

Clinical Data Work Group
Highlights
July 19, 2011

Present: Dave Campbell, Isaac Hands, Bruce Riddle, Roman Tsyvine, Tom Rawson

NAACCR Staff: Lori Havener

June 21 minutes were not reviewed/approved.

RelaxNG for Schema Language: Isaac explained that there are several XML schema languages and this group needs to choose a schema. At the NAACCR conference Isaac talked with Joe, Sanjeev and someone with the California registry about RelaxNG. It is important to determine which schema will be used so we can move forward. Lori displayed the Wikipedia page for RelaxNG. There is a schema comparison chart on Wikipedia (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/XML_Schema_Language_Comparison). Isaac summarized four schemas which vary in complexity.

- DTD (Document Type Definition) is a simple format to develop XML schemas; does not have complex logic e.g., does not allow rules.
- RelaxNG, an ISO standard, strikes a balance between being a simple readable document but having the power to define an XML document with specificity; comes in 2 different syntaxes (Compact and XML).
- XML Schema is defined by W3C and is a more complex schema language and can do more than RelaxNG.
- Schematron seems to be too heavy weight for our purposes and is maintained by an industry group instead of a standards body.

Bruce inquired whether there would be an issue if we chose a schema and then wanted to switch later. Isaac stated that there is effort to maintain the schema. The syntax and rules are different for each one so you would lose the work put into the syntax and rules; however, it doesn't impact the actual XML, it would be different. Tom suggested there is a case to go with the simplest one; it doesn't close any doors later on if you get something up going with DTD. Isaac recommended that we need to take advantage of things more than just valid element names; need to enforce more typing on XML than what we would get through DTD. It would be useful on the sending and receiving side to validate the XML.

Action: Bruce volunteered to contact Larry to see if he is still interested in this project. Lori will meet with Ken and Jim to discuss scheduling a 3 hour meeting to make decisions and parse the plan to submit to the NAACCR Board.

Next Meeting: August 2 at 3:30 pm ET.