Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise

IHE European 2009 Connect-a-thon
Product Managers Summary

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1 Introduction

The audience for this document is Product Managers who are considering applying engineering resources to participate in the IHE European Connectathon in Vienna in April 2009. This document provides an overview of what it takes to participate in a Connectathon, as well as benefits of Connectathon participation. You will find additional details in these resources:

EU 2009 Connectathon Rules Document – a comprehensive description of European Connectathon 2009 rules, fees and testing requirements. The audience for this document is the managers who are responsible for registering systems for Connectathon testing and the engineers who will participate in the Connectathon.

EU 2009 Connectathon Fact Sheet – a set of facts, definitions and dates with collected information designed to prepare engineers for the European 2009 Connectathon. Read this in conjunction with the Rules Document. The target audience for this document is the participants who will test their systems in the 2009 IHE European Connectathon, and the engineering managers who oversee these resources.

- [http://www.ihe.net/](http://www.ihe.net/) - all general IHE information
- [http://www.ihe-europe.net](http://www.ihe-europe.net) - IHE Europe information
- [http://wiki.ihe.net](http://wiki.ihe.net) - used for collaborative creation of IHE materials and for documenting ongoing activities. Contains engineering and other material that will primarily help developers.
2 What is the IHE Connectathon

The IHE Connectathon is a week long testing event managed by sponsoring organizations. Currently there are events annually in North America, Europe and Asia. The major goal of the Connectathon is to promote the adoption in commercially available healthcare IT systems of the standards-based interoperability solutions defined by IHE. The Connectathon serves as an industry-wide testing event where participants can test their implementations with those of other vendors.

Successful completion of Connectathon testing is a requirement for participation in IHE demonstrations. By signing up for an IHE demonstration, the company is accepting the part of the IHE process that is the Connectathon testing.

Many vendors participate in the Connectathon without any direct plans to participate in a demonstration. Even in cases where vendors are participating in preparation for a demonstration, the major goal of the Connectathon is to refine the implementation of IHE Actors and Integration Profiles in the systems being tested.
3 How are Connectathon results reported?

In order to foster testing, the IHE sponsors only report those systems that have successfully completed the Connectathon tests. IHE does not report failures. This removes “risk of embarrassment” as an impediment to participation.

The sponsors record the results of the testing and produce a results matrix that lists the Integration Profile and Actor combinations that each participant has successfully tested. These results are published and promoted by the sponsors to inform the healthcare community about the breadth of adoption of IHE solutions by industry and to encourage purchasers of healthcare IT systems to require support of IHE Actors and Integration Profiles in their requests for proposals and purchasing specifications.

Connectathon participants are encouraged to offer the IHE features they test in commercially available products as quickly as possible. When they do, they are encouraged to publish IHE Integration Statements to describe for prospective purchasers the IHE capabilities offered in these products. IHE maintains a page of links to company sites where Integration Statements are published and encourages purchasers of healthcare IT systems to consult these documents to identify IHE-compliant systems. It is the responsibility of the vendor to provide IHE with the direct link to its web page listing the Integration Statements. A vendor is NOT required to participate in a Connectathon in order to publish an IHE Integration Statement.

Companies are encouraged to refer to their participation in the Connectathon in marketing and promotional materials. The appropriate language to use is to indicate that the vendor has “completed testing of <<one or more specific IHE actors in one or more IHE integration profiles>>”.

Companies are strongly discouraged from using IHE participation to make unsupported product claims, including comparisons with other vendors. Claims using such words as “gold stars,” “certification,” and “validation” are not appropriate, as the Connectathon is not a certification event and IHE is not a certifying body. Companies using references to their IHE participation in ways that, in the view of the sponsoring organizations, violate the spirit of the initiative will risk having their names removed from the official list of IHE participants.
4 Benefits of Connect-a-thon Participation

1 Unparalleled testing opportunity

Your engineers will be able to test your implementation with numerous peer applications in a short, one-week period. Arranging the same test coverage with those other participants would require weeks if not months.

Participants frequently find problems early in the week that they are able to fix and retest with multiple partners before the Connectathon week ends.

Your engineers have the opportunity to learn subtleties of the profiles or implementations as well as test. There will be a large collection of engineers with valuable implementation experience. Your engineers and organization will benefit by making these contacts and learning more about the profiles and implementation issues.

2 Participation in showcase demos

Showcase demonstrations are important public events that show your products support key integration features with partners and competitors. IHE Europe requires successful Connectathon testing at a European connectathon to participate in these demonstrations.
5 Keys to Successful Connectathon Participation

The experience of annual North American Connectathons since 1999 and European Connectathons since 2001 equips us to offer some advice for successful participation in the Connectathon:

1. **Understand the use cases** and scope of the IHE Integration Profiles you’re considering testing in your product. How?
   
   - Attend the vendor workshop organize by your national IHE
   - Participate in the Public Comment period on the new Integration Profiles. IHE Technical Framework documentation is found at [http://www.ihe.net/Technical_Framework/index.cfm](http://www.ihe.net/Technical_Framework/index.cfm). Public Comment notices are sent to ihenews@rsna.org each year during the spring and summer.
   - Consult with your engineering staff prior to registration. Every year we encounter engineers who are surprised about what the marketing department signed them up to test.

2. **Register for a reasonable number of profile/actor pairs to test.** Overloaded systems run a high risk of not completing the required tests during Connectathon week.

3. **Commit engineering resources** to complete the pre-Connectathon development and unit tests for new IHE features in your product. Your engineers will need to:
   
   - Starting in Fall (or earlier!) -Develop features in your product. Companies that wait until February to get started, struggle in their Connectathon participation, are a burden to their testing partners in other companies, and often fail the required tests.
   - January to March 15, 2008 - Run pre-Connectathon unit tests and submit results in the Connectathon webtool (Kudu/Gazelle). This is a requirement for participation.
   - February 2nd and 3rd Participate to Participant Workshop in Vienna.
   - April 20th – 24th – Participate in the Connectathon

4. **Make IHE features part of your product roadmap**, not just for prototype development or demonstration participation.
6 How does my company register to participate in the Connectathon?

Connectathon registration consists of an electronic registration system, a printed/signed contract, and payment. Questions about the registration process should be sent to technical.manager@ihe-europe.net.

Each participating organization will register with the on-line system: Kudu/Gazelle (http://sumo.irisa.fr/europe2009).

This system will be open for registration from November 1st 2008 through January 7th 2009. You can work on your registration over a period of days; you can add and delete systems during the registration period. You will not be allowed to add new actor/profile combinations or new systems after the registration deadline (January 7th, 2009). Please make your selections based on proper estimates on effort required to complete the work.

After you have completed the electronic registration, use the on-line system to print a completed contract that lists all of your registered systems. Print the contract, have the responsible person in your organization sign the contract. Upon the reception of your contract you will receive an invoice. Send payment to the address listed on the contract. Payment are due January 31st, 2008.
7 What are the fees for Connectathon participation?

1. A company pays fees based on the number of registered systems and the number of domains represented by those systems.

2. Each system shall incur a charge. First system will be charged Euro 2750, following systems are charged Euro 2850.

3. Each domain shall incur a charge of Euro 750. ITI as a second domain is free.

4. Each system that is registered shall include Connectathon registration for two staff members. Additional staff member may be added at a rate of Euros 60 for each day of Connectathon participation. The sponsoring organizations reserve the right to place these additional staff members at tables that are not directly adjacent to your test equipment.

5. All prices do not include VAT. Belgium VAT rate of 21% will be applied if company is from Belgium or do not provide a valid European VAT number.

6. Payment (or proof) is due before January 31st 2009.

7. If payment or proof of payment has not been received before arrival of a system in Vienna then payment must be made using a credit card.
8 Connectathon Process Rules

There is a separate document - EUR 2009 Connectathon Rules - that provides the fine-print for rules and regulations. We summarize the top rules here.

1. Organizations participating in the Connectathon are required to test with test software provided by the sponsors and return successful results to the Project Managers by the published deadlines. This pre-Connectathon testing occurs from January through March and is a requirement for Connectathon participation.

2. Participating organizations are required to send staff members to the Connectathon location (Vienna) for the duration (Monday through Friday) of the Connectathon testing period. You are not allowed to arrive late and/or leave early. You cannot have your staff members remain in your home city and test remotely.

3. Individuals will be required to sign a non-disclosure document to protect the confidentiality of details about vendor implementations that might be revealed during testing.
9 What dates do I have to pay attention to?

We highlight these dates because we know they might conflict with other things on your engineering schedule. Like a trade show, dates for Connectathon are fixed. There are no provisions for extending dates, and there is no partial credit assigned for incomplete assignments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7th, 2009</td>
<td>All registration for EU 2009 closes. By this date, you should have completed: • Electronic registration for Connect-a-thon • Sent paper contract to IHE Europe for Connect-a-thon • Sent electronic contract to Eric Poiseau (<a href="mailto:technical.manager@ihe-europe.net">technical.manager@ihe-europe.net</a>) for Connect-a-thon • Sent paper contract to demonstration organizing committee (if applicable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31st, 2009</td>
<td>You should have paid your fees, or send your proof of payment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 31st, 2009</td>
<td>MESA results are due. This is for all participants in European 2009 Connect-a-thon. Enter these in Kudu/Gazelle: <a href="http://sumo.irisa.fr/europe2009">http://sumo.irisa.fr/europe2009</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 15th, 2009</td>
<td>Configuration information due for all participants in European 2009 Connect-a-thon. Enter these in Kudu/Gazelle: <a href="http://sumo.irisa.fr/europe2009">http://sumo.irisa.fr/europe2009</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 20th, 2009</td>
<td>Connect-a-thon begins promptly at 11:00. Participants responsible for knowing network information and connecting to network. Doors open at 8:30, testing starts at 11:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 24th, 2009</td>
<td>Connect-a-thon ends promptly at 12:00.</td>
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10 Contact List

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