

**HIN User Group Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2003
Phoenix, AZ**

Introduction

The HIN User Group met in a joint session with the HINeC Committee on December 4 at 9:00 am, chaired by Peter Hall. After introductions, Hall gave a brief summary of production activity at HIBCC. In the last quarter, HIBCC staff processed a total of 36,658 HIN requests, a monthly rate of 12,219. Approximately 46% of these were from the AHI EDI Special Project. A summary of HIN request processing activity is shown below.

Source	HIN Requests	Assignments	Cross-references	Cancels
Human Health	19,768	13,441	4,900	1,897
AHI Project	16,890	12,275	2,996	1,149
Total	36,658	25,716	7,896	3,046

Currently, there is a total backlog of less than 2,700 HIN requests in the queue, of which three are from the AHI project. Hall announced that CD's from the third periodic HIN distribution for 2003 were shipped in early November. Counts (active and inactive) by subsets are as follows:

Human Health	510,375
PHS covered entities	11,049
Animal Health facilities	93,797
Veterinarians	93,673
Producers (AHI)	182,836

AHI EDI Special Project Update

Manufacturers and distributors associated with the AHI EDI Special Project met in Phoenix during the HIBCC meetings and reported continued success in their deployment and use of HIN. Currently, there are 10 manufacturers and 116 distributors participating in the project. Over the last 12 months, the project processed five million invoices and 17 million line items, of which 92% of invoices identified the customer by HIN. More than 94% of manufacturer sales transactions are currently being reported using HINs to identify customers. The AHI EDI Special Project sent more than 4,000 HIN requests (adds and changes) to HIBCC in October, and averaged more than 5,600 HIN requests per month over the last quarter. The project continues to be a great example of a successful collaborative deployment of HIN.

HIN Maintenance Notifications

HIBCC announced three changes to HIN maintenance that will be implemented before the next HIN User Group meeting. Two involve market segment classification changes for animal shelters and corporate laboratories. Currently, animal shelters are classified as non-health miscellaneous (NM), but at the request of the AHI EDI Special Project, will henceforth be classified under government (GV). Manufacturing laboratory facilities, also previously classified as NM, will now carry the laboratory (LB) market segment. Hall also announced that starting in the first quarter of 2004, HIBCC intends to perform a monthly scrubbing of street addresses on all active records in the HIN database when USPS street address updates are received. This will increase HIN update volumes, but should result in a more reliable and up-to-date database.

Additional Business

Attendees raised no other issues, and at 9:30 am, the meeting transitioned into a joint workshop with the HINeC committee.

HINeC Committee Notes

The HINeC committee met for the purpose of reviewing progress on the proposed pilot for populating the HIN hierarchy, and to receive an overview of the functional specification for the HIN hierarchy product. Hall reported that submissions had not been received from pilot participants, but that he expects to work with Owens & Minor over the next two months to define a representative sample of IDNs to use both to test the evolving hierarchical database and to conduct a population pilot.

For the remainder of the meeting, Hall provided an overview of the functional specification that has been submitted to HIBCC for Executive Committee review. After providing a brief history of the hierarchy, Hall outlined the primary objectives as follows.

The primary *business objective* of iHIN Phase II is to enable users to create and share hierarchical customer relationship information, using HINs to identify customers, in the uniform visual framework of a web browser.

The *system objectives* of this project are to develop a web interface and underlying processes for supporting the construction, maintenance and sharing of hierarchical relationships among HIN entities.

Project objectives are the following:

1. Write and test software to support the system objectives and specific requirements described in the following sections.
2. Produce supporting technical documentation to allow HIBCC to maintain and enhance the iHIN system after the project is completed.
3. Write suitable online user help documentation to enable users to operate the system without additional support.

The presentation included an overview of the HIN System and the major components, such as supersets, subsets, HIN subscriber model and other components, that must be respected by hierarchies. Much discussion centered on hierarchy ownership, which is a critical constraint in the “common view” environment in which hierarchies to exist. The committee questioned some of the rules that were proposed for the hierarchy system, particularly those relating to restrictions on the number of parents a child can have. For the IDN hierarchy model, constraining a child to a single parent is reasonable, but other types of hierarchies, such as group membership, are more complex. Discussion centered on whether the system should be initially developed assuming the simpler hierarchy model and then modified, or whether it should assume complex hierarchies from the start. Hall volunteered to undertake an assessment of the impact of relaxing the parent-child constraint on system complexity and development costs, and will report to HIBCC on his findings.

Hall’s presentation reviewed the specification for major conceptual components such as hierarchy creation, archival, modification alerts, relationship dating, quick-turnaround HIN enumeration, subscription granularity, implied subset association, sharing of hierarchies and auto-notification. He also showed example user interfaces to illustrate many of these concepts. The presentation concluded with a outline of major recommendations to HIBCC.

Following final remarks, the meeting concluded at 11:30 am.