



Technical Steering Committee

E-NEWSLETTER

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Note from the Editor

By Helen Stevens Love

HL7 TSC Newsletter Editor

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I am pleased to welcome you to the next release of the HL7 Technical Steering Committee Newsletter. This newsletter's objective is to inform HL7 members about current decisions, discussions and activities underway by the TSC. We anticipate releasing the newsletter 4-6 times per year, based on interest and contributions. Regular columns will be provided by Charlie McCay (TSC Chair), John Quinn (CTO), and Charlie Mead (ArB). Additionally, we will feature special highlights of projects that are underway. We will continually seek to adjust the content and format of this newsletter to best meet the needs of our members – so, please contact me if you have any suggestions or questions.

Since the last edition, the TSC has been very busy, as has the rest of HL7! After a successful working group meeting in sunny Phoenix, the HL7 community continues to move forward with some important work items and also kick into gear on a range of new and exiting initiatives.

In this edition, we have an update on the TSC's activities from Charlie McCay, an introduction to the HL7 Architectural review Board, news from the Publishing Committee on the Normative Edition 2008, and an introduction to the CDA

Product and Services Guide project.

I would like to thank the contributors to the articles for this edition of the newsletter. I would also like to thank Wendy Huang (HL7 Canada Secretariat) for her support in the newsletter development.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the TSC newsletter!



Update from the TSC Chair

By Charlie McCay

Chair, TSC

Email: charlie@ramseysystems.co.uk

Recognizing the fast pace of activities at HL7, the TSC is taking some important steps to make it easier for our members to see what is happening in the HL7 community. We are doing this in response to feedback from stakeholders that they perceive that what HL7 does is “obscure.” One of the central steps being taken is the establishment of the Project List and the Product Lists; both are available at www.HL7tsc.org. Through their chairs and Steering Divisions, work group members have provided comprehensive information to help build these lists. They are currently flat lists; however, work is underway to make this information easier to use. Consequently, a next step will be to determine how to disseminate this information to the people who are planning to work with the standards. It may be by producing better summaries of key information about standards under development, and those that are available already – or by publishing it in a different format. The TSC is seeking your input into when and how you want this information so that we can ensure that everyone can see what HL7 is working on, and what standards are available.

The Technical Steering Committee and the Steering Divisions are also reviewing every new project proposal and work group creation/modification proposal. As a result, the members of the TSC are getting an excellent overview of what is happening in HL7, and are always happy to answer questions about where a particular topic is being worked on – so please do ask. The TSC members are:

- Charlie McCay, Chair and International Representative (charlie@ramseysystems.co.uk)

- John Quinn, CTO (jquinn@HL7.org)
- Frank Oemig, International Representative (frank.oemig@agfa.com)
- Jim Case, Domain Experts Representative (jtcase@ucdavis.edu)
- Austin Kreisler, Domain Experts Alternate (duz1@cdc.gov)
- Ioana Singureanu, Foundation & Technology Representative (ioana.singureanu@gmail.com)
- George (Woody) Beeler, PhD, Foundation & Technology Alternate (woody@beelers.com)
- Calvin Beebe, Structure & Semantic Design Representative (cbeebe@mayo.edu)
- Gregg Seppala, Structure & Semantic Design Alternate (gregg.seppala@va.gov)
- Ken McCaslin, Technical & Support Services Representative (kenneth.h.mccaslin@questdiagnostics.com)
- Helen Stevens Love, Technical & Support Services Alternate (hstevens@infoway-inforoute.ca)

In addition to this improved visibility, the TSC is aiming to achieve more predictability and reliability in the development of standards. We will be linking the projects to the HL7 roadmap (currently being finalized by the board) so that stakeholders can see the concrete steps that are being taken to deliver the roadmap and where to engage to ensure that their own requirements are met.

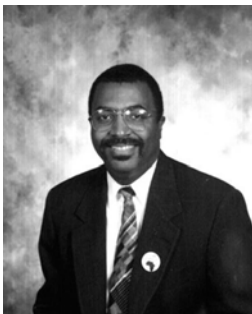


Update from the Architectural review Board

By Jane Curry

ArB Member

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Abdul-Malik Shakir

ArB Member

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As HL7 began to reorganize in order to meet new challenges, the Architectural review Board (ArB) was given a new reinvigorated charter. The new mission involves helping HL7 develop interoperability specifications that can be integrated

into a cohesive whole.

The new Architectural review Board is made up of individuals recommended from each of the Steering Divisions as well as others added to present external perspectives. The new ArB is charged with developing an enterprise architecture framework that is cohesive, but also recognizes the different perspectives and areas of concern that must be addressed to enable interoperability across healthcare information systems in the various implementation environments struggling to broaden the scope and increase the precision of information exchange.

Active since the January Working Group Meeting, the ArB has five current projects:

- 1) Ballot Quality Criteria;
- 2) A Dynamic Model Framework;
- 3) Reorganization of the Foundation Working Groups to clarify roles and responsibilities;
- 4) Developing a Business Architecture Model with HL7; and
- 5) Developing an Architectural Framework that incorporates complete Services Specifications.

The current primary focus is on the Services Architecture Framework, since most of the other projects will need to be considered from this perspective.

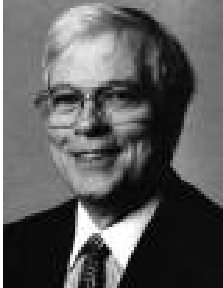
HL7's stakeholders are asking HL7 to define service description specifications that leverage HL7's deep investment in healthcare domain specific information structures based on the HL7 Reference Information Model (RIM). This does not mean that HL7 will not continue to emphasize using messages and documents to support information interchange. Nor does it mean that the successful collaboration with the Object Management Group (OMG) in the Healthcare Services Specification Project (HSSP) will be weakened. However, It does mean that HL7 needs to incorporate the full requirements of an emerging technology into our understanding of what it means to be interoperable.

The ArB is expected to recommend a framework that considers approaches used in other industries and is aligned with the work of other SDOs operating in the healthcare field and that can be accepted by HL7's stakeholders committed to producing interoperability using services. The members of the ArB are holding weekly teleconferences and out-of-cycle meetings to accomplish these goals. All meetings and teleconferences are open and the deliberations will be available on

the HL7 wiki as the work progresses.

Please reference the ArB wiki

([http://wiki.HL7.org/index.php?title=Architecture Board](http://wiki.HL7.org/index.php?title=Architecture_Board) – login wiki, password wikiwiki) for further information on the ArB's activities and on how you can be engaged.



HL7 Normative Edition 2008

By Woody Beeler

Co-Chair, HL7 Publishing Work Group

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The Normative Edition 2008 (NE2008) is now available and includes all the HL7 material that passed final ballot as either Normative or DSTU in 2006 or 2007. A CD will be distributed to all HL7 members and is available for download from the Members Only area of the HL7 website.

The NE2008 release includes an improved suite of tools, and XML representations of the standard (in the HL7 Model Interchange Format - MIF) that allow more thorough processing of these standards with tools developed by HL7 and by HL7 implementers. New tools just being released support design browsing and editing, and auto-generation of message instance examples. Additionally, a significant effort went into improving the quality review of the content and reporting any issues found in the "Known Issues" page of the Edition. An enhanced emphasis on using the DSTU release status gives implementers an opportunity to trial these specifications and get necessary changes fed back into the final standard prior to it becoming a normative specification. Another feature of the NE2008 is that it is based on a better documented and managed representation of the vocabulary content.

The NE2008 covers about 50% more topics of interest than the previous Edition and also includes the following standards:

Foundation technologies

- Security Role Based Access Control – Definitions, terminologies, frameworks to support RBAC
- DSTU – Templates to constrain and refine standard HL7 Clinical Documents and Messages
- DSTU - Implementation Guide for using SNOMED-CT (the premier

clinical terminology used worldwide) in the context of HL7 Version 3 communications

Infrastructure specifications and Implementation Technology Specifications

- No change

Services (Services Oriented Architecture) Specifications

- Informative Document on Use of SOA in HL7
- Three RIM-based services specifications developed jointly with OMG
- Resource Location and Update Service
- Entity Identification Service
- Decision Support Service

Domain specifications

- Accounting and Billing Release 2
- Care Provision - A Suite of seven new DSTUs for Patient Care
- Clinical Genomics advanced "pedigree" topic from DSTU to Standard
- Claims and Reimbursements Release 4
- Clinical Statement - a new DSTU to define a common pattern for use in All RIM-based specifications
- Medical Records Communication advanced Prior work from DSTU to Standard and added DSTU on Document Queries
- Patient Administration Released the second release of their DSTU
- Public Health - Safety Report Management - DSTU 2
- Public Health Generic Incident Notification - DSTU Release 1
- Regulated Products - Structured Product Labelling - Release 3
- Regulated Products - Regulated Product Submission - Standard Release 1
- Regulated Studies - Reporting of Clinical Trials Lab Data - Standard Release 2 (was R1)
- Specimen - Informative Document of a pattern for modeling clinical specimens in HL7 V3
- Therapeutic Devices - New standard on follow-up reports on cardiac implantable devices

HL7 CDA Product and Services Guide Pilot

By the CDA Product and Services Guide Project Team

The HL7 Marketing Council is developing a pilot of the HL7 CDA Product and Services Guide for 2008. This is a joint project with the HIMSS Electronic Health Record Vendors' Association (EHRVA). The goal of this project is to build awareness of CDA adoption by highlighting vendor products which support CDA globally and communicating that consulting and education support are available for CDA. This will be an online guide accessible via a link from HL7 Inc, HL7 Affiliates, and the HIMSS EHRVA websites. After completion of the pilot project, HL7 will collaborate with other MOU partners to gather additional input for this guide.

Targeted for completion in September, the pilot will give members of HL7 and EHRVA the opportunity to provide content to the guide. Multiple CDA products and services can be included. This guide will also be available at HL7's

International Interoperability Conference (IHIC) in October, in collaboration with other CDA documents from IHIC.

Listings in the product section of the guide include:

- Vendor name
- Member of: HL7 Inc, HL7 Affiliate, EHRVA
- Geography (global, regional (AP, Europe, LA, NA), specific country)
- Product name
- Type of CDA related functionality (application/role): Authoring, Distribution, EMPI, Enrichment, Management (these terms are from the HL7 Structured Document WG and will be defined to guide input)
- Product Status (pre-released, Released)
- Showcase example (where demo'd if applicable): (e.g. abc national project, IHE Connectathon, not available, etc.)
- Clinical business focus (e.g. discharge summary, transfer of care (referral or medical summary), operative note, history and physical, consultation note, progress note, admission note, nursing assessment, public health report, lab report, insurance claim, other: specify)
- Implementation Guide (HL7 IG, IHE IG, national/country IG)
- Name of Implementation Guide (e.g. HL7 CCD, IHE Medical Summary, etc)
- National language of CDA document (Multi-language, English, Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Finnish, Dutch, Italian, other)
- Vendor website link
- Vendor contact

Listings for the service section of the guide include:

- Vendor/Consultant name
- Member of: HL7 Inc, an HL7 Affiliate, EHRVA
- Geography (global, regional (AP, Europe, LA, NA), specific country)
- CDA Service
- Education/training onsite
 - Education/training via web
 - Consulting CDA architecture and modeling
 - Consulting CDA create implementation and conformance guides
 - Consulting interface specification
 - CDA coding/terminology
 - Planning for CDA
 - CDA modeling
- Vendor website link
- Vendor contact

Input for the guide will be accepted between July 21 and August 8. HL7 plans to distribute the pilot guide at the September Plenary and Working Group Meeting. The guide should be available online by mid-September. Please watch the eNews for more details including the process to submit content. Please direct questions to the HL7 CDA Guide project co-leads, Jill Kaufman at jill.kaufman@us.ibm.com or Gora Datta at gora@cal2cal.com.

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