



Technical Steering Committee

E-NEWSLETTER

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Building on Visibility to Deliver Value and Trust: Report from the TSC Chair

By Charlie McCay

Chair, TSC

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The TSC has been working with everyone actively involved with HL7 to make our projects, products and work groups more visible. I would like to thank everyone in the HL7 working group, and the staff at HL7 HQ for making this happen. We have further to go, but we are already getting a return on the efforts made. It is now possible to see the projects that are underway, and to anticipate where there are different approaches being taken to the same problem.

While we continue to work on that visibility, we need to be able to better demonstrate the value of engaging in HL7 projects and work groups, and in using HL7 products. Looking at all the projects and products that the TSC has reviewed, I am amazed by the amount of potential value that is not being realized because it is not being seen by those who could use it. The TSC will continue to work with the Marketing Council and Marketing Committee to develop outreach strategies.

We also need to use that visibility to build trust within and beyond the organization. By defining the scope of our projects and work groups, and delivering to that scope, we are able to know with confidence where issues are being addressed, and that they are being addressed reasonably.

It is not enough to see what we are doing within HL7; it is also important to understand how those beyond HL7 see us, and to address those perceptions. This engagement with the wider stakeholder community will involve careful listening, and no doubt will result in changes to the way that we communicate about our products, projects, and work groups as well as changes to the way that we do things, and the products that we deliver.

What will not change is HL7 being a great place to address healthcare interoperability challenges, and HL7 delivering the standards that make interoperability practical. Many thanks to everyone involved for continuing to make this true.



Report from the Joint Initiative Council

By W. Ed Hammond, PhD

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Kees Molenaar was confirmed as Chair of the Joint Initiative Council (JIC) for the term of one year, beginning in January 2010. The term is renewable for one additional year.

IHTSDO was welcomed into full membership in JIC, having served the period of provisional status.

GS1 was approved for membership in the JIC and will be in a provisional status for six months. With more than 1 million members and a physical presence in more than 100 countries, GS1 has an increasing number of interests that overlap the current members of the JIC, including Identification of Medicinal Products (IDMP). Christian Hay will represent GS1 on the JIC.

LOINC is being considered for membership in JIC, if the details of developing a relationship with ISO can be worked out (Liaison A). LOINC is currently in use in a number of countries and has been translated into Korean, Spanish, Portuguese, Chinese, Russian, German, and Dutch. The relationship between IHTSDO and LOINC is moving forward. There are obvious reasons why it would be beneficial to have LOINC as a JIC member.

In a discussion about the number of JIC projects, the point was made that the intended management of the projects was through a team/committee action with the host lead being the chair and the leads from the other SDOs being members of the committee. The work schedule and the location of the work should be mutually agreed upon by all participating SDOs.

The JIC, along with invited guests representing all interested parties, discussed progress on IDMP. There have been some issues and misunderstandings, particularly surrounding the relationship between IDMP and the Common Product Model (CMP). There was agreement that IDMP will move forward as a JIC project, with ISO as the host, and all the other JIC SDOs participating. The CMP will continue as an HL7 project, and after approval in HL7, will be advanced to ISO as part of the ISO/HL7 Pilot Project. The JIC will take one more look at the template and vote for acceptance of the IDMP as a JIC project on November 24. The independent balloting of IDMP among the five SDOs produced thousands of comments, many of which were redundant. Since dealing with all of these comments is overwhelming, the decision was made to take the five projects comprising IDMP and re-ballot in parallel. A few issues remain that should self-resolve as the project moves forward. For example, the five projects have been merged into a single project with a slightly different scope in HL7.

In a discussion on balloting among multiple SDOs, it was proposed that having one

SDO handle the balloting for all the SDOs might simplify the process. This proposal will be investigated to determine if such a balloting process is legally possible. The JIC also discussed issues that have arisen related to ICSR and having the standard in two parts. The consequence is that the ICSR itself does not contain all of the documents necessary to implement a valid message. In addition, if the ICSR is balloted in two parts, neither is complete and links are broken. A critical question is whether HL7 is willing to share IP from areas outside the JIC and ISO. The resolution was that John Quinn and others from HL7 met with ISO WG6 and solutions to the identified issues were resolved. Thus, the ICSR will move forward and deal with remaining technical issues.

HL7 proposed the Electronic Health Record System Functional Model (EHR-S FM), Release 2 as a JIC project. The EHR-S FM, Release 1 has moved forward within ISO as part of the ISO/HL7 pilot agreement. Work has continued to progress within HL7 on Release 2 of this document. HL7 suggested that if the EHR-S FM became a JIC Project, synchronization problems would be minimized. The motion passed, and the EHR-S FM, Release 2 is now a JIC project with HL7 as the host and Don Mon as the lead.

Finally, there was discussion about the role, purpose and processes of JWG 9. There has been some confusion as to what are formally JWG 9 meetings as well as the relationship between JWG 9 and JIC. The suggestion was to include an information activity – probably along the lines of some of what happens with the current JWG 9. An important addition, however, is the suggestion that JIC include an open forum inviting interested parties to learn about its activities, processes, and directions. The first such meeting is likely to happen in Rio in May 2010. Kees Molenaar will be leading an effort to define a formal structure and process to accommodate these ideas.



Domain Experts Steering Division— Work Group Health

By Austin Kreisler and Ed Tripp
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We have been monitoring Work Group Health for more than a year in an ongoing effort to ensure that work groups are active and effective within the Domain Experts Steering Division. There are signs that we are making progress in Work Group Health across the Steering Division. In September of 2008, less than 45% of the groups had three-year plans and SWOT analysis completed for their work group. Today, 80% of the work groups have posted three-year plans and 60% have completed a SWOT analysis.

We met with the Health Care Devices and Anesthesiology (GAS) Work Groups at the September Working Group Meeting to discuss their perceived health status. We were pleased to find very active and engaged groups in both cases. Through discussion of the various expectations for work groups, there were a few simple items identified to better align the groups with HL7 expectations for effective work groups. Following the meetings, both groups have established wiki pages.

We have established 12 measures to monitor Work Group Health. If eight or more are missing, the group is considered to be in the red. Only one year ago, 20% of the work groups comprising the Domain Experts Steering Division were in the red. Today, there are no Work Groups in the red. We also expect that when the next report is issued, more than half of the work groups will be in the green (missing three or fewer items). We want to thank the co-chairs of the work groups that comprise the Domain Experts Steering Division for their continued efforts to make HL7 an open, active and effective standards development organization.



News from the PMO and the Technical Steering and Support Services Steering Division

By Dave Hamill

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Use GForge to Report Bugs/Suggest Enhancements to the HL7 Website, Wikis, Ballot Desktop or Project Insight

Project Services (PS) and Electronic Services (ES) have created four new projects in GForge to enable members to report and track issues and suggestions regarding the HL7 website, HL7 wikis, Ballot Desktop or Project Insight. ES WG / PS WG listserv subscribers will be notified accordingly when a tracker item is created within one of the projects.

The four new GForge projects are located at:

- HL7 website: <http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/website/> (notifies the ES listserv)
- HL7 wikis: <http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/wikis/> (notifies the ES listserv)
- Ballot Desktop: <http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/ballot-dtp/> (notifies the ES listserv)
- Project Insight: <http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/project-insight/> (notifies the PS listserv)

Ballot Info now in Project Insight and the Searchable Project Database

We're in the midst of the second ballot cycle in which ballot status/information for project deliverables has been added for the corresponding projects in Project Insight. Additionally, the HL7 Searchable Project Index Tool has been updated to reflect the ballot information and is now integrated with the Notification of Intent to Ballot (NIB) web page.

New fields to Project Insight and the Searchable Project Index include:

- **Status** – Indicates active projects, 3-year plan items and project deliverable(s) in the ballot cycle and more.
- **Ballot Cycle Info** – Reflects the document being balloted, it's most recent ballot level and the NIB submitter.
- **Next Milestone Date** and **Project End Date** (two fields; replaces Target End Date) – Indicates the next Working Group Meeting (WGM) that a deliverable is due or that the project will complete. Since most projects use a WGM or Ballot Cycle as the target date to provide a deliverable or complete a project, these fields are in a 'trimester' format based on Working Group Meetings and Ballot Cycles (i.e. 2010JanWGM/Ballot).

- **Link to View Ballot Items List** – When a project has ballot deliverables in the Ballot System, this link will take you to a listing that displays the ballot history for those items. The new summary page allows you to review the basic ballot information (when the document balloted and at what level) and view any existing NIB form that was submitted for each ballot cycle. In addition, if the ballot item is still flagged as active, you can jump directly to a new or existing NIB form for the current ballot cycle.

Updated Project Scope Statement Template – Coming in January, 2010

The Project Services Work Group (PS WG) will release a new 2010 version of the Project Scope Statement (PSS) template. Our goal is to streamline and simplify the template so that it is easier to use and provides the most useful data to the membership.

Changes include but are not limited to:

- Removed areas that were rarely used or resulted in redundant/duplicated information that was captured elsewhere in the document.
- Have target dates to a WGM or ballot cycle
- Updated the Roadmap Strategic Initiatives to reflect the new initiatives
- Added areas to capture backwards compatibility, stakeholder/customer, and business need. Additionally, the NIB web page will be enhanced to pull the last items when creating the NIB.



Updates from the TSC since the Working Group Meeting

By Lynn Laakso
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Visibility Projects

Work Group Visibility

TSC Work Group Visibility Project received formal approval (see below under Approved Projects). Fewer Work Groups have come forward since the WGM with SWOTs and updated Mission and Charter statements than was anticipated. A

summary of all the Work Groups' organizing documents (Mission and Charter, DMP, SWOT, and Three-year plan) is available on the TSC wiki at http://hl7tsc.org/wiki/index.php?title=Work_Group_Organizing_Document_Summary.

Project Visibility

Project Insight Review and Cleanup has over half of the targeted Work Groups done with cleanup (Out of 40 Work Groups, excluding operational and Board-Appointed committees). The remaining work groups are in various stages of review. All have been assigned facilitators, and been sent summaries of their current projects in Project Insight and guidelines for three-year planning. 57 three-year planning items are now visible in the Project Insight searchable database, as part of the Project Insight Review and Cleanup. If you have questions, contact Lynn Laakso (lynn@HL7.org) or Dave Hamill (pmo@HL7.org).

Product Visibility

As Work Groups review their proposed products, the list expands to include individual topics, then contracts to summaries of domains. The current target (still-moving) is about 70 products, of which approximately 40 have been updated to the wiki and/or reviewed by Marketing.

Approvals

Approved Publications:

The TSC approved the following DSTU for publication:

- **Common Terminology Services Release 2 (CTS R2)** by Vocabulary Work Group of Foundation and Technology Steering Division (FTSD) for 12 months. The HL7 Common Terminology Services (HL7 CTS) defines an Application Programming Interface (API) service interface that can be used by HL7 Version 3 software when accessing terminological content. You can download the DSTU by [clicking here](#). Interested parties are invited to download these DSTUs, and provide comments and feedback on the standards and their implementation at <http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/>.
- **CDA R2 HAIRPT R3** (HL7 Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2: Healthcare Associated Infection Reports, Release 1) for Structured Documents WG of Structure and Semantic Design Steering Division (SSD SD). This specification is a set of constraints on existing work and the extent to which it can accommodate

the expressive requirements of HAI reporting over time is a function of the richness of the model on which it is built, the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM) and the RIM document standard, and the Clinical Document Architecture Release 2 (CDA R2). You can download the DSTU by [clicking here](#). Interested parties are invited to download these DSTUs, and provide comments and feedback on the standards and their implementation at <http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/>.

- **Patient Administration (PA) Release 2** by Patient Administration Work Group of Structure and Semantic Design Steering Division [SSD SD] (TSC Issue # 1350 – Status=Closed; Project Insight ID=429) for 18 months. This DSTU has been revised in this cycle to include an additional encounter type “short Stay” in addition to the existing Ambulatory, Inpatient, Emergency, and Home Health Encounter types. Interested parties are invited to download these DSTUs, and provide comments and feedback on the standards and their implementation at <http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/>.

The TSC approved the extension of the following DSTU Publication:

- **Clinical Statement Pattern, Release 1** by Clinical Statement WG of SSD SD. The model described in this document is a 'pattern' designed to be used within multiple HL7 Version 3 domain models. This pattern is intended to facilitate the consistent design of communications that convey clinical information to meet specific use cases. In most cases, the pattern will be refined for use within the model using the clinical statement. You can download the DSTU by [clicking here](#). Interested parties are invited to download these DSTUs, and provide comments and feedback on the standards and their implementation at <http://www.hl7.org/dstucomments/>.

The TSC approved the following Informative documents for publication:

- **Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2 Public Health Case Reports (US Realm)** by Structured Documents WG of SSD SD. The purpose of this implementation guide (IG) is to specify a standard for electronic submission of Public Health Case Reports (PHCR) in a Clinical Document Architecture (CDA), Release 2 format. This document is available from the members-only section of the website at <http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/cda.cfm>, and available for purchase from the HL7 Store at <https://www.hl7.org/store/index.cfm> under Clinical

Document Architecture.

- **HL7 Version 2 Implementation Guide: Clinical Genomics; Fully LOINC- Qualified Genetic Variation Model, Release 1** by Clinical Genomics WG of SSD SD. This Guide supports the transmission of clinical genetic test results using a 2.5.1 lab message (from the lab to the medical record). This document is available from the members-only section of the website at <http://www.hl7.org/implement/standards/v2messages.cfm>.

Approved Projects:

- **Security Domain Analysis Model, Release 1** for Security Work Group [WG] of Foundation and Technology Steering Division [FTSD] (TSC Issue # 1332 – Status=Closed; Project Insight ID= 529). This project is intended to create and ballot a single HL7 Domain Analysis Model (DAM) integrating both security access control and privacy information models.
- **Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2 Level 3, Neonatal Care Report** (was HL7 Neonatal Care Report Implementation Guide (US Realm) by Structured Documents WG of Structure & Semantic Design Steering Division[SSD SD] (TSC Issue # 1329 – Status = Closed; Project Insight ID=567). The implementation guide will support electronic reporting of an initial segment of the data elements in the CHNC Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Core Data Set (CDS) from Neonatal Intensive Care providers to Children’s Hospitals Neonatal Consortium (CHNC).
- **Implementation Guide for CDA Release 2: Procedure Note (Universal Realm)** by Structured Documents WG of SSD SD. (TSC Issue # 1330 – Status = Closed; Project Insight ID=568). This project is to design a basic procedure note in XML as a constraint on HL7 v3 CDA r2. The note will be basic enough to be used for all procedures and will develop a sample note for endoscopy. To promote standardization and acceptance, it will be closely modeled on the current HL7 CDA Operative Note.
- **TSC Work Group Visibility 2009 of the TSC** (TSC Issue#997 – Status=Open; Project Insight ID=570). The project intends to provide methods for creating visibility to the activities of the Work Groups, so that users, members, and other customers can find information on what the Work Groups are doing. These include promoting a tracking list identifying projects by work group, Publish

ongoing Workgroup health reports, Review and refresh Work group Missions and Charter as well as SWOTs and 3 year plans.

- **HL7 Model Interchange Format (MIF) Informative Ballot** for Modeling and Methodology [MnM] Work Group [WG] of Foundation and Technology Steering Division [FTSD] (TSC Issue # 1344 – Status=Closed; Project Insight ID= 578). This project intends to obtain formal review and approval of HL7's metamodel and artifact exchange syntax, cosponsored by Publishing (V3), Tooling, and Vocabulary.

Project Withdrawals:

- **Withdrawal of ANSI/HL7 V3 RRNCR, R1-2004 HL7 Version 3 Standard: Public Health Reporting: Case Investigation Topic, Release 1** 11/3/2004; for Patient Safety Work Group of Domain Experts Steering Division (TSC Issue # 1100 – Status=Closed; Project Insight ID=566). There are no known implementers of this standard in the US or other international users, and does not have the resources needed to update the standard. In consultation with Public Health and Emergency Response (PHER) concerning this standard, the content requirements of this standard have been subsumed under work projects within PHER or Structured Documents: e.g., HL7 Version 3 Standard: Public Health; Case Notification, Release 1; and HL7 IG for CDA Release 2 - Level 3: Healthcare Associated Infection Reports, Release 4 (US Realm).

Other Approvals

- We congratulate Charlie McCay on his successful election, and for agreeing to continue to chair the TSC for two more years (2010-2011).
- The TSC approved the revisions to the strategic initiatives presented by Bob Dolin, still pending approval by the HL7 Board of Directors.
- The TSC voted to add Ron Parker from Canada Health Infoway as a new co-chair of the ArB, replacing John Koisch, who will continue to serve on the ArB. We offer our gratitude to John Koisch for his assistance during his time as ArB co-chair. The TSC also voted to add Andy Bond and Greg Peres to the ArB.
- The Board of Directors approved Helen Stevens' appointment to the Organizational Relations Committee (ORC) at the request of the TSC. The ORC is a Board-appointed committee responsible for relationships to other organizations.

Migration strategy to HL7 Data Types R2

The TSC reviewed and approved a new timetable for the migration strategy to HL7 Data Types R2. This decision was based on a summary document describing the issues that is available by [clicking here](#).

In a resolution jointly adopted by Modeling and Methodology Work Group (MnM WG) and Implementable Technology Specifications WG (ITS WG), it was determined that they would ask to delay the formal migration to Data Types R2, for one (or 2) ballot cycles, from January 2010 to May or September 2010. This is in order to allow for balloting an XML ITS for V3 Structures Release 2 whose only changes from XML ITS for V3 Structures R1 are to incorporate the full scope of Data Types R2 into ITS Structures.

The critical short-term implications are:

- The January 2010 ballot will be based on data types R1
- Projects that were planning to incorporate data types R2 immediately in their DSTUs must delay for one or two cycles.
- M&M must adopt a strategy to include recent RIM updates in a version bound to data types R1
- M&M and Publishing will need to make recommendations on how to express content for Normative Edition 2010, and RIM 2.29 (Normative RIM Release 2) which just completed balloting and is bound to data types R2.

For any additions, updates or suggestions on any of these TSC promoted initiatives please contact Lynn Laakso (lynn@hl7.org).

Viewing Projects and Accessing the TSC Issue Tracker

To view Projects:

- Go to Project Insight at: <http://healthlevelseven.projectinsight.net> (this requires a PMO assigned login) OR
- Go to the searchable Project Database by [clicking here](#) OR
- The new URL for the Project List on GForge is by

<http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/tsc/frs/>.

To Access the TSC Issue Tracker, the URL for the new GForge is at

http://gforge.hl7.org/gf/project/tsc/tracker/?action=TrackerItemBrowse&tracker_id=313



Version 3 Normative Edition 2009 Now Available

By Don Lloyd

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The Version 3 Normative Edition 2009 is now available! The Version3 Normative Edition represents all of the Version 3 Standards and Documents that have achieved normative status as an American National Standard (ANS), have achieved status as an HL7 draft standard for trial use (DSTU), or have been published as HL7 informative documents.

HL7 members should be receiving their copies of the Version 3 Normative Edition 2009 in the mail in the coming weeks. Additional copies are also available in the HL7 Bookstore on the website. For your convenience, an electronic version of the standard is available in the Version 3 Standards area of the HL7 website (Standards \ All HL7 Standards \ Version 3 Messaging Standard \ Messaging Standard Version 3 Normative Edition 2009).

Like the Version 3 Normative Edition 2008, the 2009 Normative Edition is a two-CD set. Disk 1 includes the standards publication, the HTML representation of the standards with linked Table Views, Excel Views and Schemas. Disk 2 contains the processable files and tools used to build the Normative Edition; these tools will benefit an implementer of the Version 3 standards and can be manipulated with software and a set of HL7-sponsored tools that create and manipulate those files.

As a part of the assembly of each edition, all dependencies for each artifact in the Edition have been documented and validated. This validation is verification that the artifact that satisfies a particular dependency is also present in the Edition. The results of the analysis are included in the Normative Edition. The contents and validity of this Normative Edition are the result of the hard work of many of our HL7

members. We congratulate all who contributed in helping to make this the most coherent and useful Normative Edition yet!



Project Update: Cardiology Acute Coronary Syndrome DAM

By Brian McCourt, CCDM

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Coronary Syndrome DAM
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Release 1 of the Cardiology Domain Analysis Model (DAM) passed Informative ballot in May 2008 and served as the first DAM to move through the HL7 process. The Tuberculosis DAM quickly followed, and a number of efforts are now in progress to detail clinical domain requirements in this way. Collectively these efforts are creating a pathway for clinical domain experts to express their requirements following a consistent methodology in an open standards development forum. Although more work remains, the growing ability to associate clinical activities and data elements with technical representations and interchange standards holds very significant value.

Work continues on the Cardiology DAM with development of Release 2 in progress. The American College of Cardiology Informatics Committee is nearing completion of the data elements and clinical definitions detailing the content scheduled to be included in the DAM. An initial draft of the class model and other artifacts are in progress and posted to the HL7 Wiki under the Clinical Interoperability Council. With growing recognition of the work happening within HL7 and the Clinical Information Interchange Collaborative (CIIC), there is interest in expanding the scope of Release 2 beyond the descriptive data of a cardiac patient needed to facilitate care across providers to include more details across cardiovascular subspecialties. Anyone interested in more information on these efforts should contact Brian McCourt (brian.mccourt@duke.edu).



HL7 Enterprise Architecture Implementation Project Update

By Marc Koehn

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At the recent Atlanta Plenary and Working Group meeting we made significant progress in our journey towards the eventual implementation of an architectural framework for our standards development activities. Several projects agreed to designate themselves as “(SA)EAF Alpha” projects. This means that the associated group will aim to apply the (Services Aware) Enterprise Architecture Framework in the development of their artifacts and, in so doing, will help to evolve the (SA)EAF for broader adoption.

In order to support this process with the needed (SA)EAF expertise, the HL7 Architecture Review Board (ArB) has assigned an ArB member as a liaison resource. This liaison role provides a direct link between the projects and the ArB and will hopefully help in the resolution of near term issues and architectural challenges.

The EA-IP project will soon be developing a series of knowledge gathering templates and mechanisms to help ensure that issues and learning from the “alpha” projects can be captured and synthesized. As well, we will support those projects which have not yet developed their “Alpha” charters to ensure that these are completed and made available to interested members and stakeholders.

For further information please visit http://wiki.hl7.org/index.php?title=EA_IP.

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