



VSA Weekly News

July 28, 2006

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Hui OpenVista is a non-proprietary, open-source healthcare information system.

Message from the Chairman

Welcome to the new and improved VistA Software Alliance Newsletter. This publication is meant to keep you on top of the events of the week and reduce the amount of information stacking up in your inbox. If you have any suggestions, comments or concerns, please send them to Marlene Jones, our Executive Director. Her contact information is located on page 5.

The new VSA Board of Directors have been on the job for one month. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our out-going Board members and welcome our new members. You will find a list of the 2006-2007 Board of Directors on page 4.

Since the VistA Community Leadership and Membership Meeting at Shepherd University, two new committees have been formed: Governance and Business Development. If you would like to join any committee, please feel free to contact Marlene and she can put you in contact with the team lead for that committee. Also, committee reports can also be found on page 4.

Every other week, we will highlight an Organizational and Individual Member. If you have not sent Marlene the survey she sent out, please do so in order for your business to be listed.

Lastly, page 5 highlights upcoming events and conferences the VSA is represented. If you are not able to have a booth, but would like to attend and pull "booth bunny" duty, please contact Marlene.

-Claudine Beron, Chairman

Hui Turns Hui OpenVista™ over to Open Source VistA Governance Council

Press Release

LAUNCHES FINAL RELEASE OF Open Source Electronic HEALTH Record System

The Pacific Telehealth & Technology Hui ("Hui"), developers of Hui OpenVista, announced the transfer of development oversight of the EHR software to an Open Source VistA Governance Council.

Based on the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) robust VistA system made available to the public through the Freedom of Information Act, Hui OpenVista is a non-proprietary, open-source healthcare information system. The Hui, a joint venture of the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense, has pioneered the development of OpenVista in collaboration with VistA developers and programmers in the open source community.

Details - [Click Here](#)

Senate directs DOD to use VA EHR architecture

Bob Brewin / Govt. Health IT

The Senate directed the Defense Department to adopt the Department of Veterans Affairs' electronic health record (EHR) architecture in its version of the VA 2007 Appropriations bill approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee's Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on July 21.

In its version of the 2007 VA appropriations bill, passed last month, the House Appropriations Committee's Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Subcommittee used similar language, directing DOD and the VA to adopt identical software, data standards and data repositories for their EHR systems.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

"I am delighted to welcome David Nicholson as the new Chief Executive of the NHS."

Hewitt welcomes appointment of new NHS Chief Executive

Department of Health

Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt today welcomed the appointment of the new NHS Chief Executive, Mr David Nicholson.

David Nicholson, currently the Chief Executive of NHS London and former Chief Executive of Birmingham and the Black Country Strategic Health Authority will take up the post at the Department of Health from September.

Patricia Hewitt said: "I am delighted to welcome David Nicholson as the new Chief Executive of the NHS. With 25 years of experience under his belt, David is passionately committed to NHS values and has a proven track record of leading improvement and reforms that benefit patients.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

Microsoft to Offer Software for Health Care Industry

Steve Lohr / New York Times

Microsoft plans to offer software tailored for the health care industry, a change from its usual strategy of encouraging others to create industry-specific products using its operating system and programming tools.

The company's first step, announced yesterday, is to purchase clinical health care software developed by doctors and researchers at a nonprofit hospital in Washington, D.C. Microsoft is also hiring two of the three doctors who created the software system, and 40 members of the development team at Washington Hospital Center.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

Emerging Technologies Make Best Possible Medical Care More Accessible

By Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.)

In my home state of Washington, we know that technology can revolutionize businesses and communities. We've seen it with Microsoft, with biofuels and at our research universities.

And those of us whose communities it has touched know that it is far past time that we use that same innovation to transform our nation's healthcare system.

By expanding health information technology everywhere from bustling urban centers to rural America, we will see fewer medical errors, increased efficiency and healthier patients.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

Payers to lead EHR push; double-digit growth expected in IT spending, report says

Joseph Conn / Modern Healthcare

Payers will lead the charge in investment in electronic health-records systems over the next three years, but IT vendors of all stripes should be cheered by an estimated 15.8% per year compounded by annual growth rate in healthcare IT spending through 2015, according to a new market-spending forecast by health Industry Insights, a Framingham, MA-based healthcare IT market watcher and a unit of International Data Corp.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

VA Drops Credit Offer After FBI Says Data Is Safe

Jaikumar Vijayan / Computer World

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs last week withdrew its offer to pay for one year's worth of credit-monitoring services for the 26.5 million veterans and active-duty personnel whose data was exposed in the security breach at the VA.

The decision to cancel the offer was made because of the "high degree" of confidence expressed by the FBI that the data hadn't been accessed or compromised, VA Secretary R. James Nicholson testified at a Senate committee hearing last Thursday. The FBI, which recovered the stolen equipment on June 29, issued a final report to the VA on its evaluation of the data last week.

Article Continued - [Click Here](#)

Capitol Hill Update

House OKs 2010 deadline for ICD-10 conversion

Joseph Conn / Modern Healthcare

The House passed a health information technology bill 270-148, over opposition from a substantial number of Democrats concerned about the privacy implications. The bill, the Health Information Technology Promotion Act of 2006, now must be reconciled with a version that passed the Senate last year. The final House bill would set an October 2010 deadline for converting to ICD-10 billing codes from the current ICD-9 system. The Senate IT bill does not address ICD-10 conversion. The bill previously would have set an October 2009 deadline, but last night, the House voted to extend the deadline by one year. Some health industry groups had been pushing for a three-year extension. The bill also would create legal protections allowing hospitals to assist physician practices with certain types of IT investments without violating federal laws prohibiting physician self-referral and kickbacks for patient referrals.

[Link to H.R. 4157 Better Health Information System Act of 2006](#)

Transforming Healthcare: A Patient-Centered, Consumer Driven and Provider Friendly Vision

July 12th, 2006, Senator Frist addressed the National Press Club with the Summary of Key Policy Proposals. [Click Here](#) for full details highlighting several of the key policy proposals outlined.

Organizational Member Profile



perotsystems®

Perot Systems Healthcare has more than 7,500 global healthcare associates passionately committed to providing IT and business solutions for the healthcare industry. Our clients include five of the top 20 U.S. health systems, more than 570 healthcare providers and 125 health insurance organizations and thousands of caregivers.

Perot provides systems integration services, clinical transformation consulting, and revenue cycle guidance in conjunction with VistA solution services to our client base which includes five of the top 20 U.S. health systems, more than 330 healthcare providers, 60,000 physicians, 350 health insurance organizations, and a variety of leading biopharmaceutical and healthcare supply chain companies.

Perot Systems is currently partnering with other firms in pursuit of the commercial Vista market. Additionally, in response to increased customer interest in VistA, Perot Systems has formed a VistA Center of Excellence utilizing in-house and partner experience and skills.

Products and Services include: Integrated VistA-based Solutions, Client Assessment, Process Re-Engineering, Installation, Configuration, Customized Solutions, Training, Support and Hosted Applications.



VistA Software Alliance

Individual Member Profile

Tom Ackerman, is the President of M SYSTEMS PLUS, Inc.. He is a graduate of Georgia Tech and a Certified Data Processor (CDP, top 10% internationally) with over 45 years of information systems experience beginning as an Intelligence Systems and Management Analysis Officer in the US Air Force. Tom's experience includes programming and consulting with Arthur Andersen & Co. (in the early 1960s), systems and management positions with the State of Georgia, teaching, consulting and systems development for a wide range of clients including American Express, Emory University and the Veterans Administration. Tom has been an active member of the MDC (MUMPS Development Committee) the International Standardization organization for the M language, and is currently active in VistA software development for both medical and commercial applications with a worldwide team of M developers and systems specialists.

M SYSTEMS PLUS, Inc. is a company specializing in M (MUMPS) consulting and applications development.

Products supported: M, Cache, GT.M, and VistA

Services Provided: Assessment, Installation, Configuration, Training and Support.

Committee Status Reports

Governance Committee:

The VSA Governance Model Committee was initiated at the Shepherdstown VSA Meeting. Its purpose was to look into the topic of code repository models, including licensing structures, and propose to the membership at large a VSA code governance model. After two meetings it was discovered that Frank Fukunaga's group was already moving forward with an OpenVistA (OV) Steering Committee to create a governance model to support their business model.

It is anticipated that the OV SC will act as a pilot project for a successful VistA code repository.

The VSA Gov Mod Committee discussed these and related events in its meeting on Thursday July 13th. As a result of these discussions, the committee has moved and voted to change the committee's charter approach as follows:

It was re-affirmed that a Gov Mod Committee was needed to monitor and represent VSA member interests in any VistA code repository efforts. It was also agreed to make some changes in the Gov Mod Committee's approach to fulfilling its charter:

1. The VSA Governance Model Committee will change from a short-term research and recommendation group to a standing committee charged with coordinating code repository issues and efforts for the VSA member companies. We will follow closely the OV Steering Committee efforts as a pilot, and will discuss and recommend on any related issues from the perspective of VSA member companies.

2. The VSA GovMod Committee will now meet monthly (rather than weekly) on the second Thursday of each month at 4PM EST.

The call-in number is (877) 537-1634, code 3585915278.

3. Duncan Pringle, Chair of the VSA Gov Mod Committee, will represent the VSA on the OV Steering Committee. He will report back to the VSA Gov Mod Committee, which will discuss any issues and make recommendations to the OV Steering Committee.

The intent of these changes is to contribute in any way possible to making the OV Steering Committee code repository a success while ensuring the perspectives of VSA members are represented and expressed in that group, and while avoiding duplication of efforts.

Ultimately, the intent is to bring to life a successful VistA code repository model.

These changes are effective immediately.

The next meeting of the VSA Governance Model Committee is Thursday August 10th at 4PM EST.

Marketing Committee:

Last week the committee was asked to rank the top three conferences they wanted the VSA to attend in addition to HIMSS and TEPR. Listed are the conferences from most votes to least votes.

1. World Healthcare Innovation and Technology Congress
2. AMIA Annual Symposium
3. Veterans Affairs E-Health University Conference & Exposition
4. Healthcare Informatics Technology, "EHR - Solutions for Small Practices"

- continued -

5. AHIMA Annual Conference

6. 7th Annual Health IT Trends & Marketing Conference

The committee also voted unanimously to merge the Business Development and Marketing Committees, with the understanding that the Marketing Committee would hold break out sessions in preparation for conferences.

Business Development Committee:

The Business Development Committee held their first conference call on Wednesday, July 19th. Among the topics discussed was Growth in Membership (restructuring the membership tiers), creating a VSA Foundation and tackling the Strategic Plan.

Growth in Membership was tabled and a sub-committee was created to evaluate several membership tier models to be presented to the membership with final decision going to the Board. Also tabled was the VSA Foundation, with an action item for Marlene Jones to research the VA's Harvard Grant and for all committee members to forward any grants they feel should be considered. Legal considerations also need to be made before this topic can go forward.

All VSA members are asked to look at the Strategic Plan and take the initiative to complete a section. If you have not received an email message from Marlene Jones, please drop her a line and she will forward the plan to you.

2006-2007 Board of Directors

Claudine Beron, Chairman
 Duncan Pringle, Vice Chair
 Robert Misroon, Jr, Treasurer
 Roger Maduro
 Keith McCall
 Frank Fukunaga
 Barbara Boykin
 Blair Butterfield
 Ron Sullivan

[Hardhats-members] VistA Video

Nancy Anthracite

The video shown at the WorldVistA meeting at Robert Morris University and in my class at George Mason University can now be seen on the Web here: <http://www.innovations.va.gov>

Learn more about VistA

Video - [VistA: A Vision for the Future](#) ([Windows Media Player](#))

Video - [VistA: A Vision for the Future](#) ([Flash Player](#))

[Information Package](#) (7/12/06)

[Fact Sheet](#) (7/13/06)

[Frequently Asked Questions](#) (7/10/06)

Upcoming Events

7th Annual Health IT Trends & Marketing Conference
 July 31 - August 2
 Cambridge, MA
<http://www.medrecinst.com/conference/hit/index.asp>

Veterans Affairs E-Health University Conference & Exposition
 August 21 - 24
 Nashville, TN
<http://opensourcevista.net:8888/NancysVistAServer/VEHU/>

National Conference on Health Information Capture
 September 18 - 20, 2006
 Las Vegas, Nevada
http://www.medrecinst.com/conference/InfoCap/exhibitor_prospectus.pdf

AHIMA Annual Conference
 October 7-12
 Denver, CO
<http://www.ahima.org/convention/2006/index.asp>

Healthcare Informatics Technology, "EHR - Solutions for Small Practices"
 Theme: "From Zero to GUI: Going From Paper Charting to EMRs".
 October 20
 Seattle, WA

VistA Community Leadership and VSA Membership Meeting
 November 7-8
 Perot Campus, Plano, TX

AMIA Annual Symposium
 November 11-15
 Washington, DC
<http://www.amia.org/meetings/f06/>

* Red denotes VSA Participation

HIMSS 07
 February 25-March 1, 2007
 New Orleans, LA
<http://www.himss07.org/>

TEPR 07
 May 19-23, 2007
 Dallas, TX
www.tepr.com

VSA Weekly Newsletter

VSA Weekly Newsletter is published by the VistA Software Alliance.
 If there is an article in which you think is newsworthy, please email your submission to us.

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