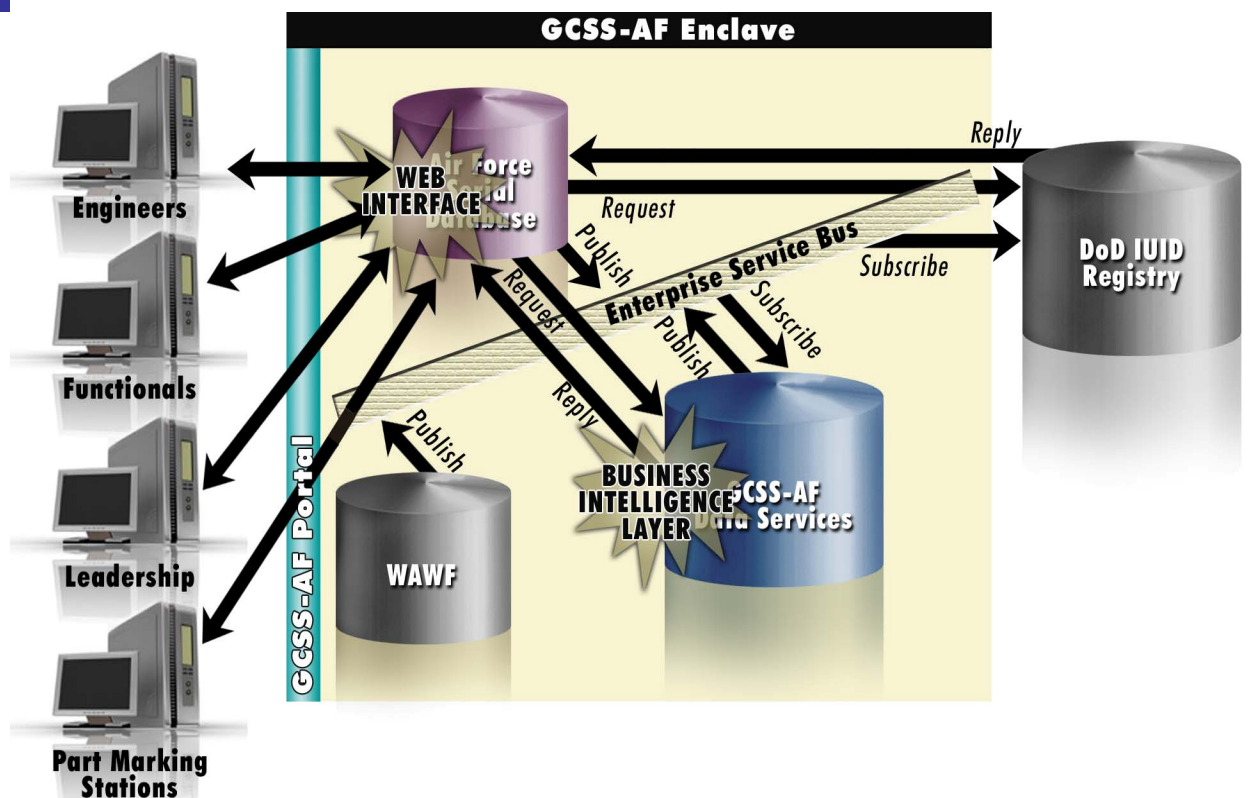**IUID** Item Unique Identification

Air Force Serial Number Tracking

Unique Identification Policy Office Integration Project

To improve the identification, tracking, and management of Department of Defense (DoD) assets, the Office of the Secretary of Defense has funded multiple projects, including the Air Force Serial Number Tracking Integration Project.

Description

With this project, the Air Force launched an initiative to create dramatic enhancements in asset visibility and availability, warranty management, and asset tracking for reliability analysis and improvement. The Air Force Unique Identification Serial Number Tracking (AF UID SNT) project integrated data from existing legacy systems, including the Air Force Serial Database (AFSDB), into the Air Force Knowledge Service and Global Combat Support System - Air Force (GCSS-AF), allowing for the automatic update of UID information to the DoD's UID Registry.

Serialized Item Management (SIM) via SNT and UID are essential for enhancements to several core Air Force competencies:

♦ Asset tracking extends the expeditionary ability of the warfighter by providing asset visibility any time or place
♦ Enhanced logistics and engineering analysis facilitates an increase in weapon system availability
♦ Accurate asset valuation correctly indicates the department's financial position
♦ Enhanced supply chain management tools assist in reducing weapon system sustainment costs
♦ Automated data capture vastly improves data accuracy and reduces tracking efforts

Several factors motivated the Air Force to initiate a modernization effort using UID SNT capabilities. Existing processes and systems did not support the unique identification of assets throughout the entire product life cycle and did not provide a single source of information on uniquely identified assets.

Current processes require pulling data from various stand-alone legacy systems and manually performing analysis and assessment of the data for reporting and planning purposes. Decisions are at times based on inaccurate, incomplete and/or obsolete information. The advent of UID SNT technology has paved the way toward solutions to these issues.

The UID SNT initiative championed process improvement and operational enhancements using several strategies: The most important strategy was coordinating with functional areas to assist with the analysis and definition of improved operational processes. The second strategy involved data analysis in coordination with logisticians, management, and interdependent initiatives. The final strategy featured establishing best practices coupled with industry and inter-government cooperation.

Challenges & Obstacles

Challenges for this project included:

♦ Enhancing training for GCSS-AF users
♦ Enhancing roles for GCSS-AF users
♦ Time-consuming certification and accreditation processes
♦ Integration of all DoD data elements into AFSDB via one pipeline so they can be successfully submitted to the UID Registry
♦ Data migration into the GCSS-AF environment

Benefits & Achievements

The AF UID SNT project found benefits in three distinct areas: the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Air Force for the short term, and the Air Force for the long term.

Benefits to the OSD include the development of a secure, automatic, and continuing data feed of future and legacy parts and inventory from the Air Force to the UID Registry. The data provided by this feed can be regarded as "clean," accurate data. Additionally, when pedigree information exists for legacy items, it can be automatically provided to the UID Registry, ensuring the most comprehensive information is provided for all legacy assets.

Air Force short-term benefits provided: the expansion of the AFSDB to include data elements required by the UID Registry; movement of the AFSDB to the secure, supported .mil environment of the GCSS-AF; and the creation of automatic-feed capability to the UID Registry and the Data Services portion of GCSS-AF as data in the AFSDB expands.

In the long-term, the AFSDB will reside along with GCSS Data Services within the overall environment of the GCSS-AF. UID data will be integrated with other logistics and cross-domain data sets and existing pedigree data will be available enterprise-wide.

In addition to those benefits, SIM provides Air Force compliance with several DoD policies. UID SNT, coupled with enhanced supply chain analysis, aims to serve as a catalyst for agency-wide improvements in maintenance, safety, logistics, and financial management.

Contact

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