# 2015-2018 HL7 Tooling Strategic Initiatives

## Note to Readers

This document is an update to the 2013-2016 document to update goals based on changes that have occurred since it was last submitted to the board in 2012.

EST is extremely interested in receiving feedback / adjustments from the board to ensure that the delivery of electronic services and tools provides the best value to the membership for the investment.

This is an initial outline of the updates. Goals have been identified, but action plans and performance measures need to be brought up to date with the work group.

This outline was developed in consultation with John Quinn but has not yet been socialized with or endorsed by EST.

## INTRODUCTION

### Mission

The Electronic Services and Tools Work Group supports the HL7 mission by optimizing all forms of electronic interaction with HL7.org as well as the tools to facilitate the development, adoption and use of HL7 standards, according to the requirements of the HL7 Board and membership needs.

### Vision

HL7 International and its affiliates have appropriate tools to support development, maintenance, publishing and adoption of HL7 specifications.

### Stakeholders

Stakeholders are comprised of, but not limited to, members and others throughout the world having an interest in developing and using HL7 specifications.

### Scope



The scope of "HL7 tooling" may encompass any software tool (commercial or open source toolkit) that has the capability to support any of the stages in the lifecycle of HL7 standards definition or usage, irrespective of whether that tool is developed, owned, or managed by HL7 or any other party.

However, "HL7-sponsored tooling" is that subset of HL7 tooling represented by HL7 investment and/or responsibility for management in the tool development and having a focus on benefits to HL7 membership. In the current environment, tooling that is integrated with HL7 electronic delivery channels and authorization mechanisms are becoming more crucial to allow the organization to deliver benefit to members along with the specifications. The need to support the development, publication and implementation of new standards such as FHIR has created additional demands for a robust, integrated infrastructure. HL7-sponsored tooling typically facilitates standards adoption as well as specifications design and publishing. "HL7-endorsed tooling" includes software tools that are outside the management of HL7, but have been evaluated by HL7 for their benefit to the HL7 membership.

Additionally, the current proposal to evaluate the transfer of Open Health Tools to HL7 will affect the prioritization and implementation of tactical plans to support the Tooling Strategy. This document defines the strategic guidelines that will inform development tactical solutions and a midterm technical roadmap. Key to supporting that effort will be the documentation of the current technical architecture and environment. This will allow HL7 to identify gaps and prioritize initiatives to obtain the greatest member value for the most reasonable investment.

### Guiding Principles

* As defined in the 2012 Strategic Initiatives (2.2.4), Tooling shall adopt a requirement for an enabling technical infrastructure that
  + Enables Traceability
  + Minimizes Manual Effort
  + Accessible to
    - Formal HL7 Community
    - Direct HL7 Standards Consumers
    - Indirect HL7 Standards Consumers
  + Supports rapid "customization" while maximizing consistency and reuse
* HL7-sponsored tooling should be developed on an open source platform, offer vendor neutrality, and be designed to be extensible and interoperable with other tools, with capabilities like APIs and extension points.
* HL7-sponsored Tooling should be focused on providing measurable value to the HL7 membership.
* Tooling for standards development should enable traceability from requirements to implementable perspectives.
* Viewpoints and levels from SAIF ECCF should be identified along with life cycle.

## STRATEGIC PLAN: 2015 -2018

### Goal #1 – Provide HL7 developers and implementers with robust tools to develop, publish, ballot and ease implementation of all HL7 standards.

*Objective 1: Technical architecture of both the tooling environment and the support electronic service delivery infrastructure is documented and understood by stakeholders.*

Notes: Harden the environment by identifying and mitigating areas where there is no backup for human and/or technical solutions. Identify opportunities / priorities/ gaps

*Objective 2: Tools and tooling documentation are organized so that all available tools are easy to find and install.*

*Objective 3: Tooling documentation, education and training makes tools easier to use and implement*

### Goal #2 – Facilitate improved integration of tooling and electronic service delivery approaches that will enhance value to members

*Objective 1: Identify key Tools and Services for integration and promote these (similar to an AppStore concept)*

*Objective 2: Establish services that are available to inform members of new updates*

*Objective 3: Work with product line management groups on Tooling/Service requirements*

### Goal #3 – Ensure infrastructure, tools and processes are available to support growing member demand for development, publication and maintenance of FHIR, as well as the tools required to develop and implement the standard.

*Objective 1: Establish and maintain a comprehensive tool and service catalog*

*Objective 2: Look into notification mechanisms for members on FHIR updates*

### Goal #4 – Create greater awareness and adoption of HL7 tooling in the development and implementation of all HL7 Standards

*Objective 1: Increase visibility and accessibility of HL7 Tooling*

*Objective 2: Provide stakeholders easier ability to contribute input and comments on tooling requirements and receive support on implementation questions*

*Objective 3: Stakeholders understand how tools are developed and supported and what factors contribute to the costs to develop and operate each tool and what benefits are achieved*

*Objective 4: Establish Tool/Service User Communities*

*Objective 5: Increase awareness/knowledge in traditional non-Tooling members of tools and services provided by EST (webinar, short vids, elevator pitch)*

### Goal #5: Individuals and organizations are increasing their participation in the development and support of tools used to design, publish and implement HL7 standards

*Objective 1: Increase participation as active tool developers (toolsmiths)*

*Objective 2: Increase participation of individuals in non-technical roles in Tool development projects*