

REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP  
HL7 TO PROVIDE STANDARDS  
FREE OF CHARGE

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**Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD**  
CEO, Health Level Seven International

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# Press Release

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA – Sept. 4, 2012 – Health Level Seven International...announced today its decision to make much of its intellectual property, including standards, freely available under licensing terms. This... represents HL7's commitment to the betterment of healthcare worldwide by ensuring that all stakeholders have equal access to its HIT standards. The new policy is expected to take effect in the first quarter of 2013.

How much easier it is  
to be critical than to be correct.

- Benjamin Disraeli

# Why make the IP free?

- HL7 believes that freely available standards more effectively advance healthcare information interoperability.
- HL7 is committed to fulfilling the healthcare goals of government agencies, the vendor community, and academia.
- HL7 strives to be more closely aligned with other standards organizations, with which we have very close collaboration, and which have successfully implemented this model.

# What is implied by “free IP”?

- No one will pay a fee to obtain it.
- It will be licensed. HL7 will control the content, which will be developed and balloted per ANSI requirements.
- Other standards development organizations, implementation bodies, and research partners will continue to provide profiles, content, vocabulary and terminology, and implementation guides.

# What IP will be free?

- Standards
- Domain Analysis Models
- Profiles
- Implementation Guides
- Some tooling

# What IP and other benefits will not be free?

- Education and training programs
- Certification
- Work group meeting attendance and tutorials
- Most publications
- Voting rights
- Service in elected leadership positions

# Collaboration

If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.

- African Proverb



# When will this new policy become effective?

- The first quarter of 2013
- Until then, access to IP will remain a benefit afforded by membership and copyright law.

# Will the current dues structure remain unchanged?

- A membership committee will evaluate current dues and benefits, and recommend any modifications to the Board.
- The Board will announce the updated membership fees and benefits at the time the new policy goes into effect.

# What enhanced benefits can you envision?

- New membership levels with strategic voting and ballot privileges.
- A diverse range of education and training opportunities, currently under development by HL7's new Director of Education.
- New opportunities for validation and certification.
- Participation in Connectathons.
- Early access to IP.

Knowledge is knowing that a tomato  
is a fruit.

Wisdom is not putting tomatoes  
in a fruit salad.

- Peter Kay

# What's next?

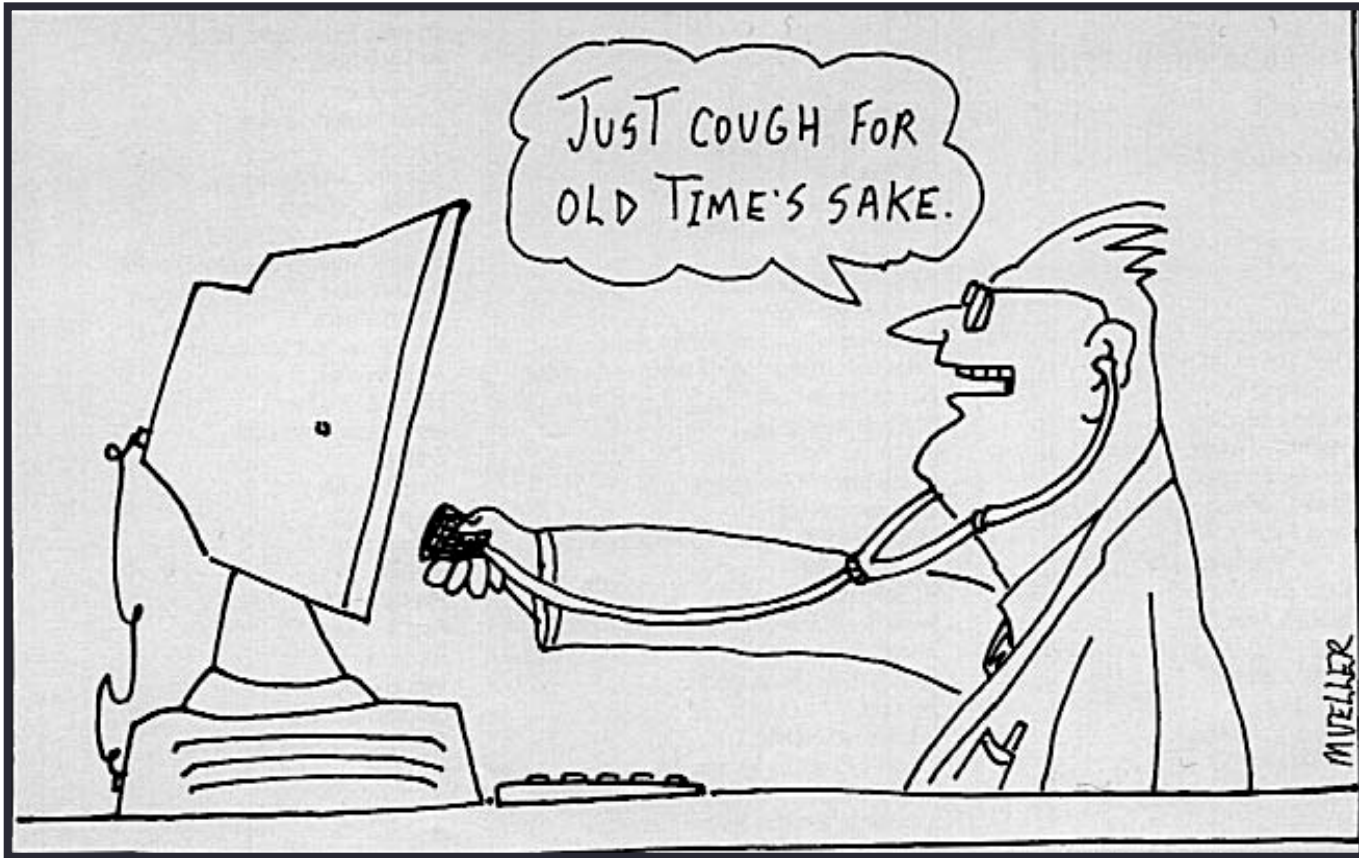
- Outreach program during WG meeting.
- Creation of a membership advisory committee, comprised of leaders from work groups, committees, and affiliate bodies.
- Development of recommendations for membership categories, benefits, and dues structures.
- Development of a risk mitigation plan.
- Report of recommendations to the Board in time for free IP implementation.

# A Closing Thought

The difference between physicians and pilots is that pilots realize that they have to get into the airplane with the people they care for.

- Dr. Lawrence Weed

# Thank You



[cjaffe@HL7.org](mailto:cjaffe@HL7.org)