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Interoperability Toolkit
ITK v2.0 to ITK v2.x Upgrade Guide

Document Management

Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes
1.0	6th November 2015	Final Version

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Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Document

This document describes the differences between ITKv2.0 and ITKv2.x. It is intended to both give an overview of the thinking and drivers behind the upgrade, and also to point out any specific technical changes.

1.2 Audience

This document will be of interest to anyone who is familiar with ITK v2.0 who wants to understand “what’s new” in ITK v2.2. It is aimed primarily at a technical audience.

2 Enhancing the Interoperability Toolkit

2.1 Architectural Change

Following supplier and developer feedback during the Vendor Meetings and accreditation process, it became clear that modest changes made to the ITK specifications would simplify implementation and streamline the accreditation process.

The feedback suggested that any improvements should:

- Ensure the ITK application/system state and behaviours are independent of the transport
- Ensure the ITK Architecture is business domain agnostic.
- The ITK Architecture should focus on defining and encapsulating the architectural requirements of an Open Interface/API.
- The ITK Architecture should look to profile and restrict requirements at the transport level ensuring that the focus remained on ensuring the business applications were interoperable.
- ITK accreditation should be simplified in order to make the ongoing focus of accreditation the payload(s).

The following table summarises the architectural changes made:

	ITK 2.1	**ITK 2.2**
1	Web Services - Multiple WSDL files. TMS unclear/complicated	Web Services - Single WSDL file i.e. build once and use for any business domain. TMS approach simplified & suitably lighter-touch Common Assurance Process – multiple interactions.
2	Tight coupling of layers	Loose coupling of layers e.g. web services - http, SOAP, DE, Application
3	Development Tool sensitive - WCF	Development Tool agnostic
4	Based on web services	Transport agnostic
5	Error reporting crosses arch layers	Layered error reporting, and a comprehensive set of report codes for reporting Distribution Envelope errors.

6	Implemented acknowledgement framework	The acknowledgement framework is configured as part of the Distribution Envelope.

2.2 Core Pack Changes

The move to a single WSDL and configuring the Acknowledgement Framework within the Handling Specification part of the Distribution Envelope has led to a streamlining of the Core Pack component of the ITK. This has led to a number of clerical/ administrative changes and these are noted in the “Overview – Change History” tab of the Core Pack zip.

2.3 Domain Message Specification Changes

Previous versions of the ITK lacked a deprecation strategy for the Domain Message Specifications, as part of ITK 2.2 the HSCIC will be providing details about which Domain Message Specifications are to be deprecated and the timings associated with deprecation.

All existing Domain Message Specifications will not be deprecated within the next 2 years, and as a consequence there is no cause for concern.

2.4 Accreditation Pack Changes

In line with the move to a single web services WSDL, the test tooling (TKW.jar) has been updated to provide full support.

Additionally the accreditation requirements set has been rationalised, so only those directly related to the implementation are accredited as part of the formal process. The set of in-scope requirements are detailed in the Supplier Certified Requirements Coverage Spreadsheet published within the ITK accreditation pack (https://isd.hscic.gov.uk/trud3/user/guest/group/41/pack/30).

2.5 Summary and Conclusion

The enhancements made to the Interoperability Toolkit aim to address the concerns raised by the vendor community and increase adoption of the ITK assets through changes that simplify implementation and accreditation.