

Charter for the Open Health Tools (HL7 Tooling) Project

Overview

The Open Health Tools (HL7 Tooling) Project is an open software development project, which aims to provide second generation tools to support the HL7 version 3 message modeling methodology. The toolset will be based on the Eclipse Platform and/or Eclipse Tools. The HL7 tools supporting the v3 message modeling methodology will be designed to be an integral part of a wider suite of tools covering conformance/testing, clinical content modeling and terminology maintenance (see Fig 1).

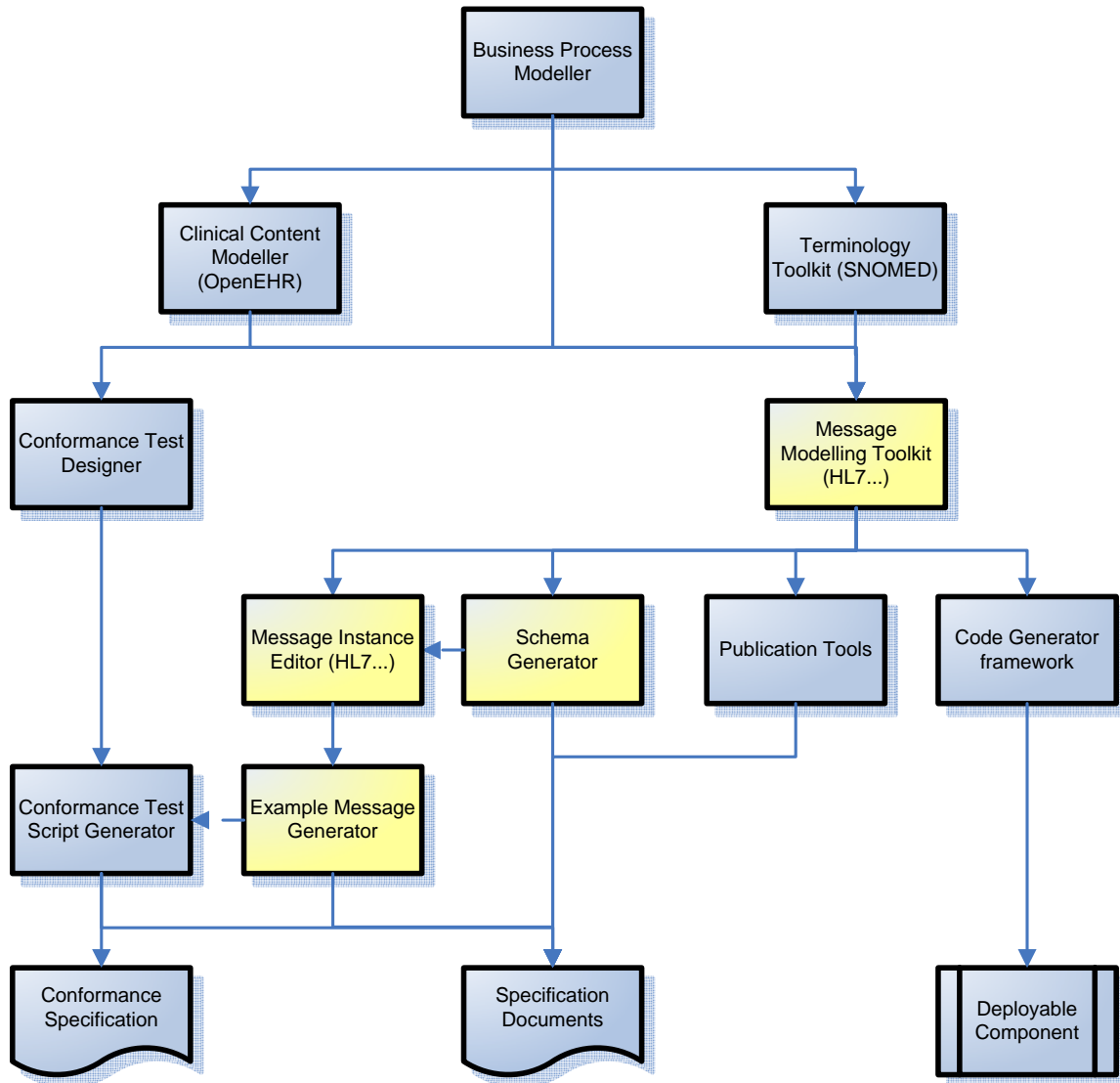


Fig 1 – OHT Topology and HL7 Tooling Project Scope (highlighted yellow)

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 HL7 Tooling Project is to provide a technical architecture and the key components of a Health Level Seven (HL7) development environment based on the Eclipse software platform that will enable fast and efficient development of high quality message specifications that can be machine-enforced. The project will run alongside sibling projects (HL7 Conformance, SNOMED CT Tooling, Content Modeling) with the aim of developing complementary tooling modules designed to deliver an integrated environment for developing interoperability and conformance specifications.

The HL7 Tooling Project is intended to:

1. provide designers, developers and vendors of health systems with an integrated development environment for the design and specification of interoperability components based on a shared artifact repository, and
2. provide a mechanism for business and clinical content modeling and terminology artifacts to be consumed by message design and specification tools, and
3. allow the specification artifacts to be consumed by the conformance tools in order to allow automated conformance checking of message instances.

Scope and Expected Contributions

the scope of the HL7 Tooling Project will encompass a wide variety of both small subprojects, and a few larger ones. The most obvious of which is the static model designer, which is the centre piece of HL7 modeling, delivery of this component will provide the architectural framework on which the ancillary and smaller subprojects will depend.

While anticipating 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 pre-competitive development and research
- Use of formal and informal development processes
- Fluid project tracking due to frequent plan changes
- Flexible milestones which adapt based on partial results
- Small teams

The HL7 Tooling Project serves as a single point of focus for such teams, and provides them with a home within the HL7 and OHT community, to encourage communication, and where appropriate, collaboration and coordination. By providing common management for these projects OHT can facilitate maximum sharing and creation of common components, and avoid redundant efforts.

It is essential that the HL7 Tooling Project is coordinated with the sibling projects within OHT in order to ensure the delivery of an integrated development and conformance environment delivered through a shared artifact repository

The list of subprojects under the Eclipse Technology PMC will be maintained as an addendum to this charter.

IP Issues

All contributors are assumed to freely participate in IP sharing without restriction.

Deviations

None anticipated.