

Trip Report

HL7 Plenary Working Meeting

April 27 – May 2, 2003

Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Thomas Beale

Objectives

The goals of my participation in this meeting were:

- continued participation in discussions in the Structured Documents group with the aim of improving convergence of the formal models of openEHR Transaction, CEN Composition, and CDA Document models. Some changes from the CEN TC/251 openEHR process were requested for CDA and agreed for harmonisation. Will present on new archetypes language.
- participation in the Templates SIG.
- participation in EHR SIG w. Sam Heard in order to find agreement on definition of EHR for HL7 purposes, with the aim of determining next steps in convergence of specifications of openEHR/CEN and HL7 messages.

Activities

The following activities were undertaken:

Structured Documents

- Participation in discussions on CDA release 2.0 (RMIM-based)
- Presentation of new archetype language (now known as ADL – Archetype Definition Language) to CDA/Templates joint meeting (Monday). The new language brought a favourable response from many attendees, including Mayo and UCSF people.

Templates SIG

- Participation in discussions on details of archetype and template design.
- present at presentation and discussion of Martin Kernberg's large repository of radiology and cardiology templates, which have been produced based on our archetype theory. Martin proposed to integrate these templates into the new archetype language for use in the EHR and HL7 communities; we will be active in this work.
- active discussions with Peter Elkin (Mayo) about his ebXML template repository.

EHR SIG

- Discussion of EHR functional specification project, which HL7 has agreed to undertake for the US govt. This project has an end-September deadline, and will be led by Linda Fischetti (VHA), Ken Rubin (VHA), Gary Dickenson (PerSe) and Sam Heard (openEHR).
- Presentation of our analysis of services and functions in the EHR space, which drew a good response. This presentation was slightly modified from that given in the HL7 Brisbane summit.

Ad Hoc Discussions

- A discussion of major importance was entered into with Mark Shafarman, Charlie Mead, Dale Nelson, Sam Heard, Dipak Kalra (UCL), Grahame Grieve, Heath Frankel, Dick Harding, Michael Legg, about a) the difficulties in generating even simple messages in the HL7 framework (Heath and Grahame used their attempt to build a CBC message as an example) and b) how features from the openEHR models would vastly simplify this process, in particular the addition of reusable data structures. In the second day of this discussion, Mark, Sam and I led a modelling discussion aimed at showing how to express the CBC RMIM in the new archetype language. Mark is actively following this up in HL7.
- Dale Nelson called a "birds of a feather" meeting to decide what constraint language HL7 would use for its templates. In the second day of the meeting we again presented features of ADL, showing how it expresses constraints, and also suggested it is probably convertible to OMG OCL (object constraint language). Gunther Schadow held the view that we should all be using HMDs to express everything. The group eventually decided on OCL.

Outcomes

CDA/EHR Convergence

This work was further progressed, with some features from the CEN 13606 revision process being accepted by SDTC as

change proposals to CDA.

Templates / Archetypes

The success of the archetype language presentations led to a proposal for a project with Martin Kernberg (UCSF) in which we will continue our work on the ADL, and show how they can express their large template repository in it.

Conclusion

The trip was a success. The main achievement is that we are well on the way to convincing HL7 to use a common, shared archetype formalism. We also are able to cross-fertilise from the HL7 work to the CEN 13606 process.

I would like to thank HL7 Australia, Standards Australia and the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care for making my attendance at the Cleveland HL7 Working Meeting possible.

Thomas Beale

(Technical Director, Ocean Informatics)