



# OSEHRA

*Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent*

## COMMUNITY ENABLEMENT

19 August 2011

### 1. Purpose

This white paper provides an overview of the Open Source Electronic Health Record Agent (OSEHRA) Community Enablement actions, as it will commence operations on the OSEHRA Day 1 Launch date of 19 August 2011.

### 2. Reference

The information for this paper was taken from the OSEHRA Draft Community Enablement Plan, version 0.90, dated 4 August 2011, which describes the enablement approach in greater detail.

### 3. Planned Actions

Establishing an engaged and productive open source community is a vital component of the OSEHRA's effort. Operating an open source development community within the context of a traditional government enterprise presents a number of cultural challenges. As such, the successful fostering of an open source development community is as much a social versus a technological phenomenon.

The following actions will commence on 19 August 2011:

The OSHERA will begin community development by executing multi-dimensional outreach campaigns to the communities with "Strongest Ties" to the existing VistA codebase development process.

- VA VistA Programmers
- Hardhats
- WorldVistA, etc.

The outreach campaign will also include the identification of key thought leaders and organizations, communications in the form of electronic contact, face-to-face meetings, marketing, and the establishment of an online community that will enable membership enrollment.

- Initiate email invitations to prospective members with strongest VistA ties.
- Offer member profile pages for registered members.
- Implement welcome message and orientation for registered members.

The OSHERA will methodically expand its outreach efforts to related communities with Strong Ties, then Potential Ties, and concluding with outreach to those with No Existing Ties. Though it is critical to build a community from its most committed members, i.e., existing communities with strong ties to VistA, it is the new members with no ties to the current community who have the greatest innovation impact. The new members are the most likely to inject new skills, technology, and perspectives into the community.

- VA HIT Contractors (Strong Ties)
- Indian Health Service (Potential Ties)
- International Community (No Existing Ties)

The OSHERA will launch the Open Source Community Website that will provide access to wikis, the source code repository, educational forums and tools, etc. Information on the launch of the OSHERA website is provided in greater detail in the white paper titled Website Activation.

Regarding the initial code repository to be established by the OSHERA, it will be read-only and will integrate new Kernel Installations and Distribution System (KIDS) builds into the repository as they are released. The OSEHRA will work with developers within VA and the wider open source community, and demonstrate the current capabilities of the repository and associated development tools, provide training and gain feedback on the utility of the tools. The OSEHRA will also establish online educational resources around Open Source development that will fall into the 4 sections below:

- Section 1 will briefly explain the context for open source and why it is important to the OSEHRA.
- Section 2 lays out the concrete steps for establishing, managing, and distributing open source projects within the OSEHRA.
- Section 3 identifies programmatic procedures for the OSEHRA, including links to community wikis, the source code repository, community forums, issue trackers, quality control dashboards, mailing and membership lists, and educational resources including tutorials and documentation.
- Section 4 deals with life-cycle management: transition, operations and maintenance, and leveraging the developer community for ongoing development.

The OSEHRA will also set-up and beta test the community website with member profiles and Enterprise 2.0 SLATES tools embedded. In conjunction with the above, a coherent documentation portal will be created to link to the most relevant documentation resources that are available elsewhere. When appropriate, the documentation will be redistributed directly from this new web portal.

#### 4. Summary and Conclusions.

The OSEHRA will identify communities to recruit into the open source community; provide them with development tools and documentation to facilitate participation in the community; furnish innovation support; offer multimedia educational resources; and furnish business support and situational awareness services.

The OSHERA CE plan is designed to be full spectrum, from initial touch points through the life cycle management of open source innovation to the VA bedside or market.

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