

Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise



IHE North American 2010 Connectathon Facts for Product Managers

Revision 1.2

August 27, 2009

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1 Introduction

The audience for this document is Product Managers who are considering applying engineering resources to participate in the IHE 2010 North America Connectathon in Chicago, January 11-15, 2010. This document provides an overview of what it takes to participate in a Connectathon, as well as benefits of Connectathon participation. You will find additional details in these resources:

IHE 2010 North America Connectathon Policies and Guidelines – this document contains a comprehensive description of IHE 2010 North American Connectathon rules, fees and testing requirements. The audience for this document is the managers who are responsible for registering systems for Connectathon testing and the engineers who will participate in the Connectathon. See: http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm

IHE 2010 North American Connectathon Fact Sheet for Participants– a set of facts, definitions and dates with collected information designed to prepare engineers for the IHE 2010 NA Connectathon. Read this in conjunction with the Policies and Guidelines document. The target audience for this document is the participants who will test their systems in the IHE 2010 North American Connectathon, and the engineering managers who oversee these resources. See: http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm

IHE 2010 North American Connectathon Timeline: A timeline of activities and due dates for the Connectathon participants.

Kudu: Testing management system which serves as the home of IHE 2010 NA Connectathon registration. Will be available August 28, 2009 at <http://ihe-kudu.wustl.edu/na2010>.

<http://www.ihe.net/> - all general IHE information

<http://wiki.ihe.net> - used for collaborative creation of IHE materials and for documenting ongoing activities. Contains engineering and other material that will primarily help developers.

2 What is the IHE 2010 North American Connectathon?

The IHE 2010 North American Connectathon is a week-long testing event managed by sponsoring organizations, the [Health Information Management Systems Society \(HIMSS\)](#) and the [Radiological Society of North America \(RSNA\)](#). Currently Connectathon events are held annually in North America, Europe and Asia. The major goal of IHE Connectathons is to promote the adoption in commercially available healthcare IT systems of the standards-based interoperability solutions defined by IHE. IHE Connectathons serve as industry-wide testing events where participants can test their implementations with those of other vendors.

Successful completion of IHE Connectathon testing is a requirement for participation in all global IHE demonstrations. By signing up for an IHE demonstration, the company is accepting the part of the IHE process that is the IHE Connectathon testing.

Many vendors participate in an IHE Connectathon without any direct plans to participate in a demonstration. Even in cases where vendors are participating in preparation for a demonstration,

the major goal of an IHE Connectathon is to refine the implementation of IHE Actors and Integration Profiles in the systems being tested.

3 How are IHE Connectathon results reported?

In order to foster testing, the IHE sponsors only report those systems **that have successfully completed** IHE Connectathon tests. IHE does not report failures. This removes “risk of embarrassment” as an impediment to participation.

The sponsors record the results of the testing and produce a results matrix that lists the Integration Profile and Actor combinations that each participant has successfully tested. These success results are published and promoted by the sponsors to inform the healthcare community about the worldwide breadth of adoption of IHE solutions by industry and to encourage purchasers of healthcare IT systems to require support of IHE Actors and Integration Profiles in their requests for proposals and purchasing specifications.

IHE Connectathon participants are encouraged to offer the IHE features they test in commercially available products as quickly as possible. When they do, they are encouraged to publish IHE Integration Statements to describe for prospective purchasers the IHE capabilities offered in these products.

IHE has recently introduced the IHE Product Registry to make it easier to publish Integration Statements and to make them more accessible to purchasers of healthcare IT systems. We encourage all developers of systems with IHE capabilities to create an account on the Product Registry and use it to create and publish Integration Statements for their systems at <http://product-registry.ihe.net/>.

Organizations publishing Integration Statements are solely responsible for their accuracy. IHE makes no claims about the validity of such statements. Note that an organization is not required to participate in a Connectathon in order to publish an IHE Integration Statement.

Companies are encouraged to refer to their participation in an IHE Connectathon in marketing and promotional materials. The appropriate language to use is to indicate that the vendor has “*completed testing of <<one or more specific IHE actors in one or more IHE integration profiles>>*”.

Companies are strongly discouraged from using IHE participation to make unsupported product claims, including comparisons with other vendors. Claims using such words as “gold stars,” “certification,” and “validation” are not appropriate, as an IHE Connectathon is not a certification event and IHE is not a certifying body. Companies using references to their IHE participation in ways that, in the view of the sponsoring organizations, violate the spirit of the initiative will risk having their names removed from the official list of IHE participants.

4 Benefits of IHE Connectathon Participation

1. Unparalleled product testing opportunity

- Your engineers will be able to test your implementation with numerous peer applications in a short, five-day period. Arranging the same test coverage with those other participants would require weeks if not months.
- Participants frequently find problems early in the week that they are able to fix and retest with multiple partners before the IHE Connectathon week ends.
- Your engineers have the opportunity to learn subtleties of the profiles or implementations as well as test. There will be a large collection of engineers with valuable implementation experience. Your engineers and organization will benefit by making these contacts and learning more about the profiles and implementation issues.

2. Participation in IHE Showcase demos

Demonstrations are important public events that show your products support key integration features with partners and competitors. IHE requires successful Connectathon testing to participate in demonstrations. HIMSS and RSNA both sponsor demonstration events.

RSNA holds a demonstration event focusing on medical imaging at its annual Conference in November of each year. Invitations to participants are issued in the spring for these events. For information contact radiology@ihe.net.

HIMSS sponsors several demonstration events called HIMSS Interoperability Showcases which are held in the United States, Europe and Asia. Past high profile attendees to recent U.S. HIMSS Showcases include senior staff from U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and many various Congressional (federal and state) delegations. European Commission Delegates and Ministry of Health staff from many nations typically attend HIMSS Showcases held in Europe (HIMSS World of Health IT events). HIMSS Interoperability Showcases have expanded to Asia. Visitors to the HIMSS09 Asia Pac Conference included delegations from Ministries of Health and other governmental agencies, faculty and staff from universities and academic medical centers and many others from across Asia. New Showcase locations are planned for China and Korea in 2010. For more information on either RSNA or HIMSS demonstrations contact secretary@ihe.net.

5 Keys to Successful IHE Connectathon Participation

The experience of hosting IHE Connectathons held for over a decade equips us to offer some advice for successful participation in an IHE Connectathon:

1. **Understand the use cases** and scope of the IHE Integration Profiles you're considering testing in your product. How?
 - Participate in the IHE North American Connectathon webinar series. See details on: http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm
 - Participate in the Public Comment period on the new IHE Integration Profiles. IHE Technical Framework documentation is found at http://www.ihe.net/Technical_Framework/index.cfm. Public Comment notices are sent to ihenews@ihe.net each year during the spring and summer.
 - Consult with your engineering staff prior to registration. Every year we encounter engineers who are surprised about what the marketing department signed them up to test.
2. **Register for a reasonable number of profile/actor pairs** to test. Overloaded systems run a high risk of not completing the required tests during IHE Connectathon week.
3. **Commit engineering resources** to complete the pre-IHE Connectathon development and unit tests for new IHE features in your product. Your engineers will need to:
 - **Starting in August 2009 (or earlier!)** - Develop features in your product. Companies that wait until November to get started struggle in their IHE Connectathon participation, are a burden to their testing partners in other companies, and often fail the required tests.
 - **Mid-October to December 1, 2009** - Run pre-IHE Connectathon unit tests and submit results in the Connectathon testing management system. This is a requirement for participation.
 - **January –11-15, 2010** – Participate in the IHE Connectathon
4. **Make IHE features part of your product roadmap**, not just for prototype development or demonstration participation. IHE has a high global visibility to potential buyers and end users worldwide.

6 How does my company register to participate in the IHE 2010 North American Connectathon?

Connectathon registration consists of an electronic registration system, a printed/signed contract, and payment. Questions about the registration process should be sent to moores@mir.wustl.edu or felhofer@charter.net.

Each participating organization will register with the on-line system. This system will be open for registration from August 28-September 30, 2009. You can work on your registration over a period of days; you can add and delete systems during the registration month. You will not be allowed to add new actor/profile combinations or new systems after the registration deadline (September 30, 2009). Please make your selections based on proper estimates on effort required to complete the work.

After you have completed the electronic registration, use the on-line system to print a completed contract that lists all of your registered systems. Print the contract, have the responsible person in your organization sign the contract, and send payment to the address listed on the contract. Signed contracts with payment are due September 30, 2009.

7 What are the fees for IHE 2010 North American Connectathon participation?

A company pays fees based on the number of registered systems and the number of domains represented by those systems.

The first system and domain shall incur a charge of \$9000USD.

Each additional system shall incur a charge of \$4500USD.

The first system includes one domain (Anatomic Pathology, Cardiology, ITI, Lab, PCC, PCD, QRPH, Radiology). Each additional domain shall result in a charge of \$4500USD.

Each system that is registered includes an IHE 2010 North American Connectathon registration for two (2) staff members. Additional staff member may be added at a rate of \$50USD per each day of Connectathon participation. The sponsoring organizations reserve the right to place these additional staff members at tables that are not directly adjacent to your test equipment.

8 Connectathon Policies and Guidelines

The fully detailed **Connectathon Policies and Guidelines** are available as a separate document at http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm. We summarize some essential rules below.

Organizations participating in the Connectathon are required to test with test software provided by the sponsors and return successful results to the Project Managers by the published deadlines. This pre-Connectathon testing occurs from October through January and is a requirement for Connectathon participation.

Participating organizations are required to send staff members to the Connectathon location (Chicago) for the duration of the Connectathon testing period. **Testing participants are not allowed to arrive late or leave early.** Participants are not allowed to take part in testing remotely from another location.

As a condition of participation, Participants agree not to use the Connectathon to gain competitive knowledge of competitor systems or to disclose any information gained about other participants' systems in the course of Connectathon.

9 What dates do I have to pay attention to?

We highlight these dates because we know they might conflict with other things on your engineering schedule. Like a trade show, dates for the Connectathon are fixed. There are no provisions for extending dates, and there is no partial credit assigned for incomplete assignments.

June-September 2009	IHE Connectathon Webinar Series 2009. Schedule of topics: http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm
Aug. 28, 2009	Electronic registration for Connectathon opens; paper registration for IHE NA 2010 Connectathon and HIMSS 2010 is based on this on-line registration. Electronic registration: http://ihe-kudu.wustl.edu/na2010
Sept. 30, 2009	Registration for IHE 2010 NA Connectathon closes. By this date, you should have completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic registration for Connectathon • Sent paper contract for Connectathon, with payment, to RSNA • Sent paper contract for HIMSS showcase, with payment, to HIMSS (if applicable)
Oct. 12, 2009	Pre-Connectathon testing period begins for all participants in NA 2010 Connectathon. The first tests to perform are installation tests to make sure you have installed the test software.
Oct. 2009–Dec. 2009	Engineers perform required pre-Connectathon tests for your systems. Test results are uploaded and evaluated by Technical Project Managers.
Oct. 2009 – Feb. 2010	Mandatory webinars for all participants in HIMSS10 Interoperability Showcase.
Dec. 1, 2009	All pre-Connectathon tests required of your organization need to be completed and entered in the electronic system run by the Project Managers.
Jan. 11, 2010	System setup begins at 8:30am CT. Connectathon testing begins promptly at 10:00am CDT.
Jan. 15, 2010	Connectathon ends promptly at 12:00pm CDT.
Mar. 1-4, 2010	HIMSS 2010 Showcase Demonstration

10 Contact List

There are many individuals involved in managing the Connectathon.

We maintain the Contact List in the *IHE 2010 NA Connectathon Fact Sheet for Participants* found at: http://www.ihe.net/north_america/connectathon_2010_participants.cfm.