



Background

• Founded in 2005, the eHealth Consortium is an organization that aims to enhance the quality of healthcare services through the application of medical informatics and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in healthcare.

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The Role of eHealth Consortium

- Continual role in Capacity Building
 - Training courses for Chinese Medicine Practitioners (in progress)
 - Facilitating the local Master Degree course to train Health Informaticians (Baptist U, Sept 2009)
 - Training courses for Nurses (proposed)
- Initiate Pilot Projects, especially to draw
 participations from Private Sectors

Validation Platform

- Draw international expertise
 - eHealth Forum 2009

Ground Works in Standardization

- White Paper
 - A white paper was composed and published to increase awareness in the health care industry about the application of IT. This paper focused on the introduction of different types of standard, suggestion for data sharing and laying down the direction of usage of standard.
- This paper has been posted in the OGCIO (www.ogcio.gov.hk) and the eHealth Consortium (www.ehealth.org.hk) websites.

Capacity Building

- Trainings to Private Doctors
- Essential eHealth Skills Workshop was successful in creating awareness amongst health care workers.
- Among 849 attendants, 75% considered that a rerun is necessary. Overall, 66% rated the workshop good or excellent.





Awareness and Advocacy

- IT in Health Forum 2003 & eHealth Forum 2006
 - provided a platform for knowledge exchange amongst IT and healthcare professionals to explore methods and share experiences on disease control







Call for Abstracts

- Abstracts Submission Deadline: 31 Jul 2009
- Topics
 - HK, Pearl River Delta and Greater China Electronic Health Records
 - Health Data Standard & Interoperability
 - Confidentiality & Security
 - HIT Education and Capacity Building
 - Improving care through eHealth
 - Disease Surveillance and Monitoring



Canada: Privacy & eHealth



- 2007 Canada Health Infoway survey
- Canadians reasonably confident that responsible stewardship of personal health data exists.
 - 79% consider the health information that exists about them to be at least moderately secured.
 - Trust in health professionals (e.g., doctors, nurses, pharmacists) is very high; but slightly lower for other groups (e.g., administrators, government departments).
 - Trust levels are more mixed outside the realm of immediate health care providers (e.g., computer technicians, insurance companies, researchers).

"If you can protect my privacy, I am okay with



- 53% were concerned about insurers gaining access
 - to this information.



Recent Data Breach in the US



- More than 1.5million patient records at hospitals have been exposed by data breaches between 2000 and 2007.
- Data breaches are common across sectors. Medical and health care facilities contributed to 14.9% of the total 449 security breaches in 2008.





eHealth Data Security



Much more than an IT project...

 Data Security isn't solely a technical or policy issue;

it also involves Behaviour.

- The protection of personal information is a personal responsibility for Each staff member.
- Data Security is an Ongoing Initiative, not a short-term project or goal.
- Privacy and Data Protection is a Culture 1

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· Key objectives:

eHR Data Security

- Ensures that patients' information is kept safe from corruption
- · Ensures that access to patients' information is suitably controlled

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Protects personal data







Current Situation – examples



- Role-based record access controls should be further enhanced:
 - Patient's entire record is accessible by medical practitioners, healthcare professionals, and administrative staff working in the same public hospital.
 - Currently, only HIV and mental illness records are classified (i.e. accessible to professionals in a need-to-know basis)
- Patients are not given a choice on the disclosure level of their health records to selected doctors. Either all or none.



1. Security Policy



· Data classification:

- · defines sensitivity levels of information
- apply "Need to know" policy: categorizes information so that even someone with the highest classification isn't automatically cleared to see all information at that level.
- Change control & management:
 - ensures information is appropriately protected from modification or disclosure
 - Effective change control can uncover:
 - cases of policy violation by staff; where programmes are installed or changed without following the proper notification procedures
 Possible hardware failure leading to data corruption
 - Viruses, worms, malicious code...
 - Formal change control processes will help ensure that only authorized changes are made at the approved time and in the approved manner.

Security Policy



- Security Management Practices:
 - Security management planning
 - Employment policies & practices
 - Background check, Hiring & termination, Separation of duties,....
 Guidelines to users on the processing, storage, and transmission of sensitive information
 - Risk management
 - Process for corporate governance to establish accountability and manage enterprise privacy risk
 - Procedures to implement privacy policies within operational processes, including designing and implementing measurable controls
 - An enterprise-wide privacy & data protection training program
 - Process to stay current and assess new legal regulations
 - and legislative developments

2. Security Audit



- Log management
- Physical security assess of data centers
- · Logical security assess of databases
- Access control of application and operating system



- 3. Privacy and Data Protection
- Governance Solutions (Data inventory, data classification, Digital rights management)
- Preventive Solutions (Data leak prevention, Identity and access management, Segregation of duties, database security /scanning, Encryption (data at rest), Encryption (data in motion))
- Monitoring Solutions (Content monitoring, audit logging and monitoring, intrusion detection and prevention, fraud discovery and monitoring)





- Access password
 Security device (e.g. Dongle)
- Smart card
- Short code by phone
- Biometric devices
 (face/fingerprint/iris/palm/voice detectors...)

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Examples:



- Encrypted biometric access systems that allow the use of a fingerprint to authenticate an individual's identity, but do not retain the actual fingerprint;
- Software that allows browsers to automatically detect the privacy policy of websites and compares it to the preferences expressed by the user, highlighting any clashes;
- 'Sticky' electronic privacy policies that are attached to the information itself preventing it being used in any way that is not compatible with that policy.

4. Human Issues



- · Education and reinforcement
- Periodical backup practice/habit
- No download or duplication of information
- Safekeep of USB/transportable devices
- Proper disposal of PC and storage devices
- Careful handling of hardcopies
- Legislative consideration
- Building a culture of privacy and data protection

Building a Culture of Privacy

- In building a culture of privacy, an organization must:
 - clearly articulate privacy as an organizational priority;

- · communicate key privacy and security messages;
- educate across the organization;
- raise awareness of the importance of registering privacy incidents and breaches;
- build privacy into the fabric of the organization's activities; and
- make privacy information and guidance readily accessible.

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- Compliance monitoring done by PS from HR data.
- Non-compliance with requirement results in system lockout.















































