

PBS Data Distribution Project

Software Vendor Working Group #1

28th September 2020



Australian Government
Department of Health

www.health.gov.au

Agenda

1. Welcome & Background
2. Overview of the PBS Data Distribution Project
3. Software Vendor Working Group Introduction
4. Activity – Key Pain Points for Software Vendors
5. Homework
6. Next Steps
7. Other Business and Close

Welcome & Background

The Department of Health is modernising the consumption and data distribution model for the monthly PBS Schedule data, in order to:

- Make the data easier to understand and use in software;
- Improve data latency and data provision through best practice architecture; and
- Improve accessibility to PBS Schedule data for the public and external stakeholders (e.g. software vendors).

Overview of the PBS Data Distribution project

Project Overview

Project Scope

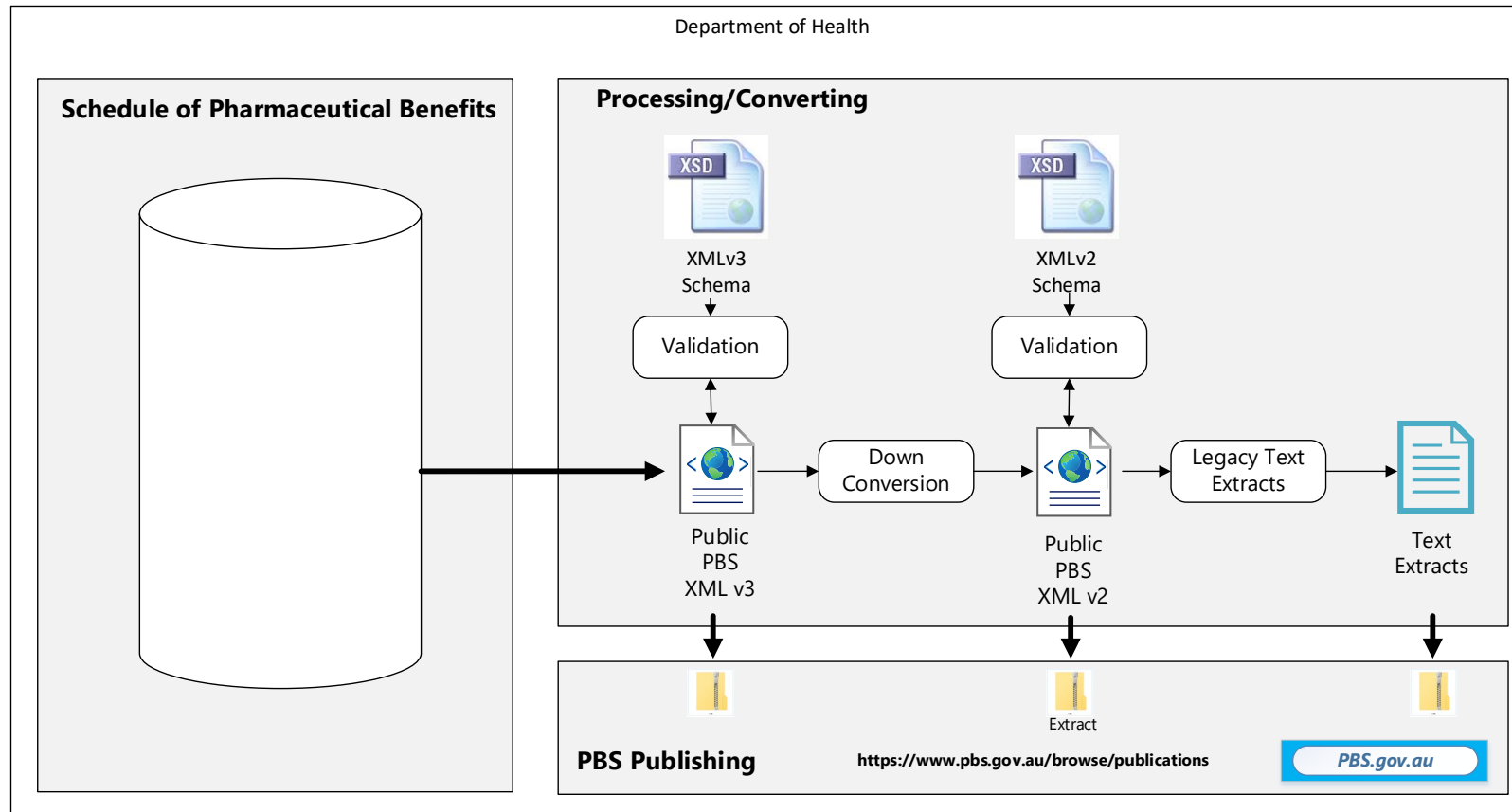
- Enhance the provision of PBS Schedule data to consumers, that is fit-for-purpose across the different cohorts of data consumers.
- Distribute PBS Schedule data in a relational format that is more readily consumable and predictable.

Project Timeframes

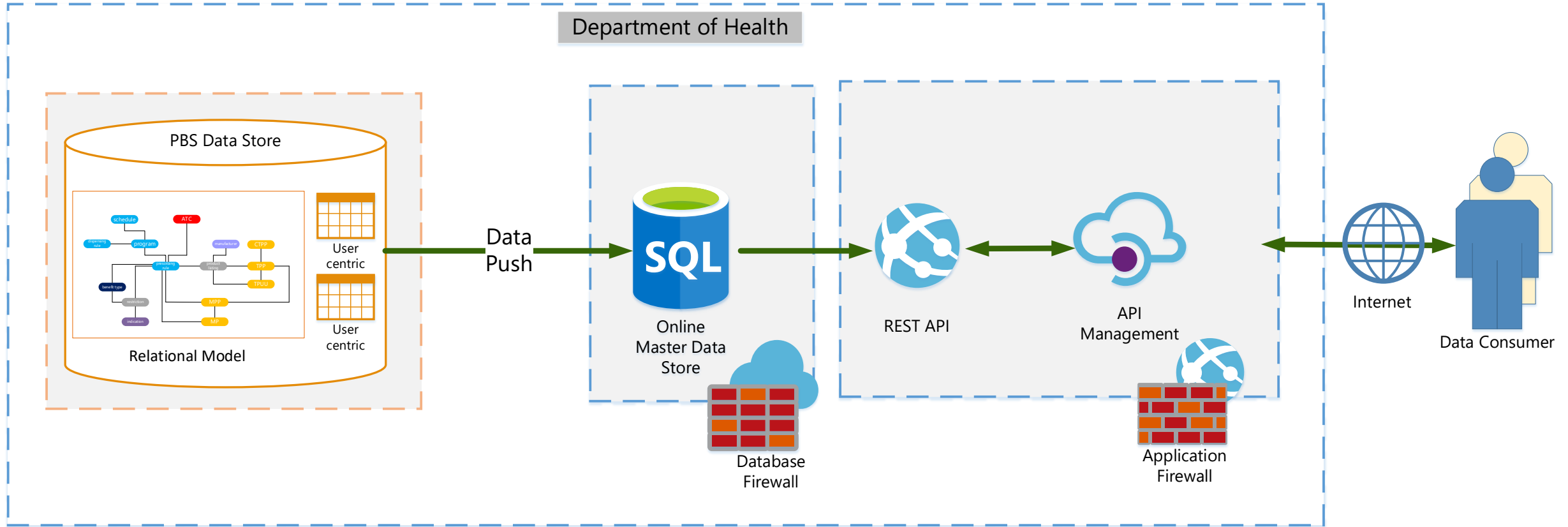
- Stage 1 was completed in June to prove architecture feasibility.
- Stage 2 commenced in July to design and build an Alpha solution for a cohort of data consumers. The Alpha phase is expected to be completed in 6 months.
- Remaining stages will be planned depending on outcomes of the Alpha.
- The Department will cease to provide ALL existing forms of data currently distributed to vendors at an agreed point in time.

Current State

Stage 2 commenced in July to design and build an Alpha solution for a cohort of data consumers.
The Alpha phase is expected to be completed in 6 months.

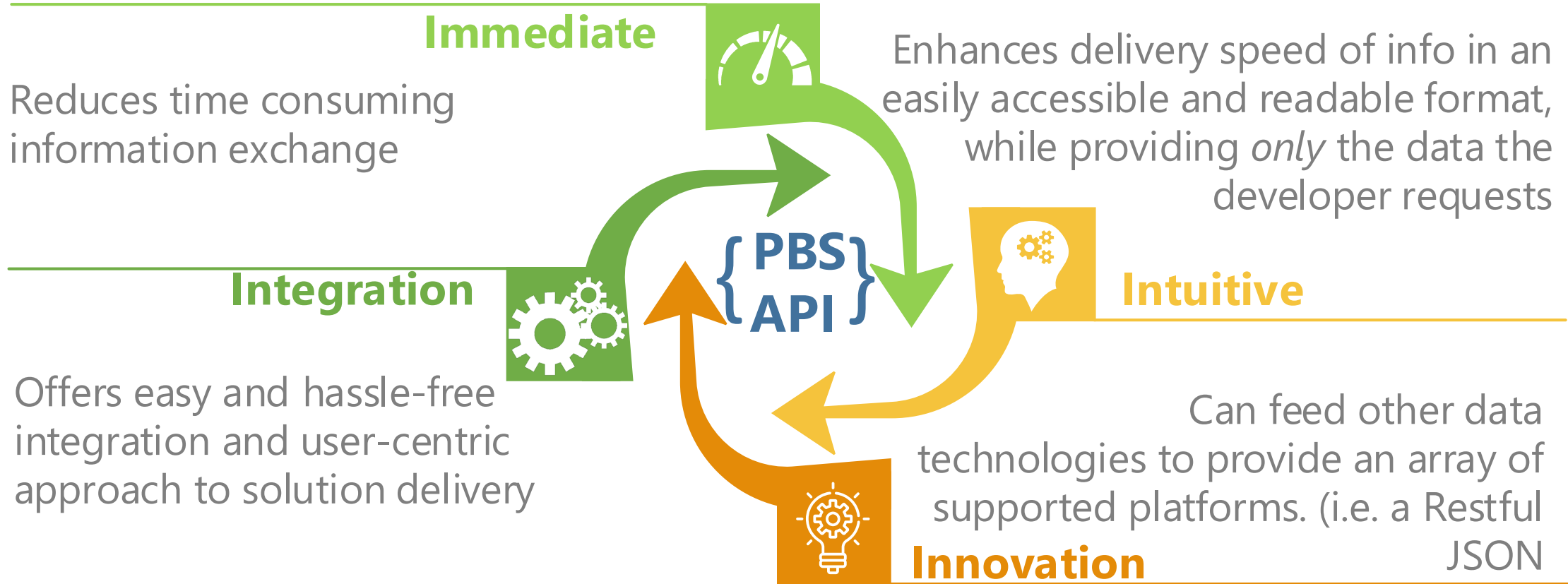


Future State

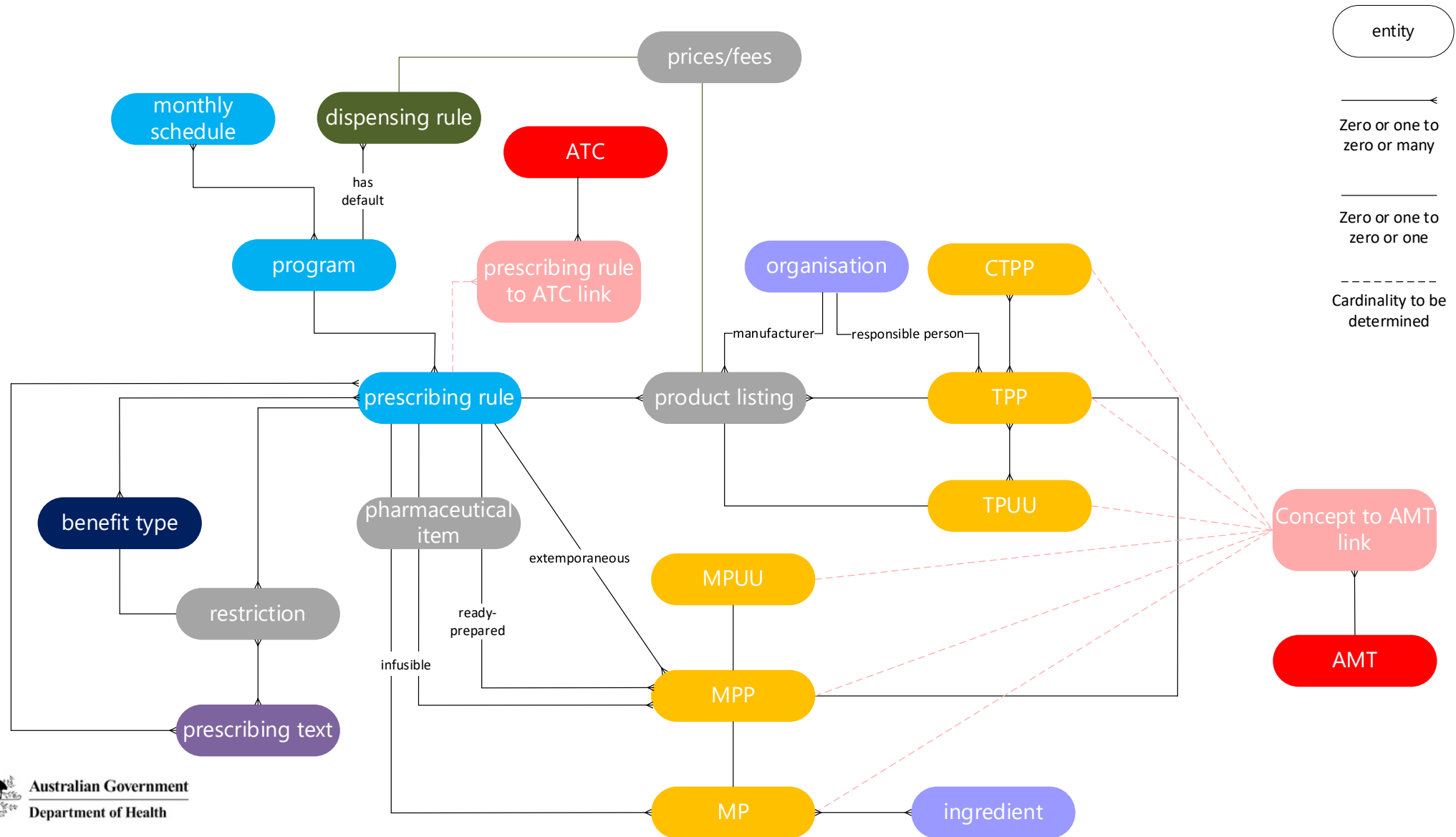


API Gateway

Why an API?



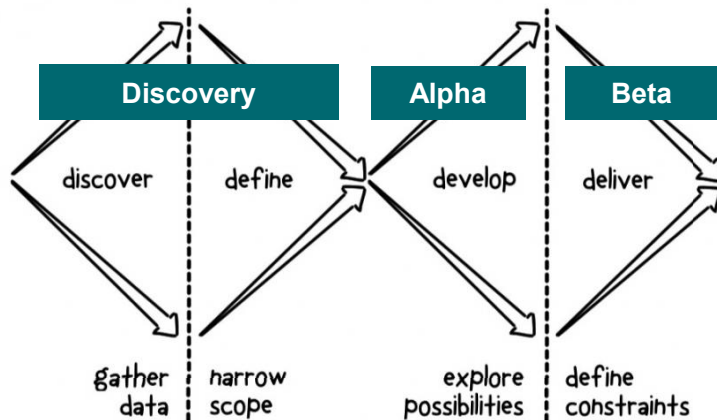
Draft relational model



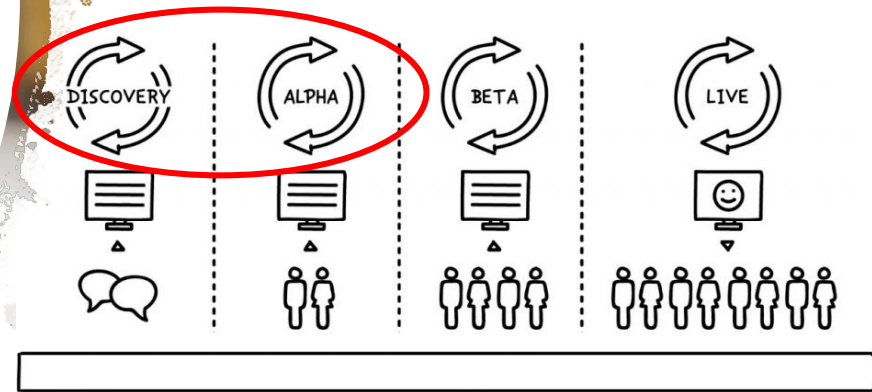
Digital Service Design Approach

Service design and delivery process is underpinned by:

**double-diamond
user experience design framework**



**user experience methods
(+ business analysis techniques)**



+ agile delivery approach



Software Vendor Working Group Introduction

Purpose (1/2)

The group represents the software vendor community, including prescribing and dispensing software vendors.

In Scope

The group will:

- Define pain points
- Provide input/feedback on a technical design
- Test connectivity and data model of a prototype.

Out of Scope

Transition arrangements

Purpose (2/2)

Technical Design Contribution

The technical design has 3 parts that vendors will be contributing to:

- How the data is structured, and what data is included (Entity-relationship diagram)
- How the data is formatted/encoded (JSON/XML/CSV/...)
- How the data is accessed through an API (authentication, connectivity, latency, ...).

Logistics

Regular Meetings

- Monthly meetings – 2 hours per meeting
- Meetings will take place via videoconference (using MS Teams)
- Facilitated by the Department of Health

Ongoing Communication

- Communication outside of meetings will occur via email to/from pbsdatapoint@health.gov.au

Activity – Key Pain Points for Software Vendors

Activity

Vendor perspectives of main pain points with the current PBS data technical solution.

Previously Identified Pain Points

PBS Software Vendors have previously expressed pain points across four categories:

- Timing of monthly release
- Errors
- TXT files / SQLite
- XML v3.

Summaries of these pain points are detailed over the following pages.

Summary of Pain Points (1/4)

Timing of monthly release

- Vendors schedule their time and resources to process the files and distribute the data/ update their software and it is very difficult when late changes are made near the end of the month.
- Vendors want the PBS Schedule data files to be released reliably on time and earlier in the month.

Summary of Pain Points (2/4)

Errors

- There have been a lot of errors in the data, too many re-releases and/or errata.
- Errata in data should be the exception rather than the norm.

Summary of Pain Points (3/4)

TXT files / SQLite

- TXT files are popular due to how much easier they are to work with.
- SQLite distribution is much easier to ingest than the XML.
 - Maintaining compatibility with changes is simple.
 - It contains all that is needed for PBS prescribing and leverages existing SQL skill sets without needing additional XML in-house knowledge.
- Flat files or SQLite versions are much more easily queried and used.

Summary of Pain Points (4/4)

XML v3

- XML v3 is very complex and too large for easy analysis.
- Size of the file makes analyzing the structure incredibly difficult.
- Documentation is unusable and the structure doesn't make sense.
- Problems with the complexity of the restriction text - the generated text and rules to do so are difficult.
 - Indication text isn't working particularly well.
 - Problems getting formatted restriction text.
- Problem getting the start date for streamlined authorities.
- AMT - mapping from AMT remains incomplete.

Other opportunities

- Price calculator functionality
- Links to ARTG

Homework



Homework – due by 16 October 2020

Task

Provide a copy of your current data model for the PBS data, to us via email (at pbsdatapoint@health.gov.au).

Purpose

The project team wants to design the data model for the API to minimise work for vendors by being as close as possible to the ‘average’ PBS data model.

Note

The Department will keep your data models confidential.

Next Steps



Next Steps

Homework – due by 16 October 2020

Provide a copy of your current data model for the PBS data, to us via email (at pbsdataproject@health.gov.au).

Software Vendor Working Group #2 – week commencing 9 November 2020

More information to be distributed ahead of the next meeting.

Questions and Feedback

Send any questions or feedback to pbsdataproject@health.gov.au.

Other Business and Close



Questions

