
Open information standards

for health and social care

**Presented by
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Topics

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- Open Information Standards

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- Assurance and appraisal

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- Opportunities for HL7 UK
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An opportunity for discussion

Open information standards

UK Government policy overview

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Why

- Overwhelming support from the public and the IT community for setting an open standards policy for software interoperability, data and document formats
 - Nearly 70% of respondents believe the principles would improve innovation, competition and choice in the provision of government services; and
 - Over 70% agree that they would help improve value for money.
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Won't it promote anti-competitive behaviour?

- Most consultation respondents specified that current practices, on the contrary, are rather anti-competitive. Mandation of open standards would level the playing field and therefore improve competition among suppliers.
 - 69.2% declared that the proposed policy would be beneficial for innovation and competition in the UK and in Europe.
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Reasons offered in the consultation

- reduced risk of supplier lock-in;
 - greater choice;
 - faster migration / implementation;
 - reduced cost of integration specialists;
 - increased competition;
 - lower prices;
 - improved quality;
 - building on existing products;
 - enabling re-use and sharing across departments;
 - flexibility to change software components.
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Who is affected

- This policy and its principles refer to the Government in its roles as a purchaser of IT and to services delivered by, for, or on behalf of
 - central government departments,
 - their agencies,
 - non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and
 - any other bodies for which they are responsible.
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Who is influenced

- Local government,
- the wider public sector (including NHS)
- Devolved Administrations



encouraged to adopt the principles to deliver wider benefits.

Scope

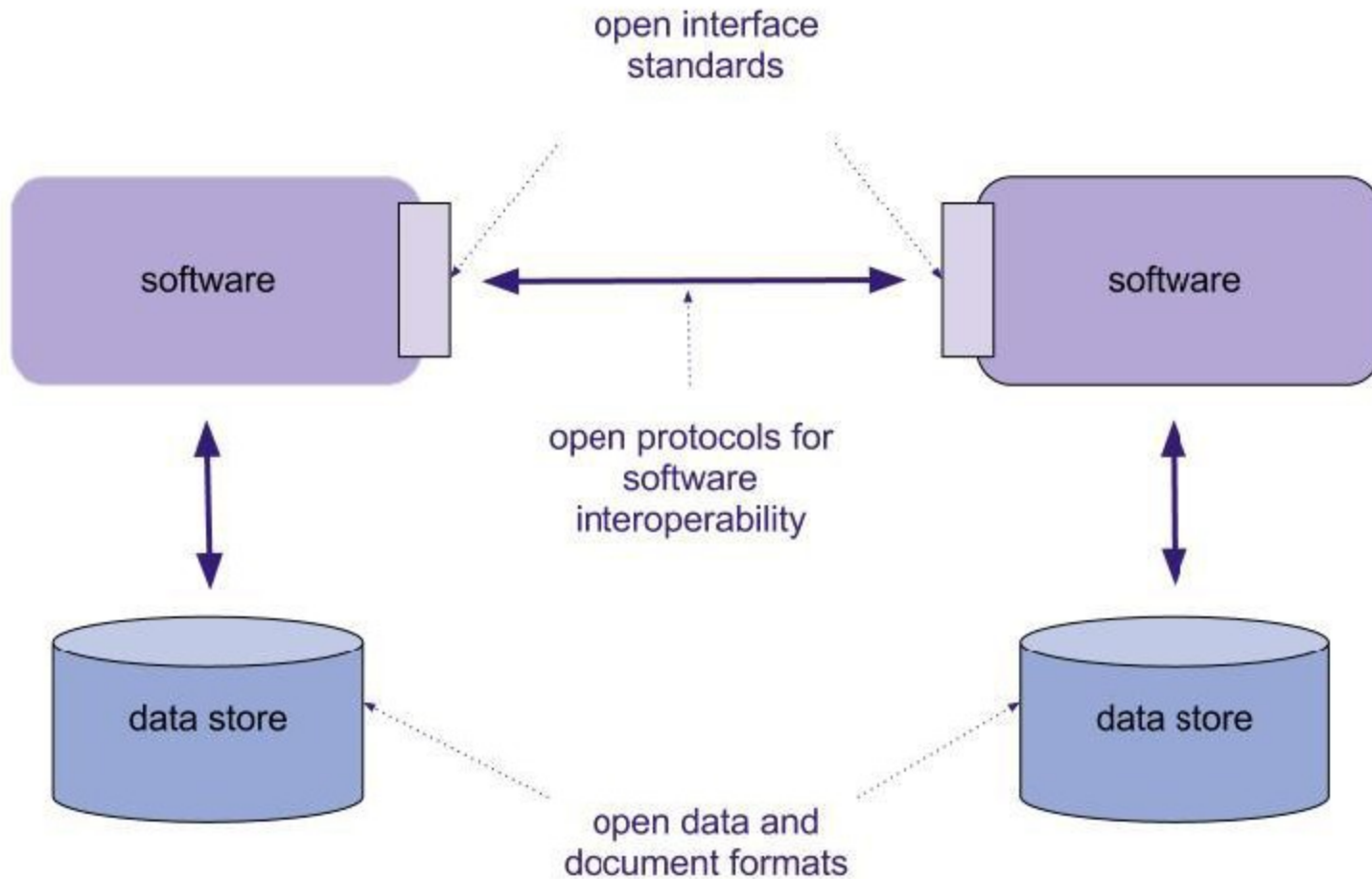


Figure 1 - Diagram illustrating the technical scope of the Open Standards Principles for software interoperability, data and document formats

1. Needs of users

- We place the needs of our users at the heart of our standards choices
- not force other users, delivery partners or government bodies, to buy the same product
- not impose undue cost on citizens and businesses
- clear about the user need and functional outcome for a standards-based solution in specifications

User focussed challenges used to identify pan-government standards based through the Standards Hub

2. Enable suppliers to compete

- open standards adhering to the definition described in this policy are adopted
 - whether they are designed and built in-house or outsourced, government bodies must require solutions that comply with open standards, unless there is a robust and transparent reason why this is inappropriate.
 - frameworks for procurements, must specify that open standards for software interoperability, data and document formats should be implemented
 - government bodies must ensure that IT standards are compliant with European Regulations.
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3. Standards support flexibility and change

- process
 - request proposals
 - result in adopted open standards or open standards profiles
 - each operational challenge has a senior level government sponsor (a Senior Responsible Owner) to
 - identify the business purpose
 - drive implementation.
 - subject matter experts, with implementation experience in government bodies, should participate in the committees of standardisation bodies
 - information and data must be shareable across government IT systems
 - Government bodies should expose application programming interfaces (APIs) for its services
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4. Open standards that support sustainable cost

- process must make an economic appraisal
 - Government bodies must specify compulsory open standards (or open standards profiles) for use within common government contexts
 - Government bodies that are identified as not adhering to the Open Standards Principles may have lower threshold for IT spend controls until alignment is demonstrated.
 - all exemptions to the open standards policy in specifications must be agreed by
 - The Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for open standards in government IT must agree above the spend controls threshold,
 - Departmental Accounting Officer below the Cabinet Office IT spend controls threshold.
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5. Decisions are well informed

- challenges published must describe specific operational requirements
 - selection criteria based on the output of the European Common Assessment Methodology for Standards Selection
 - recommendations shall be implementable and supported by the market
 - selection criteria must consider
 - security and legal requirements;
 - user and operational needs;
 - context;
 - economic efficiency;
 - interoperability;
 - market support;
 - potential for lock-in;
 - the criteria for open standards
 - and maturity.
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6. Fair and transparent – selection process

- process must be transparent and collaborative to support continuous engagement and implementation improvements.
 - meetings and discussions must be published and public engagement must be supported
 - transparent feedback facility must be provided Hub to allow implementers and subject matter experts to report issues with open standards that have been selected as compulsory for use in government IT.
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Fair and transparent - specification

- bodies must provide publicly available information on their alignment with compulsory open standards
 - agreed exemptions to the open standards policy must be published, detailing the standards specified and the reasons for exemption,
 - extensions and profiles will be made freely available
 - tender process for IT contracts must be transparent
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The 5 phases for Government

Suggest

- CTO Executive seek and approve suggestions

Challenge

- Challenge owner champions the challenge
- Active crowd sourcing to solicit comments

Propose

- Challenge owner refines comments into **one or more** proposals

Recommend

- Standards panel appraises proposals for Open Standard Board
- Open Standards Board recommends proposals for adoption

Adopt

- Adoption is tracked
- Supported by crowd sourcing

Development, selection and appraisal

**Of information standards
and data collections**

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Why change

- The Health and Social Care Act powers to
 - Publish Information Standards
 - Collect data
 - Single group to commission information standards and data collections
 - HM Government open standards policy
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Timetable for change

- Maintain the existing ISB process throughout 2013
- New process will apply for standards reviewed in 2014

Assurance and Appraisal

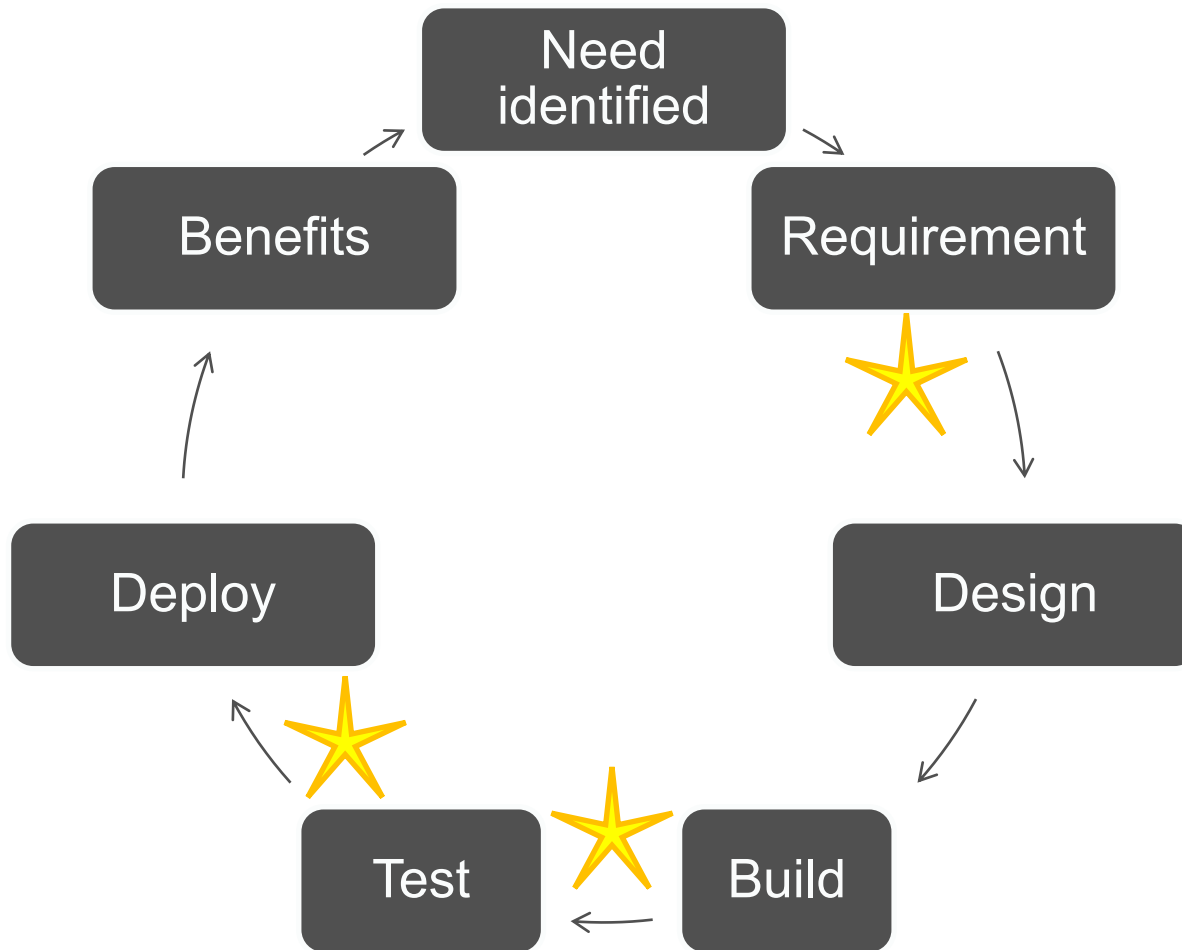
Assurance

- Confidence or certainty in one's own abilities*
 - Delivered through the Information Standards Development Methodology
 - Part of governance
- Ability to deliver the benefits of the business change

Critical appraisal

- An act of assessing something or someone*
 - at key points in the life-cycle

Life long assurance and critical appraisal



Appraisal will check the standard ...

- meets business need
 - enables a level playing field
 - is implementable, mature, and has market support
 - explains the impact of its adoption, including all burden
 - meets the Government's open standards principles
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Comparison of approach

ISB

- Selected appraisers
- No opportunity for other stakeholders to influence
- Approved by a representative board

New service

- Open to any stakeholder
 - Summarised by dedicated team
 - Reviewed by a scrutiny committee
 - Approved by ISCG or a sub-committee
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Scope

- meets business need
- enables a level playing field
- is implementable, mature, and has market support
- explains the impact of its adoption, including all burden
- meets the Government's open standards principles



Interoperability

of

- computer systems
- healthcare delivery systems

across

- organisations, professions and clinical disciplines
 - national borders
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The critical appraisal process

Launch

Public online discussion

Public face to face discussion

Summarise

Review and recommendation

Opportunities for HL7-UK

and other membership organisations

A discussion ...

