An Introduction to the IHE NA Connectathon

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Learning Objectives

• Learn how IHE International’s Annual Publication Cycle and the IHE North American Connectathon sponsored by IHE USA promote implementation of IHE Profiles and health IT interoperability in the U.S.

• Discover how interoperability is made on the IHE NA Connectathon testing floor as 500 of the industry’s top talent bake interoperability into their systems.
IHE provides a trusted, open process: proven since 1998!

IHE Development Cycle

IHE Profiles Drafted & Published
- Published For Public Comment
- IHE Technical Framework Development
- Profile Selection by Committees
- months 1-3

IHE International Development
- months 4-14

Testing and Certification
- IHE Connectathon
  - Results published in Product Registry
- months 15-18

Demonstrate at a HIMSS Interoperability Showcase
- IHE USA Deployment
- Install interoperable solutions worldwide

IHE USA Deployment
- months 17-18

Install interoperable solutions worldwide
What is a Connectathon?

• Cross-vendor, live, supervised, structured testing event
• All participating vendors’ products tested together in the same place/time
• Experts from each vendor available for immediate problem resolution... fixes are done in minutes, not months!!
• Each vendor tests with multiple trading partners (actual product to actual product)
• Testing of real-world clinical scenarios using IHE Integration Profiles
In the Beginning

• The first IHE NA Connectathon was held in 1999 in the RSNA parking garage in Chicago, IL
• 23 vendors, 47 applications tested, 1 IHE Profile
• Today, IHE Connectathons are held annually in North America, Europe, and Asia
At This Year’s IHE NA Connectathon 2016

- 86 participating organizations
- 124 individual systems being tested
- 500+ engineers working collaboratively to test interoperability
- 72 monitors carrying out the tests
- $2.8 million of test effort (500 x 8 hrs/day x 5 days x $140/hr) - not including prep and setup time!!
- 61 vendors representing 72 systems will continue on to promote their success at the HIMSS16 Interoperability Showcase™
Encouraging Vendors to Implement IHE Profiles

• IHE Connectathon participation is open to all software vendors

• IHE Profiles developed in advance of IHE Connectathon system registration

• Vendors who pass the IHE Connectathon tests are given the opportunity to demonstrate IHE capabilities during major conferences (HIMSS Interoperability Showcase™, ACC, RSNA, e-Health, etc.)

• Vendors that implement IHE Profiles assume strategic and marketing advantages
Testing is Based on IHE Technical Frameworks

**Part 1:** IHE Profiles model the business process problem (use case) and its solution.

**Part 2:** Transactions define how current standards are used to solve the business problem defined in the IHE Profiles.

**IHE Connectathon:** Vendors register to test their product as an actor(s) within an IHE Profile
IHE Connectathon: Managed Process

• Structured testing supervised by Technical Project Management team
• Testing Management Tools (Gazelle, NIST) – test management, execution, results
• Real-time “dashboard” indicating tests in progress
• Successful results recorded and available using automated tools, and published by IHE sponsors
Testing begins before the IHE Connectathon

• Software and documentation distributed to vendors participating in the testing process
• Each test performs functional testing of a single actor, in a specific profile, by simulating remaining actors
• Tests must be successfully completed before the Connectathon
Gazelle at the IHE Connectathon

For Vendor Participants:

- Customized list of “tests to do” based on IHE profiles & actors implemented
- Individual tests with tailored list of partners, test steps, and a chat room to capture messages and comments
- Real-time dashboard of tests in-progress, verified, awaiting evaluation...

For Volunteer Test Monitors:

- Electronic work list of completed tests waiting to be verified

For Project Managers:

- Event management (company, people, system configuration details)
- Evaluation of overall test results; report successful Connectathon testing
Using Gazelle

- Test steps
- Partners
- Captured msgs
- Status

Overview of test
# Real-Time IHE Connectathon Results

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What Happens After the IHE Connectathon?

- Successful results are published by IHE International in the IHE Connectathon Results Database at [http://connectathon-results.ihe.net/](http://connectathon-results.ihe.net/)
- Vendors self-attest, by publishing *IHE Integration Statements*
- Only vendors who are successful are entitled to participate in HIMSS Interoperability Showcase™ demonstrations world-wide.
  - HIMSS16 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV – March 1-3, 2016

*Visit [www.interoperabilityshowcase.org](http://www.interoperabilityshowcase.org) for more details.*
IHE Product Registry

• A website to search IHE Integration Statements published by vendors
• Helps users find products that match their needs
• Product Registry maintains a database of actors/profiles in vendors’ integration statements
• Product Registry points to Integration Statement on vendor’s web site
• 575+ integration statements in the database
IHE International’s Resources

- IHE Product Registry:
  - [http://product-registry.ihe.net](http://product-registry.ihe.net)
- About the Product Registry:
  - [http://gazelle.ihe.net/content/product-registry](http://gazelle.ihe.net/content/product-registry)
- IHE Connectathon Results Database:
  - [http://connectathon-results.ihe.net/](http://connectathon-results.ihe.net/)
- IHE National Extensions:
IHE Connectathon Tour

- You will be led by a tour guide
  - Meet your tour guide in the Atrium and divide into four even groups
  - Leave your personal belongings in the Ballroom. It will be monitored while you are away.

- There will be four speakers illustrating different aspects of the IHE Connectathon
  - Vendor test participant at the IHE NA Connectathon
  - IHE Connectathon Technical Project Manager
  - U.S. Government Agency
  - Vendor test at the IHE NA Connectathon and passed the ConCert by HIMSS™, a new interoperability testing and certification based on IHE Profiles

- Feel free to observe and listen, but please be respectful of the effort that is underway and refrain from disrupting the engineers at work.
Join us for a networking and cocktail reception at the
HIMSS Innovation Center
At the Global Center for Health Innovation

January 27
5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
4th floor

www.himssinnovationcenter.org

HIMSS
transforming health through IT™
Connectathon Floor

4th floor

10 minute walk
Navigating the IHE Connectathon Floor

Tour Stops

1. Certification – Dean Guo
2. Testing vendor – Matthew Spielman
3. Center for Disease Control – Didi Davis
4. Technical Project Manager – Steve Moore