

Health IT Standards Committee

A Public Advisory Body on Health Information Technology to the National Coordinator for Health IT



ONC Modular Specification Provider Directory (PD) Overview

April 17, 2014



- Modular Specification (ModSpec) Provider Directory Project
 - Goals and Process
 - Artifacts developed
 - Environment Scan Results
- Federated HPD Specification – Technical Details
 - Data Model
 - Query/Results Structure and Semantics
 - Transport and Application protocols
 - Security Requirements
 - PD Federation
 - API's, Schemas
- Lessons Learned from Pilots and Connectathon activities
- Specification Maturity and Adoption

Modular Specification Provider Directory Project

- Goals and Process



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- Goals
 - To identify and improve PD standards that will help with various clinical work flows where end point addresses and security information has to be discovered.
 - End point addresses include individuals and organization addresses
- Process
 - Open Process, All calls open to public, all feedback and dispositions are made publicly available
 - Real-world Implementers of specifications consulted during the artifact development process

Modular Specification Provider Directory Project

- Artifacts Developed



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- Implementable, Testable, Certifiable:
 - Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)
 - Implementation Guide (IG)
 - Platform independent test cases
- Create a Test Implementation (TI) based on RTM and the test cases
 - Available for download as open source
 - Has the following components
 - A Provider Directory implementation based on the RTM
 - A downloadable Test Tool to test conformance of a Provider Directory conforming to the RTM
 - An online instantiation of the test tool as a cloud service for vendors to test as needed.
- Other developer friendly artifacts include
 - UML class diagrams explaining the data models
 - Documentation to help implementers understand underlying technology requirements
 - Links to PD related work performed by various pilots and organizations in the real-world

Modular Specification Provider Directory Project

- Environment Scan Results (PD Queries)



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- Multiple environment scans were performed at different times over the past year, the following were identified as deficiencies
 - Federation Facilitation
 - Absence of a centralized authoritative provider directory requires federation capability (within and across organizations) to use existing authoritative directories so that electronic addresses of providers and their systems can be discovered during workflows
 - Error Handling
 - Provide ability for a client to implement local policies and workflows based on complete/incomplete responses received
 - Lack of single specifications for vendors to target (IHE HPD and its versions, EHR|IWG HPD Plus and its versions)



- Modular Specification PD project performed the following
 - Added Federation capabilities to the HPD specification
 - Add Error Handling to the HPD specification
 - Coordinated across the various organizations to harmonize towards a single specification
 - Collaborated with NYeC on the PD pilots and obtained support from EHR|IWG representatives to work with ONC on a single specification
 - Submitted changes to IHE HPD to add federation and error handling
 - IHE ITI Technical committee approved to add the Federation and Error Handling as a National Extension under the auspices of IHE USA.



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- Data Model in alignment with the latest IHE HPD Specification (IHE HPD Base + CP 601)
 - Data Model based on ISO 21091
 - Friendly to LDAP based implementations but has been successfully implemented by organizations using relational backend
 - Supports Individual Provider , Organizational Providers
 - Supports Membership between Individuals and Organizations
 - Supports Electronic Service Addresses for Individuals and Organizational providers, certificates associated with the electronic services

Federated HPD

– Query and Results Structure and Semantics

- Federated HPD Specification reuses the base IHE HPD specification query and result structures and semantics
 - Query and Results semantics based on DSML v2
 - Provides the necessary mechanisms for structuring queries using the data model
 - Supports “AND”, “OR”, “NOT”
 - Supports “String” and “RegEx” types of matching based on attributes available in the data model



- Federated HPD Specification reuses the base IHE HPD transport and application protocols
 - SOAP 1.2 over HTTP based on the Web Services for IHE Transactions Appendix V in ITI-TF Vol2.
 - Only Synchronous Web Services are required
 - DSMLv2 with SOAP bindings over HTTP is the combined structure that is used.

Federated HPD

– Security Requirements



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- Federated HPD Specification reuses the base IHE HPD transport and application protocols
 - IHE Web Services use Mutual TLS to protect message traffic over the wire
 - No additional security controls specified for the query transaction

Federated HPD

– PD Federation



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- Federated HPD introduces support for federation as part of the specification explicitly
 - Introduces a “WRAPPER” to wrap the basic IHE HPD request with appropriate request and response metadata and error data
 - Metadata provides the client
 - Ability to indicate if a request should be federated or not
 - Ability to decipher the exact directory that responded to the request so that follow on requests can be issued efficiently
 - Improved error handling provides the client
 - Ability to detect partial and complete responses
 - Ability to distinguish between application faults vs SOAP faults

Federated HPD

– API's and Schemas



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- Federated HPD Schemas and WSDL's differ from the base HPD specification
 - New Schemas which define the necessary Wrappers on top of the base HPD and DSML schemas
 - New WSDL that use the new schemas provided as part of the specification



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- **Specification Maturity and Adoption**



- ONC sponsored NYeC Pilots feedback
 - Confusion about standards (Need a single standard to implement!!)
 - When the same standards were used the same value sets were not being used consistently (Need complete definition of value sets that are applicable)
 - Needed ONC ModSpec activity to be adopted by IHE
 - Most federated solutions are one-off and not adopting a standard
 - Complex queries are cumbersome in the existing standards
 - Snowbird Pilot
 - California Pilot
 - NATE Pilot
 - NY Pilot



- IHE NA New Directions Connectathon
 - Multiple vendors volunteered for testing Federated HPD specifications and passed the basic tests in a short time frame. (Less than 2 months)
 - SureScripts
 - CareEvolution
 - Inpriva
 - Nextgen
- HIMSS Interoperability Showcase Demonstration
 - Created a successful Federated HPD demonstration using Google like Internet search within a short time frame (Less than a month) and was showcased as part of the Interop showcase
 - SureScripts
 - CareEvolution
 - Inpriva
 - Verizon



- General Feedback
 - Vendors appreciating the collaboration between ONC, IHE and EHR|IWG to create a single specification
 - Weekly meetings with the core team and bi-weekly meetings with vendors are being held to finalize the specifications
 - ONC Federated HPD Tools provide a quick way for organizations to learn about the specification
 - Working software along with the test tools makes it easier for companies to stand up implementations and test their implementations
 - Should support a RESTful approach in the future



- Specific Technical Feedback
 - Add support for higher level queries to avoid multiple low level queries
 - IHE Web Services implementation needs to be further clarified with respect to addressing, security and other aspects.
 - Data Model optionality should be tightened based on the use cases
 - Some vendors (especially ones implementing on a relational backend) support limited set of searches based on use cases
 - Need to identify response behavior when data is not present within a directory
 - IHE HPD Data Model Value Sets needs to be further clarified



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- **Maturity**
 - Federated HPD Specification expected to be finalized via the IHE USA process in the 2014 Summer Timeframe. (July 2014 targeted)
 - Many of the changes from the connectathons and pilots are being incorporated into the base specifications
 - Test Tools and Test Implementations stable and very few changes over the past 6 months since the specifications were base-lined.
 - IHE SOAP Web Services stack adopted by vendors for various other protocols such as XDS/XCA etc.
 - DSMLv2 is a mature OASIS specification been around for more than a decade.
- **Adoption**
 - Approximately 18 organizations tested for HPD at the IHA NA Connectathon in 2014
 - As part of the Federated HPD vendor calls approximately 10 vendors have committed to implement the Federated HPD specifications.

Discussion