

Environmental Public Health Tracking Workshop

October 13-15, 2004

San Francisco, California

CALL FOR POSTER ABSTRACTS
Submission Deadline: August 31, 2004
E-mail Abstracts to srezai@cdc.gov

Topic Area: Standards & Network Development

Title: Integrating the Unknown: Building Standards-Based Systems in an Unruly World

Keywords: Standards, Network Development, Data Integration, IT, Data Collection, Analysis, Enterprise Application Integration, Data Dissemination, Data Sharing, EDI

Background: The need for electronic reporting and tracking at Washington State is at a critical point. We don't have the luxury of waiting for the process of design and standardization for an EPHT network to play out so that we can implement conforming technologies, and there is no certainty that when the EPHT network is implemented we will have the resources to replace existing systems with conforming technology. This forces us to find ways to develop systems that meet current needs *and* anticipate emerging standards.

Objective: To build an IT infrastructure that can support electronic data reporting and sharing *now* and immediately integrate with the EPHT Network when it is established.

Methods:

- Participate in the process of development of the EPHT Network. Influence the process, and be influenced by the process.
- Adopt XML as the standard for data definition and description internally
- Implement Asynchronous Messaging Pattern for Enterprise Application Integration
- Deploy XML-based data brokering server (Microsoft BizTalk 2004) to provide data transformation, routing, and workflow services for data inbound from multiple sources, and for data outbound to multiple sources, including the future EPHT Network.
- Ensure that applications currently in development are assembled such that they will operate under the given enterprise integration strategy.
- Emphasize evolution. It's ultimately less costly in blood and dollars than revolution.

Anticipated Results:

- Solving critical problems now frees up resources for evolution in the future.

- Asynchronous Messaging Pattern balances physical and virtual load on systems, and is easily adaptable to future needs
- Solution development costs trend downward long-term
- Data flexibility is maximized by use of transformation technologies• Lifecycle of existing and future systems is increased

Evaluation: Evaluation of implementation of Microsoft BizTalk 2004 technology in Washington Department of Health's information technology context will take place in winter of 2004. In addition to quality assurance testing, the evaluation will also address the extent to which this technology improves the ability of various surveillance systems at DOH to receive reportable information that is more complete and more timely.

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