

RBAC Newsletter – July, 2003

VHA RBAC TASK FORCE KICK-OFF MEETING HELD IN JUNE

The VHA RBAC TF Kick-off meeting was held in Chicago, June 19-20, 2003. Thirteen individuals were present at the kick-off, with VHA representation from the Hines VA Medical Center (VAMC)/IM Pharmacy, Health Information Architecture (HIA), Health Data Repository (HDR) Project, Computer-based Patient Record-Reengineered (CPRS-R) Project, Indian Health Service (IHS), Informatics Specialists, the Washington, D.C., VAMC, and VISN 1. The TF members also represent functional healthcare areas including pharmacy, clinical, ICU, ER, PACU, Clinical Informatics, and Health Data Systems. Dr. Robert O'Hara is the VHA RBAC TF Chair.

The following topics and materials were presented and discussed:

- * Overview of Healthcare RBAC Task Force - Overview presentation of roles, responsibilities, and strategies of the Healthcare RBAC Task Force.
- * Overview of VHA RBAC Task Force - Overview of roles, responsibilities, and strategies of the VHA RBAC Task Force. Review of the "VHA Enterprise RBAC Task Force Charter" document.
- * SDO Involvement - HL7 and ASTM involvement in the RBAC effort. Newly proposed NIST standards for RBAC.
- * RBAC Architecture - Overview of the VA's RBAC architecture.
- * Access Control Techniques - Explanation of current access control techniques in Vista and planned access control techniques for CPRS-R.
- * Role Engineering Process - Perform an in-depth review of the "Healthcare RBAC Task Force Role Engineering Process" document, including intra-TF communications and practice storyboard example.
- * RBAC Website - Demonstration of the Internet-based RBAC Website to be used by collaborators for data entry and analysis of data. RBAC documentation and newsletters will be accessible from this Website.
- * Review of VAEA Functions and Sub-functions - VA Enterprise Architecture healthcare functions and sub-functions and their functional decomposition were discussed.
- * * Practice Storyboard Example - Stepped through the "H17 Lab Frequency Order Full Example" storyboard and modeled it using the Role Engineering Process to the permission level.
- * Schedule and Assignments - Discussed 3 month, 6 month, and 1 year objectives. Discussed the domain areas to be tackled initially.

During the Task Force meeting, recommendations were suggested to enhance the RBAC Role Engineering Process, the VHA Enterprise RBAC TF Charter, and the VA RBAC website. The enhancements are currently being integrated.

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CORE DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE

The following core RBAC documents are available upon request. They will soon be available on the RBAC Website when updates are complete:

- * Enterprise RBAC TF Charter v1.0,
- * Healthcare RBAC TF Charter v1.0,
- * Healthcare RBAC TF Role Engineering Process v1.3,
- * Healthcare RBAC Website Presentation, and
- * Several HL7 storyboards (HL7 Frequency Lab Order with Results - short and full example).

COMMENTS PROVIDED TO NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY (NIST) ON PROPOSED RBAC STANDARD

The public review comment period for the proposed NIST RBAC standard ended on 17 June 2003. The Security Architects from the VHA Health Information Architecture (HIA) Office submitted comments to the NIST standards committee related to inclusion of organizational roles, along with an endorsement of the proposed standard (see <http://csrc.nist.gov/rbac/>). These comments are derived from the Healthcare RBAC Role Engineering Process developed for use by the RBAC task forces.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

In addition to the VHA RBAC Task Force kick-off meeting, other meetings are about to occur. Both the DoD and Kaiser Permanente RBAC Task Forces are gearing up to meet and discuss similar RBAC-relevant topics during the summer.

The point of contact for RBAC Task Force activities is Dawn Bollmann (Dawn.Bollmann@med.va.gov).