

# FHIR Overview

Virtual HL7 FHIR Connectathon 26

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# Session Goals


- Understand the basics of the FHIR specification
- Understand how to navigate through the FHIR specification website



# FHIR License & Terms of use

<http://www.hl7.org/fhir/license.html>

## 2.20 License and Legal Terms

FHIR Infrastructure  Work Group	Maturity Level: N/A	Standards Status: Informative
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### 2.20.1 Disclaimer and Warning of Use


FHIR Resource definitions developed by HL7 are derived from the considerable collective experience of the HL7 membership and wide community feedback from the development and application of a spectrum of health care interoperability solutions. However, Resource definitions are generalized to support multiple contexts of use. It is the responsibility of the persons or organizations using these Resources to ensure their use is fit for the particular purpose in which they are used, including validation for clinical and operational use.


See also the specific warnings associated with [use of the STU](#).

### 2.20.2 FHIR License

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# What is FHIR?

- The Next Generation Standards Framework from HL7
  - Resources (building blocks of independent, discrete data)
  - Extensions (custom data definitions within the specification)
  - Methodology (bundles, profiles, conformance)
  - Support for Multiple Formats: JSON, XML, Turtle(Terse RDF Triple)
  - Human Readable Text (derived from the data content)
- Defines a set of modular data components called "Resources"
- Offers flexibility in implementations; a simple framework to extend beyond the base specification



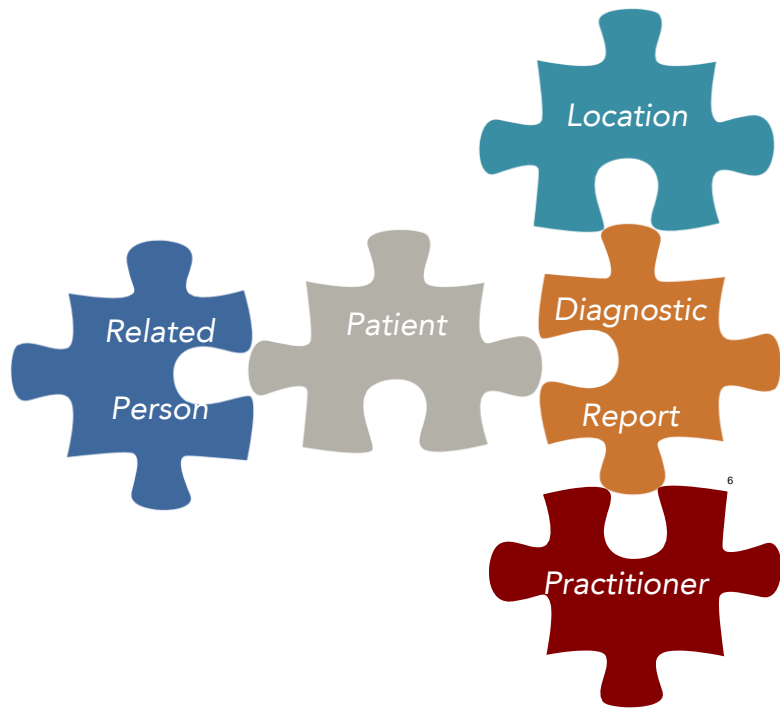
# The Acronym

- F – Fast (to design & to implement)
  - Relative – No technology can make integration as fast as we'd like
- H – Healthcare
  - That's why we're here
- I – Interoperable
  - Ditto
- R – Resources
  - Building blocks – more on these next



# It's All About the Resources...

- Building blocks



# Resources

- Defined Structured Data
  - The logical, common contents of the resource
  - Mapped to formal definitions; e.g. RIM & other formats
  - Syntax – XML, JSON and Turtle(Terse RDF Triple)
  - Logical collections of data elements
- Extensions
  - Local requirements, but everyone can use
  - Additional data that isn't part of the original specification
  - Published and managed
- Narrative
  - Human readable



```

<Patient xmlns="http://hl7.org/fhir">
  <id value="example"/>
  <meta>
    <lastUpdated value="2017-01-14T09:14:33Z"/>
  </meta>

  <text>
    <status value="generated"/>
    <div xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml">
      <p>Henry Levin the 7th</p>
    </div>
  </text>

  <extension url="http://hl7.org/fhir/StructureDefinition/us-core-birthsex">
    <valueCode value="M"/>
  </extension>

  <identifier>
    <use value="usual"/>
    <system value="urn:oid:1.2.36.146.595.217.0.1"/>
    <value value="12345"/>
  </identifier>
  <active value="true"/>
  <name>
    <use value="official"/>
    <family value="Levin"/>
    <given value="Henry"/>
    <suffix value="the 7th"/>
  </name>
  <gender value="male"/>
  <birthDate value="1974-12-25"/>
  <managingOrganization>
    <reference value="Organization/example"/>
  </managingOrganization>
</Patient>

```

FHIR Id & Metadata

Human Readable  
Summary

Extension with  
reference to its  
definition

Standard Data  
Content:

- Patient Identity
- Name
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- Provider





```

{
  "resourceType": "Patient",
  "id": "example",
  "meta": {
    "versionId": "1",
    "lastUpdated": "2017-01-03T16:05:00.792Z"
  },
  "text": {
    "status": "generated",
    "div": "<div xmlns=\\"http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml\\"><p>Henry Levin the 7th</p></div>"
  },
  "extension": [
    {
      "url": "http://hl7.org/fhir/StructureDefinition/us-core-birthsex",
      "valueCode": "M"
    }
  ],
  "identifier": [
    {
      "use": "usual",
      "system": "urn:oid:1.2.36.146.595.217.0.1",
      "value": "12345"
    }
  ],
  "active": true,
  "name": [
    {
      "use": "official",
      "family": "Levin",
      "given": [ "Henry" ],
      "suffix": [ "the 7th" ]
    }
  ],
  "gender": "male",
  "birthDate": "1974-12-25",
  "managingOrganization": {
    "reference": "Organization/example"
  }
}

```

FHIR Id & Metadata

Human Readable  
Summary

Extension with  
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Standard Data  
Content:

- Patient Identity
- Name
- Gender
- Date of Birth
- Provider



# What Types of Resources?

## FHIR Resource Types

- Administrative  
Patient, Practitioner, Organization,  
Location, Coverage, Invoice
- Clinical Concepts  
AllergyIntolerance, Condition, Family  
History, CarePlan
- Infrastructure/Conformance
  - ★ CapabilityStatement,
  - ★ StructureDefinition

## Non-resource types

- Gender  
Too small
- Electronic Health Record  
Too big
- Blood Pressure  
Too specific
- Intervention  
Too broad



# CapabilityStatement

- A resource for documenting the capabilities of a FHIR client and server.
- A client should examine the CapabilityStatement of a server to determine the supported behavior of the server.
- The CapabilityStatement:
  - is a key part of the FHIR conformance framework
  - is a statement of the features, rules and behaviors of a FHIR system
  - may be used for system compatibility testing, code generation, or as the basis for conformance testing
- To declare themselves “FHIR Conformant”, a system **MUST** publish a CapabilityStatement:
  - <http://hl7.org/fhir/http.html#capabilities>



# StructureDefinition

- A resource that describes a structured set of data element definitions and their associated rules of usage
  - how resource elements and/or data types are used or not used
  - resource or data type extensions
  - Value Set reference bindings that specify the content of coded elements
- Describes the content defined in the specification
- Describes and constrains (Profiles) how these structures are utilized in implementations
- Published to and shared via registries for use in profile comparison and as the basis for code, report and UI generation



# Scenario - Immunization Forecast

- Example: A mother takes her child to Sunset Pediatric Office. The pediatrician needs to determine what vaccination shot(s) are due for the child.
  - What FHIR resources will be used to record this visit and forecast the shot(s) that are due?



# (Some) Answers

## Recording the visit

- Patient
- Practitioner
- Organization
- Location
- Observation
- Encounter

## Forecasting the shots

- Patient
- Immunization
- Immunization Recommendation

Let's see how this would work...

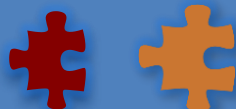


# Immunization Forecast Workflow

Sunset Pediatric Office



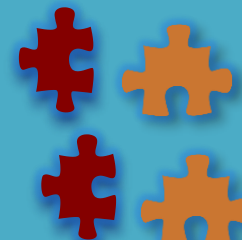
Forecast Request  
(patient & immunization(s))



Forecast Response  
(recommendations)




Regional  
Immunization  
Forecast Service



# AEGIS WildFHIR Demo




<http://wildfhir4.aegis.net/fhir4-0-1-gui/index.jsf>

**WildFHIR**  
AEGIS.net

**AEGIS WildFHIR - HL7® FHIR® Test Client**  
Supporting HL7® FHIR® Release 4 (v4.0.1-Official)


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Follow us on:  
  

WildFHIR Versions

- WildFHIR - FHIR DSTU2 v1.0.2
- WildFHIR - FHIR STU3 v3.0.2
- WildFHIR - FHIR R4 v4.0.1



ServicesOperationsToolsConformanceFHIR Providers

EverythingConvertGraphQLValidateCDSISubscriptions

**FHIR Operation - Clinical Decision Support Immunization Forecasting**  
*\*\*In collaboration with the Immunization Information Systems (IIS) community*  
Select FHIR Provider: \*

**Enter Forecast Criteria:**  
Assessment Date (yyyy-mm-dd)   
Patient Gender \*   
Patient DOB (yyyy-mm-dd) \*

Vaccine 1  Administered Date (yyyy-mm-dd)   
Vaccine 2  Administered Date (yyyy-mm-dd)





# FHIR Defines Testing

- To ensure interoperability between applications claiming conformance to the specification, a testing framework has been established within the FHIR specification itself
  - <http://hl7.org/fhir/testing.html>
- This framework defines the TestScript resource as a natural language, computable format of a test case
- The TestScript resource represents an executable test definition for examining the results of FHIR RESTful API interactions
  - <http://hl7.org/fhir/testscript.html>



# A FHIR Test Engine

- The FHIR TestScript defines the test but how do we run it?
  - A FHIR Test Engine
- What does a FHIR Test Engine need to be capable of doing?
  - Pre-Processing
  - Setup Execution
  - Test Execution(s)
  - Tear-Down Execution
  - Post-Processing
- AEGIS has built such an engine so that others can subscribe to it for testing without having to carry the overhead and expense of setting up their own



# Public FHIR Servers for Testing

- More than 30 publicly available test servers (and clients)
- Support for multiple versions:
  - Release 2 (DSTU2)
  - Release 3 (STU3)
  - Release 4 (R4)
  - Release 5 (Preview)
  - Current CI
- Maintained and supported by the FHIR community

## <https://confluence.hl7.org/display/FHIR/Public+Test+Servers>

Note that these servers are testing servers. They may be sporadically unavailable, and as the FHIR spec

- <http://test.fhir.org/r2>, <http://test.fhir.org/r3> and <http://test.fhir.org/r4> - Grahame's test server
  - Supports all resource types, all operations, xml + json
  - implementation details: open source - see [[2]]
  - supports Smart on FHIR
- HSPC Sandbox
  - <http://sandbox.hspconsortium.org>
  - Free DSTU2 and STU3 open sandboxes with tools for managing data. Both personal and
  - Supports both open and SMART on FHIR OAuth2 access
  - Supports app registration for SMART on FHIR apps
  - Supports all resource types, all operations
  - <http://hspconsortium.org/#/>
  - <https://healthservices.atlassian.net/wiki/display/HSPC/Healthcare+Services+Platform+Co>
- Vonk - .NET based FHIR Server by Firely
  - Demo servers
    - Stable: <http://vonk.fire.ly> (STU3 + R4)
    - Experimental: <https://labs.vonk.fire.ly/> (Including R5 support)
  - Supports STU3, R4 and the R5 pre-release
  - Functionality
    - Generic FHIR Server, for all types of resources, all search parameters, xml + json
    - Supports validation (for example: POST /Patient/\$validate, with a Patient resource)
    - This test instance runs on MongoDB and therefore can do batch but not transact
  - [Download your own instance](#) - [More information](#) - [Documentation](#)
- HAPI FHIR Reference Server



# Paradigms

- FHIR supports four interoperability paradigms



# REST



- Simple, out-of-the-box interoperability
- Leverages HTTP: GET, POST, etc.
- Pre-defined operations
  - Create, Read, Update, Delete
  - Also: History, Read Version, Search, Updates, Validate, Capabilities, Batch & Transaction
- Works best where control resides on client side and a trust relationship exists



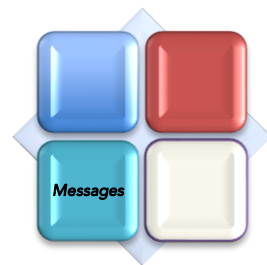
# Documents

- Similar to CDA
- A collection of resources bound together
  - Root is a “Composition” resource
  - Just like CDA header
- Sent as a Bundle (**FHIR Resource**)
- Single context
- Can be signed, authenticated, etc.
- Requires human-readable representation of the data contents



# Messages

- Similar to v2 and v3 messaging
- Also a collection of resources
  - Sent as a Bundle (**FHIR Resource**)
- Allows for request and response behavior and payloads
- Event-driven
  - e.g. Send lab order, get back result
  - \$process-message extended operation
- Can be asynchronous



# Service Oriented Architecture (SOA)



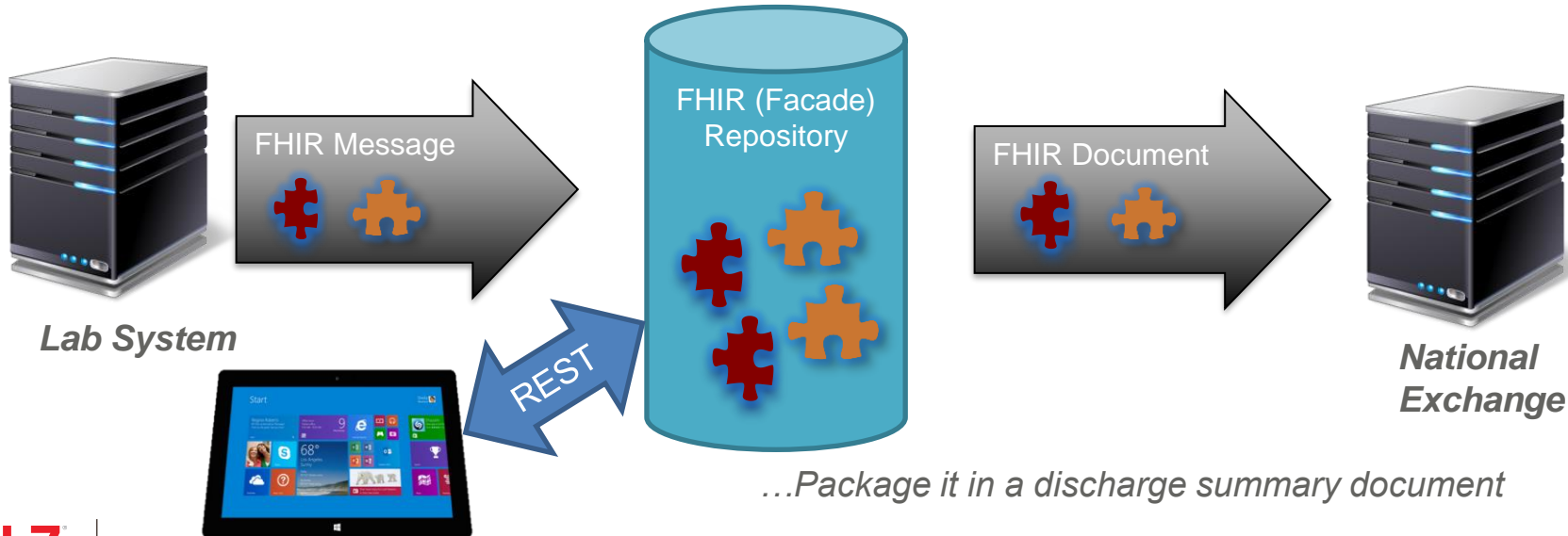
- Combination of previous paradigms
  - (based on SOA principles)
    - loose coupling, service abstraction, reusability, autonomy, statelessness, discoverability, composability, interoperability
  - Ultra complex workflows
  - Ultra simple workflows
  - Individual resources or collections (**in Bundle, contained resources or other formats**)
  - Use HTTP or other transport protocol
  - Only constraint is that you're passing around FHIR resources in some way, shape, manner or form





























































# Regardless of the paradigm the content is the same

*Receive a lab result in a message...*




# FHIR Specification

Directory to all FHIR versions: <http://hl7.org/fhir/directory.html>

Date	Version	Description	Links
<b>Current Versions</b>			
2019-10-30	4.0.1	FHIR Release #4: First Normative Content	      
(current)	(last commit)	Current Development build (about 30min behind version control, may be incoherent and change rapidly)	   
<b>R5 Sequence</b> (Work in Progress)			
2020-08-20	4.5.0	FHIR Release #5: Preview #3	    
2020-05-04	4.4.0	FHIR Release #5: Preview #2	    
2019-12-31	4.2.0	FHIR Release #5: Preview #1	    
<b>R4 Sequence</b> (Current)			
2019-10-30	4.0.1	<b>FHIR Release #4</b> First Normative Content with 1 technical errata (Permanent Home)  • <i>Technical Errata Archive (zip): <a href="#">v4.0.0</a></i>  (Permanent Home)	      
2018-11-09	3.5a.0	Special R4 Ballot #3 : Normative Packages for Terminology / Conformance + Observation	   
2018-08-21	3.5.0	R4 Ballot #2 : Mixed Normative/Trial use (Second Normative ballot + Baltimore Connectathon)	   
2018-04-02	3.3.0	R4 Ballot #1 : Mixed Normative/Trial use (First Normative ballot)	   
2018-04-02	3.2.0	Draft for comment / First Candidate Normative Content	   
<b>STU 3 Sequence</b> (Historical)			
2019-10-24	3.0.2	<b>FHIR Release 3</b> (STU) with 2 technical errata (Permanent Home)  • <i>Technical Errata Archive (zip): <a href="#">v3.0.1</a></i>	      



This page is part of the FHIR Specification (v4.0.1: R4 - Mixed [Normative](#) and [STU](#)). This is the current published version in it's permanent home (it will always be available at this URL). For a full list of available versions, see the [Directory of published versions](#) .

## 0 Welcome to FHIR®

FHIR is a standard for health care data exchange, published by HL7®.

### First time here?

See the [executive summary](#), the [developer's introduction](#), [clinical introduction](#), or [architect's introduction](#), and then the [FHIR overview / roadmap & Timelines](#). See also the [open license](#) (and don't miss the full [Table of Contents](#) and the [Community Credits](#) or you can [search this specification](#)).

### Technical Corrections:

- **4.0.1, Oct-30 2019:** Corrections to invariants & generated conformance resources, and add ANSI Normative Status Notes

### Level 1 Basic framework on which the specification is built



#### Foundation

Base Documentation, XML, JSON, Data Types, Extensions

### Level 2 Supporting implementation and binding to external specifications



#### Implementer Support

Downloads,  
Version Mgmt,  
Use Cases,  
Testing



#### Security & Privacy

Security,  
Consent,  
Provenance,  
AuditEvent



#### Conformance

StructureDefinition,  
CapabilityStatement,  
ImplementationGuide,  
Profiling



#### Terminology

CodeSystem,  
ValueSet,  
ConceptMap,  
Terminology Svc



# RESTful API

<http://hl7.org/fhir/http.html>

## 3.1.0 RESTful API

FHIR Infrastructure [Work Group](#)

Maturity Level: Normative

Standards Status: Normative

FHIR is described as a 'RESTful' specification based on common industry level use of the RESTful style. It only supports Level 2 of the [REST Maturity model](#) as part of the core specification, though conformance is possible through the use of [extensions](#). Because FHIR is a standard, it requires consistency of resource structures and interfaces. This may be considered a violation of REST principles of consistent interoperability across diverse systems.

- The Instance Level, Type Level, and Whole System Interactions are listed at the top of the page.
- Clicking on any specific interaction will display the details of that interaction; e.g., update will show all of the FHIR requirements for updating resources.

### Instance Level Interactions

<a href="#">read</a>	Read the current state of the resource
<a href="#">vread</a>	Read the state of a specific version of the resource
<a href="#">update</a>	Update an existing resource by its id (or create it if it is new)
<a href="#">patch</a>	Update an existing resource by posting a set of changes to it
<a href="#">delete</a>	Delete a resource
<a href="#">history</a>	Retrieve the change history for a particular resource

### Type Level Interactions

<a href="#">create</a>	Create a new resource with a server assigned id
<a href="#">search</a>	Search the resource type based on some filter criteria
<a href="#">history</a>	Retrieve the change history for a particular resource type

### Whole System Interactions

<a href="#">capabilities</a>	Get a capability statement for the system
<a href="#">batch/transaction</a>	Update, create or delete a set of resources in a single interaction
<a href="#">history</a>	Retrieve the change history for all resources
<a href="#">search</a>	Search across all resource types based on some filter criteria



# Patient Resource Content

<http://hl7.org/fhir/patient.html#resource>

- The **Structure** tab shows how the resource type elements are organized
- The **Card.** stands for Cardinality and shows the minimum and maximum number of times an element can appear in an instance. For example, 0..1 means optional, maximum of 1 occurrence.
- The **Type** lists the FHIR data type of the elements; e.g., **name** is of type **HumanName**. Clicking on **HumanName** will show its structure.

8.1.2 Resource Content

Structure UML XML JSON Turtle R2 Diff All

Structure

Name	Flags	Card.	Type	Description & Constraints
Patient			DomainResource	Information about an individual or Elements defined in Ancestors: id, modifierExtension
identifier	Σ	0..*	Identifier	An identifier for this patient
active	?! Σ	0..1	boolean	Whether this patient's record is in
name	Σ	0..*	HumanName	A name associated with the patient
telecom	Σ	0..*	ContactPoint	A contact detail for the individual
gender				

Structure UML XML JSON Turtle R2 Diff

Structure

Name	Flags	Card.	Type	Description
HumanName	Σ		Element	Name of a hu Elements defi
use	?! Σ	0..1	code	usual   official NameUse (Re
text	Σ	0..1	string	Text represen
family	Σ	0..1	string	Family name



# Data Types

<http://hl7.org/fhir/datatypes.html>

- The **Primitive** and **Complex Types** are displayed at the top of the page.
- Clicking on any specific data type will display the details of that type; e.g., **CodeableConcept** will show the structure of that data type.

2.24.0 Data Types

FHIR Infrastructure Work Group Maturity Level: Normative Standards Status: Part

The FHIR specification defines a set of data types that are used for the resource elements. There are four categories of data types

1. Simple / primitive types, which are single elements with a primitive value ([below](#))
2. General-purpose complex types, which are re-usable clusters of elements ([below](#))
3. Metadata types: A set of types for use with metadata resources
4. Special purpose data types - defined elsewhere in the specification for specific usages

This page describes the general-purpose data types (categories 1 and 2).

**Data Types Summary.**

Legend: see [Standards Status Colors](#)

**Primitive Types**

**General-Purpose Data types**

2.24.0.5 CodeableConcept

See also [Examples](#), [Detailed Descriptions](#), [Mappings](#), [Profiles & Extensions](#) and [R2 Conversions](#).

A CodeableConcept represents a value that is usually supplied by providing a reference to one or more of text. This is a common pattern in healthcare data.

This data type can be [bound](#) to a [ValueSet](#).

Structure XML JSON Turtle R3 Diff All

**Structure**

Name	Flags	Card.	Type	Description & Constraints
CodeableConcept	Σ N		Element	Concept - reference to a terminology or just text Elements defined in Ancestors: <a href="#">id</a> , <a href="#">extension</a> Code defined by a terminology system
coding	Σ	0..*	Coding	
text	Σ	0..1	string	Plain text representation of the concept

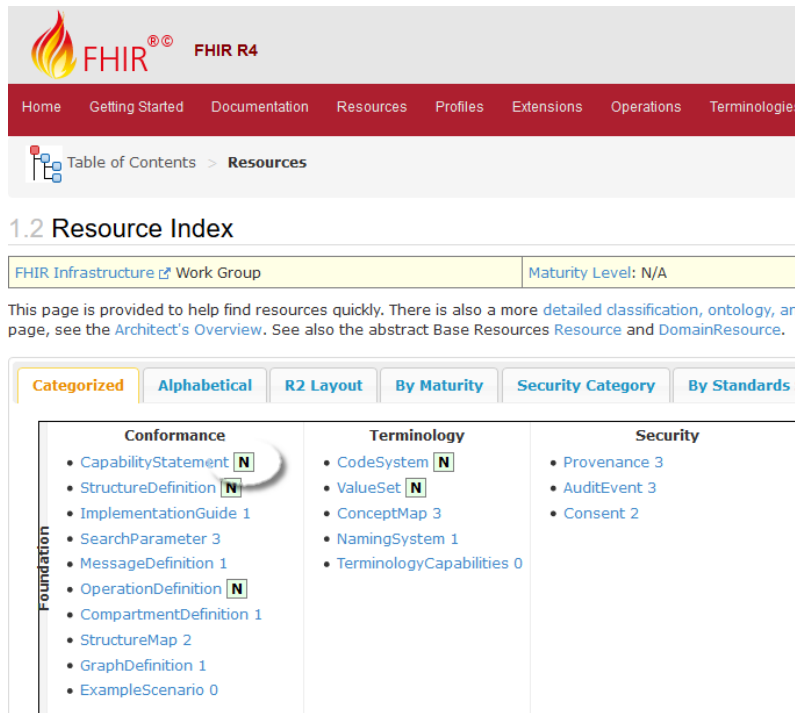
? Documentation for this format



# FHIR Maturity Model

- 0: Draft
- 1: + No build warnings
- 2: + Successfully exchanged/tested between 3 systems (Connectathon)
- 3: + Verified by WG; formally balloted
- 4: + Scope tested; formal publication; multiple project
- 5: + Published 2+ release cycles; 5+ independent production deployments
- N: Normative

<http://hl7.org/fhir/versions.html#maturity>



The screenshot shows the FHIR R4 website. The header includes the FHIR logo and navigation links: Home, Getting Started, Documentation, Resources, Profiles, Extensions, Operations, and Terminologies. Below the header, there's a breadcrumb trail: Table of Contents > Resources. The main section is titled "1.2 Resource Index". It features a search bar with "FHIR Infrastructure" and "Work Group" entered, and a "Maturity Level: N/A" filter. A paragraph explains that the page helps find resources quickly and provides links to a detailed classification, ontology, and Architect's Overview. Below this, there are tabs for "Categorized", "Alphabetical", "R2 Layout", "By Maturity", "Security Category", and "By Standards". The "Categorized" tab is active, showing a table with three columns: Conformance, Terminology, and Security. The Conformance column lists various resources with maturity levels (N, 1, 2, 3). The Terminology column lists resources with maturity levels (N, 1, 0). The Security column lists resources with maturity levels (3, 2, 2).

	Conformance	Terminology	Security
Foundation	• CapabilityStatement <b>N</b>	• CodeSystem <b>N</b>	• Provenance 3
	• StructureDefinition <b>N</b>	• ValueSet <b>N</b>	• AuditEvent 3
	• ImplementationGuide 1	• ConceptMap 3	• Consent 2
	• SearchParameter 3	• NamingSystem 1	
	• MessageDefinition 1	• TerminologyCapabilities 0	
	• OperationDefinition <b>N</b>		
	• CompartmentDefinition 1		
	• StructureMap 2		
	• GraphDefinition 1		
	• ExampleScenario 0		



# Recap: FHIR Provides...

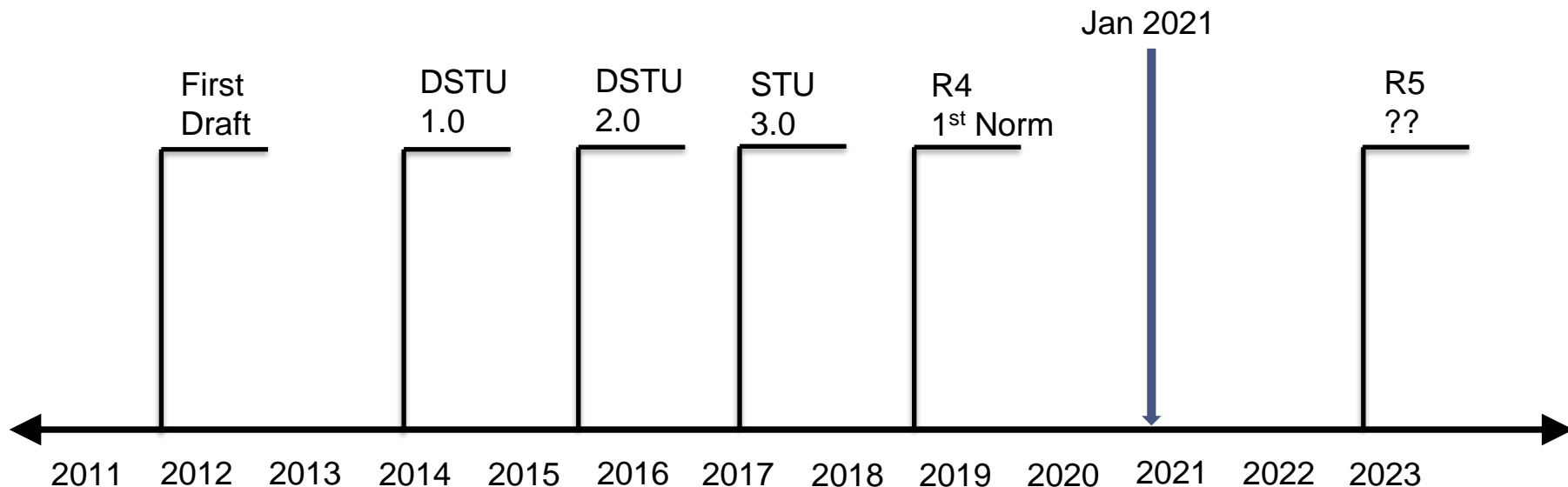
- Resources (Building Blocks)
- Extensions (Part of the Spec)
- Methodology
  - Bundles, Profiles, Conformance
- Syntax: XML, JSON, RDF(Turtle)
- Human Readability
- CapabilityStatement, StructureDefinition, Testing Framework
- Support for Multiple Paradigms
  - REST, Messaging, Documents, Services
- Extensive online documentation





## FHIR Timeline

- FHIR R4 contains the first normative content released December 2018.



# Wrap Up

## Discussion Q & A

