

Newsletter 01/08

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

You have recently requested membership to the Open eHealth Foundation. We apologize for the delay in our reply. However, we have been working hard to set up the Foundation and to develop more detailed content within the framework that will become the leading platform for interoperability in eHealth.

In this newsletter we would like to give you an overview of our current activities, and we would like to ask for your understanding that these things need time.

It is the goal of the founders to provide the infrastructure and the initial base for collaboration in a growing community as soon as possible. For this reason, activities have already started in several areas. The following articles will give you an inside perspective and an outline of the work that has been done and that is ongoing, and on the tasks which will be carried out in the future.

We hope we will keep you interested and that you will continue to back the Foundation on its way into the future.



Sincerely yours,

Alexander Ihls
Head of Global Standards Office, ICW AG

Orlando - the story begins!

Here you can see some pictures of the press conference and the official signing of the LOIs upon the establishment of the Open eHealth Foundation.



Incorporation - the legal tasks!

To obtain the legal capacity a lot of tasks must be carried out. Like a lot of other foundations in the open source community, we decided to become a non-profit corporation under the Delaware General Corporation Law (DGCL). The Corporation will apply for tax-exempt status as a business league in compliance with section 501(c)(6) Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

Following the decision made by the boards of the three founding companies, the members of the initial Board of the Open eHealth Foundation have been nominated. In detail, the initial board will comprise:

Evgueni Loukipoudis, Agfa Healthcare
Thomas Liebscher, InterComponentWare AG
Lindsay Strait, Sun Microsystems

The CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION will be exhibited in the coming weeks, and the bylaws will then be passed by the board at their first official meeting.

As soon as the incorporation is complete, we will provide membership application forms on the homepage (<http://www.openehealth.org>) and all interested parties will be able to legally join the Foundation.

According to the planned bylaws we will look for various people who would like to support the Foundation with their contribution of time and commitment. We will have to staff the positions of Treasurer and Secretary, amongst other Officers.

These positions are all honorary, and the compensation of the officers, if any, shall be determined from case to case by resolution taken by the entire Board of Directors.

In addition to these organizational regulations, we are working on the acceptance criteria needed to develop the "Contribution Agreement". This agreement must be signed by all members who are interested in contributing code in one or more of the Foundation's projects. All members will have the right to submit new projects using a "project application form" that is also under development.

The third scope in the legal area has the task of selecting a license which best supports our goals. We are looking for a license that will give us the security to develop truly free and open sources but which also will also enable the world to use the sources in commercial products.

All these legal tasks will be completed in **April/May 2008** and we will inform you about important milestones as they are reached.

The Homepage: <http://www.openehealth.org>

As you all know, the current homepage is not very prolific and the content is limited to the information we showed at the press release in Orlando.

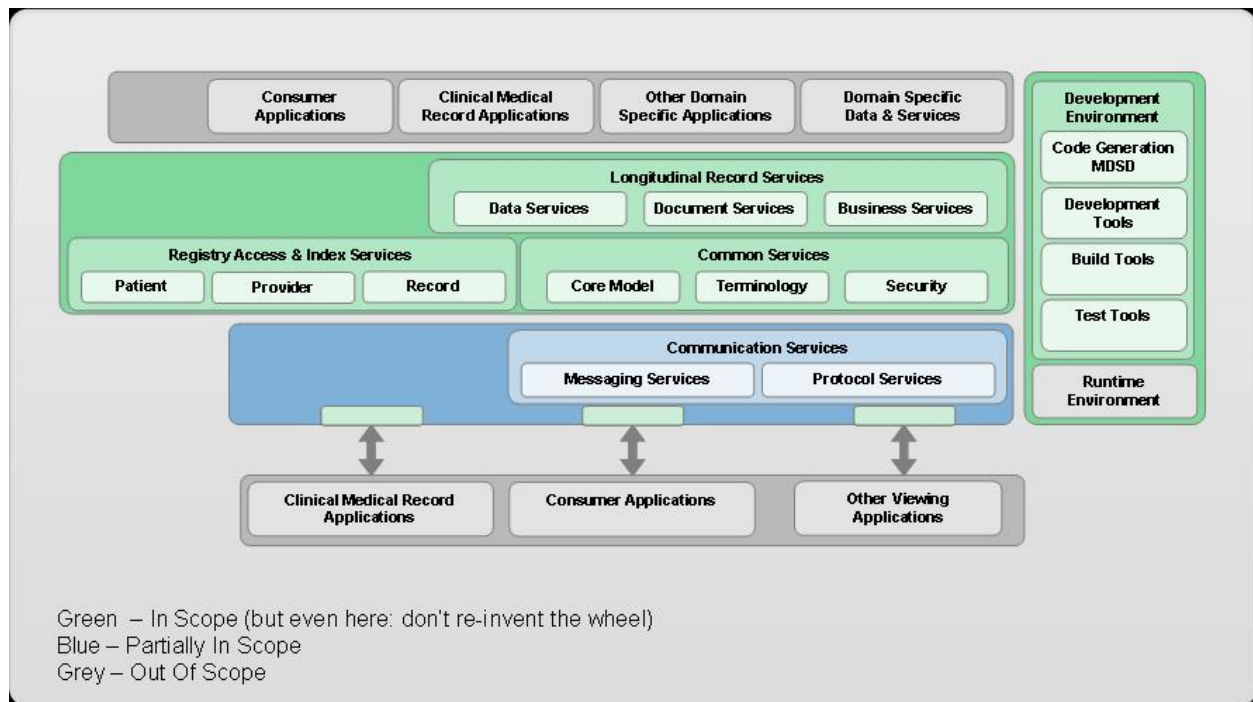
One reason for this situation is the ongoing incorporation of the Foundation. This prevents us from showing more detailed information on the structure, membership and the bylaws. But, as mentioned above, this will change soon and we will provide all these elements as soon as possible after clarification.

You may have seen that the homepage is technically based on a wiki (<http://www.wikispaces.com>).

When the next major content changes are made, we will also re-configure the security configuration, which will enable you to use all functionalities after joining the wikispace.

Open eHealth Framework - a first glimpse!

We have already held a couple of meetings within the process of preparing the initial drafts of the Open eHealth Framework description. Although that there is a lot of movement in this area, the following picture should give you a preliminary overview and an idea of what the focus of the Framework will be:



In the next few weeks we will publish detailed information on the Framework and its infrastructure on our homepage.

Developer's at Work!

When the initial members of the Foundation met at HIMSS 2008 in Orlando, we agreed that we should work aggressively to produce a successful showcase in time for HIMSS 2009. To meet this important milestone, we've agreed to meet for a one week development Sprint each month. So far, we have already had two successful Sprints!

What is a Sprint? It is a compact development cycle focused on specific uses-cases. The use-cases are selected prior to the beginning of and refined on the first day of the Sprint. On the last day of the Sprint, the progress for the week is summarized and follow-up activities are defined and assigned.

Sprint #1 was held at ICW's office in Walldorf, March 17 - 19 2008. Each of the three founding members were represented. During the Sprint, the overall technical scope of the foundation was discussed and the initial use cases were selected.

Sprint #2 was held at Agfa's offices in Bonn, April 7 - 11 2008. Once again, each of the founding members were represented by a total of twelve engineers. At the end of the Sprint, the Sprint team successful demonstrated a complete slice through the entire OeHF technology stack! A very simple Flex-based front-end used a Composition Module to successful aggregate healthcare data from two distinct backend sources.

Complete Sprint Reports will be uploaded to the OeHF website, as soon as they are available.