



Siemens OPENLink

Open, Standards-Based Connectivity for Healthcare

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Demand for Interoperability Is Greater than Ever

A new level of urgency is propelling IT interoperability as a strategic imperative in healthcare. Take a look at many of the key priorities for healthcare in the U.S. They read like a list of capabilities for which interoperable technology is an indispensable enabler:

- Improving care coordination among providers.
- Providing timely, accurate health information to patients and families.
- Maintaining and exchanging key clinical information, such as medications, allergies, problems, and lab results.
- Reconciliation of medications at the home, ambulatory practices, and hospitals.
- Maintaining current population demographics for policy planning.

While this degree of urgency driven by ARRA HITECH “meaningful use” and health reform may be new, the Siemens technology for addressing it is already working today at hundreds of provider organizations in the U.S. and worldwide. It is proven technology that has evolved with healthcare and open standards, and continues to rise to new interoperability challenges as they emerge.



Open for Healthcare, Open for Business

Long before agility in sharing electronic health records became a national infrastructure mandate, Siemens OPENLink™ has been bridging disparate healthcare technologies—not only information systems, but advanced diagnostic technologies as well.

For the clinician, it is an essential component of EHR capability that provides the comprehensive view of the patient, combining vital clinical details—to be reviewed quickly, at a glance. For the executive, it connects the systems needed to get a global view of operations for sound enterprise management.

Siemens OPENLink is an application-independent interface engine that connects the widest range of healthcare IT solutions, enabling organizations to achieve their key connectivity goals and support secure communications and enhanced workflow within and beyond the enterprise.

The Advantages of Advanced, Proven Interoperability Technology



Siemens OPENLink empowers healthcare enterprises to manage complex information networks in order to achieve important business benefits, including:

- Support for patient and physician satisfaction initiatives, with routing of data in a “one-to-many” fashion so a patient provides information only once.
- Reduced programming costs by enabling you to build, revise, and monitor your own interfaces. You have the flexibility to complete interfaces in near-real-time, batch, or file processing modes with multiple transport protocols supported—all with little or no required programming skills. You enable different application systems to communicate with each other easily and cost-effectively.
- High levels of availability with supported options for using redundant hardware configurations as well as VMWare® virtual environments.
- Cost-effective monitoring of interfaces across the enterprise from a single workstation.
- Support for privacy and security requirements with Secure Socket Layer (SSL) on TCP/IP connections and secure file processing and HTTPS, as well as change tracking tools and limited access IDs. These tools help your enterprise to comply with the privacy and security requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for “meaningful use.”

Balancing Openness, Privacy, and Security

The more information healthcare organizations are expected to share openly and easily, the greater the risk becomes of a privacy and/or security breach. For that reason, legislation promoting healthcare IT reinforces the need for measures to prevent such breaches.

Siemens OPENLink helps providers meet privacy and security regulations with built-in technologies such as encryption filters (SSL, HTTPS, FTPS), digital certificates, and limited-access options for the operations, administrative, and user tools.

The Siemens Commitment to Interoperability Standards

Siemens commits the expertise, management attention, and resources to drive the acceptance of standards. We recognize the ever-increasing demand for cost-efficient and quality patient care has led to making healthcare processes heavily dependent on standards in information technology. With the rapid evolution of technology, there is an urgent demand for further standardization in healthcare IT.

Siemens continues to help shape the future of interoperability and integration by serving as an industry leader and an active participant in the identification, development, utilization, and implementation of key standards required for interoperability.

The company is one of the largest corporate participants in standards organizations. And we play a significant role in defining specifications for some of the most widely applied standards in use in healthcare today.

For more information on how Siemens OPENLink can connect your enterprise, call your Siemens account executive.



Technical Data

Messaging

- HL7 (V.2.1-3.0)
- HIPAA (X12 4010A and 5010)
- XML
- CDISC
- IHE
- ASTM
- DICOM support (image and data extraction)
- Consume SOAP and RESTful Web services
- Laboratory instruments data acquisition

Protocols

- TCP/IP including secure sockets
- File processing – FTP/FTPS/SFTP
- SNA – LU2 and LU6.2
- ASYNC (serial RS-232)
- HTTP(S) (client and server)
- ASI
- ODBC
- E-mail (SMTP)

Operating Systems

- Workstation: Windows® XP, Vista, and Windows 7
- Server: Windows 2003 and Windows 2008 R2

Programmable Extensions

- C++, VB, JAVA
- Published APIs for extending product (COM, C APIs, Java)

Security

- Built-in encryption filters (SSL, HTTPS, FTPS) to assist in HIPAA security compliance
- Digital certificates, authentication
- Limited access options for the operations user interface
- Operations view optionally controlled at the interface level

Service and Configuration Options

- 24/7 customer support
- ISC-hosted offering
- Scalability (from a small, single processor system to a large multiprocessor system)
- Average training time: 8 days
- High-availability configurations
- Special Interest Group (SIG) Listserv and Customer-only website for knowledge sharing

Operations

- Maintenance/editing configuration (without interrupting engine)
- Graphical charting of engine stats
- Graphical monitoring of routing/Communication point status
- Optimal system uptime
- Robust troubleshooting and testing tools (test server, error logs, trace utility, transaction auditing, etc.)
- Transaction archiving for both inbound and outbound data (supports editing, resending, viewing, and skipping)
- Configurable alerts subsystem (pager, e-mail, monitor, SNMP)

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