**Electronic Services and Tools**

**Mission**

The Electronic Services and Tools Work Group supports the HL7 mission by optimizing all forms of electronic interaction with HL7.org as well as the tools to facilitate the development, adoption and use of HL7 standards, according to the requirements of the HL7 Board and membership needs

Electronic services comprise interactions with HL7.org either via the Internet or e-mail that includes, but are not limited to:

* Hosting a web site [http://www.hl7.org] that provides useful information to the public while serving the needs of the HL7 members.
* Maintaining list servers to facilitate member interaction.
* Electronic tools necessary for production and publication of standards
* Electronic tools that support implementers in understanding and applying standards

Electronic services do NOT comprise the interchange of HL7 messages or other specifications.

**Charter**

**Work Products and Contributions to HL7 Processes**

The Electronic Services and Tools Work Group will use the principles and language of the Services Aware Interoperability Framework (SAIF) Canonical Definition (CD) to implement/acquire tools and services that are in compliance with the principles and language of the SAIF CD. Work products include:

* **HL7 Web Site:** The Work Group oversees the entire HL7 web environment, ensuring an environment that enables the objectives stated above in the Mission.
* **Other Electronic Services:** Other services overseen by the Work Group (and included in their prioritized project plan) include HL7 list servers, GForge and electronic publishing of HL7 ballot materials.
* **Electronic Services and Tools Work Group Project Plan:** Requests and suggestions for HL7 electronic services (such as the creation of a new web page or adoption of a new tool) are to be submitted to the Work Group, where they are added to a prioritized project plan (subject to TSC revision and approval). These requests will need to include a description of the project, along with an estimation of the amount of work involved to both build and maintain the material.
* **Tool support**: Recommendations to the HL7 Board and Technical Steering Committee regarding tools support for the HL7 standards.
* **Tool Lifecycle Management**: The Work Group manages the policies and processes that accomplish the functions of requirements management, configuration management, and deployment management of HL7 developed, endorsed, and/or fostered tools. This includes mechanisms for testing, evaluating, managing releases, funding, and harmonizing tools work from independent sources.
* **HL7-owned technology guidance**: The Work Group will provide guidance for architecture and technical standards, configuration, development scheduling, technical support and infrastructure for HL7 owned technology.
* **License Allocation**: The Work Group liaises with tool vendors to provide software for HL7 member's use.
* **Training**: The Work Group will provide training and documentation for tools and electronic services in collaboration with the Education Work Group.

**Formal Relationships With Other HL7 Groups**

All recommendations and prioritizations of the Electronic Services and Tools Work Group are subject to TSC approval.

* The Work Group is subject to oversight by the Technical Services Support Steering Division and from them to the Technical Steering Committee.
* The Work Group will work with the Architecture review Board (ArB) as needed to ensure that the HL7 standards are sufficiently supported by automated tools and services and will follow the ArB recommendations with respect to requirements and priorities.
* The Work Group will work with the Publishing Work Group to harmonize requirements, plans, resources and strategies for tools related to publishing the HL7 standards, as well as to ensure a consistent look and feel on HL7’s web site.
* The Work Group will work with the HL7 Marketing Committee to ensure that the services, tools and web site present the brand appearance that is desired by HL7 International.
* The Work Group will work with the Modeling and Methodology Work Group to ensure that the tools appropriately support the HL7 standards development methodology.
* The Work Group will work with the Implementation and Conformance Work Group to receive recommendations and feedback about HL7 tools from the perspective of standards implementers.
* The Work Group will work with the Education Work Group to ensure that appropriate materials are available for HL7 tools users to support training, use, and further development.
* The Work Group will work with all HL7 Work Groups developing content to be published with the HL7 International brand to make recommendations for services and tooling development or enhancement to ensure their work is supported. **All HL7 Work Groups are responsible for ensuring adequate participation and representation in the Work Group’s sponsored discussions to support this objective**

**Formal Relationship With Groups Outside of HL7**

The Electronic Services and Tools Work Group will work with all organizations that sponsor services, tools or web sites to assist HL7 with the development, maintenance or services that support our products and services.

A designated member of the Work Group will serve as the HL7 liaison to the Open Health Tools (OHT) consortium, subject to the approval of the CTO, to assist with continuous alignment of HL7’s requirements and methodology with the OHT projects developing tools supporting the development and use of HL7 specifications.

**Informal Relationships**

On occasion, a Board-approved relationship between the Work Group and an HL7 member organization may be established for enhancing contributions towards HL7's tools, services, funds or other resources.