Health Level Seven Overview

Contacts

Mark McDougall	Jim Adams
Executive Director	Director, Membership Services

Health Level Seven
3300 Washtenaw Avenue, Suite 227
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4250
Phone: (313)677-7777
Fax: (313)677-6622
Email: HQ@HL7.WIN.NET

Background

HL7 was founded in 1987 to develop standards for the electronic interchange of clinical, financial and administrative information among independent health care oriented computer systems; e.g., hospital information systems, clinical laboratory systems, enterprise systems and pharmacy systems.

In the last three years, its membership has tripled to over 1,400 hospital, professional society, health care industry, and individual members including almost all of the major health care systems consultants and vendors. The HL7 standard is supported by most system vendors and used in the majority of large U.S. hospitals today. It is also used in Australia, Austria, Germany, Holland, Israel, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

In June of 1994, HL7 was designated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as an ANSI accredited standards developer. HL7 released its fourth version of the standard (Version 2.2) in December 1994. This consensus standard was balloted under ANSI rules. HL7 will submit this standard to ANSI for consideration as an American National Standard this year.

HL7 Transactions

The current standard defines transactions for transmitting data about patient registration, admission, discharge and transfers, insurance, charges and payors, orders and results for laboratory tests, image studies, nursing and physician observations, diet orders, pharmacy orders, supply orders, and master files.

HL7 is currently developing transactions for exchanging information about appointment scheduling, problem lists, clinical trial enrollments, patient permissions, voice dictations, advanced directives, and physiologic signals. Task forces in HL7 are also busy developing prototype transactions with new state of the art technologies such as CORBA and Microsoft's OLE objects.

Cooperation with Other Standards Developing Organizations

HL7 has a pure focus on health care informatics standards and cooperates closely with other standards developers such as American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), Accredited Standards Committee X12N, American College of Radiology (ACR), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP), and Institute of Electronics and Electrical Engineers (IEEE) directly and via the ANSI Health Informatics Standards Planning Panel (HISPP) and the Message Standards Developers Subcommittee (MSDS) of HISPP. Examples of such cooperative efforts include planning future joint meetings with X12N, cross-copyrights with ASTM, and hosting joint working group meetings with IEEE, ACR-NEMA, and ASTM.

HL7 has pioneered the provision of its minutes and standard drafts at no cost through Internet FTP servers on [dumccss.mc.duke.edu] Internet and supports a discussion group on the HL7@ Virginia.EDU list server. We encourage other standards organizations to do the same.

Published Healthcare Informatics Standards

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 1.0, 1987

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 2.0, 1989

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 2.1, 1990

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 2.2, 1994

HL7's Implementation Support Guide

HL7's Membership Directory, 1994-95

Expected Publications

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 2.3, 1996

Application Protocol for Electronic Exchange in Healthcare Environments, Version 3.0, 1997

HL7 Sponsored Meetings

HL7 has been meeting regularly since March 1987. HL7 meetings have generally been held three times each year in January, May and September. The traditional meeting schedule is as follows: an introductory Tutorial on HL7 is provided on Tuesday; Working Group meetings convene on Wednesday through Friday morning. HL7's Fall meeting also includes a Plenary meeting (on Wednesday) resulting in the Working Group Meetings convening on Thursday and Friday only.

In an attempt to better coordinate activities with ASC X12N, HL7 is in the process of moving some of its future meetings to coincide with the X12N interim meeting schedule (i.e., December, April and August). A schedule of recent and future HL7 Working Group meetings is provided below:

HL7 MEETING DATES	**LOCATION**
1994	
January 25 - 28	New Orleans, LA
May 17 - 20	Seattle, WA
August 29 - Sept. 1	Chicago, IL
1995	
January 10 - 13	Orlando, FL
May 16 - 19	Atlanta, GA
September 26 - 29	Kansas City, MO
1996	
January 16 - 19	Coronado, CA
April 23 - 26	Denver, CO
August 20 - 23	Washington DC

Key Contacts

HL7 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair
Dave Carlson, Enterprise Systems, Inc.
Ph: (708) 465-7200 *Fax:* (708) 537-4866
Email: DCARLSON@MCS.NET

Treasurer
Jeff Spears, HBO & Company
Ph: (407) 831-8444 ext. 2716 *Fax:* (407) 831-9958
Email: Jeff.Spears@HBOC.COM

Secretary
Don Johnston, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Ph: (215) 590-2146 *Fax:* (215) 590-2526
Email: johnston@chop.edu

Chair-Elect
Ed Hammond, Ph.D., Duke University Medical Center
Ph: (919) 684-6421 *Fax:* (919) 684-8675
Email: HAMM001.MC.DUKE.EDU

Membership Chair
Mike Glickman, Computer Network Architects, Inc.
Ph: (301) 340-7955 *Fax:* (301) 279-2211

International Affairs Chair
Scott West, Software Technologies Corporation
Ph: 32(6)323-59-09 *Fax:* 32(6)323-59-10

IAB Chair
Frank Cavanaugh, Coopers & Lybrand
Ph: (312) 701-5595 *Fax:* (312) 701-6540
Email: Internet FCAVANAU@REACH.COM

HPAB Chair
Sam Schultz II, *Ph*.D., University Hospital Consortium
Ph: (708) 954-1700 *Fax:* (708) 954-5886
Email: SCHULTZ%IS@MAILGATE.UHC.EDU

Technical Committee Chair
John Quinn, Ernst & Young
Ph: (216) 861-5000 ext. 5313 *Fax:* (216) 861-8832
Email: jquinn@jquinn.win.net

Technical Committee Secretary
Jeff Gautney, Ernst & Young
Ph: (412) 644-5316 *Fax:* (412) 644-0676
Email: JEFFGAUTNEY@POPLAR.ANES.UPMC.EDU

HL7 TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

ADT/Finance/Inter-Enterprise Committee
Robert Burkhead, Oacis Healthcare Systems
Ph: (415) 925-4423 *Fax*: (415) 925-4455
Email: rburkehea@oacis.com

Jim Demetriades, Software Technologies Corporation
Ph: (818) 445-7000 *Fax*: (818) 445-5548
Email: jtd@stc.com

Robert Evola, Alltel Information Services, Healthcare Division
Ph: (404) 847-5304 *Fax*: (404) 847-5700
Email: Compuserve 71251,3031

Joe Peterson, Wismer*Martin
Ph: (509) 466-0396 *Fax*: (509) 466-2183
Email: Compuserve 71530,2552

Control/Query Committee
Mark Shafarman, Oacis Healthcare Systems, Inc.
Ph: (415) 925-4570 *Fax*: (415) 925-4455
Email: mshafarm@oacis.com

Pat Cahill, Mayo Foundation
Ph: (507) 284-2737 *Fax*: (507) 284-0796
Email: pcahill@mayo.eduion

Implementation Committee
Susan Campbell, Andersen Consulting
Ph: (415) 546-8513 *Fax*: (415) 546-8630

David Kates, Cerner Corporation
Ph: (816) 221-1024 *Fax*: (816) 474-1742

Information Management (Medical Records)
Wayne Tracy
Ph: (913) 897-3670 *Email*: wrtracy@wrt.win.net

Joan O'Brien, Emory University System of Healthcare
Ph: (404) 727-4353 *Email*: Joan_OBrien@EUSHC.ORG

Order Entry/Clinical Observation Committee
Clem McDonald, MD, Regenstrief Health Center - Indiana University
Ph: (317) 630-7070 *Fax*: (317) 630-6962
Email: clem@regen.rg.iupui.edu

Hans Buitendijk, SMS
Ph: (610) 219-2087 *Fax*: (610) 647-1328
Email: witch!shrmed.com!Hans.Buitendijk

Quality Assurance and Data Modeling Committee
Mead Walker, SMS
Ph: (610) 219-1504 *Fax*: (610) 219-1655
Email: MWALKER@SMS-HDX.MHS.CompuServe.com

Ted Klein, HBO & Company
Ph: (516) 435-2300 ext 2425 *Fax*: (516) 231-2577
Email: pp000038@interramp.com

Abdul-Malik Shakir, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan
Ph: (510) 271-6856 *Fax*: (510) 271-6859
Email: 74353.1431@Compuserve.com

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Automated Data
Wayne Tracy
Ph: (913) 897-3670 *Email*: wrtracy@wrt.win.net

Scott West, Software Technologies Corporation
Ph: 32(6)323-59-09 *Fax*: 32(6)323-59-10

Object Broker Technologies
Chair, OLE Subgroup
Wes Rishel, WiSE Communications
Ph: (408) 376-0250 *Fax*: (408) 376-0506
Email: wes@wes.win.net

Chair, CORBA Subgroup
Larry Streepy Jr., Healthcare Communications, Inc.
Ph: (214) 851-7035 *Fax*: (214) 851-7045
Email: streepy@healthcare.com

Patient Care

Kathy Milholland, *Ph*.D., RN, American Nurses Association
Ph: (202) 651-7060 *Fax*: (202) 651-7001
Email: kmilholl@ana.org

Karen Keeter, IBM Corporation/ISSC
Ph: (404) 238-2903 *Fax*: (404) 238-2318
Email: Internet kkeeter@vnet.ibm.com

Version 3 Task Force

Wes Rishel, WiSE Communications
Ph: (408) 376-0250 *Fax*: (408) 376-0506
Email: wes@wes.win.net