# Meeting/Call Notes

**Meeting purpose:** Community Call for OpenHIE SHR

**Date:** 18-06-2013

**Attendees:**

* Ryan Crichton (Jembi)
* Linda Taylor (Jembi)
* Hannes Venter (Jembi)
* Kari Schoonbee (Jembi)
* Larry Lemmon (Regenstrief)
* Evan Wheeler (Unicef)
* Chris Seebregts (Jembi)
* Chris Ford (ThoughtWorks)

**Agenda**

* Review current SHR tool evaluation results
  + <https://docs.google.com/a/jembi.org/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0Ah8KVMJr8h4pdDBaVjh6TGJYc3FzZlJfcGd6d245Mnc&pli=1#gid=4>
* Discuss options for our recommendation on how we should create a SHR for OpenHIE

**Call Recording file** *# 95021501*

**Meeting Notes:**

*Review current SHR tool evaluation results*

JHS has been evaluating some tools that could be used as a SHR compared to the requirements documented to date. Have given each tool a general score, a requirements score and a total score with a conclusion as to how the tool fits the SHR use cases.

1. OpenMRS - used under Rwandan implementation as the SHR - has the top score so far. Very good at storing structured/discrete information - no capacity to store document based data. Modular in design. Clean separation btw back end and user interface - can deploy just core backend application, could be very beneficial. No native ways to store doc based data so would have to be added on. Fulfilled most requirements. We are also very familiar with this software.

2. OpenXDS - Have experience with this based on IHE work on OpenHIM. Satisfies doc storage requirements but not the discrete data storage. Implements XDS, ATNA. etc.

Also quite modular in design - may be possible to use parts of this to combine with another option to provide a complete solution.

3. HIEOS - Also an XDS implementation so very similar to OpenXDS. More IHE profiles in place, but aimed at running stand-alone rather than as part of an HIE, i.e. does patient matching.

Quite difficult to set up and does not seem to have a large community to support it.

Not really a viable option.

4. Mohawk EHRS - only “proper” SHR reviewed. The OpenMRS /RHEA design is based on this design so does meet all the requirements - highly modular - easy to add new interfaces and data types. Probably best SHR on the list but only supports HL7 V3, so to be a viable candidate would have to decide of this is viable. Another disadvantage is that it Is a .NET application so need a microsoft stack to work with it. Can be prohibitive in cost for low resource settings. Another concern is ability to deploy easily - how easy is it to automate?

Some severe licensing implications. Scoring may be lower than should be as have not had access to documentation while repository being moved.

Have we included this (licensing) in the requirements?

No, but should be added to the requirements explicitly - have vague requirements re: suitability for low-resource settings

5. OSCAR - no required interfaces for an SHR - purely an EMR and not suitable for this scenario.

6. OpenEMR - Is a PHP application so not suitable as a backend service - is more of an EMR web application designed for user interaction. Data model not flexible, not extensible.

7. OpenVISTA - last one to be reviewed so not complete - looking promising so far.

What is the underlying database- it is MUMPS - a legacy db (a hierarchical database) - no access to SQL as a high level query language

How strong is the API?

OVID toolkit developed to give it a more modern feel - good APIs and also interfaces look good - is HL7 based. Need to explore this further and scores given so far are not final score.

Stores both discrete and document based data.

How robust is the community. Looks like there is little community involvement

Do we think the POC systems will be OpenMRS because it is in wide usage?

RC - They may well be OpenMRS POC systems but should not influence this process.

Top 3 to date are OpenMRS, OpenVISTA and OpenXDS

Two competing options look like OpenVISTA and OpenMRS, either expanded data model or with OpenXDS to enable document storage

Having a suite of options may be better than selecting one solution: may be useful to others who may not be considering OpenHIE

Will be documenting these options and possible combination, but also aiming to provide a recommendation as to the best solution at this stage.

RC Asked: What is the initial feeling of the group?

LL - OpenVISTA does have the scalability. How big would it be to add the document storage to OpenMRS? Raised concern about having a split of OpenMRS and OpenXDS for a SHR component. Could be problematic.

RC - Would have to be a tight integration so it looks like a single application, OpenXDS embedded within OpenMRS

Extending OpenMRS is definitely an option without a dependency on another system

HV believes this would be relatively simple to add this functionality. Only tricky area is to support the XDS profile but could do this within the IL

From the IL side can support whatever interface we choose

OpenVISTA does have simple web services and IL could handle HL7 - also remote procedure call interfaces in Java

Deadline for recommendation is 30th June but can motivate for further investigation if community feels it is necessary.

CFord - Is concerned that we have not paid much attention to the format/”glue” that these components are using

e.g. HL7 messaging within the HIE vs. JSON

Seem to be focusing on isolated components rather than integrated HIE as a whole

Look at messaging formats and profiles i.e. the approach for how the system is deployed

e.g. communication via http?

Who worries about system characteristics?

Need to lobby for a HIE coordination group

RC has sent an email on this issues and asked CFd to reply to this thread

May help to define characteristics that sway recommendation in a certain direction

When we move into the design phase this could also influence the choice of software and may then re-look at options

***Any other business***

RC will be on leave from 26th June but the call will take place as usual.

***Action Items***

* HV to send out an email to the group to ask about community experience in OpenVISTA
* JHS will continue to write up the options and will share as soon as possible - can also discuss further over email
* CFord to reply to thread

***Next Community Call***

The next call will be on Tuesday 2ND July 2013.