

# UT-NEDSS UPDATE

JULY 30, 2008

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **RELEASE 2 COMPLETED**
- **RELEASE 3 INITIATED**
- **2008 PROJECT TIMELINE IDENTIFIED**
- **NETSS REPLACEMENT EXPECTED JANUARY 2009**

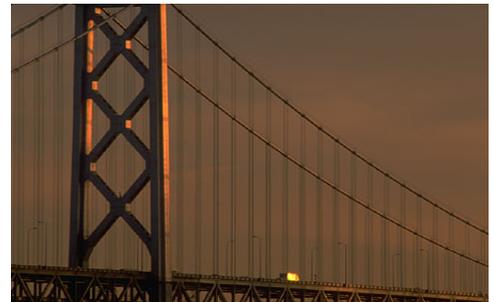
## RELEASE 2 COMPLETED

On July 3, Collaborative Software Initiative (CSI) completed Release 2 (see *Glossary* on Page 2), the second of 20 releases identified in the UT-NEDSS project roadmap.

The primary objective of Release 2 was to create the form builder tool. The tool allows one to create and modify disease-specific forms; allows one to create, view, update and soft delete disease form data; supports jurisdiction-specific enhancements (such as adding health district-specific questions); and the ability to add new questions to disease forms during an outbreak. Release 2 also contains more flexibility when recording certain core data elements (e.g., multiple lab results, etc.) and has an improved graphical user interface (see *Glossary*).

A small group of users has already tested the functionality of the form builder tool and pro-

vided feedback to the UT-NEDSS Core Team in order to help get the tool refined. If you do not have access to the application and would like to have it to assist with pilot feedback, please contact either David Jackson ([davidjackson@utah.gov](mailto:davidjackson@utah.gov)) or Richard Kurzban ([rkurzban@utah.gov](mailto: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:

- One-third of the UT-NEDSS development project has been completed and just under 29 percent of the available funds have been used.
- Release 2 was completed and successfully deployed (see details above).
- The UT-NEDSS Core Team held a Release 3 planning meeting and CSI's Development Team initiated Release 3 development earlier in the month (see *Release 3 Plan* on Page 2).
- The UT-NEDSS project was publicly announced on May 19, 2008. CSI announced

the release of their development of the first open source (see *Glossary*), web-based infectious disease reporting and management system in the country. The announcement can be found at:

<http://www.csinitiative.com/5-19-08.php>.

The project's exposure at the national level may help to establish a stronger collaborative effort to develop the free and open source software and build long-term product sustainability.

- CSI's graphics designer, Matthew Martin, met with some local and state users to identify needs and preferences for the graphical user interface-related items, such as the look and feel of the system and the ability to navigate throughout the application easily.

## RELEASE 3 PLAN

Release 3 development, the third of 20 release developments identified in the UT-NEDSS project roadmap, was initiated in July. There will be six iterations (see *Glossary*) during Release 3, the schedule and themes of which are as follows:

### Iteration 3.1

Iteration 3.1 was completed on July 18, 2008. CSI's Development Team used that iteration to conduct technical research on creating a reporting tool, developing the functionality to route disease reports both within and among health jurisdictions and on incorporating additional administrative tools into UT-NEDSS. Additionally, UDOH epidemiologist Rachelle Boulton tested the form builder tool's capability during this time period and provided the Core Team with helpful feedback to determine what features needed to be refined. She, along with other local and state users, will continue to test the builder throughout July and notify the Core Team of defects or missing features.

### Iteration 3.2

Iteration 3.2, which will focus on refining the form-builder tool and adding enhanced support for core data elements across disease specific investigation forms, will be completed on Friday, August 8, 2008. Also, beginning in Iteration 3.2, a team of local and state users will begin to input additional disease investigation forms into the system and will continue to do so throughout each successive iteration. CSI's

Development Team will continue to refine the form builder tool based upon the user feedback.

### Iteration 3.3

Iteration 3.3 development will begin August 11, 2008 and is scheduled for completion on August 22, 2008. The focus of this iteration will be on developing disease reports, implementing "nursing notes" into the application and completing any high-priority items left unfinished from the first two iterations. The features will allow additional administrative privileges, such as more sophisticated intra- and inter-jurisdictional routing of reports.

### Iteration 3.4

One major objective for iteration 3.4 development, scheduled for the August 25-September 5, 2008 time period, will be to develop the ability to report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

### Iterations 3.5-3.6

The details of Iteration 3.5 and 3.6 development are yet to be determined, but will be based upon what was learned during the first four iterative development cycles.

The primary aim for Release 3 is to have key capabilities in place by October 1, 2008 in order to have the most robust, testable UT-NEDSS application deployed as possible for a broader evaluation by public health.

## 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.

## JANUARY 2009 DEPLOYMENT OF UT-NEDSS

Release 3, which will be a fully testable version of UT-NEDSS, will be deployed on October 1, 2008. The plan is to have an implementation team, made up of select state and local users, train and assist health departments in the implementation and use of the application. Additionally, select local health departments (LHDs) and the Utah Department of

Health (UDOH) will enter data into forms and continue to actively test the application until the end of the year. As defects and missing features are identified, CSI will continue to refine the application in preparation for deploying the UT-NEDSS system in January 2009 as a complete NETSS replacement (see *Timeline* below).

## UT-NEDSS PROJECT TIMELINE—2008

