Introduction to the IHE NA Connectathon

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Agenda

10:45 – 11:00
Introduction to the IHE North American Connectathon
Speaker: Elliot B. Sloane, President, Center for Healthcare Information Research and Policy

11:00- 12:00
Tour the IHE North American Connectathon Testing Floor and HIMSS Innovation Center

12:00 – 1:00
Lunch and Networking
Learning Objectives

• Learn how IHE International’s Annual Quality 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 Standards Development: A Proven 1-year Quality Management Cycle

IHE Profiles Drafted & Published

IHE Technical Framework Development

IHE International Development

Profile Selection by Committees

IHE Call for Proposals months 1-3

IHE provides a trusted, open process: proven since 1998!

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
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
**SO, in the Beginning**

- The first IHE NA Connectathon was held in 1999 in the RSNA parking garage in Chicago, IL.
- Originally, merely 23 vendors, 47 applications tested, 1 (one) IHE Profile

**And Today?**

- IHE Connectathons are held annually in North America, Europe, and Asia

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Rapid debugging and problem resolution

Months of work **completed in minutes**: able to identify problems, recode, and retest in 10 minutes.

Access to **140+ systems**

Access to **20+ tools** and their developers

Access to team of **60+ monitors**

(industry professionals)

Practical experience and learning opportunities
Impressive stats at this IHE NA Connectathon 2018

- 63 participating organizations (corporate AND government systems)
- 90 discrete individual systems being tested (affects HUNDREDS of other products in the vendors’ catalogs!)
- 100+ IHE Profiles available for testing
- 450+ engineers working collaboratively to test interoperability
- 41 monitors carrying out and independently judging the tests
- $2.8 million of test effort (500 x 8 hrs/day x 5 days x $140/hr) - NOT including a very sizeable amount of prep and setup time!
- 75 systems will continue on to promote their success at the HIMSS18 Interoperability Showcase™ March 5-8, 2018
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: A Carefully 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 actually begins MONTHS 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 IHE Connectathon
You may hear about our open-source testing tool, “Gazelle” during your IHE Connectathon tour!

For Vendor Participants who are perfecting their products:

• 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 (i.e. our expert evaluators):

• 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
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.
  - HIMSS18 Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV – March 5-9, 2018
  - Public Health Informatics Conference, GA – August 20-23, 2018

*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
  - http://gazelle.ihe.net/content/product-registry