

Filling the void between standards, common architecture and implementation – is IHE “the one”?

Peter MacIsaac

The standing joke about health IT standards is that they are great because there are so many of them to choose. Of course you have to be a serious e-health nerd to understand the joke, and seriously cynical to find it funny. This workshop led by a group of local and international experts from the vendor and systems integration community. You will understand why the traditional approach to standards development has failed to gain traction when it comes to implementation and solving problems. Standards are essential building blocks yet IT is now in a “post standards age”. The complexities of the business environment, workflow, and a whole of systems approach are needed to ensure that health IT systems can integrate and interoperate– standards alone are not sufficient! There are already enough sources of fragmentation in health across the public/private and hospital/community divides without adding further barriers through e-health.

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) is an international group tackling these problems: linking users, vendors and standards makers to create pragmatic solutions to clearly identified problems. IHE profiles or solutions can be incrementally delivered by vendors and build a coherent interoperability architecture for the health sector, just as has happened in banking, transport and a myriad of other industries over the past decades. An architecture for healthcare: Nerds, cynics and the frustrated are asking “Is IHE – the one? ”

At this workshop you can hear “the talk” about IHE and during the conference exhibit you can do “the walk” and see how e-health can make a difference, using today’s technology, implemented by leading Australian and international vendors.

Workshop leaders:

Peter MacIsaac (Clinical Informatician – EDS and Queensland Health)

Chris Lindop (System Engineer – GE Healthcare)