



Australian Government
Australian Taxation Office

SYSTEMS INTEGRATION IN PRACTICE

Architecture, APIs and operational
readiness for connected tax ecosystems

Kelly Collins
Senior Director
Digital Integration, Invoicing & Partnerships

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EXTERNAL



From standalone reporting to embedded compliance



The strategic shift

- Digital forms
- Online services
- Digital reporting
- System-to-system
- **Embedded tax in natural systems**

Design goal

Tax obligations become part of normal business activity.

Why integration matters



For taxpayers and their representatives

Less duplicate entry
Lower administration
More certainty

For tax administrations

Earlier visibility
Better quality data
Faster services

For government

More efficient ecosystems
Better implementation
Reusable capability

For the ecosystem

Common standards
Secure exchange
Clear responsibilities

ATO integration architecture: capabilities working as one ecosystem

A business event activates four capabilities for secure, interoperable digital exchange at scale.



Shared foundations: identity • security • standards • governance • monitoring • operational resilience

Interoperability connects natural systems to tax services

1

Natural business systems

Digital accounting, payroll and ERP software



2

APIs and integration services

APIs, credentials, standards, validation and tools

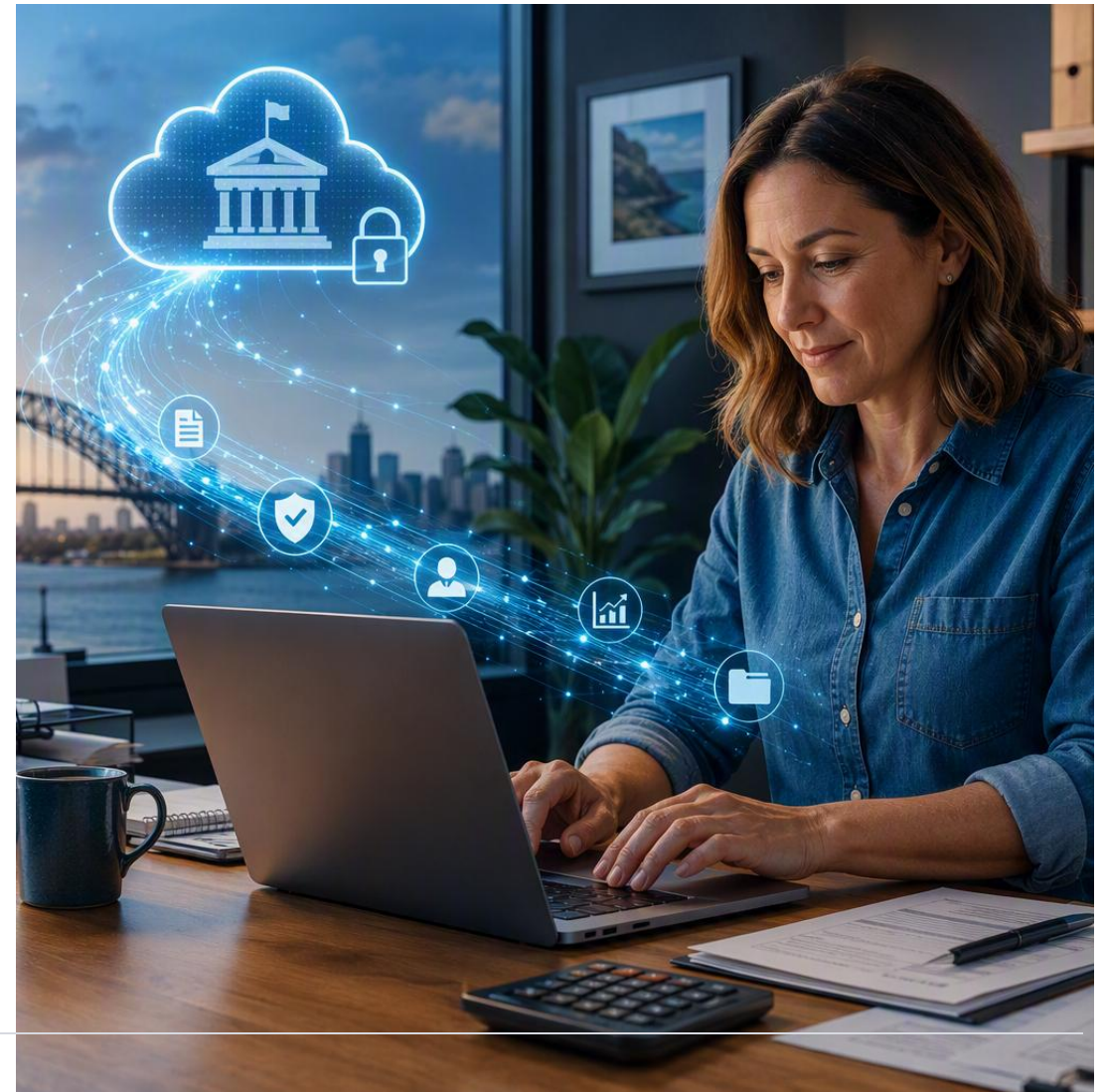


3

Tax administration services

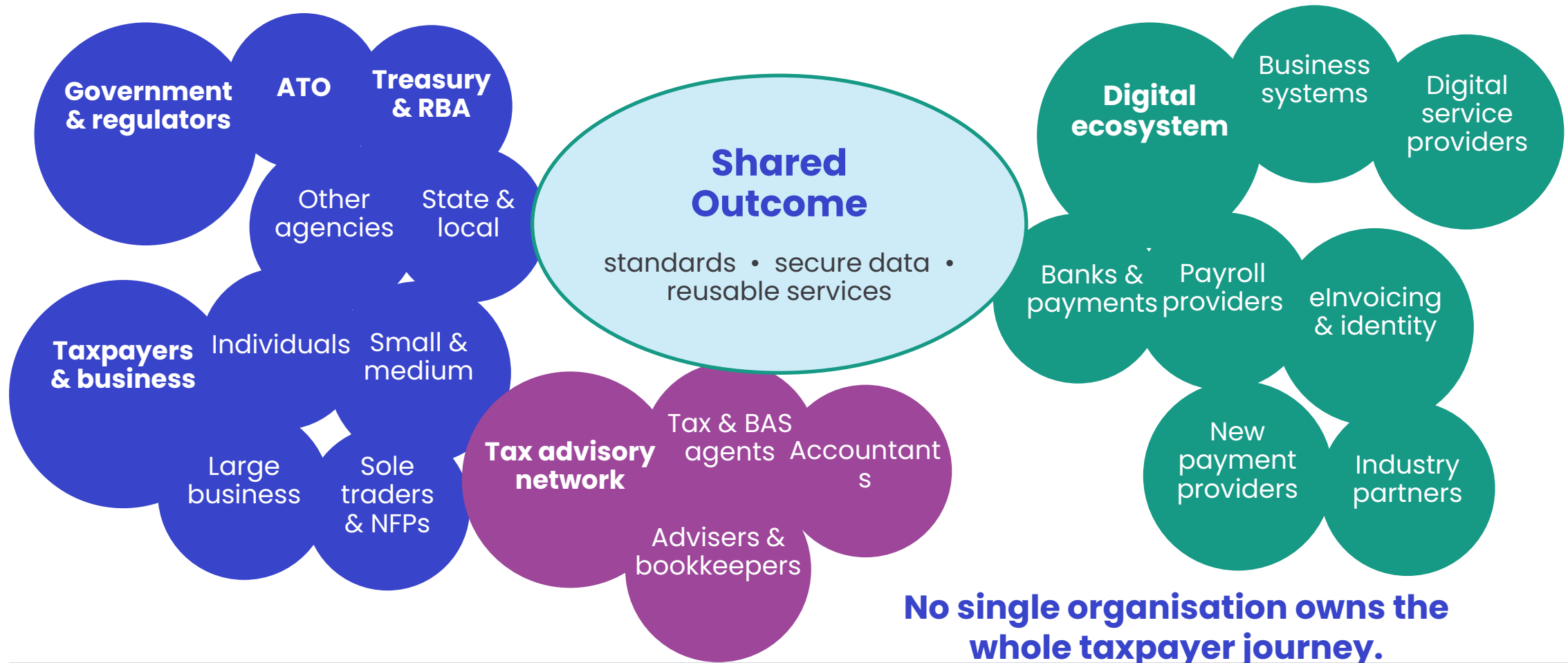
Lodgment, notifications, insights and support

**Standards and governance connect taxpayers, providers
and tax services.**



Design for the ecosystem

The ATO connects participants through shared standards, secure data and reusable services.



Navigating policy and legislation

Technology, authority and trust must evolve together.

Authority

A clear lawful purpose and appropriate authority for collection, access and use.

Safeguards

Privacy, security, transparency and accountability designed into the initiative.

Operating model

Clear responsibilities across administrators, taxpayers, software providers and partners.

Policy choices remain for policy makers. Tax administrators can share implementation experience and constraints.

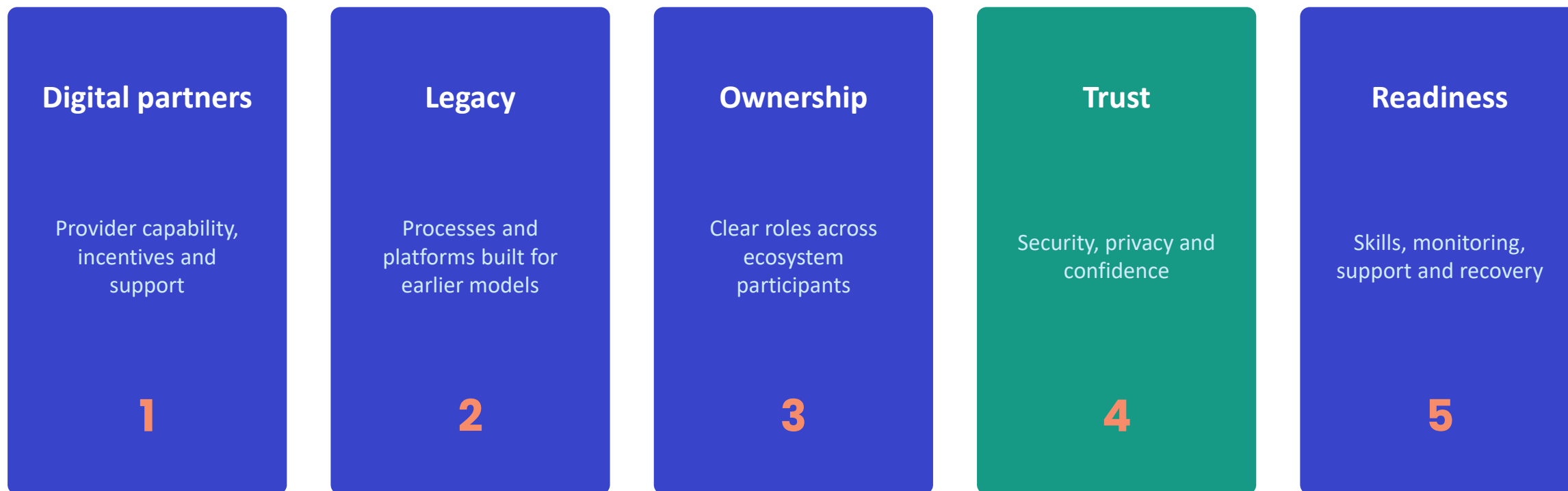
Data needs shape architecture from the start

Understand what data is required, why it is needed and how it moves through its lifecycle.



Use data needs to inform architecture and technology decisions.

Operational readiness is part of the architecture



Treat provider readiness, governance and operations as core architecture priorities.

API and software tools in practice: embedding tax calculations into digital software

A third-party software pattern turns policy intent into a natural-system interaction.

01

Business outcome

Use current financial data to estimate more appropriate tax obligations.

02

API Integration

Provide the calculations, runnable code through APIs.

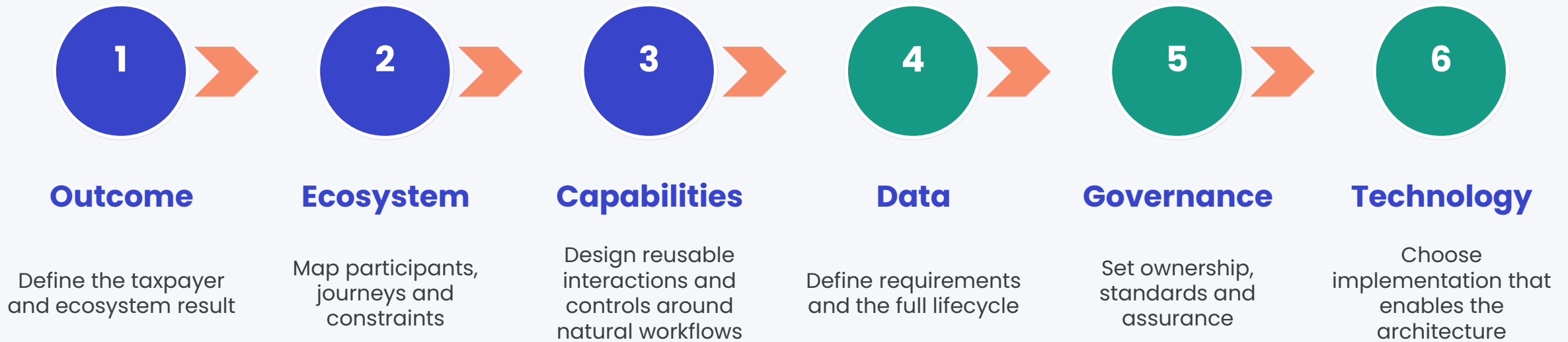
03

Delivery insight

Co-design with digital service providers; define onboarding, support and lifecycle ownership.

The API, software tool and operating model must evolve together

Implementation pathway: from architecture to operational scale



Outcome → delivery model → architecture → technology

Practical insights

1

Use outside-in design

Start with the outcomes you want to achieve across the experience, ecosystem and natural systems.

2

Build reusable ecosystem capabilities

Secure, interoperable foundations connect participants and services.

3

Use technology as the enabler

Choose APIs and platforms only after the architecture and outcome is clear.

**Integration succeeds
when architecture,
software and operating
models work as one
ecosystem.**

Tax Just Happens