

Open Health Tools

Architectural Guiding Principles v2

Approved by the provisional OHT Architecture Council, 14 November 2007

Approved by the OHT board of stewards, 15 November 2007

Motivation

Interoperability is an increasingly important goal in the delivery of effective healthcare IT solutions

Standards bodies are developing fast to facilitate interoperability

Standards bodies do not take a full holistic view of the application domain

OHT will enhance interoperability by facilitating standards, driving standards integration, and building infrastructure components based on standards that will ease integration of standards

Strategic Vision

Healthcare information should be available

- Where it is needed
- When it is needed
- With full recognition of patient rights to safety, confidentiality and security

Healthcare systems should integrate to provide

- Comprehensive access to clinical information
- Cooperatively
- With consistency and reliability

Architectural Principles – the target architecture supported by OHT tools

The architecture will be developed using

- Short, iterative cycles, delivering frequent usable functionality
- Open, transparent development
- Processes consistent with those of Eclipse, adapted to OHT needs

The target architecture will be

- Semantically-driven
- Services-based
- Loosely coupled, heterogenous
- Dynamic discovery and loading of services and semantics
- Scalable
- Supportive of all levels of interoperability achievable in a harmonious way so that users can move easily to higher levels of interoperability
- Based on a logical record architecture and services architecture

OHT will support the development of semantic and service paradigms, but only in exceptional circumstances will it define them

OHT will support standards bodies in the development and implementation of standards, but it will not operate as a standards body

OHT will revise its target architecture in line with members needs, but at all times retain a neutral position on the architecture of members solutions

Organisational principles

Priorities based on members needs

Diversity encouraged

Keep it simple and good enough (Meet the business need, do not seek perfection).

Success is measured by delivery against business needs

Build on previous work whenever appropriate

Continuous and incremental improvement

Quality is a business as well as a technical imperative

Standards Principles

OHT will provide an architecture that supports standards

OHT will enhance standards effectiveness by delivering tools to allow for the development, implementation and assurance of standards

OHT will work with standards organisations to achieve integrated solutions that achieve maximum interoperability at least cost with maximum quality and ease of use

Modus Operandi Architecture Council

We shall always strive for consensus

We will create an environment of professional respect

We will seek to maintain a “high trust” environment

We will be responsive to business needs of its members

Technical corrections do not require group validation

We will do its work publicly

We will seek expediency and efficacy in process

Members will agree to abide by decisions reached

We will follow its documented processes