INTERNATIONAL HEALTH TERMINOLOGY STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

VOC, a large multilingual integrated terminology server built around SNOMED CT

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Audience

Clinical software developers or vendors, SNOMED CT implementers, and researchers in the medical terminology domain

Objectives

To explain how we integrated many standard terminologies with SNOMED CT and created lexical and semantic tools to access terminological and semantic information.

Abstract

The VOC terminology engine integrates many standard terminologies around SNOMED CT, thereby supporting a unified terminology for clinical applications. VOC's lexical tools use many lexical techniques, including the use of colloquial phrases, to improve keyword searches. Semantic information is used to support intelligent behaviour in clinical applications.

The presentation will discuss our experience in integrating many terminologies and will focus on

- The importance of integrated clinical terminologies as the foundation of any clinical application to improve clinical data
- The architecture of the integrated terminology
- The keyword search problem and how lexical techniques are used to improve the sensitivity and specificity of keyword searches
- How SNOMED CT is used as the core of the integrated multilingual terminology
- How semantic information is used to support intelligent behaviour in clinical applications
- Our experience with mapping concepts between different terminologies
- Issues when converting codes between different terminologies
- How a terminology server can improve access to reference information