

Orion Health updates its Rhapsody Integration Engine

WRITTEN BY PAUL CLARKE | 08 MARCH 2011

Orion Health has released an updated version of its Integration Engine (version 4.1), which it states will speed up interface development through the addition of a unit testing framework and an improved, simplified graphical interface to assist with complex routing.

"Rhapsody is designed for rapid, effortless installation and use, and enables fast accurate and efficient exchange of electronic health information" said Orion Health's marketing manager, Sarah Hansen.

Orion Health states that the addition of the unit testing framework will simplify testing of multiple scenarios and configurations, as well as enable the test scenarios to be stored within a configuration to support advanced regression testing. In addition, these test scenarios are able to be easily shared between different configuration environments — i.e. development, test and production servers. Improvements to the conditional routing interface are said to provide faster and simpler configuration of complex routing rules based on message content.

Other features supported in this new version include new options for custom branding and deployment, with Orion Health's partners now able to place their own branding on the product splash screens and other prominent locations, whilst OEMs will now benefit from unattended installation and configuration deployment, simplified setup and automated testing.

The Rhapsody Integration Engine provides support for a wide range of communication protocols, message formats and standards to enable connectivity between healthcare information systems, including support for all versions of HL7 (versions 2 and 3) and Clinical Documentation Architecture (CDA) and Continuity of Care Documents (CCA), Web Services, XML Integrating the Healthcare Enterprise (IHE) profiles, XML, X.12 and NCPDP.

With regard to support for Web Services, in a statement, Orion Health Product Manager Paul de Bazin said "The web services framework has been based on the international web services interoperability standards (ws-i.org) which brings together different web service standards into groups of profiles e.g.: WS-Security and WS-Addressing are in the basic profile."

Mr de Bazin also commented on IHE support: "Rhapsody has recently been certified at the January Connectathon in Chicago for Cross Enterprise Document Exchange (XDS) and QED profiles."

For advanced users, Orion Health provides a development kit that enables developers to add new functionality and protocols via the Rhapsody Application Programming Interface (API).

Orion Health claims the key benefits of this updated Integration Engine version for healthcare organisations include "new unit testing framework for faster integration of information systems; new conditional routing interface for simplified configuration; new custom branding options for Orion Health Partners; fast, intuitive interface development; simplified standards support and advanced interface management tools."

Asked what makes the Rhapsody Integration Engine different to other offerings from competitors, Mr de Bazin said, "compared to other integration technologies, Rhapsody is simpler to deploy, easier to work with, and handles its own maintenance."

Orion Health commented that the uptake of the new version of the Rhapsody Integration Engine has been better than expected and that "the new features in Rhapsody 4.1 have been well received with over 150 organisations having downloaded the release already."

The Rhapsody Integration Engine has been sold in over 30 countries, with a large base in the US, New Zealand, UK, Spain, Middle East and with Asia as an emerging market, particularly in China, Japan and Singapore.