



Architecture Document

MFA Intranet

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01. Introduction and Scope

The scope of this document is to provide an architectural overview of the MFA SharePoint based Intranet environment which is hosted at MITA. It is intended to capture and convey the significant architectural decisions of the architecture of the SharePoint Intranet and portal hosting environment which are relevant to organisations that will be performing enhancements and providing support on the platform.

The current infrastructure setup is hosted at the Malta Information Technology Agency (MITA). MITA provides the required hosting environment for the MFA Intranet to operate adequately. Given that this site has been hosted since 2012 and due to a number of additional modules implemented during these years, the underlying infrastructure needs to be enhanced and further supported.

The Supplier will be required to take stock of the current environment, and provide a way forward as to how the current infrastructure may be developed to sustain the projected growth. The new infrastructure must provide a better environment in order that it may meet redundancy whilst maintaining business continuity.

02. Definitions

MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs
MITA	Malta Information Technology Agency
Platform	The SharePoint 2013 based platform
Supplier	The private organisation entrusted to provide development and support services.

03. Architectural Goals and Constraints

This section describes the requirements and objectives that have some significant impact on the architecture.

03.1 Objectives

The main objective of this project is to improve the MFA users' experience, by providing a robust Intranet portal, through which persons may search, discover, access and communicate according to their needs and preferences.

03.2 Security

The Platform implements the following security behaviours:

- Authentication:
 - ADFS (MITA Corp/Embassies AD) for MFA users
- Authorisation:
 - according to their profile, users can be granted or denied the ability to perform specific actions (for example content Management, filling in forms, etc.)

03.3 Persistence

SharePoint provides web based content management features for the creation of multiple sites and content authoring, including announcements, surveys/polls, custom lists, wikis, articles, discussion forums, etc. SharePoint stores all user generated content in a SQL Server database.

03.4 Reliability/Availability (failover)

The availability of the system is a key requirement by nature.. The architecture offers failover capabilities. Reliability/Availability will be addressed through the duplication of all systems at both of MITA's two geographically distinct data centres.

Targeted availability is 24/7: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

03.5 Performance

The platform should serve up pages to end users in a reasonable time which should be comparable to major international websites.

03.6 Accessibility

All components including future enhancements have to meet the relevant Government of Malta policy:

Website Accessibility Standard

GMICT S 0051-3:2011

https://www.mita.gov.mt/MediaCenter/PDFs/1_GMICT_S_0051-3_Website_Accessibility_Standard_v4.0.pdf

03.7 Quality

As far as the MFA Intranet is concerned, the following quality goals have been identified:

Scalability All components have to be able to scale up to meet demand

Availability The Platform has to target availability of 24/7

Portability Any enhancements and/or components are to be designed in a way to allow implementation on other portals. As much as possible, the principle of create once use many, should therefore be applied.

Security All components have to be designed with security in mind ensuring that they do not introduce vulnerabilities to the environment.

04. Use-Cases

This section lists scenarios that represent some significant central functionality of the platform.

Normal User

A normal user accesses the MFA Intranet through the front end URL and uses one of the navigation methods (Search and Menu) to browse the contents of the Intranet portal. The users will be able to log onto the portal using their CORP/EMBASSIES credentials.

Site Admin

The Site Admin has full rights within the portal including granting of access rights to other users.

05. Logical View

05.1 Logical View

The Platform is divided into logical layers based on the standard SharePoint 2013 Single Farm.

