Interoperability based on Web Services and a Federated Architecture

A Shane Brown PhD and Ulysses J Balis MD Pacific Knowledge Systems, Sydney Australia and University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA





Background:

Nearly four decades of Laboratory information systems development has passed with no attempt to demonstrate interoperability

Unlike some other developments, communication between laboratory information systems and other on-line repositories still requires specific interface development and associated expert support





Historical Setting:

- •HL.7 as a standard is not constrained
- Current interfaces remain point-to-point and require specialised support
- •As this type of interconnectivity increases, the complexity of the health care environment increases towards a technically unsustainable position
- •New modern standards of data representation and exchange are required.





The Challenge:

To address this deficit, a challenge was proposed to Vendors by the University of Michigan Pathology Informatics Group in Las Vegas in 2008 to collaborate to develop a true inter-system, operability

University of Michigan agreed to construct a Webservices cloud into which all participating vendors would attach in order to support cross system queries and responses.





Participants:

•Vendors who accepted this challenge included:

Atlas	Soft
McKesson	SunQuest
Pacific Knowledge Systems	TechniData

- Early in the development the NCI CaBIG also joined the pilot
- •The goal was to build a fully interoperable cloud service and provide a working demonstration at the Las Vegas meeting in one year's time.





Components considered for Use:

- eXtensible Markup Language (XML)
- Federated architectures
- Properly adjudicated namespaces and strongly typed concepts and data elements (ISO-11179)
- Service-oriented Architectures (SOAs) and normalized data models
- Grid Computing
- Cloud Service Architectures
- De-identification Algorithms





Achievements from the Pilot:

- A strong partnership of Academia and Government with Vendors
- A working example of a complex federated web architecture
- •Transfer of data between organisations using a deidentification algorithm
- Cloud services serving all members of the federated architecture
- •Value added services delivered from the "cloud" providing compliance with federation rules, decision support and interpretative services





LabWizard in InterOp Project

Personalized Interpretive Reports Integration

5. Aggregated patient results from all responding sites are supplemented with personalized interpretive report and returned to requesting LIS

4. Remote Server Returns an Interpretation message to the cloud via an internal services-level

LabWizard Server

LIS



Interop 'Cloud'



1. Original. patient hash query submitted to cloud





2. Subsequent hash based query (and response) to each LIS site to obtain same-patient data across federation

Federated Sites (vendors)



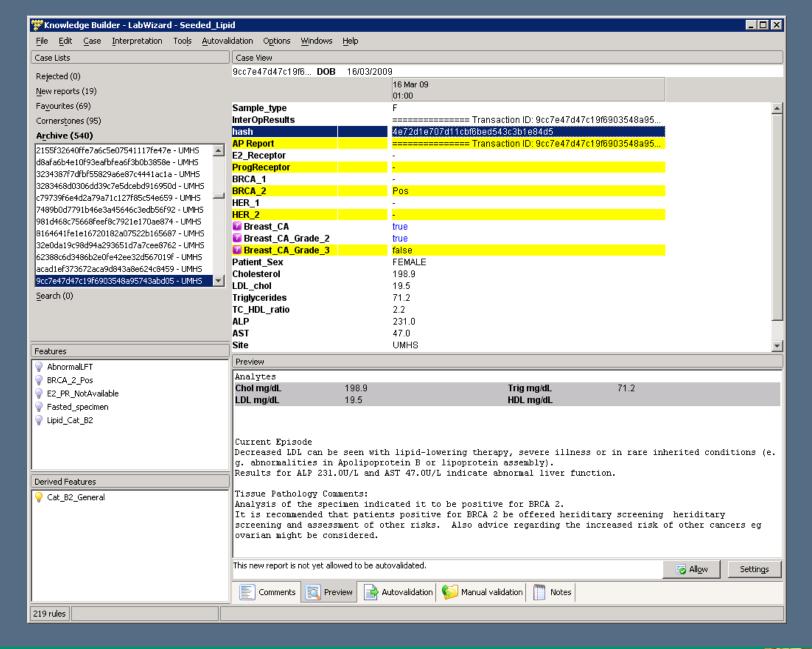




LIS





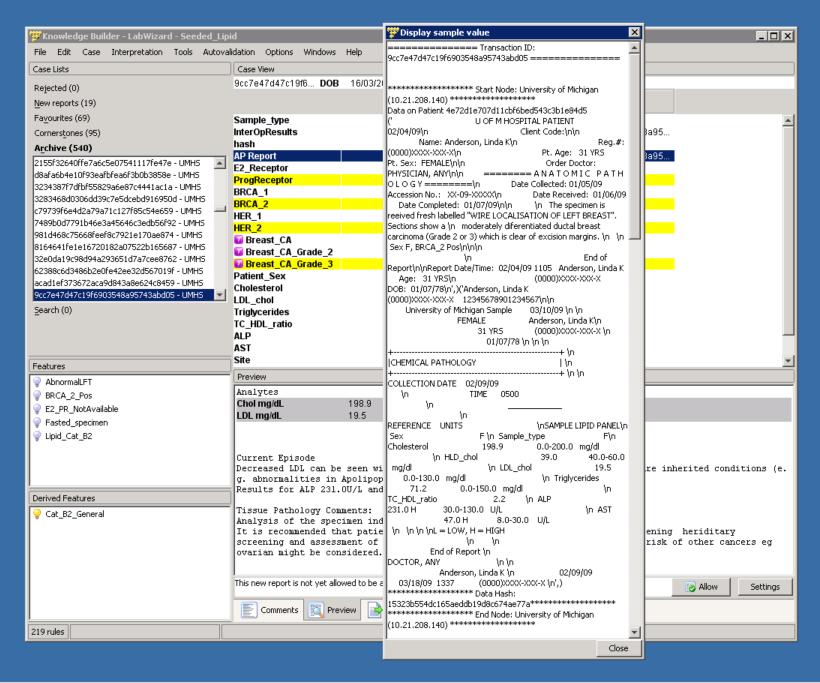


















Lessons from the Pilot:

- "Lite" developments can provide significant functional and operational advantages
- Major developments can be delivered easily from within existing systems
- •All members of a Federated Architecture benefit from services provided from the Cloud layer
- •Value added services delivered from the Cloud can provide compliance with federation rules, decision support and interpretative services



Why is knowledge valuable in the InterOp environment?

Knowledge can:

- aggregate non-standardised shared data
- determine atomic elements from unstructured data
- create <u>Information</u> from <u>Shared Data</u>
- be applied to the aggregated "information" and provide real time decision support for:
 - Processing information according to Federated system rules
 - Routing according local business requirements of each Federated participant
 - Applying Clinical Interpretations and recommendations





Benefits of Shared Information:

- InterOp provides opportunities for Vendor participation in data sharing at minimal costs from within existing applications. This can:
 - Provide a full patient centric view of available information, independent of source
 - Aggregate relevant clinical information directly with diagnostic results
 - Benefit patients and providers in provision of best practice care
- Providing personalised medicine using an evidence based approach, across both testing and consulting environments





Future Developments in LIS InterOp:

- Introduction of semantic standardisation to limit rules required for data processing
- Introduction of specified Data sets for extended pilot validation
- Inclusion of:
 - Inter-Federant processing rules
 - Agreed Interpretation guidelines
 - Site specific business rules (processing and workflow) and actions expected from the service layer





Potential Uses for Shared Knowledge Systems:

- Many e-Health systems are in a nascent status
- Until mature standards for complex clinical data exchange are agreed, application of knowledge can facilitate inter system data exchange
- In this regard, knowledge bases can provide:
 - decision support at all levels of a shared health record
 - automated actions to manage patient care via relevant clinical pathways
 - alerts and escalations across multiple clinical systems to ensure high levels of quality and safety.



