HL7 Standards
Past, Present and Future

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eHealth Concepts - Questions

• Applications?
  – Prioritize functionality

• Communication?
  – Facilitate electronic data exchange
  – Allow cross-sectoral communication

• Infrastructure?
  – “Highway” for healthcare information
  – Dealing with Transport & Security

• Plan and Vision?
  – Profit for Patients, Providers, Vendors
  – Preparing steps towards an “EHR”
What’s exciting about HL7 Version 3?

- Supports cross-sectoral Care Process Chains
- Reflects international contributions/standards
- Reflects expert knowledge collected over decades

Healthcare System

- Patient
- General Pract
- Specialist
- Hospital
- Lab
- Surg
- Rad
- Aftercare

Information flow
Life Cycle of a Standard

Development
Balloting
Documentation

Adaption and Refinement

Implementing and using the standard

Marketing, Acceptance of the market

Unification, Formalization, Automation
Global developments

• Lot of activities in eHealth and Medical Informatics
  – Other international and national Standards Developing Organizations
  – Governments

• Certain Confusion of the market
  – Harmonization needed
  – Clearly defined scope definitions

• Who is providing the Big Picture?
  – How does this fit together?
National / International Activities

• National Infrastructures / Projects
  – United Kingdom           – United States
  – Canada                  – Finland
  – The Netherlands          – Japan
  – Croatia                 – France
  – Lithuania               – ...

• First HL7 Version 3 multi-national Projects
  – For example Dialysis/Nephrology Treatment Registry in 5 European Countries
National / International Activities

• First “serious” round of real implementations in production environments
  – Many advantages
  – Many challenges
  – Many problems (and partial solutions)
  – Lot of input for the next Standard’s Life Cycle

• → Refinement of
  – The development / models
  – The methodology
  – The tooling
Work in „transition“

- Multi-national and multi-cultural input to the Version 3 development process over the last 10 years
- Important changes to HL7 under way
- Where is all this work done?
- Where and how is all this internationally coordinated?
HL7 Working Group Meetings

Boca Raton: ~ 450 registered participants
100 attendees of Sunday Meeting of the International Council
16 Affiliates / Countries
~ 80 non-US
HL7 International: thirtysomething countries
(Full affiliates and “observing” countries)
International HL7 Interoperability Conference

IHIC 2006
August 24.+25., 2006
Cologne (Germany)

~100 participants
...from 23 countries
Two day conference
...25 Presentations + 3 Tutorials
Köln
Auf der Infobahn
Köln
Mai 2007

... auf der HL7-Infobahn
HL7 Working Group Meeting
April 29 - May 4, 2007
in Cologne, Maritim & Intercontinental

Essentials of German for Beginners
„Special“ Tour Through Old Town Cologne
Photographic Meeting Minutes Competition
eHealth: Different Approaches...

• ...between and within a country

• Standards development
  – Forster creativity: exploring different ways of doing „it“ during development
  – Learn from experiences worldwide
  – Finally: come to an unambiguous, comprehensive and coherent set of standards

• Collaboration
“Scalable” Interoperability

• defined globally
• used locally

“No” Ambiguity

• one way of “doing it”
Thank you!

Later? mailto: hl7@kheitmann.nl