



OSEHRA

Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent

Repository Plan White Paper

19 August 2011

1. Purpose

This white paper provides an overview of the Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent (OSEHRA) repository, as it will commence operations on the OSEHRA Launch date of 19 August 2011, in support of Veterans Affairs (VA) Innovations Initiatives.

2. Reference

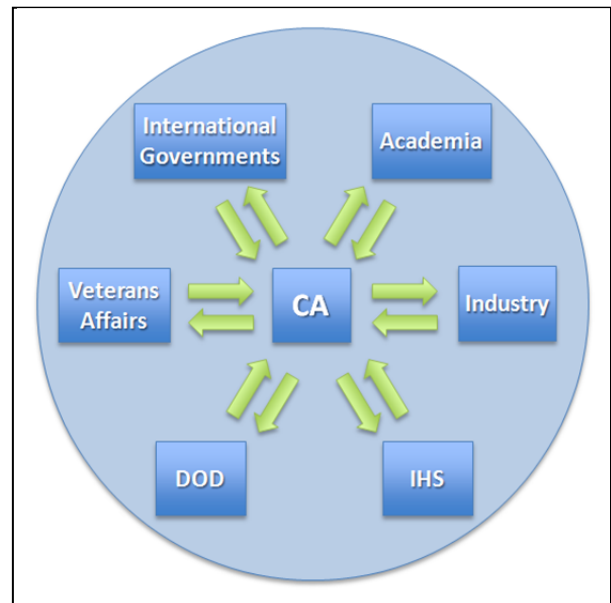
This information is extracted from the OSEHRA Draft Repository Plan, v0.90, dated 4 August 2011, which details the OSEHRA Repository Management Approach in its entirety.

3. Planned Actions

The code repository plan will be completed in two phases. Phase I will provide a read-only code repository containing a Veterans Health Information Systems and Technology Architecture (Vista) Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) release delivered by VA. Phase II will fully open the code repository to the community allowing all community members to make code contributions to the codebase.

The figure on the right illustrates the goal of the OSEHRA code repository, which is to provide a central repository for the Vista codebase and facilitate the acceptance of code contributions from the many stakeholders that utilize and/or develop Vista.

Phase I will start with the activation of a public code repository on 19 August 2011. On 20 August 2011 the agent will receive the Vista FOIA codebase from VA. This delivery will be formatted for the InterSystems Caché MUMPS environment. The delivery will be broken down into its constituent parts, organized as files on disk, and committed to Git, a distributed version



control system familiar to the open-source community. The procedure for importing VistA from the repository back into a MUMPS environment (InterSystems Caché or GT.M) will be supported by software tools and documentation. The codebase and associated materials will be made public on 18 October 2011.

In Phase II the OSEHRA will start to accept code contributions from the community. The repository will be the focus of community collaboration, facilitating open source development by tracking changes to the code base. The OSEHRA's Git repository will be made available on Github, a "social coding" site that allows anyone to make, share, and discuss proposed changes with the community. The use of code review tools and a technical journal, similar in function to the National Library of Medicine's Insight Journal (www.insight-journal.org), will allow peers to document and manage the flow of code contributions. During Phase II, the OSEHRA team will hold several meetings with VistA developer communities, such as VA, the Indian Health Service, VistA Commercial Companies, International Government Developers, DOD, and participants from the EHR community, to establish code contribution methods. Because of these discussions and subsequent technology driven interaction, the OSEHRA will put in place the necessary methods and procedures to start accepting code contributions from the participating EHR stakeholders no later than 31 January 2012.

4. Summary and Conclusions

The code repository will be the central focus for collaboration between developers in the open-source community, both inside and outside VA. The extraction of the code from the FOIA delivery and encapsulation within an open-source distributed version control system will provide the starting point for this open collaboration for the OSEHR.

The mechanisms defined to populate the repository with the initial VistA FOIA release have been prototyped and tested using a previous FOIA delivery, and are ready for formal adoption when the official delivery to the OSEHRA occurs on 20 August 2011. The initial VistA FOIA release provided to OSEHRA will become publicly available on a Git repository no later than 18 October 2011. Support for code contributions from all members of the community will be enabled by 31 January 2012.

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