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SYSTEMS AND METHODS TO ORGANIZE THE FLOW AND PROCESSING OF QUEUED MESSAGES THAT HAVE BEEN RECEIVED FROM HEALTHCARE ENTITIES

Abstract

Systems and methods to organize the flow and processing of queued messages may: receive messages in a set of processing queues; select a first and second processing queue; select a first and second message in the first and second processing queue; process the concurrent portions of the first and second message simultaneously; select a third processing queue and determine a subset of messages that are its oldest messages; assign a first sequential numbering to the messages in the subset; assign a second sequential numbering to those messages in the subset having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed; determine whether the oldest message in the subset was assigned the same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering, and, if so, process the sequential portion of the oldest message.

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Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0001] The present disclosure relates to systems and methods to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, wherein the messages are received from healthcare entities. Individual messages may be processed by converting and/or transforming some or all of the contents and/or formatting.

BACKGROUND

[0002] Exchanging messages, including but not limited to medical records, medical activity and/or other transactional information, between different healthcare entities is known. Exchanging messages between healthcare entities and vendor entities (by way of non-limiting example, insurance companies, pharmacies, etc.) is known. Healthcare entities and third party vendors often communicate in order to carry out and/or facilitate various healthcare related services. Processing messages by converting and/or transforming some or all of the contents and/or formatting is known and could, e.g., be performed by the health care entities or by the vendor entities.

SUMMARY

[0003] One aspect of the present disclosure relates to a system configured to organize the flow and processing of queued messages. Individual messages may be received from healthcare entities and may be intended for vendor entities. The system may operate as an intermediary between healthcare entities and vendor entities. The system may include one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions. As used herein, the term “hardware processor” may be used interchangeably with the term “processor.” The processor(s) may be configured to receive, from one or more healthcare entities, messages in a set of processing queues. A processing queue may be configured to receive messages, e.g., from one or more healthcare entities. In some implementations, and/or in some aspects, processing queues may operate as first-in-first-out queues, or FIFOs. In some implementations, processing queues may be configured to process at least a portion of messages. Alternatively, and/or simultaneously, in some implementations, processing engines may be configured to process at least a portion of messages. As used herein, the processing of messages may refer to one or more of analyzing the contents and/or formatting of messages, transforming the contents and/or formatting of messages, converting the contents and/or formatting of messages, extracting information from messages, and/or other automated operations performed on messages. Subsequent to being processed, the messages are transmitted to vendor entities.

[0004] The set of processing queues may include more than two processing queues. Individual

messages may be received in individual processing queues. For example, in some implementations, a particular message may be received in only one processing queue. The individual messages may include a timestamp reflecting a time of receipt, the individual messages further including a concurrent portion and/or a sequential portion. The processor(s) may be configured to select a first processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the first processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues and/or the set of processing engines. The processor(s) may be configured to select a first individual message in the first processing queue. The processor(s) may be configured to select a second processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the second processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues and/or the set of processing engines. The processor(s) may be configured to select a second individual message in the second processing queue. The processor(s) (and/or one or more other components of the system) may be configured to process the concurrent portions of the first individual message, the second individual message, and/or other messages simultaneously. As used herein, processing messages or portions of messages simultaneously means that at least some part of the duration of processing overlaps among the multiple messages or portions of messages. The processor(s) may be configured to select a third processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the third selected processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. The processor(s) may be configured to determine a subset of messages in the third processing queue based on the messages in the subset being the oldest messages in the third processing queue. The determination of being the oldest messages may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt of the messages in the third subset. The processor(s) may be configured to assign a first sequential numbering to the messages in the subset. The processor(s) may be configured to assign a second sequential numbering to those messages in the subset that have a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. The processor(s) may be configured to determine an oldest message in the subset. The determination may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt for the messages in the subset. The processor(s) may be configured to determine whether the oldest message was assigned the same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering. The processor(s) may be configured to, responsive to the determination being positive and/or affirmative, process the sequential portion of the oldest message. The processor(s) may be configured to remove the oldest message from the set of processing queues and/or transmit the oldest message to an appropriate vendor entity.

[0005] Another aspect of the present disclosure relates to a method to organize the flow and processing of queued messages. Individual messages may be received from healthcare entities and may be intended for vendor entities. The method may include receiving, from one or more healthcare entities, messages in a set of processing queues. The set of processing queues may include more than two processing queues. Individual messages may be received in individual processing queues. The individual messages may include a timestamp reflecting a time of receipt, the individual messages further including a concurrent portion and/or a sequential portion. The method may include selecting a first processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the first processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. The method may include selecting a first individual message in the first processing queue. The method may include selecting a second processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the second processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. The method may include selecting a second individual message in the second processing queue.

The method may include processing the concurrent portions of both the first individual message and the second individual message simultaneously. The method may include selecting a third processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the third selected processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. The method may include determining a subset of messages in the third processing queue based on the messages in the subset being the oldest messages in the third processing queue. The determination of being the oldest messages may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt of the messages in the third subset. The method may include assigning a first sequential numbering to the messages in the subset. The method may include assigning a second sequential numbering to the messages in the subset having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. The method may include determining an oldest message in the subset based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt for the messages in the subset. The method may include determining whether the oldest message was assigned the same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering. The method may include, responsive to a positive and/or affirmative determination, processing the sequential portion of the oldest message. The method may include removing the oldest message from the set of processing queues.

[0006] As used herein, any association (or relation, or reflection, or indication, or correspondency) involving users, client computing platforms, processors, messages, queues, healthcare entities, portions of messages, sets of messages, timestamps, numberings, subjects, patients, assets, conversions, transformations, and/or another activity, entity, and/or object that interacts with any part of the system and/or plays a part in the operation of the system, may be a one-to-one association, a one-to-many association, a many-to-one association, and/or a many-to-many association or N-to-M association (note that N and M may be different numbers greater than 1).

[0007] As used herein, the term “obtain” (and derivatives thereof) may include active and/or passive retrieval, determination, derivation, transfer, upload, download, submission, and/or exchange of information, and/or any combination thereof. As used herein, the term “effectuate” (and derivatives thereof) may include active and/or passive causation of any effect. As used herein, the term “determine” (and derivatives thereof) may include measure, calculate, compute, estimate, approximate, generate, and/or otherwise derive, and/or any combination thereof.

[0008] These and other features, and characteristics of the present technology, as well as the methods of operation and functions of the related elements of structure and the combination of parts and economies of manufacture, will become more apparent upon consideration of the following description and the appended claims with reference to the accompanying drawings, all of which form a part of this specification, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts in the various figures. It is to be expressly understood, however, that the drawings are for the purpose of illustration and description only and are not intended as a definition of the limits of the invention. As used in the specification and in the claims, the singular form of “a”, “an”, and “the” include plural referents unless the context clearly dictates otherwise.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1 shows a system configured to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, wherein the messages are received from healthcare entities, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0010] FIG. 2 includes a flow chart of a method to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, wherein the messages are received from healthcare entities, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0011] FIG. 3 illustrates components of a system to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0012] FIGS. 4A-4B-4C-4D illustrate exemplary states of (sets of) processing queues as may be used by a system to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, in accordance with one or more implementations.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0013] FIG. 1 illustrates a system **100** configured to organize the flow and processing of queued messages. The messages may be received from healthcare entities. The messages may be intended for vendor entities. In some implementations, system **100** may include one or more servers **102**, processing queues **129**, communication structures **127**, external resources **126**, and/or other components. Server(s) **102** may be configured to communicate with one or more client computing platforms **104** according to a client/server architecture and/or other architectures. Client computing platform(s) **104** may be configured to communicate with other client computing platforms via server(s) **102** and/or according to a peer-to-peer architecture and/or other architectures. Users may access system **100** via client computing platform(s) **104**. Communication may include a network **13**, such as the Internet and/or other networks.

[0014] In some implementations, healthcare entities may include entities that provide and/or facilitate healthcare related services. Healthcare entities may include one or more of medical offices, hospitals, medical labs, public healthcare agencies, and/or other entities.

[0015] Third parties may interact with healthcare entities. The third parties may include vendors who provide services that may be supplemental to and/or additional to services provided by the healthcare entities. A vendor may be referred to as a “vendor entity.” A vendor entity may include one or more of an insurance company, a pharmacy, and/or other service providers that may communicate and/or interact with healthcare entities.

[0016] In some implementations, healthcare entities may exchange information (e.g., transactional information in the form of messages) with vendor entities in order to facilitate the services provided by either, or both, parties. The exchange may be provided via a real-time, publish-subscribe architecture. By way of non-limiting illustration, messages related to patient scheduling may be communicated when an appointment is scheduled, cancelled, and/or modified. With this type of exchange of information, it may be up to the receiving third parties to identify the relevant information from these messages in order to reconstruct the content of the message in a way that is usable to them. This can often be difficult and/or error-prone. Accordingly, the systems and methods presented operate on healthcare information (e.g., transactional information and/or other information) exchanged between parties. This may take the burden of identifying and/or reconstructing the relevant information off the third party vendor entities. Instead, the vendor entities may simply receive messages in a format usable to them.

[0017] Server(s) **102** may be configured by machine-readable instructions **106**. Machine-readable instructions **106** may include one or more instruction components. The instruction components may include computer program components. The instruction components may include one or more of a message receiving component **108**, a processing queue selection component **110**, a message selection component **112**, a portion processing component **114**, a subset determination component **116**, a numbering assignment component **118**, a message determination component **120**, a message removing component **122**, a message transmittal component **124**, and/or other instruction components.

[0018] By way of non-limiting example, FIG. 3 illustrates an example **300** of how various components of a system **100a** (which may be a version, variation, or instance of system **100** as shown in FIG. 1) may interact to organize the flow and processing of queued messages. Healthcare entities such as hospitals may be regarded as part of external resources **126** (shown in FIG. 1). In particular a first, second, third, and fourth hospital may be indicated in FIG. 3 as external resource **126a**, **126b**, **126c**, and **126d**, respectively. The individual hospitals may send messages via a

network **13** to system **100a** that are received by a processing queue **129a**, **129b**, **129c**, and **129d** (these may be instances of processing queues **129** as shown in FIG. **1**). The messages may be routed to different components for processing via a first communication structure **127a** (this may be an instances of communication structure **127** as shown in FIG. **1**). The different components for processing may include a first processing engine **114a**, a second processing engine **114b**, and a third processing engine **114c** (these may be versions, variations, or instances of portion processing component **114** as shown in FIG. **1**). Once a message has been (completely) processed, a second communication structure **127b** may be used to route the message, e.g., via a network similar or the same as network **13**, to one of vendor entities **126e**, **126f**, **126g**, **126h**, **126i**, or **126j**. Vendor entities such as insurance companies may be regarded as part of external resources **126** (shown in FIG. **1**).

[0019] Referring to FIG. **1**, message receiving component **108** may be configured to receive messages. In some implementations, message receiving component **108** may be configured to receive, from one or more healthcare entities, messages in a set of processing queues. The set of processing queues may include more than two processing queues. Individual messages may be received in individual processing queues. For example, in some implementations, each message may only be received in one processing queue. The individual messages may represent events involving subjects and assets of the individual health care entities. The individual messages each may have a format that is specific to one or more of the individual health care entities.

[0020] In some implementations, messages may include healthcare information. The healthcare information may include information derived from transactional information and/or other information. The transactional information may include information exchanged between different parties within a given healthcare entity, between multiple healthcare entities, between a healthcare entity and a third party, between a healthcare entity and multiple third parties, between a healthcare entity and a vendor entity, and/or other information. In some implementations, message content of the messages may include, involve, and/or refer to other healthcare information (e.g., patient identification information, electronic health records, and/or other information). The message content of an individual message may define one or more events. An event may include a transaction or exchange that describes a subject's involvement with one or more healthcare entities for the purpose of treating the subject. The involvement may include one or more of past, present, and/or future involvement. More specifically, an event may involve an individual subject being treated and one or more assets of one or more healthcare entities that may be utilized during the treatment. The transactional information may be analyzed to ascertain the events described therein, the subjects involved, the assets involved, and/or other information. The status of these events, subjects, and/or assets may comprise the information which is received.

[0021] The healthcare information may include one or more of electronic health records, information records derived from transactional information, and/or other information. Electronic health records may include one or more of patient identification information, patient health information, and/or other information. The patient identification information may include information used to identify individual subjects. The patient identification information may include one or more of patient identifiers, patient name, gender of a patient, and/or other information. The patient health information may include one or more of administrative and/or billing information, patient demographics, progress notes, vital signs, medical histories, diagnoses, medications, immunization dates, allergies, radiology images, lab and test results, and/or other information.

[0022] Transactional information may include information exchanged between parties within a healthcare entity, between multiple healthcare entities, between a healthcare entity and a third party, and/or other information. The information may be exchanged between parties and/or entities via messages. The messages may include message content which includes the transactional information. In some implementations, the message content may include, involve, and/or refer to other healthcare information (e.g., patient identification information, electronic health records, and/or other information). By way of non-limiting example, message content of an individual

message may define one or more events. An event may include a transaction or exchange that describes a subject's involvement with one or more healthcare entities for the purpose of treating the subject. The involvement may include one or more of past, present, and/or future involvement. More specifically, an event may involve an individual subject being treated and one or more assets of one or more healthcare entities that may be utilized during the treatment. The transactional information may be analyzed to ascertain the events described therein, the subjects involved, the assets involved, and/or other information. These events, subjects, and/or assets may be described in information records which may be stored and/or made searchable.

[0023] An asset of a healthcare entity may describe an offering that a healthcare provides to its' patients. An asset may include one or more of services provided to patients, resources utilized by patients, and/or other assets. An asset may be classified by type. The asset types may be further classified by sub-type. The asset types may include one or more of a resource type, a services type, and/or other types.

[0024] A resource type asset may include physical resources available within a healthcare facility and/or other assets. For example, resource type assets may include one or more of personnel that interact with patients (e.g., doctors, nurses, specialists, etc.), equipment used to treat patients (e.g., CT scanner, respirator, etc.), depletable resources used during patient treatment (e.g., drugs, food, etc.), facilities in which treatment takes place (e.g., recovery room, emergency room, operating room, etc.), and/or other assets. The resource type assets may be further classified by subtype. The subtypes may include one or more of personnel subtype, equipment subtype, depletable resource subtype, facility subtype, and/or other subtypes. For example, doctors, nurses, specialists, and/or other personnel may be categorized as a resource type asset of the personnel subtype. A CT scanner, respirator, and/or other equipment may be categorized as a resource type asset of the equipment subtype. Drugs, food, and/or other depletable resources may be categorized as a resource type asset of the depletable resource subtype. A recovery room, emergency room, an operating room, and/or other facilities may be categorized as a resource type asset of the facility subtype.

[0025] A services type asset may include intangible services available within a healthcare facility and/or other assets. For example, a services type asset may include one or more of a scheduling service, a drug prescription service, and/or other services. The services type assets may be further classified by subtype. The subtypes may include one or more of a scheduling subtype, a prescription subtype, and/or other subtypes. For example, a scheduling service may be categorized as a services type asset of the scheduling subtype. A drug prescription service may be categorized as a services type asset of the prescription subtype.

[0026] In some implementations, a services type asset may specify one or more resource type assets involved in a service. For example, scheduling a patient for surgery may specify one or more of a particular surgeon (a resource type asset of the personnel subtype), a particular operating room (a resource type asset of the facility subtype), a time, a date, and/or other information. Further, assigning a prescription to a patient may specify the prescribing doctor (a resource type asset of the personnel subtype), the drug being prescribed (a resource type asset of the depletable resource subtype), and/or other information.

[0027] In some implementations, message content may be represented in a variety of formats (e.g., medical record formats). Healthcare entities may utilize their own custom format. By way of non-limiting example, customizations may be directed one or both of the representation of message content in individual messages and/or the location of message content in individual messages. A transformation may be applied to the message content to transform the message content to a healthcare entity-independent format. The transformation may be applied prior to ascertaining the events described in the messages, the subjects involved in the events, and/or the assets involved in the events. The healthcare entity-independent format may represent the message content in a standardized, consistent, manner. The message content in the healthcare entity-independent format

may be found in the same place regardless of the source of the information (e.g., regardless of the healthcare entity customizations), making ascertaining the information included therein more streamline.

[0028] The healthcare entities may store and/or communicate healthcare information. The healthcare information may be stored and/or communicated in different formats (e.g., medical record formats) for different healthcare entities. Individual healthcare entities may be associated with different medical record formats such that an individual healthcare entity may store and/or communicate information in a format associated with that individual healthcare entity. As presented herein, medical record formats may be customized by the individual healthcare entities. The medical record formats may follow one or more standards used in the healthcare industry. The customizations may be independent of the standard utilized by a healthcare entity. The various standards may refer to a framework for the exchange, integration, sharing, and/or retrieval of information. For example, the standards may include one or more of Health Level 7 (HL7), EDIFACT, DICOM, X12N, NCPDP, and/or other standards. The standards may be based on past standards, current standards, and/or future standards. For example, HL7 may include different versions such as HL7v2, HL7v3, and/or other HL7 versions. Individual versions of HL7 may be associated with various countries. For example, the standards may include an Australian version of HL7v3, a United Kingdom version of HL7v3, a United States version of HL7v3, and/or other versions of HL7.

[0029] Customizations of the medical record formats may be directed the representation of information. Certain information may be represented differently within different custom medical record formats. By way of non-limiting example, “Female” may be represented as one or more of “F”, “Female”, “FEMALE”, “W”, “Woman”, “WOMAN”, as an integer (e.g., 1 or 2) that corresponds to a value for male or female, and/or may be represented in others ways within different medical record formats.

[0030] Customizations of the medical record formats may be directed the location of information in individual messages. For example, a message may include message content. For different medical record formats, a specific piece of information (e.g., gender of a patient, patient identifier, etc.) may reside in different locations within a message depending on the medical record format.

[0031] In some implementations, individual healthcare entities that may use the same or similar medical record format may have a specific set of variations in common across their customers. Further, individual healthcare entities may have unique variations within their own customizations. As such, simply because HL7 (or other standard) may be associated with and/or used by a first healthcare entity as a standard of practice, it does not necessarily mean that the medical record format of a second healthcare entity, which also uses HL7 (or other standard) in their practice, is the same format as the format used by the first healthcare entity. That is, individual healthcare entities that utilize HL7 (or other standard) as their standard in practice, may individually customize the medical record format that may still be within the guidelines of HL7 (or other standard).

[0032] Configuration records may be used to solve the problem of the variations in the locations and/or representations of information within medical record formats of different healthcare entities. For individual healthcare entities, individual configuration records may be stored. The configuration records may include sets of rules, which when applied to the activity of processing a message, may “normalize” or “standardize” the message content into a healthcare entity-independent format. For example, representations of information may be transformed into a common form of the information and/or locations of information may be transformed into common locations. The transformation may still maintain the information in accordance with the guidelines set by one or more standards. Returning to the example of a patient's gender above, “female” may be represented differently among different medical record formats. The configuration records may normalize or standardize such differences in representation. Further, where a specific piece of

information (e.g., gender of a patient, patient identifier, etc.) may reside in different locations within the message depending on the medical record format, the configuration records may normalize or standardize such differences in locations to a common location within a “normalized” or “standardized” message.

[0033] In some implementations, configuration records (e.g., the set of rules) may use a domain specific language (DSL) to transform the message content of the messages to the healthcare entity-independent format.

[0034] The individual messages may include a timestamp reflecting a time of receipt, a concurrent portion, a sequential portion, and/or other portions or information. In some implementations, messages from a particular source (e.g., an individual external resource **126**) need to be transmitted to their destination (e.g., a vendor entity) in the same sequence as they were sent. The portion of a message used to facilitate this sequence (and/or accomplish this sequence) is referred to as the sequential portion. The portion of a message that may be transformed, formatted, and/or is otherwise not part of the sequential portion is referred to as the concurrent portion. In some implementations, the sequential portion and the concurrent portion of a message may be mutually exclusive portions. The sequential portion of the individual messages may need to be processed after the concurrent portion of the individual messages. In some implementations, processing of the concurrent portion of the individual messages may be performed by one or more processing engines from a set of processing engines. In some implementations, processing of the concurrent portion of an individual message may include transforming one or more of contents and/or formatting of the concurrent portion of the individual message. Transforming the formatting of the concurrent portion of the individual message may cause the individual message to have a format that is common among two or more health care entities. A transformation may be tailored to a customization by an individual healthcare entity. Alternatively, and/or simultaneously, a transformation may target one or more standards used in the healthcare industry. In some implementations, a transformation may be tailored to one or more vendor entities. In some implementations, a transformation may use and/or result in a healthcare entity-independent format.

[0035] Processing queue selection component **110** may be configured to select one or more processing queues from the set of processing queues. In some implementations, processing queue selection component **110** may be configured to select a first processing queue from the set of processing queues. In some implementations, selection may be based on the first processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. In some implementations, selection by processing queue selection component **110** may be based on a round-robin selection among the available and/or suitable processing queues. In some implementations, selection by processing queue selection component **110** may be performed randomly (e.g., stochastically and/or pseudo-stochastically) among the available and/or suitable processing queues.

[0036] Processing queue selection component **110** may be configured to select a second, third, fourth, processing queue from the set of processing queues, and so forth. In some implementations, selection may be based on the second processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. In some implementations, processing queue selection component **110** may be configured to select as many processing queues from the set of processing queues as the number of messages (or concurrent portions of messages) system **100** can process simultaneously.

[0037] By way of non-limiting example, FIG. 4A illustrates (within a dashed line) an exemplary state **41** of a set of **8** processing queues as may be used by system **100**. The set of processing queues includes a first processing queue labeled Q.sub.0, a second processing queue labeled Q.sub.1, and so forth until the eighth processing queue labeled Q.sub.7. Each of the processing queues includes 10 slots that can be occupied by a message. The first slot, if used, is labeled “a,” the second “b,” and so forth until the tenth slot labeled “j”. As shown in FIG. 4A, Q.sub.0 includes

10 messages, Q.sub.1 includes 8 messages, Q.sub.2 includes 6 messages, Q.sub.3 includes zero messages, Q.sub.4 includes 9 messages, Q.sub.5 includes zero messages, Q.sub.6 includes 1 message, and Q.sub.7 includes 10 messages. Above each label of a slot in a processing queue that is occupied by a particular message, exemplary state **41** includes the processing status of the particular message. The status “R” may indicate the message has not been previously processed (i.e., neither the concurrent portion nor the sequential portion has been processed by some component of system **100**), and the concurrent portion of the particular message is ready for processing. Processing queue selection component **110** may select a first processing queue and/or a second processing queue from any of the processing queues that has at least one message with status “R”, which is processing queues Q.sub.0, Q.sub.1, Q.sub.2, Q.sub.4, Q.sub.6, and Q.sub.7. Some mechanism may be implemented to assure no processing queue is starved by another processing queue. By way of non-limiting example, a round robin mechanism may cycle through all the available processing queues.

[0038] Message selection component **112** may be configured to select messages in particular processing queues. In some implementations, message selection component **112** may be configured to select a first individual message in the first processing queue (as selected by processing queue selection component **110**). Selecting the first individual message in the first processing queue may include rendering the first individual message (temporarily) unavailable for selection by other processing engines in the set of processing engines. In some implementations, message selection component **112** may be configured to select a second individual message in the second processing queue (as selected by processing queue selection component **110**). Likewise a third, fourth, fifth message in a third, fourth, fifth processing queue may be selected, and so forth. In some implementations, selection by message selection component **112** may be based on the timestamps of the available and/or suitable messages. In some implementations, selection by message selection component **112** may be based on a stochastically and/or pseudo-stochastically selecting from the available and/or suitable messages. In some implementations, selection by message selection component **112** may be based on a round-robin selection among the available and/or suitable messages. In some implementations, message selection component **112** may be configured to select as many messages as the number of messages (or concurrent portions of messages) system **100** can process simultaneously. In some implementations, some individual messages may not require any transformation or formatting, so that only the sequential portion needs to be processed.

[0039] By way of non-limiting example, FIG. 4B illustrates (within a dashed line) an exemplary state **42** of a set of 8 processing queues as may be used by system **100**. Exemplary state **42** may be similar to exemplary state **41** of FIG. 4A, except that individual messages have been selected by message selection component **112** in processing queues Q.sub.0, Q.sub.1, Q.sub.2, Q.sub.4, Q.sub.6, and Q.sub.7. The selected slots are labeled “e”, “c”, “f”, “d”, “a”, and “a”, respectively.

[0040] Portion processing component **114** may be configured to process messages and/or portions of messages. In some implementations, portion processing component **114** may be configured to process the concurrent portions of multiple messages simultaneously. For example, portion processing component **114** may be configured to process the concurrent portions of both the first individual message (as selected, e.g., by message selection component **112**) and the second individual message (as selected, e.g., by message selection component **112**) simultaneously. As used herein, processing the concurrent portions of both the first individual message and the second individual message simultaneously may include processing at least a segment of the concurrent portion of the first individual message at the same time as processing at least a segment of the concurrent portion of the second individual message.

[0041] Processing queue selection component **110** may be configured to select a third processing queue from the set of processing queues. In some implementations, selection may be based on the third selected processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed (e.g., by portion processing component **114**) and a sequential portion

that has not been previously processed. In some implementations, selection may be based on the third selected processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion that does not need to be processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. [0042] By way of non-limiting example, FIG. 4C illustrates (within a dashed line) an exemplary state **43** of a set of 8 processing queues as may be used by system **100**. Exemplary state **43** may be similar to exemplary state **42** of FIG. 4B, except that some concurrent portions of individual messages have been processed (e.g., by portion processing component **114**) in most processing queues. The status “C” may indicate the concurrent portion of a message has been processed (e.g., by some component of system **100**), and the sequential portion of the particular message may be ready for processing, e.g. responsive to the particular message being the oldest message in the processing queue. The status of newly selected slots is “S”, such as slot “a” of processing queue Q.sub.5.

[0043] Subset determination component **116** may be configured to determine a subset of messages in a processing queue. For example, subset determination component **116** may be configured to determine a subset of messages in the third processing queue (e.g., as selected by processing queue selection component **110**). In some implementations, determinations of subsets may be based on the messages in the subset being the oldest messages in the particular processing queue. In some implementations, the determination of being the oldest messages may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt of the messages in the third subset. In some implementations, the number of messages in a determined subset may be limited by a maximum number. In some implementations, the maximum number of messages in a subset may be 2, 4, 6, 8, 16, 32, and/or another number.

[0044] Numbering assignment component **118** may be configured to assign a numbering to a group of messages. For example, numbering assignment component **118** may be configured to assign a numbering the messages in a subset (e.g., as determined by subset determination component **116**). In some implementations, a numbering may be sequential.

[0045] Numbering assignment component **118** may be configured to assign a second (sequential) numbering to those messages in the same subset that have a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed.

[0046] By way of non-limiting example, FIG. 4D illustrates (within a dashed line) an exemplary state **44** of a processing queue as may be used by system **100**. Exemplary state **44** may be similar to the state of Q.sub.0 in FIG. 4C. Subset determination component **116** may have determined a subset that includes the slots from “a” to “j,” in other words 10 slots. Numbering assignment component **118** may have assigned a first sequential numbering **45** to the determined subset. First numbering **45** may range from number “0” to number “9”. Numbering assignment component **118** may have assigned a second numbering **46** to those messages in the determined subset having status “C”. Second numbering **46** may range from number “0” to number “6”, and certain slots have been skipped because their status was not “C”.

[0047] Referring to FIG. 1, message determination component **120** may be configured to determine an oldest message in a group of messages. For example, message determination component **120** may be configured to determine an oldest message in a subset (e.g., as determined by subset determination component **116**). In some implementations, determinations by message determination component **120** may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt for the messages in the subset. In some implementations, message determination component **120** may be configured to determine multiple messages that are the oldest messages in a subset.

[0048] By way of non-limiting example, the oldest message in the processing queue depicted in FIG. 4D may be the message in the left-most slot. This may be slot “a”.

[0049] Referring to FIG. 1, message determination component **120** may be configured to determine whether the oldest message in a subset was assigned the same number in different numberings (e.g., as assigned by numbering assignment component **118**). For example, message determination

component **120** may be configured to determine whether the oldest message in a subset was assigned the same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering. [0050] By way of non-limiting example, the oldest message in the processing queue depicted in FIG. **4D** may have a first number of 0 from first numbering **45**, and a second number 0 from second number **46**. As depicted here, the assigned numbers are the same.

[0051] Referring to FIG. **1**, portion processing component **114** may be configured to, responsive to a positive determination (e.g. by message determination component **120** regarding the assignment of the same number in different numberings), process the sequential portion of the oldest message. For example, the sequential portion of the oldest message in the processing queue depicted in FIG. **4D** may be processed, such that both the concurrent and sequential portions are completed.

[0052] Message removing component **122** may be configured to remove messages from the set of processing queues. For example, message removing component **122** may be configured to remove the oldest message from the set of processing queues (in particular, after both the concurrent and sequential portions of the message have been processed). In some implementations, removal of a particular message may be responsive to a positive determination (e.g. by message determination component **120** regarding the assignment of the same number in different numberings), and/or responsive to processing of the sequential portion of the particular message.

[0053] For example, the sequential portions of the messages with numbers “0”, “1”, “2”, “3”, and “4” in the processing queue depicted in FIG. **4D** may be processed (in order), because the assigned numbers for first numbering **45** and second numbering **46** are the same. Subsequently, both the concurrent and sequential portions for these messages are completed, and these messages may be removed from their processing queue. The assigned numbers for the remaining messages in this processing queue are not the same. As a result, the sequential portions of these messages may not yet be processed.

[0054] Message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit messages to one or more vendor entities. In some implementations, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit one or more messages that have been completed processed to a particular vendor entity. In some implementations, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit one or more messages that have been completed processed to multiple vendor entities. In some implementations, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit a particular message to a particular vendor entity subsequent to processing of its sequential portion (since this implies the concurrent portions must have been previously processed). In some implementations, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit the one or more oldest messages to a particular vendor entity. In some implementations, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to transmit messages to re-enter processing queues **129**. For example, an individual message may need multiple passes to be processed. For example, message transmittal component **124** may be configured to copy and/or clone individual messages, modify the individual messages, and transmit the individual messages to re-enter processing queues **129**. For example, a modification may include a change to identify a different destination.

[0055] In some implementations, server(s) **102**, client computing platform(s) **104**, and/or external resources **126** may be operatively linked via one or more electronic communication links. For example, such electronic communication links may be established, at least in part, via a network **13** such as the Internet and/or other networks. It will be appreciated that this is not intended to be limiting, and that the scope of this disclosure includes implementations in which server(s) **102**, client computing platform(s) **104**, and/or external resources **126** may be operatively linked via some other communication media.

[0056] A given client computing platform **104** may include one or more processors configured to execute computer program components. The computer program components may be configured to enable an expert or user associated with the given client computing platform **104** to interface with system **100** and/or external resources **126**, and/or provide other functionality attributed herein to

client computing platform(s) **104**. By way of non-limiting example, the given client computing platform **104** may include one or more of a desktop computer, a laptop computer, a handheld computer, a tablet computing platform, a NetBook, a Smartphone, a gaming console, and/or other computing platforms.

[0057] External resources **126** may include sources of information outside of system **100**, external entities participating with system **100**, and/or other resources. In some implementations, some or all of the functionality attributed herein to external resources **126** may be provided by resources included in system **100**. In some implementations, one or more healthcare entities may be regarded as part of external resources **126**. In some implementations, one or more vendor entities may be regarded as part of external resources **126**.

[0058] Server(s) **102** may include electronic storage **128**, one or more processors **130**, and/or other components. Server(s) **102** may include communication lines, or ports to enable the exchange of information with network **13** and/or other computing platforms. Illustration of server(s) **102** in FIG. **1** is not intended to be limiting. Server(s) **102** may include a plurality of hardware, software, and/or firmware components operating together to provide the functionality attributed herein to server(s) **102**. For example, server(s) **102** may be implemented by a cloud of computing platforms operating together as server(s) **102**.

[0059] Electronic storage **128** may comprise non-transitory storage media that electronically stores information. The electronic storage media of electronic storage **128** may include one or both of system storage that is provided integrally (i.e., substantially non-removable) with server(s) **102** and/or removable storage that is removably connectable to server(s) **102** via, for example, a port (e.g., a USB port, a firewire port, etc.) or a drive (e.g., a disk drive, etc.). Electronic storage **128** may include one or more of optically readable storage media (e.g., optical disks, etc.), magnetically readable storage media (e.g., magnetic tape, magnetic hard drive, floppy drive, etc.), electrical charge-based storage media (e.g., EEPROM, RAM, etc.), solid-state storage media (e.g., flash drive, etc.), and/or other electronically readable storage media. Electronic storage **128** may include one or more virtual storage resources (e.g., cloud storage, a virtual private network, and/or other virtual storage resources). Electronic storage **128** may store software algorithms, information determined by processor(s) **130**, information received from server(s) **102**, information received from client computing platform(s) **104**, and/or other information that enables server(s) **102** to function as described herein.

[0060] Processor(s) **130** may be configured to provide information processing capabilities in server(s) **102**. As such, processor(s) **130** may include one or more of a digital processor, an analog processor, a digital circuit designed to process information, an analog circuit designed to process information, a state machine, and/or other mechanisms for electronically processing information. Although processor(s) **130** is shown in FIG. **1** as a single entity, this is for illustrative purposes only. In some implementations, processor(s) **130** may include a plurality of processing units. These processing units may be physically located within the same device, or processor(s) **130** may represent processing functionality of a plurality of devices operating in coordination. Processor(s) **130** may be configured to execute components **108**, **110**, **112**, **114**, **116**, **118**, **120**, **122**, and/or **124**, and/or other components. Processor(s) **130** may be configured to execute components **108**, **110**, **112**, **114**, **116**, **118**, **120**, **122**, and/or **124**, and/or other components by software; hardware; firmware; some combination of software, hardware, and/or firmware; and/or other mechanisms for configuring processing capabilities on processor(s) **130**. As used herein, the term “component” may refer to any component or set of components that perform the functionality attributed to the component. This may include one or more physical processors during execution of processor readable instructions, the processor readable instructions, circuitry, hardware, storage media, or any other components.

[0061] It should be appreciated that although components **108**, **110**, **112**, **114**, **116**, **118**, **120**, **122**, and/or **124** are illustrated in FIG. **1** as being implemented within a single processing unit, in

implementations in which processor(s) **130** includes multiple processing units, one or more of components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124** may be implemented remotely from the other components. The description of the functionality provided by the different components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124** described below is for illustrative purposes, and is not intended to be limiting, as any of components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124** may provide more or less functionality than is described. For example, one or more of components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124** may be eliminated, and some or all of its functionality may be provided by other ones of components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124**. As another example, processor(s) **130** may be configured to execute one or more additional components that may perform some or all of the functionality attributed below to one of components **108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122,** and/or **124**.

[0062] FIG. 2 illustrates a method **200** to organize the flow and processing of queued messages, wherein the messages are received from healthcare entities, in accordance with one or more implementations. The operations of method **200** presented below are intended to be illustrative. In some implementations, method **200** may be accomplished with one or more additional operations not described, and/or without one or more of the operations discussed. Additionally, the order in which the operations of method **200** are illustrated in FIG. 2 and described below is not intended to be limiting.

[0063] In some implementations, method **200** may be implemented in one or more processing devices (e.g., a digital processor, an analog processor, a digital circuit designed to process information, an analog circuit designed to process information, a state machine, and/or other mechanisms for electronically processing information). The one or more processing devices may include one or more devices executing some or all of the operations of method **200** in response to instructions stored electronically on an electronic storage medium. The one or more processing devices may include one or more devices configured through hardware, firmware, and/or software to be specifically designed for execution of one or more of the operations of method **200**.

[0064] An operation **202** may include receiving, from one or more healthcare entities, messages in a set of processing queues. The set of processing queues may include more than two processing queues. Individual messages may be received in individual processing queues. The individual messages may include a timestamp reflecting a time of receipt, the individual messages further including a concurrent portion and/or a sequential portion. Operation **202** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message receiving component **108**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0065] An operation **204** may include selecting a first processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the first processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. Operation **204** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to processing queue selection component **110**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0066] An operation **206** may include selecting a first individual message in the first processing queue. Operation **206** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message selection component **112**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0067] An operation **208** may include selecting a second processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the second processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion and a sequential portion that have not been previously processed, e.g., by the set of processing queues. Operation **208** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to processing queue selection component **110**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0068] An operation **210** may include selecting a second individual message in the second processing queue. Operation **210** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message selection component **112**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0069] An operation **212** may include processing the concurrent portions of both the first individual message and the second individual message simultaneously. Operation **212** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to portion processing component **114**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0070] An operation **214** may include selecting a third processing queue from the set of processing queues based on the third selected processing queue including at least one message having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. Operation **214** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to processing queue selection component **110**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0071] An operation **216** may include determining a subset of messages in the third processing queue based on the messages in the subset being the oldest messages in the third processing queue. The determination of being the oldest messages may be based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt of the messages in the third subset. Operation **216** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to subset determination component **116**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0072] An operation **218** may include assigning a first sequential numbering to the messages in the subset. Operation **218** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to numbering assignment component **118**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0073] An operation **220** may include assigning a second sequential numbering to the messages in the subset having a concurrent portion that has been previously processed and a sequential portion that has not been previously processed. Operation **220** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to numbering assignment component **118**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0074] An operation **222** may include determining an oldest message in the subset based on the timestamps reflecting the times of receipt for the messages in the subset. Operation **222** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message determination component **120**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0075] An operation **224** may include determining whether the oldest message was assigned the same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering. Operation **224** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message determination component **120**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0076] An operation **226** may include responsive to a positive determination, processing the sequential portion of the oldest message. Operation **226** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to portion processing component **114**, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0077] An operation **228** may include removing the oldest message from the set of processing queues. Operation **228** may be performed by one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions including a component that is the same as or similar to message

removing component 122, in accordance with one or more implementations.

[0078] Although the present technology has been described in detail for the purpose of illustration based on what is currently considered to be the most practical and preferred implementations, it is to be understood that such detail is solely for that purpose and that the technology is not limited to the disclosed implementations, but, on the contrary, is intended to cover modifications and equivalent arrangements that are within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. For example, it is to be understood that the present technology contemplates that, to the extent possible, one or more features of any implementation can be combined with one or more features of any other implementation.

Claims

1. A system configured to organize processing of queued messages, the system comprising: one or more hardware processors configured by machine-readable instructions to: assign a first sequential numbering to messages in a set of messages in a processing queue; assign a second sequential numbering to the messages having first portions that have been previously processed and second portions that have not been previously processed; determine whether an oldest message in the set of messages was assigned a same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering; and responsive to a positive determination, process a second portion of the oldest message, and remove the oldest message from the processing queue.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processing queue is associated with a healthcare entity, and wherein the messages represent events involving subjects and/or assets of the healthcare entity.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the messages have a format that is specific to the healthcare entity.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to: simultaneously process the first portions of the messages included in a second set of messages based on the second portions of the messages in the second set of messages having not been previously processed.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein the second portions of the messages are associated with a requirement that they be processed after the first portions of the messages.
6. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to process the first portions of the messages by one or more processing engines.
7. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to process the first portions of the messages by transforming contents and/or formatting of the first portions of the messages.
8. The system of claim 7, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to process the first portions of the messages by transforming the formatting of the first portions of the messages.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to manage a set of processing queues.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the one or more hardware processors are further configured by the machine-readable instructions to effectuate transmission of the oldest message to a receiving entity.
11. A method to organize processing of queued messages, the method comprising: assigning a first sequential numbering to messages in a set of messages in a processing queue; assigning a second sequential numbering to the messages having first portions that have been previously processed and second portions that have not been previously processed; determining whether an oldest message in the set of messages was assigned a same number in the first sequential numbering and the second sequential numbering; and responsive to a positive determination, processing a second portion of

the oldest message, and remove the oldest message from the processing queue.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the processing queue is associated with a healthcare entity, and wherein the messages represent events involving subjects and/or assets of the healthcare entity.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein the messages have a format that is specific to the healthcare entity.

14. The method of claim 11, further comprising: simultaneously processing the first portions of the messages included in a second set of messages based on the second portions of the messages in the second set of messages having not been previously processed.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein the second portions of the messages are associated with a requirement that they be processed after the first portions of the messages.

16. The method of claim 11, further comprising processing the first portions of the messages by one or more processing engines.

17. The method of claim 11, further comprising processing the first portions of the messages by transforming contents and/or formatting of the first portions of the messages.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising processing the first portions of the messages by transforming the formatting of the first portions of the messages.

19. The method of claim 11, further comprising managing a set of processing queues.

20. The method of claim 11, further comprising effectuating transmission of the oldest message to a receiving entity.
