



Terminology Services Information Day

Tuesday, December 8th, 2009

| [Register](#) | [Hotel](#) |

With more and more organizations taking on projects to interoperate both internally and with business partners, disparities in the meaning of information is increasingly coming to the forefront as a key challenge. The use of differing terms intended to convey the same idea, for instance "customer", "member" and "beneficiary" has profound impacts when integrating systems and when interacting with business partners.

This information day is focused on exploring these issues, centered around an emerging standard with applicability to address many of these challenges. Evolving from the healthcare community, the Common Terminology Service Release 2 is a SOA specification to allow for the usage, management, and maintenance of terminologies and ontologies. One of the fundamental semantic technology building blocks, terminology services will be explored in terms of their business purpose, their role in furthering the semantic web, and their importance in achieving true semantic interoperability.

Speakers on our program are distinguished professionals working in this semantic interoperability space, with industry experts from both within and outside of the healthcare domain. The session is intended for audiences with an interest in semantic technologies and in terminology and ontology usage and management. It will also serve as an introduction to Healthcare IT in the context of efforts that are internationally recognized as a target environment for e-health programs within and outside of the US.

Furthermore, there is a need to persist, utilize and preserve the semantic business assets existing within enterprises over time, and to reduce the costs of their maintenance. A core technology component to support this is a vocabulary service that provides functionality to create, use and manage the basic building blocks for business semantics.

08:30 – 09:00 **An Introduction to Information Interoperability and Terminology**

Ken Rubin, Federal Healthcare Portfolio, HP Enterprise Services
Co-Chair, OMG Healthcare Domain Task Force
Co-Chair, HL7 SOA Workgroup

What has emerged as an almost ubiquitous objective among IT integration activities is the realization of interoperability. What interoperability means, however, is much less clearly defined. This session will explore the true meaning of information interoperability, delving into the details to explain why the successful exchange of data between systems is not sufficient to be interoperable. Using the health industry as a backdrop, we will explore information modeling, ontologies, and their relevance to information exchange en route to achieving true semantic interoperability. The core concepts covered in this session provide the foundation for discussions throughout the day.

09:00 – 09:20 **The Business Case for CTS2**

Dr. Jobst Landgrebe, Enterprise Architect, International Institute for the Safety of Medicines (ii4sm)
HL7 Vocabulary Workgroup Co-Chair

CTS2 is a cornerstone of computational semantics and semantic interoperability as it provides standardized behavior for the authoring, management and retrieval of the atomic elements of computable semantics, concepts, and their relationships. The presentation shows how CTS2 contributes to computational semantics within and between organizations.

09:20 – 09:40 **History of Terminology Services in Medicine**

Harold Solbrig, Technical Specialist, Mayo Foundation

With 35 years of experience, Mr. Solbrig has contributed to the field of terminology services through numerous engagements both within and outside of the standards community, including ISO/IEC JTC1 SC32 WG 2, ISO TC 215, HL7, and OMG. He was the editor of the predecessor work to CTS2 and is the architect of the LexGrid data model and LexEVS services and is currently involved in integrating terminology services, the Semantic Web and Wikis. In this session, Mr. Solbrig will provide a brief background on the use of terminology services in the biomedical domain.

09:40 – 10:10 "Hitchhikers Guide to CTS2"

Russ Hamm, Informatics Consultant, Apelon, Inc.
HL7 Vocabulary Workgroup Co-Chair
HL7 Liaison to IHTSDO

Terminology services provide the means by which applications can utilize and interoperate among standard and local terminology sets. The standardization of terminology service interfaces provides a functional contract for terminology enabled applications and users and defines an interoperability space for terminology access and management. This presentation provides a guide to standard terminology service specifications and the efforts taken to evolve standard terminology services functionality through Common Terminology Services Release 2.

10:15 – 10:30 Break

10:30 – 10:50 IHTSDO, SNOMED and its Role in Furthering Semantic Understanding

John Gutai, CTO, International Health Terminology Standards Development Organization

The structure of SNOMED CT, and its basis in Description Logic will be discussed, including an overview of the main components comprising SNOMED CT: concepts, descriptions and relationships. An overview of reasoning and classification services within the terminology itself will be presented, before moving on to describe how post-coordinated expressions can be built and constrained to describe structures at a logical level, which can then be mapped to individual elements within a physical health record, allowing reasoning at either the individual or summary level.

10:50 – 11:10 Beyond Healthcare – Cross-domain Applicability of CTS2

Elisa Kendall, CEO, Sandpiper Software, Inc.
OMG Ontology Platform Special Interest Group Co-Chair

Though long recognized as a necessity in healthcare, the applicability of terminology services (including RDF and OWL ontologies) is clearly considerably broader. Examples of widely applicable services range from multi-lingual translation for many business domains, to financial services for mapping to and from government reporting and taxation, to product representation across catalogs and retailers. Terminology services are frequently highly customized within a domain, often proprietary, and contribute to complexities of integration costs that can result in lost intellectual property and business intelligence if care is not taken to address them.

In this talk we will describe clear, "non-health care" cases where services for terminology usage and management are either in use, are under development, or are sorely needed. We will describe some of the OMG, ISO and other standards available today to support terminology development beyond healthcare, with specific examples from several unique government domains. We will also talk about how the services identified by HL7 and called out in the CTS2 RFP could be generalized to support these and other government and commercial use cases, and challenge attendees to provide both use cases and energy to help make the vision a reality.

11:10 – 12:00 Community Roundtable

Moderated by Ken Rubin

The community roundtable will provide a venue for interactive discussion among the participants and presenters around the use-of structured terminology, terminology services, and CTS2 in particular.

12:00 – 13:00 Lunch