

Concept Model SIG

A Retrospective and Prospective View
from David Markwell for the
Implementation & Innovation Committee
2009-08-17

Past views and a current perspective

- Review at the last meeting of the CMWG
 - (and/or) the first meeting of the CM-SIG?
 - **May 2007**
 - **priorities/actions agreed/recommended at meeting**
 - **August 2009**
 - **Personal observations of current status based on visible activity on the collaborative site or meeting announcements and notes**

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List - progress notes

- **1. Documentation of the concept model**
 - **Ab 1, Low 0, Medium 0, High 42**
 - Good progress by IHTSDO in coverage and accessibility of documents
 - However, still room for improvement to meet the requirements (as stated in the early MRCM work) of a fully aligned human readable and computer processable view that can readily used by developers and processed by implementers
- **2. Documentation process**
 - *GENERAL - not specific CMWG*
 - **Ab 1, Low 0, Medium 3, High 38**
 - Good progress by IHTSDO in coverage and accessibility of documents
 - However, there is (will always be) room for more improvements
- **3. Technical representation of concept model**
 - **Future discussion on collab site**
 - Became the MRCM Project (visibly active)
 - See separate progress report from Jeremy Rogers

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List - progress notes

- **5. Observable and investigation modeling and terminology convergence project**
 - **Notes**
 - Costs of implementation high without solving this early
 - Splitting issue of LOINC and Observables
 - **Observable / Measurement procedure model revision**
 - Priority Ab 2, Low 0, Med 1, High 37
 - **Observable and Investigation Model Project** (visibly active)
 - » Significant progress in theoretical design but still some way from a release that addresses the practical issues for implementers
 - **Recommend MB to pursue**
 - LOINC IP issues
 - » For 39 Ag 0, Abstain 1
 - IFCC/IUPAC IP issues
 - » For 24, Ag 0, Abstain 15
 - **Meetings and constructed discussions but practical impact of this is not readily visible from outside the MB/Harmonisation Boards**

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List - progress notes

- 6 Anatomy model review and revision project
 - CMWG recommendation → MB to pursue FMA to discuss any IP issues?
 - Priority: Ab 1, Low 0, Med 27, High 8
 - **Anatomy Model Project** (visible activity moderate/low recently)
 - Unclear when the practical changes will impact implementation.
- 7. Organism & Infectious Disease Modeling project
 - Priority: Ab 3 low 7 med 19 high 18
 - **Organism & Infectious Disease Modeling** (visible activity low recently)
 - Unclear when the practical changes will impact implementation.
 - Main threads earlier in year relate to specific high profile infections (e.g. Swine flu)
- 8. Substance and physical object modeling project
 - CMWG recommendation → MB to pursue harmonization with drug, devices and substance terminologies (subject to pharmacy WG agreement to this recommendation)
 - Priority for strategy: Ab4 med1 high 43
 - Priority of action: Ab2 low 11 med 32 high 3
 - **Substance Hierarchy Redesign Project** (no visible activity recently)
 - Getting more active right now with some resourced work

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List - progress notes

- 10. Event, condition and episode model
 - Priority: Ab 8, Low 8, Medium 18, High 4
 - Event, Condition and Episode Model Project (visibly active)
 - Developed a proposed flow chart to distinguish between finding, disorder, disease and event
- 11. Procedure modeling project
 - Priority: Ab 5, Low 19, Medium 11, High 5
 - No specific project group so remains in CM-SIG
 - Procedures in general are not a visibly active topic the group.
 - There have been discussions of some specific topics that are relevant (e.g. procedures applied to multiple sites)

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List – progress notes

- 12. Authority and realm dependent concept modeling project
 - Priority strategy: Ab 4, Low 20, Medium 10, High 6
 - No separate Project Group so remains in the CM-SIG but
 - No visible progress but this remains a significant issue for implementation as there is a tendency for implementers at national levels to assert some authority dependent requirements and meanings and to project these onto SNOMED CT content
- 13. Context model enhancement project
 - Priority: Ab 7, Low 3, Medium 16, High 17
 - No separate Project Group so remains firmly in the CM-SIG
 - The most pressing issue relates to the subject relationship context value hierarchy (i.e. Person) and although there are long standing proposals for this to be improved the latest International Release does not include these recommended changes. Planned for January 2010 release.
 - Other aspects of the context model also need to be considered to allow evolutionary improvement.

CMWG 2007-05-24 Project List - progress notes

- 9. Clinical record information representation project
 - Priority: Ab 3 low 4 med 24, high 11
 - HL7 TermInfo revision and review activities
 - Implementation SIG seems a more appropriate place for this work in future
- 4. Specific enhancement to concept model
 - Future discussion on collab site
- 14. Large number of other issues
 - Future discussion on collab site
 - Most obvious activities on both 4 and 14 have been collab site and meeting discussions on topics such as
 - Role group mergers, findings and procedures with multiple sites and other aspects of description logic as used in SNOMED CT
 - These general topics seem highly appropriate to the Concept Model as a whole and thus to the CM-SIG
 - Kent indicated it may be useful to post modeling issues from STS as this may identify more specific issue for CM-SIG consideration

CM-SIG in an ideal world

- An open point of access for anyone wanting to get involved in CM related discussions and developments
- A open group that
 - Develops informed consensus and advises the IHTSDO governance bodies about
 - Issues with the current Concept Model and possible solutions to those issues
 - Priorities for CM enhancements that would benefit from specific projects or IHTSDO resources
 - Coordinates projects that address CM issues
 - Reviews specific project developments for potential divergence
 - Enable consensus process to resolve overlaps and conflicts between CM aspects of projects that relate to the CM
- An informed and interested group to act as a sounding board for CM related issues and proposals arising from
 - Others SIGs, PGs, Committees and IHTSDO Officers
 - IHTSDO Member organisations with CM related concerns and requirements
 - IHTSDO Affiliate organisations and educators

CM-SIG in the real world

- An open point of access for anyone wanting to get involved in CM related discussions and developments
- A open group that
 - Has limited time to interact
 - At meetings due to scheduling clashes
 - Between meeting due to competing priorities
 - Is willing to contribute within those constraints
 - Has a sense of déjà-vu
 - Unimplemented recommendations end up being recommended again every couple of cycles
 - Lacks direct connection with those setting policy and doing the practical modeling
 - Is unable to effectively coordinate CM related projects due to
 - Overlapping meeting times
 - Pressures on time causing narrowing of focus in individual projects
- An informed and interested group
 - However, member turn-over and other factors above mean it remains a meeting point for different ideas rather a source of a consistently informed view
 - While potentially capable of providing the IHTSDO and its officers with a sounding board it needs more proactive leadership to realise this

CM-SIG future directions

- The Concept Model is one of the foundation stones on which SNOMED CT is built
- An open group that provides coordinated input to the development of the Concept Model is a obviously a 'good idea'
- What is far less obvious is ...
 - how such a group should be organised, directed, encouraged and supported by the IHTSDO
 - how the output from such a group can be effectively utilised by the IHTSDO to enhance SNOMED CT in an evolutionary manner to address practical implementation requirements