

Charter for the Open Health Tools Academic Outreach Project

Overview

The Academic Outreach Project is an open software research and development project modeled on a similar Eclipse Academic Outreach project, which encapsulates three related activity streams, each of which is based on or uses the Open Health Tools Platform and/or Open Health Tools:

1. student research projects and other exploratory investigations (“Research Stream”);
2. development of educational materials, teaching aids and courseware (“Education Stream”) focusing on healthcare specific skills including:
 - a. Healthcare business process decomposition and **web service orchestration**
 - b. **HL7 RIM** skills and model-based development
 - c. **SNOMED** skills and general knowledge of ontology manipulations
3. incubation of small-scale, innovative platform and tools projects (“Incubators Stream”).

The project charter is a living document that will be updated to reflect the evolution of the mission and development processes over time.

Mission

The mission of the Academic Outreach Project is to provide a home within openhealthtools.org for universities to encourage students and faculty to learn the skills needed to:

- work in modern healthcare IT environments
- to use materials from the open source community in healthcare
- to submit questions and materials to the open source community in healthcare

In addition, the project intends to provide a vehicle for funding small, informally structured subprojects which add new capabilities to the Open Health Tools software base (Incubators Stream), foster greater community awareness and understanding of Open Health Tools (Education Stream), or explore research issues in Open Health Tools-relevant domains such as programming languages, tools, and development environments (Research Stream). The Academic Outreach Project is intended to:

1. provide the open source community with a lighter weight alternative to the larger scale, more structured development activities carried out by other PMCs, and
2. create opportunities for researchers, academics and educators to play a significant role within the Open Health Tools community.

Scope and Expected Contributions

The scope of the Academic Outreach Project will encompass a wide variety of small subprojects, rather than a few large ones. While anticipating enormous diversity in the content of these activities, from a process-oriented viewpoint they will all share important common characteristics, which argues for a common management envelope:

- Focus on the university environment of students and faculty
- The teaching of formal development processes
- The teaching of project tracking with frequent plan changes
- The teaching of concepts in modern reference architectures for healthcare
- Flexible milestones which adapt based on partial results
- Individuals and small teams

- Resource commitments tentative, due to student labor or lack of sponsor funding
- Development often cross-cuts the scope of several other Open Health Tools subprojects

The Academic Outreach Project serves as a single point of focus for such teams, and provides them with a home within the Open Health Tools community, to encourage communication, and where appropriate, collaboration and coordination. By providing common management for these projects openhealthtools.org can facilitate maximum sharing and creation of common components, and avoid redundant efforts. In many cases successful Research subprojects will evolve into Incubators, and Incubators in turn may migrate to other PMCs, either by merging into an existing subproject, or by forming the basis for a new one.

The Education Stream plays a vital role in promoting the use of Open Health Tools. By making high quality educational materials freely available, we both enable self-education by individual users, and facilitate the incorporation of Open Health Tools-related materials into university courses and commercial educational offerings.

The list of subprojects under the Academic Outreach PMC will be maintained as an addendum to this charter (Attachment A).

IP Issues

1) University participants will need to be educated on the need to engage proper university administration when contributing any code from students or faculty to Open Health Tools

Deviations

List any requested deviations from the Development Process or other Policies here, together with a rationale.