

IHE Connectathon Pre-Registration Advice

Introduction

This brief document provides advice for organizations who are new to the IHE Connectathon process and are considering participation in Connectathon testing. This document is written only in the context of Connectathon testing and does not pertain to IHE Conformity Assessment.

What Do We Test?

At the IHE Connectathon, we test implementations of IHE integration profiles. Your organization brings a computer system or systems that implement one or more IHE actor / profile pairs. For example, your system might implement:

- A Document Registry (actor) in the XDS.b Integration Profile, or
- An Acquisition Modality (actor) in the Scheduled Workflow.b Integration Profile

We test the actor / profile pairs that your system implements with the complementary actors from other organizations. If we continue the XDS.b example, you will bring your implementation of a Document Registry. Other organizations bring XDS.b Document Repository actors as well as the Document Source and Document Consumer actors. During the Connectathon week, our testing procedures will have you exchange data with systems provided by these other organizations. We are testing how the systems communicate with each other. We do have some tests against simulators or validation software, but you spend the bulk of your time exchanging messages with the systems that other organizations bring to the event.

What Do You Mean When You Mention “My System”?

The IHE integration profiles talk about actors and profiles. For registration and payment reasons, we use the term “system” to refer to a collection of actor / integration profile pairs that one might reasonably bundle together and sell as a product. We often describe this by example. Suppose you have software that implements:

- XDS.b Document Registry
- XDS.b Document Repository
- PIX Patient Identifier Cross-reference Manager (i.e., PIX Manager)

This is a common grouping of actor / profile pairs. You would register one system to test this combination. During the Connectathon, you would test these separately with different tests, and we would then bundle and report the results.

Now suppose your organization has a diverse set of products that implement:

- SWF.b Image Manager
- SWF.b Acquisition Modality
- CPI Print Server
- XDS.b Document Registry

These would certainly be different products. If you tried to register these implementations as a single system, we would conclude you are trying to evade the Connectathon pricing model and ask you to break these up into reasonable combinations.

We encourage new participants to discuss their registration with the Connectathon Technical Project Manager to make sure your system registration is consistent with our practices.

Pre-Registration Tasks

1. Find the IHE Integration Profiles at http://www.ihe.net/Technical_Frameworks. The profiles are divided up and listed by domain (e.g., Cardiology, Radiology, IT Infrastructure ...)
2. Look in the domain or domains that are relevant to your products. Find the integration profile or profiles that your system supports now or will support for Connectathon testing.
 - a. Some integration profiles are published in IHE Final Text documents. That means they have been tested at multiple Connectathons and are stable.
 - b. Other integration profiles are published as Trial Implementation supplements. These are still testable but might be updated after we review the Connectathon results; perhaps our participants find ambiguities in the Trial Implementation supplements themselves.
3. Determine which actor / profile pairs you want to test. This is a critical step and depends on your products and plans. We have technical managers who can provide some guidance and answer questions. However, you will need to decide what is necessary for your success. The following are factors that will drive your decisions:
 - a. Your desire to participate in an IHE demonstration or showcase. You might have a requirement to perform successful Connectathon testing to participate in a demonstration.
 - b. Government regulations that will require functionality in your system now or in coming years.
 - c. Customer demand for functions defined by IHE integration profiles.
4. Work with your management and engineering staffs before registration to answer these questions:
 - a. Do we want to do this?
 - b. Do we understand the software requirements of each IHE actor / profile pair?
 - c. Do we understand the level of effort required to be successful? That includes:
 - i. Software development
 - ii. Pre-Connectathon testing
 - iii. Connectathon testing
 - d. Do we have the skills needed to implement these?
 - e. Do we have the necessary commitment of people resources to complete the technical work required to be successful? Are we willing to commit engineering time to prepare for the event as well as staff the event?
5. Ask questions before and during registration. Each IHE Connectathon has a support structure to help make you successful. That structure includes:

- a. The sponsoring organization itself
- b. One Connectathon Technical Project Manager responsible for overall testing
- c. One or more Domain Technical Project Managers. These managers write the test plans for each domain

Who Will We Be Sending to the Connectathon?

We encourage organizations to send software developers to the event. They will be familiar with the internals of the software and can find bugs or other issues quickly. They are also well equipped to modify the software on site to correct an issue or add further logging if a partner is having trouble.

Who Can I Contact For Help?

This document is hosted at <http://gazelle.ihe.net>. The home page on this web server will list several Connectathons that are in the process of being offered. Please refer to the home page, select the Connectathon that is of interest to you, and find the appropriate contact points.