Health Level Seven® International

HL7 International and Web3D Consortium Formalize Agreement to Incorporate 3D Presentation into EHR Applications

Summary: *Health Level Seven® International (HL7®) and Web3D Consortium® have signed a Statement of Understanding to cooperatively advance their standards to support Web-based 3D visualization, modeling and simulation of health data. This agreement formalizes the mutual interest of the two organizations to build cohesive technology standards.*

MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA AND ANN ARBOR, MI, USA – **May 31, 2018** – Health Level Seven International (HL7), the global authority for interoperability in healthcare information technology (IT), and Web3D Consortium (Web3D), the international organization for the delivery and integration of 3D standards between applications and web services, have partnered to cooperatively build cohesive standards to support Web-based 3D visualization of health data. HL7 and Web3D standards complement each other, each addressing different problems to meet the needs of data management, visualization, and analysis of health data. This Statement of Understanding enables HL7 and Web3D members to collaborate across their respective Working Group development activities and vote on ballot items. The goal is to integrate Web3D's Extensible 3D (X3D®) and Humanoid Animation (HAnim) standards within the HL7 framework to improve the 3D visualization and archiving of health data.

The two groups met at the HL7 January 2018 Working Group Meeting in New Orleans to discuss the strengths of X3D as a 3D presentation system for HL7 standards and how to integrate other HL7 standards like Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR®). X3D is crucially positioned as the stable, open standard for 3D data portrayal across several domains. The purpose of this partnership is to improve the interchange of health data and 3D Web portrayal services to support both patient and provider in the healthcare industry.

The continuing progress of X3D as a standard for 3D presentation in W3C (HTML5) has sparked broad

interest in the industry. Web3D is also an active participant in DICOM's Working Group 17 to potentially incorporate X3D into the DICOM specification as a 3D payload. X3D is the only open, royalty-free and ISO/IEC-19775-1 certified technology available today for interactive 3D graphics on the web. The use of X3D (http://www.web3d.org/x3d) has increased steadily in systems throughout the world, delivering durable applications in design, GIS, medicine, and entertainment.

"We are thrilled about this new relationship with HL7. We are constantly working towards converging with other industry standards to improve 3D portrayal in many domains. Cooperation among our organizations brings a huge value to our members and strengthens our technologies. From imaging to informatics, our mutual goals of data and visualization interoperability will improve outcomes and efficiencies across human health," said Nicholas Polys, Ph.D., Web3D Consortium President.

"As the membership of HL7 continues to progress the goal of interoperability, partnerships are critical to achieving this end," said HL7 Chief Executive Officer Charles Jaffe, M.D., Ph.D. He continued, "Our collaboration with Web3D will help deliver on our promise of advancing patient care through more seamless data sharing."

About Health Level Seven International (HL7)
Founded in 1987, Health Level Seven International is the global authority for healthcare information interoperability and standards with affiliates established in more than 30 countries. HL7 is a non-profit, ANSI accredited standards development organization dedicated to providing a comprehensive framework and related standards for the exchange, integration, sharing, and retrieval of electronic health information that supports clinical practice and the management, delivery and evaluation of health services. HL7's members represent approximately 500 corporate members, which include more than 90 percent of the information systems vendors serving healthcare. HL7 collaborates with other standards developers and provider, payer, philanthropic and government agencies at the highest levels to ensure the development of comprehensive and reliable standards and successful interoperability efforts.

For more information, please visit: www.HL7.org

About the Web3D Consortium:
The Web3D Consortium is a non-profit, international standards organization that originally spearheaded the development of the Virtual Reality Modeling Language (VRML 97) specifications. Today, the Web3D Consortium is utilizing its broad-based industry support to continue developing the X3D® specification, for communicating 3D on the Web, between applications and across distributed networks and web services. Through well-coordinated efforts with the ISO, W3C, DICOM, OGC and now HL7, the Web3D Consortium is maintaining and extending its standardization activities. Visit the Web3D Consortium at http://www.web3d.org.

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