



Charter for the Open Health Tools SNOMED CT Tooling Project

Overview

The Open Health Tools SNOMED CT Tooling Project is an open software development project, which aims to provide second generation tools which can be used to develop, maintain, promote and enable the uptake and correct use of SNOMED CT in health systems around the world.

Tools developed through the project will be designed in accordance with the standards published by the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO – www.ihtsdo.org) and are intended to be to be an integral part of a wider suite of tools covering messaging, conformance/testing and clinical content modelling.

The toolset will be based on the Eclipse Platform and/or Eclipse Tools; some existing tools will be donated that may not be Eclipse-based, but the intention for all future work is to converge on an Eclipse platform.

The project charter is a living document that will be updated to reflect the evolution of the mission and development processes over time.

Mission

The mission of the SNOMED CT Tooling Project is to provide a technical architecture and the key components of a SNOMED CT development and implementation environment based on the Eclipse software platform that will

- Enable fast and efficient development of SNOMED CT content
- Provide tools to support uptake and implementation of SNOMED CT in health records systems globally
- Provide tools to facilitate and encourage the encoding of electronic health records by healthcare practitioners, using SNOMED CT.
- Encapsulate best practice in the implementation of SNOMED CT

The project will run alongside sibling projects (HL7 Tooling, HL7 Conformance, Content Modelling) with the aim of developing complementary tooling modules designed to deliver an integrated environment for developing interoperability and conformance specifications.

The SNOMED CT Tooling Project is intended to:

1. provide terminologists with an integrated environment and tools required for the development, maintenance and distribution of SNOMED CT and related terminology products (such as translations, cross-maps and reference sets)
2. enable collaborative working in an international context on the development of SNOMED CT editions, with safe and controllable configuration management, that supports the policies and procedures of the IHTSDO
3. enable collaborative working in a national context on the development of SNOMED CT editions, including translation
4. provide implementers of SNOMED CT enabled healthcare systems with effective tools for the integration of SNOMED CT releases into their solutions, including tools which improve the user-interface for encoding of data into healthcare records
5. provide tools to assist the integration of SNOMED CT with other standards (e.g. WHO Family of International Classifications, HL7 V3, openEHR archetypes)
6. provide reference implementations of SNOMED CT



Scope and Expected Contributions

The scope of the SNOMED CT Tooling Project will in time encompass a wide variety of both small subprojects, and a few larger ones. While anticipating diversity in the content of these activities, from a process-oriented viewpoint they will all share important common characteristics, which argues for a common management envelope:

- Focus on pre-competitive development and research
- Use of formal and informal development processes
- Fluid project tracking due to frequent plan changes
- Flexible milestones which adapt based on partial results
- Small teams

The SNOMED CT Tooling Project serves as a single point of focus for such teams, and provides them with a home within the IHTSDO and OHT community, to encourage communication, and where appropriate, collaboration and coordination amongst software developers. By providing common management for these projects OHT can facilitate maximum sharing and creation of common components, and avoid redundant efforts.

There are expected to be a number of candidate projects available for sharing via OHT already, from members of the IHTSDO and the broader terminology community. It is expected that an early set of donations would include tools for Request Submission and Terminology Distribution with Electronic Licensing. The IHTSDO is currently developing a substantial technical road map, which will drive the implementation agenda. Members of the IHTSDO are already liaising on key aspects of tool development, and the IHTSDO is keen to leverage collaboration opportunities through OHT. The IHTSDO and a number of its Members (particularly NHS and NEHTA) have indicated their support for this project. Each of these are working towards contributions in the first year of operation. Through the IHTSDO we hope to increase the number of sponsors over time.

It is essential that the SNOMED CT Tooling Project is coordinated with the sibling projects within OHT in order to ensure the delivery of an integrated development and conformance environment delivered through a shared artefact repository. The list of subprojects under the Eclipse technology PMC will be maintained as an addendum to this charter.

IP Issues

All contributors are assumed to freely participate in IP sharing without restriction. OHT Developers can apply through OHT for a worldwide, royalty-free, non-exclusive, non-transferable, and non-sub-licensable license to create, develop and license, to OHT only, SNOMED CT-related Software that the OHT Developer creates or develops as a contribution to an Approved OHT project.

Deviations

None anticipated.