Appendix J: Governance Model

Return to Reference Architecture (RA) or Return to Appendices

Fundamental Governance Model

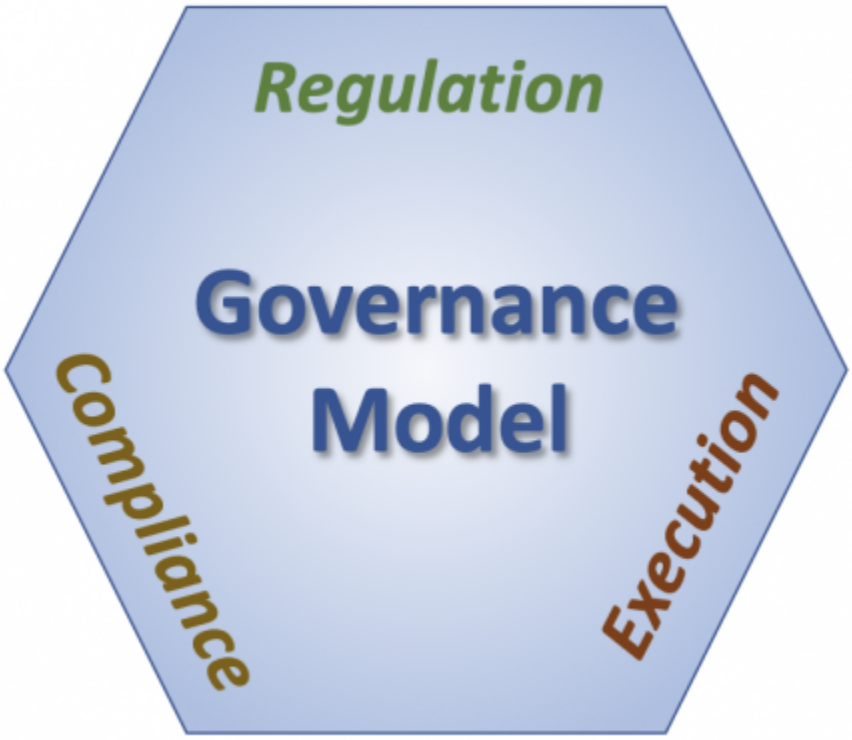
Governance is not a synonym for government or for regulations; rather, governance is the process governments use to interpret and use regulations.

Governance is that separate process or certain part of management or leadership processes that make decisions that define expectations, grant power, or verify performance. Frequently a government is established to administer these processes and systems. [1)]

This definition offers three aspects as to what comprises governance:

- Making decisions that define expectations
- Granting power
- Verifying performance

The first aspect of governance conveys regulation, the second aspect conveys execution, and the third aspect conveys compliance, as represented in the following model.



<cpation>General Governance Model
Figure 1:

Good governance is comprised of all three components in equal and sometimes opposing aspects. It is meaningless to have regulation without execution or execution without compliance. In other words, regulation indicates what needs to be done, execution is actually doing it, and compliance is making sure it is done correctly.

Regulation

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Regulations are formal, codified authoritative rules. They are adopted by a public regulatory agency and usually are interpretations of the statutes passed by a legislative body. A regulation as a legal term is a rule created by an administration or administrative agency or body that interprets the statutes setting out the agency's purpose and powers, or the circumstances of applying the statute. A regulation is a form of secondary legislation which is used to implement a primary piece of legislation appropriately, or to take account of particular circumstances or factors emerging during the gradual implementation of, or during the period of, a primary piece of legislation. [Adapted from Wikipedia: Regulation; accessed 9 July 2007]

Figure 2. Regulation Aspect of Governance Model An example of the regulatory aspect of governance is a body that creates statutes such as the U.S. Congress or a state legislature, an agency that creates or

enforces statutes such as the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), or civilian or commercial groups that create and promote standards such as the Object Management Group (OMG).

Compliance

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Compliance ensures the objective and valid meeting of regulations through observation, measurement or testing. Good governance cleanly and effectively separates the responsibility for creating regulations from the enforcement of regulations. This does not mean that regulation can be developed in a vacuum; it must be written to be enforceable through compliance checking. Therefore, the line between regulation and compliance is not fixed and rigid but needs to be negotiated with validation of regulations from the compliance aspect.

Figure 2. Compliance Aspect of Governance Model Examples of the Compliance Aspect of Governance is the auditing functionality of the IRS and the independent verification and validation (IV&V) functionality within the DoD.

Execution

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Execution is the aspect of governance charged with actually fulfilling formal, codified authoritative rules specified by regulation to those specifications provided by compliance. The responsibility for executing the regulation rarely, if ever, falls on the legislative body or those responsible for enforcing the compliance to the regulation. Without execution, the other aspects of Governance are meaningless. Consequently, any discussion of governance must include the Execution Aspect.

Figure 3. Execution Aspect of Governance Model Examples of the Execution Aspect are the individuals that file their tax forms to the IRS and personnel who actually create the functionality needed by a DoD Program, Project or Initiative.

1)

Adapted from Wikipedia: Governance; accessed 9 July 2007

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