The Health Level 7 - GS1 Collaboration

Challenging the Future

Charles Jaffe, MD, PhD
CEO
Health Level 7

June 18, 2008
Benjamin Disraeli (1804 - 1881)
Twice British Prime Minister and always quotable

“How much easier it is to be critical than to be correct.”
HL7 Building for the Future

- The first 20 years
- The opportunity for change
- A global landscape
- Standards development
- Listening to our stakeholders
- 2008 & Beyond
The Global Landscape

- Disparate and conflicting technical standards
- Inconsistent policies and regulations
- Poorly articulated business requirements
- International disharmony
- Competing Standards Development Organizations (SDO)
Policy change always precedes technical innovation

Snively, will you ever learn? This train doesn't run on weekends.
The Business Case for Version 2

- Backward compatibility
- End-user customization
- Vocabulary/Terminology agnosticism
Then, there came the broken promises

“Well then...try to forgive.”
The Business Case for Version 3

- Interoperability
- Interoperability
- Interoperability
The Promise for 2008 & Beyond

Semantic Interoperability

Functional Interoperability

Business Interoperability

Privacy & Security Interoperability

Adapted from: Ed Hammond, 2007
With responsibility always comes some issues!

LASSIE!
GET HELP!
Stakeholder Perspective

Robert Wood Johnson & the Strategic Initiative

- Reorganization at a business & technical level
- Enhanced cooperation with other SDOs
  - Development of US Realm objectives (HITSP & CCHIT)
  - Creation of an HL7-CEN-ISO Joint Initiative Council
  - Cooperative agreements with interacting organizations (ASTM, CDISC, IHE)
- Focus on domain capabilities (CIC, EVS, SOA)
Not everyone is easy to persuade

Some of our colleagues were not immediately sold on the idea of merging technologies.
Evolving HL7

Outreach & Harmonization

- Charter Agreements (CDISC, SAFE)
- Memoranda of Understanding (GS1, AHIMA)
- Organizational Harmonization (HL7-CEN-ISO Harmonization Charter – JWG)
- Cooperative agreements (IHE)
- Clinical initiatives (CIC, Professional Associations)
Change Management

We probably shouldn’t mess with it.
Questions

There are two kinds of people. Those who finish what they start and so on.

~Robert Byrne
Thanks

cjaffe@hl7.org