



SUN MICROSYSTEMS **OPEN SOURCE AND THE NATIONWIDE** **HEALTH INFORMATION NETWORK**

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**ACCELERATE THE ADVANCEMENT
OF THE NHIN:
EMBRACE SUN OPEN SOURCE
TECHNOLOGY.**

CHAPTER 1: WHAT IS THE NHIN?

The purpose of the Nationwide Health Information Network (NHIN) is to provide better quality, value and affordability of health and wellness services in the U.S. At its core, the NHIN is an Internet-based network that ensures secure transport and exchange of health information between NHIN-complaint Health Information Exchanges (NHIE's).

As a key element of the nation's health information technology strategy, the NHIN initiative will provide the foundation for interoperable, secure and standards-based health information exchange. Sounds like a tall order, but Sun Open Source will make it possible to deliver the low cost, interoperability, security and scalability required for the NHIN's success.

CHAPTER 2: BROAD BENEFITS

A primary goal of the NHIN is to mobilize health information nationwide. To meet this goal, the NHIN facilitates the exchange of information between disparate healthcare organizations and providers.

By enabling interoperability between government agencies as well as the secure healthcare data transfer among Federal, State, Local, commercial and private-sector healthcare organizations, the NHIN will:

- Provide essential information to help guide medical decisions at the time and place of care.
- Improve coordination of care among hospitals, labs, physicians' offices and other entities by creating a secure infrastructure for the exchange of healthcare information.
- Reduce healthcare costs resulting from inefficiency, medical errors, incomplete information and inappropriate treatments.
- Expand access to affordable healthcare.
- Improve response to epidemics and treatment of infectious diseases.

CHAPTER 3: BECOMING AN NHIE

The NHIN itself is truly a confederation of entities. To ensure that only valid, trusted entities are allowed to participate, organizations desiring inclusion in the NHIN must meet certain criteria and standards to become certified as a NHIN-compliant Health Information Exchanges (NHIE).

During the NHIN on-boarding and certification process, organizations must:

- ▶ Accept legal terms that allocate responsibilities and accountability to protect the privacy and security of information exchanges.

- Implement the NHIN-specified services that have been outlined to date.
- Sign the Data Use and Reciprocal Sharing Agreement (DURSA).
- Follow a predetermined set of indices to facilitate proper communication and data transfer.

To accelerate the advancement of the NHIN, government agencies and healthcare organizations are also embracing Sun Open Source technology.

CHAPTER 4: WHY SUN OPEN SOURCE IS KEY

Furthering the exchange of data between government, health care organizations, public and private agencies might seem a mighty task, but Sun Open Source simplifies and accelerates the process.

The Office of the National Coordinator NHIN-CONNECT reference implementation based on Sun's Open Source software is a technology solution created for the secure interoperable health information exchange. Built using Sun's Open Source technology that includes Glassfish ESB, Master Patient Index, MySQL, Identity Management, Netbeans and more, CONNECT was first released to the NHIN community April 2009 and enables federal agencies to connect to the NHIN.

To gain the trust of consumers, providers and practitioners, the NHIN must be secure, interoperable and have low barriers to entry. Sun Open Source facilitates each of these key elements. Here's how.

SECURITY: Agencies can securely exchange healthcare information and maintain HIPAA compliance with Open Source.

INTEROPERABILITY: With Open Source technology, healthcare organization and government agencies can avoid becoming “locked in” to any specific vendor or company.

LOW COST: By choosing Open Source, healthcare organizations and government agencies can get higher quality tools and lower costs without sacrificing reliability. Open Source tools are publicly available and typically licensed royalty free for unrestricted use. These freely available technologies and products make it possible for agencies to join the NHIN at very low cost.

CHAPTER 5: TURN TO SUN MICROSYSTEMS

Sun Microsystems offers an array of Open Source tools and computing solutions that can help you become a NHIN-compliant healthcare information exchange. Get the very best:

Systems: Sun powers the world's most demanding business enterprises, government agencies and healthcare organizations while setting new standards in power and energy efficiency. We can do the same for you.

Software: Sun offers easy, no-cost access to a proven portfolio of secure, open, integrated and interoperable software that runs across multiple platforms and environments.

Storage: With a comprehensive portfolio of storage and data management products, Sun provides integrated solutions that let you intelligently manage healthcare data from creation to deletion.

In addition to array of tools and technology designed to support healthcare agencies and providers of all sizes, Sun Microsystems has the experience, insight and technical expertise you need to succeed.

Contact us today to learn more about the NHIN and becoming a NHIN-compliant healthcare information exchange with the right Open Source tools and technology from Sun Microsystems.

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