

UT-NEDSS UPDATE

MAY 8, 2008

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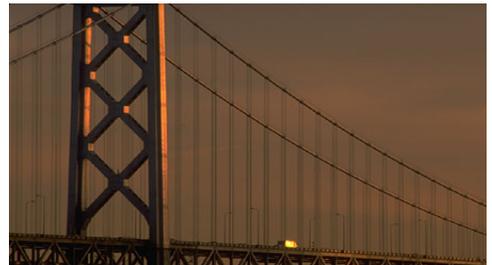
- **RELEASE 1 COMPLETED**
- **RELEASE 2 INITIATED**
- **MANY PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE DURING THE PAST MONTH**
- **PLEASE VISIT THE PROJECT WEB SITE**

RELEASE 1 COMPLETED

Collaborative Software Initiative (CSI) completed Release 1 (see *Glossary* on Page 2), the first of 23 releases identified in the project roadmap. Release 1 contains the functionality that allows a user to enter, view, update and export data associated with a Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR). CSI's Development Team also built in the ability to perform robust record searches (by name, date range, gender, etc.), tools to navigate within the application more easily, and populated numerous drop-down lists to improve the efficiency of data entry. The development team also built in basic administrative and workflow management tools, such as the ability to assign a CMR to a nurse investigator and to assign a case status (i.e., confirmed, probable, suspect, etc.) to a case. Additionally, the development team also built in the functionality to administer roles and permissions based upon one's jurisdiction. On a related note, Utah Department of Technology Services staff built in a two-step authentication

process to ensure added security to the system.

A small group of users has already tested out the functionality of the test application and provided feedback, which will be posted to the project's collaborative web page here: <http://tinyurl.com/5ubmmm>. If you would like to gain access to the test site and assist with pilot feedback, please contact either David Jackson (davidjackson@utah.gov) or Richard Kurzban (rkurzban@utah.gov).



UT-NEDSS—Connecting local and state public health departments and partners

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following accomplishments have been made towards the UT-NEDSS project since the last update:

- Release 1 was completed and successfully deployed (see details above).
- The UT-NEDSS Core Team held a Release 2 planning meeting and CSI's Development Team initiated Release 2 development in April (see *Release 2 Plan* on Page 2).
- CSI and the Utah Department of Health (UDOH) submitted two abstracts for the annual Public Health Information Network (PHIN) conference. This year's conference theme is *Public Health Informatics: Collabora-*

tion at the Crossroads. One abstract was submitted for a programmatic presentation and discusses the UT-NEDSS project's history and process. The second abstract, which contains more detailed information about the UT-NEDSS application, was submitted for a product demonstration at the conference. The exposure at PHIN may help to establish a stronger collaborative effort to develop the free and open source software (see *Glossary*) and build long-term product sustainability.

- CSI added Dave Christiansen and Matthew Martin to their Development Team. Dave will assist with quality assurance and application testing while Matthew will assist with Release 1 and 2 user interface (see *Glossary*) design.

RELEASE 2 PLAN

Release 2 development, the second of 23 release developments identified in the UT-NEDSS project roadmap, was initiated in April. The targeted functionality during this release will be on having a form-builder tool, enhanced support for core data elements across disease investigation forms, enhanced security and other administrative and user functions.

The primary objective of Release 2 is to create the form builder tool. The tool should allow one to create and modify disease-specific forms; allow one to create, view, update and soft delete disease form data; support jurisdiction-specific enhancements (such as adding health district-specific questions); and the ability to add new questions to disease forms during an outbreak.

CSI's Development Team also aims to add enhanced support for core data elements across disease-specific investigation forms. This would allow one, for example, to enter multiple laboratory tests, treatments and additional clinician information on a disease-specific form.

There will also be additional security features added to UT-NEDSS during Release 2. The features will allow additional administrative privileges, such as intra- and inter-jurisdictional routing of reports and disease-specific data privacy features.

In addition to the functionality described above, the development team also hopes to develop additional system features, such as basic notes (also known as "nursing notes") and a project administrative dashboard to view investigation assignments, track cases' statuses, administer routing of reports, and so on.

Release 2 Schedule

There will be five iterations (see *Glossary*) during Release 2. Iteration 2.1 was already completed on April 25, 2008. CSI's Development Team used that iteration to conduct technical research on creating a form-builder tool, routing disease reports, and on incorporating additional administrative tools into UT-NEDSS. Iteration 2.2, which will focus on developing the form-builder tool and adding enhanced support for core data elements across disease specific investigation forms, will be completed on Friday, May 9, 2008. Iteration 2.3 development will begin May 12, 2008 and is scheduled for completion on May 23, 2008. The focus of this iteration will be on routing reports within and outside of a public health department. Iteration 2.4 development, scheduled for the May 26-June 6, 2008 time period, will focus on developing the form builder user interface. Iteration 2.5 development will run from June 9 through June 20, 2008, during which time miscellaneous form builder tools will be developed and Release 2 deployment preparations will be made.

STAY UPDATED AND KNOW WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

There are several ways to stay updated with and connected to UT-NEDSS project activities, including the following:

- Continue to read the UT-NEDSS project update, which will continue to be provided on a regular basis to stakeholders throughout the duration of the two-year project.

- Visit the project's collaborative website here: <https://www.csinitiative.net> (please contact Mike Herrick (mike@csinitiative.com), CSI's UT-NEDSS Program Manager, if you cannot access the site).
- Contact David Jackson (davidjackson@utah.gov), UDOH's UT-NEDSS Product Manager.

We are on the web!

<https://ut-nedss.csinitiative.net/>

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The following software development terms will be used regularly in UT-NEDSS updates and discussions:

- **Iterations** — A subset of "Release" features that are used to create consistently small-sized units of work that are then taken on by the development team. They are typically much smaller than the size of the overall project. Iterations allow the development team to achieve progress in very short periods of time.
- **Free and Open Source Software** — Software that is copyrighted and licensed so that there is no charge to use it and all users have access to the source code that defines the software.
- **Releases** — Made up of one or more "Iterations". Releases contain a set of functionality that is useful to users.
- **User Interface** — the user interface (UI) is everything designed into a computer or software with which a human being may interact — including display screen, keyboard, mouse, the appearance of a desktop, illuminated characters, help messages, and how an application program or a web site invites interaction and responds to it.
- **Wiki** — A website or similar online resource which allows users to add and edit content collectively.