

HE@LTH insurance

Development in Progress - Renovation of the Health Insurance Card System

SUMMARY

Slovenian health insurance card system was developed in 1996 and finally implemented on the national level in the summer of 2000. The card was well-received by all users of the system: insurance holders, healthcare providers and all four health insurance companies. Today, it is used as a matter of routine and is therefore, firmly a part of the Slovenian healthcare system.

Slovenia was one of the first European countries to introduce the national health insurance card system. Past development of similar European solutions (Austria, France, Germany and others) has proven that the Slovenian system is the most comprehensive and remains one of the leading systems of its kind.

STRATEGIC BACKGROUND OF THE RENOVATION

European strategic e-health guidelines recommend the prompt establishment of a secure healthcare information network, expanding the use of cards in healthcare and gradual enabling of on-line access to data. The same trend can be seen from the guidelines for the future European health insurance card and from the development plans of individual Member States.

Renovation of the health insurance card system also directly relates to the adopted strategy of computerization of the Slovenian healthcare system "eHealth2010", whose strategic focus is to "Provide healthcare experts with secure and reliable access to key information from electronic medical records and other databases which they require in their everyday work via efficient electronic communication, better learning and management of knowledge."

The strategic guidelines, mentioned above, therefore dictate the increased computerization of the healthcare system and standardized exchange of medical information. The improved card system will present an infrastructure which will enable the realization of these strategic guidelines based on a modern security scheme based on the smartcard and public key infrastructure.

Important facts:

Project start
October 2007

Consulting period
4 months

Implementation period
10 months

creative[softlab] HR
2 engineers,
1 solution architect

Formal position
Subcontractor

Project management
SIEMENS

Effort increase
0%

Total delay
0 months

Expense overrun
0 EUR



The final goal of the renovation of the card system is to have a fully operational on-line system where the new health insurance card and health professional card no longer store data but instead only the certificates allowing direct access to the data. The data is stored on different servers: the server of the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia stores data regarding compulsory health insurance while servers of other health insurance companies store data on voluntary health insurance, and servers of the healthcare system store personal medical data etc. The data stored on the servers lie within the responsibility of database administrators set by the law.

It is planned so that new functionalities will be gradually introduced in subsequent stages of establishing on-line access:

- * Electronic prescription,
- * Insurance holder's access to his own health and insurance-related data,
- * Access to analytical data for health insurance purposes,
- * Other electronic health insurance documents.

The infrastructure established in such a way will also provide an important basis for accelerating the development of the electronic health record, exchange of health records between healthcare providers and introduction of other applications for use in expert medical work within the Slovenian healthcare system in accordance with the Slovenian eHealth 2010 strategy.

PRODUCTION ENVIRONMENT

Operating system: RedHat Linux
Database: Oracle 10i
Application server: JBOSS 4.2
Technologies: J2EE, WS Security

DEVELOPMENT ENVIRONMENT

Project management: MS Project
IDE: Eclipse Europa 3.3
Technologies: Java 1.5
OS: Windows Vista/UBUNTU Linux
Version control: CVS

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