



Collaboration Hub

Let's Get Technical: Defining Success and Moving Toward It

In recent weeks, the Let's Get Technical (LGT) group has great conversations regarding the secure, interoperable exchange of information. One of the major assets of the LGT group is our cumulative knowledge of most of the six domains of primary focus for the National Interoperability Collaborative. Please review [NIC's report on the domains](#), which discusses their commonalities, their differences and the reasons it's important to understand them. The domains are: Human and Social Services, Public Health, Public Education, Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services and Health Information Technology.

The level of thoughtfulness, energy and engagement during the LGT meetings to date has been impressive and heartening. That said, we realize that we need to have a strategy for continuing this work into the future, both to ensure that participation in the group continues to be rewarding and, even more importantly, so that our conversations contribute to genuine progress. That means, for starters, we should define what progress in sharing data across domains looks like, which would provide real value from this diverse group of experts.

In past calls, we have defined some challenges that affect all of the domains, such as the need for identity matching and standards (NIEM, FHIR, etc.). We very much want to continue identifying and discussing these and additional issues, but we'd also now like to take a step back to think about the longer-term objectives of the LGT group and, hopefully, tailor our weekly meetings strategically so that they work toward and further those objectives.

Toward that end, we need to develop and build upon use cases that illustrate the key challenges, opportunities, similarities, differences, variables and drivers that we need to understand in order to accelerate the exchange of valuable, actionable information across domains. For example, a data transfer from social services to healthcare might indicate that one or several members of a family are receiving financial support for food. That knowledge could be important in the healthcare domain to enable artificial intelligence systems to flag this family as being at-risk in several ways. Similar use cases can be developed for interoperability between and among other domains in order to focus on the data standards and other issues needed to get the job done.

Moving forward, among its activities, this group will construct a framework that will include:

- A definition (or definitions) of what constitutes success.
- Several use cases to illustrate how we can achieve it.
- Active participation by professionals from all six domains.
- A plan for dissemination, growth and use of our work