Standard Recommendation
S.R. CR 1350:1993

Investigation of Syntaxes for Existing Interchange Formats to be Used in Healthcare

S.R. CR 1350:1993

Incorporating amendments/corrigenda issued since publication:

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SWiFT xxx: A rapidly developed recommendatory document based on the consensus of the participants of an NSAI workshop.

This document replaces:

This document is based on:
CR 1350:1993

Published:
30 September, 1993

This document was published
under the authority of the NSAI
and comes into effect on:
21 September, 2011

ICS number:
35.240.70

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REPORT
RAPPORT
BERICHT

CR 1350:1993

September 1993

English version

Investigation of syntaxes for existing interchange formats to be used in healthcare

This CEN REPORT has been established by the CEN/TC 251 "Medical informatics" and has been approved by CEN on 1993-07-01.

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European Committee for Standardization
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Ref. no. CR 1350:1993 E

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Foreword

This technical report was prepared under the direction of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and approved by the CEN Technical Committee 251 (TC 251 - Medical Informatics).

A project team, CEN/TC 251/PT004, was established in February 1992 based on mandate BC-IT 211 given by CEN/TC 251 and approved by the CEN/BT. A copy of the terms of reference for the project team is provided in annex A. The project team consisted of 8 members, given annex B.

This technical report has gone through three stages:

First, an Interim Report (INR) was produced and presented for the CEN/TC 251/WG 3 for technical control. Based on the comments received from members of WG 3, the report was updated and a First Working Document (FWD) was produced.

The FWD was submitted to CEN/TC 251 for a three months period of comments. A total of 84 comments were received. Based on the these comments, an amendment to the Technical Report was produced and presented to WG3. The amendments, together with the FWD, were accepted by WG3 as a final technical document and forwarded to CEN/TC 251 for approval. CEN/TC 251 approved these documents on 1993-01-26.

This Final Document (FIN) of the Technical Report is an editorial update of the FWD together with the approved amendments. In order to enhance the readability of the report, it has been split into two parts. Part I is the main part and includes the explanation of the method and investigation together with conclusions and recommendations. Part II contains two examples of health care domain analyses and supplementary information about the investigation of each interchange format.

Sigurd From
Leader of CEN/TC 251/PT 004

Oslo, January 1993

PART I: Method, Investigation, Conclusions and Recommendations

1. Introduction

The objective of this technical report is to investigate syntaxes for existing interchange formats (IFs) to be used in health care and to define a strategy for selecting IFs. This requires the establishment of a framework for interworking between health care applications. Today such a framework does not exist and PT 004 has described a preliminary method for development of messages for information exchange within the health care which will be used in the investigation and the definition of a future strategy.

1.1. Scope

1.1.1. Original Scope

In the terms of reference for PT 004 the scope of the investigation was the whole of the health care area. The number of suggested evaluation criteria was large. In the recommended strategy for the project team it is stated "The interchange formats need to be evaluated against a set of properties. The properties will be selected both from health care and technical requirements including efficiency, richness, complexity, ambiguity, flexibility, cost and practicality".

1.1.2. Reduced Scope

Due to resource constrains, PT 004 has reduced the scope of its work. This has been done in three ways:

1. The domain of health care is reduced to two examples from the laboratory communication domain and the internal medicine domain. This selection is explained in chapter 4.
2. The number and type of evaluation criteria were reduced compared to the suggested properties in the terms of reference. Selection of the evaluation criteria was done based on the established method for message development. A more detailed explanation is given in chapter 5.
3. The number of IFs were reduced from a possible 23 down to 5. The selected formats were ASN.1, ASTM E1238, EDIFACT, EUCLIDES and ODA. This selection is explained in chapter 6.