



### The openEHR Reference Model

# **Common Information Model**

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### **Amendment Record**

| Issue | Details  | Raiser                                     | Completed   |
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| 2.1   | CR-000206: Change LOCATABLE.item_at_path to return ANY CR-000200: Correct Release 1.0 typographical errors. Add missed invariant in VERSION to restrict contribution.type to "CONTRIBUTION".                     | H Frankel<br>T Beale                       | 26 Mar 2006 |
|       | <b>CR-000203</b> : Release 1.0 explanatory text improvements. Move Explanatory material on configuration management and versioning to Architecture Overview.   | T Beale                                    |             |
|       | CR-000202: Correct minor errors in VER-SION.preceding_version_id. Rename preceding_version_id to preceding_version_uid. Add preceding_version_uid invariant to VERSION <t>.</t>                                  | T Beale                                    |             |
|       | <b>CR-000186</b> : Upgrade EHR_EXTRACT to Release-1.0. Change names and meanings of VERSION. <i>commit_audit &amp; create_audit</i> features.  | T Beale<br>S Heard                         |             |
|       | RELEASE 1.0  |  |             |
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|       | package.  CR-000162. Allow party identifiers when no demographic data.  CR-000167. Add AUTHORED_RESOURCE class.  CR-000179. Move AUDIT_DETAILS to generic package; add   | S Heard<br>H Frankel<br>T Beale<br>T Beale |             |
|       | REVISION_HISTORY.  CR-000182: Rationalise VERSION.lifecycle_state and ATTESTATION.status  CR-000065. Add Revision History to change control package.  CR-000187: Correct modelling errors in DIRECTORY class and | C Ma<br>D Kalra<br>T Beale<br>T Beale      |             |
|       | rename.  CR-000163: Add identifiers to FEEDER_AUDIT for originating and gateway systems.   | H Frankel                                  |             |
|       | <b>CR-000165.</b> Clarify use of <i>system_id</i> in FEEDER_AUDIT and AUDIT_DETAILS.   | H Frankel                                  |             |
|       | CR-000190. Rename VERSION_REPOSITORY to VERSIONED_OBJECT.  | T Beale                                    |             |
|       | CR-000161. Support distributed versioning. Additions to change_control package. Rename REVISION_HISTORY_ITEM.revision to version_id, and change type to OBJECT_VERSION_ID.                                       | H Frankel,<br>T Beale                      |             |
|       | R E L E A S E 0.96   |  |             |
| 1.6.2 | CR-000159. Improve explanation of use of ATTESTATION in change_control package.  | T Beale                                    | 10 Jun 2005 |
|       | R E L E A S E 0.95   |  |             |
| 1.6.1 | <b>CR-000048</b> . Pre-release review of documents. Fixed UML in Fig 8 informal model of version control.  | D Lloyd                                    | 22 Feb 2005 |

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| 1.6    | CR-000108. Minor changes to change_control package. CR-000024. Revert meaning to STRING and rename as archetype_node_id. CR-000097. Correct errors in version diagrams in Common model. CR-000099. PARTICIPATION.function type in diagram not in sync with spec. CR-000116. Add PARTICIPATION.function vocabulary and invariant.  | T Beale<br>S Heard<br>T Beale<br>Ken Thompson<br>R Shackel<br>(DSTC)<br>T Beale | 10 Dec 2004 |
|        | CR-000118. Make package names lower case.  Improve presentation of identification section; move some text to data types IM document, basic package.  CR-000111. Move Identification Package to Support  | T Beale  DSTC   |             |
|        | R E L E A S E 0.9   |   |             |
| 1.5    | CR-000080. Remove ARCHETYPED.concept - not needed in data CR-000081. LINK should be unidirectional. CR-000083. RELATED_PARTY.party should be optional. CR-000085. LOCATABLE.synthesised not needed. Add vocabulary for FEEDER_AUDIT.change_type. CR-000086. LOCATABLE.presentation not needed. CR-000091. Correct anomalies in use of CODE_PHRASE and DV_CODED_TEXT. Changed PARTICIPATION.mode, changed ATTESTATION.status, RELATED_PARTY.relationship, VERSION_AUDIT.change_type, FEEDER_AUDIT.change_type to to DV_CODED_TEXT. CR-000094. Add lifecycle state attribute to VERSION; correct DV_STATE. Formally validated using ISE Eiffel 5.4. | DSTC  T Beale, S Heard  | 09 Mar 2004 |
| 1.4.12 | CR-000071. Allow version ids to be optional in TERMINOLOGY_ID. CR-000044. Add reverse ref from VERSION_REPOSITORY <t> to owner object. CR-000063. ATTESTATION should have a status attribute. CR-000046. Rename COORDINATED_TERM and DV_CODED_TEXT.definition.</t>  | T Beale<br>D Lloyd<br>D Kalra<br>T Beale  | 25 Feb 2004 |
| 1.4.11 | <b>CR-000056</b> . References in COMMON. Version classes should be OBJECT_REFs.   | T Beale   | 02 Nov 2003 |
| 1.4.10 | CR-000045. Remove VERSION_REPOSITORY.status   | D Lloyd,<br>T Beale   | 21 Oct 2003 |
| 1.4.9  | CR-000025. Allow ATTESTATIONs to attest parts of COMPOSITIONs. Change made due to CEN TC/251 joint WGM, Rome, Feb 2003. CR-000043. Move External package to Common RM and rename to Identification (incorporates CR-000036 - Add HIER_OBJECT_ID class, make OBJECT_ID class abstract.)  | D Kalra,<br>D Lloyd,<br>T Beale   | 09 Oct 2003 |
| 1.4.8  | <b>CR-000041</b> . Visually differentiate primitive types in openEHR documents.   | D Lloyd   | 04 Oct 2003 |

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| 1.4.6 | CR-000012. Add <i>presentation</i> attribute to LOCATABLE. CR-000027. Move <i>feeder_audit</i> to LOCATABLE to be compatible with CEN 13606 revision. Add new class FEEDER_AUDIT.  | D Kalra  | 20 Jun 2003 |  |
| 1.4.5 | <b>CR-000020</b> . Move VERSION.charset to DV_TEXT, territory to TRANSACTION. Remove VERSION.language.   | A Goodchild  | 10 Jun 2003 |  |
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| 1.4   | 1.4 Changes post CEN WG meeting Rome Feb 2003. Changed ARCHETYPED.meaning from STRING to DV_TEXT. Added CONTRIBUTION.name invariant. Removed AUTHORED_VA and ACQUIRED_VA audit types, moved feeder audit to the EHR RM. VERSIONABLE.code_set renamed to charset. Fixed pre/post condition of OBJECT_ID.context_id, added OBJECT_ID.has_context_id. Changed TERMINOLOGY_ID string syntax. |  | 8 Feb 2003  |  |
| 1.3.5 | Removed segment from archetype_id; corrected inconsistencies in diagrams and class texts.  | Z Tun,<br>T Beale                                  | 3 Jan 2003  |  |
| 1.3.4 | 1.3.4 Removed inheritance from VERSIONABLE to ARCHETYPED.  1.3.3 Minor corrections: OBJECT_ID; changed syntax of TERMINOLOGY_ID. Corrected Fig 6.  1.3.2 Added Generic Package; added PARTICIPATION and changed and moved ATTESTATION class.   |  | 3 Jan 2003  |  |
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| 1.3.1 | Removed EXTERNAL_ID.iso_oid. Remodelled EXTERNAL_ID into new classes - OBJECT_REF and OBJECT_ID. Remodelled all change control classes.  | T Beale,<br>D Lloyd,<br>M Darlison,<br>A Goodchild | 22 Oct 2002 |  |
| 1.3   | Moved ARCHETYPE_ID.iso_oid to EXTERNAL_ID. DV_LINK no longer a data type; renamed to LINK.   | T Beale  | 22 Oct 2002 |  |

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| 1.0   | Taken from EHR RM.  | T Beale | 26 Aug 2002 |

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Common Information Model Introduction
Rev 2.1

### 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Purpose

This document describes the architecture of the *open*EHR Common Reference Model, which contains concepts used by other *open*EHR reference models.

The intended audience includes:

- Standards bodies producing health informatics standards;
- Software development groups using *openEHR*;
- Academic groups using openEHR;
- The open source healthcare community;
- Medical informaticians and clinicians intersted in health information;
- Health data managers.

### 1.2 Related Documents

Prerequisite documents for reading this document include:

- The *open*EHR Modelling Guide
- The *open*EHR Support Information Model
- The *open*EHR Data Types Information Model
- The *open*EHR Data Structures Information Model

### 1.3 Status

This document is under development, and is published as a proposal for input to standards processes and implementation works.

This document is available at <a href="http://svn.openehr.org/specification/TAGS/Release-1.0/publishing/architecture/rm/common\_im.pdf">http://svn.openehr.org/specification/TAGS/Release-1.0/publishing/architecture/rm/common\_im.pdf</a>.

The latest version of this document can be found at <a href="http://svn.openehr.org/specification/TRUNK/publishing/architecture/rm/common im.pdf">http://svn.openehr.org/specification/TRUNK/publishing/architecture/rm/common im.pdf</a>.

New versions are announced on openehr-announce@openehr.org.

Blue text indicates sections under active development.

### 1.4 Peer review

Areas where more analysis or explanation is required are indicated with "to be continued" paragraphs like the following:

To Be Continued: more work required

Reviewers are encouraged to comment on and/or advise on these paragraphs as well as the main content. Please send requests for information to <u>info@openEHR.org</u>. Feedback should preferably be provided on the mailing list openehr-technical@openehr.org, or by private email.

### 1.5 Conformance

Conformance of a data or software artifact to an *open*EHR Reference Model specification is determined by a formal test of that artifact against the relevant *open*EHR Implementation Technology Specification(s) (ITSs), such as an IDL interface or an XML-schema. Since ITSs are formal, automated derivations from the Reference Model, ITS conformance indicates RM conformance.

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Common Information Model Overview
Rev 2.1

### 2 Overview

The common Reference Model comprises a number of packages containing abstract concepts and design patterns used in higher level *openEHR* models. It is illustrated in FIGURE 1.

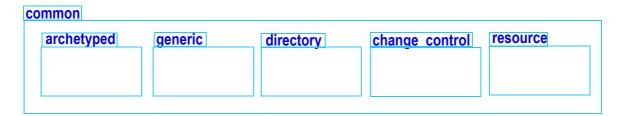


FIGURE 1 rm.common Package

The archetyped package described here is informed by a number of design principles, centred on the concept of "two-level" modelling. These principles are described in detail in [1].

The generic package contains classes representing concepts which are generic across the domain, mostly to do with referencing demographic entities from within other data including Participation, Party proxy, Attestation and so on.

The directory package provides a simple reusable abstraction of a versioned folder structure.

The change\_control package defines the generalised semantics of changes to a repository, such as an EHR, over time. Each item in such a repository is version controlled to allow the repository as a whole to be properly versioned in time. The semantics described are in response to medico-legal requirements defined in GEHR [9], and in the ISO Technical Specification 18308 [4]. Both of these requirements specifications mention specifically the version control of the health record.

The resource package defines semantics of an online authored resource, such as a document, and supports multiple language translations, descriptive meta-data and revision history.

Overview Rev 2.1 **Common Information Model** 

# 3 Archetyped Package

### 3.1 Overview

The archetyped package includes the core types LOCATABLE, ARCHETYPED, and LINK. It is illustrated in FIGURE 2.

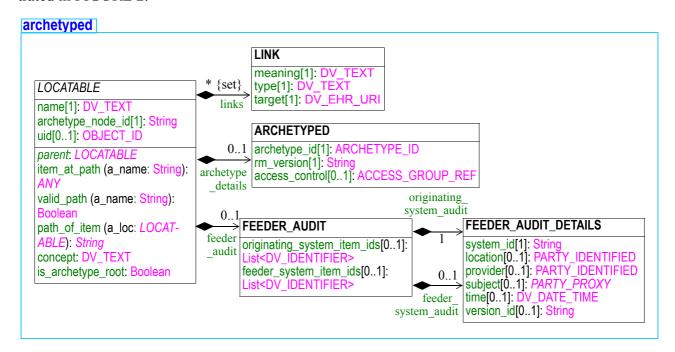


FIGURE 2 rm.common.archetyped Package

#### 3.1.1 The Class LOCATABLE

Every structural class in the <code>openEHR</code> reference model inherits from the <code>LOCATABLE</code> class, ensuring it has both a runtime <code>name</code>, and an <code>archetype\_node\_id</code>. The <code>archetype\_node\_id</code> is the standardised semantic code for a node and comes from the corresponding node in the archetype used to create the data. The only exception is at archetype root points in data, where <code>archetype\_node\_id</code> carries the archetype identifier in string form rather than an interior node id. <code>LOCATABLE</code> also provides the attribute <code>archetype\_details</code>, which is non-Void for archetype root points in data, and carries meta-data relevant to root points. The <code>name</code> attribute carries a name created at runtime. The 'meaning' of any node is derived formally from the archetype by obtaining the "text" value for the <code>archetype\_node\_id</code> code from the archetype ontology, in the language required.

The *name* and *archetype\_node\_id* values are often the same semantically, but may differ. For example, in "problem/SOAP" Sections (i.e. headings), the name of a section at the problem level might be "diabetes", but its meaning will be "problem". The default value for *name* should be assumed to be the text value in the local language for the *archetype\_node\_id* code on the node in question, unless explicitly set otherwise.

LOCATABLE objects may also have a *uid*. In the current *open*EHR architecture, uids are not needed to identify data nodes, since paths are used to reference all nodes inside top-level structures (i.e. COMPOSITIONS etc). The uids required in the "repository" classes, including EHR, VERSIONED\_OBJECT etc are defined separately, and are not inherited from LOCATABLE. If uids are used in data for some reason, they can only be meaningfully used at archetype root points, since there is no point in uniquely

identifying sub-nodes of individual archetyped structures - because it makes no sense to reference them rather than the relevant root node. In general, LOCATABLE.uid should be avoided in normal implementations, although it may find some use in EHR Extracts.

The *parent* feature in LOCATABLE ensures that any LOCATABLE can reference its parent in the compositional hierarchy, and may be implemented in any way convenient.

Various functions are defined to return the object at a path, and the path for a LOCATABLE node.

### 3.1.2 Feeder System Audit

The data in any part of the EHR may be obtained from a *feeder* system, i.e. a source system which does not obey the versioning, auditing and content semantics of *open*EHR (data in the EHR which have been sourced from another *open*EHR system are dealt with in the Common IM, Change control section). The <code>FEEDER\_AUDIT</code> class defines the semantics of an audit trail which is constructed to describe the origin of data which have been transformed into *open*EHR form and committed to the system. There are a number of important aspects to the problem of transforming data for committal into an *open*EHR system, dealt with in the following subsections.

#### Requirements

The model of Feeder audit is designed to satisfy the following requirements with respect to EHR content sourced from non-*open*EHR systems:

- record medico-legal audit information from the originating system (e.g. pathology lab system) similar to that captured in the AUDIT\_DETAILS class in the change\_control package;
- record information identifying the system from which the content was obtained (might not be the originating system);
- record sufficient information to distinguish incoming items from each other, and to enable the detection of duplicates and new versions of the same item.

#### **Design Principles**

The design of the Feeder audit part of the reference model is based on a generalised model of data communication in which various elements are identified, as follows:

- the originating system: the computer system where the information item was initially created, e.g. the system at a pathology laboratory or a reporting system for a number of laboratories;
- *intermediate systems*: any system which moves information from the originating system to *open*EHR system;
- the feeder system: the intermediate system from which the information item was directly obtained by the *open*EHR system; this might be the originating system, or it may be a distinct intermediate system;
- the committing openEHR system: the openEHR system where the information item is transformed into openEHR form and committed as a Composition;
- *openEHR converter*: a component whose job it is to convert non-*openEHR* information into a form compliant with the *openEHR* reference model and chosen archetypes.

FIGURE 3 illustrates these elements, shown as a "feeder chain", along with typical meta-data available in messages from each system. In general, not much can be assumed about systems in the feeder chain. The originating system may or may not correspond to the place of the clinical activity - it is not uncommon for a pathology company to have a centralised report issuing location while having numerous physical laboratories. There is often limited consistency in the way identifiers are assigned,

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timestamps are created, and information is structured and coded. In general, information from a feeder system is in response to a request, often a pathology order, although the request/response pattern probably cannot be assumed in all cases.

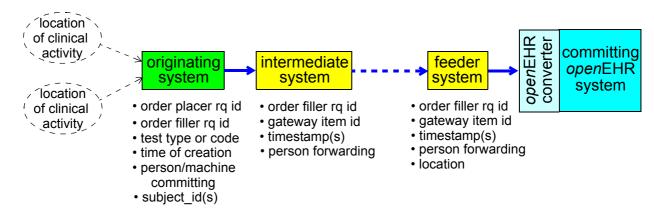


FIGURE 3 Abstract model of feeder chain

The idea underlying the *open*EHR Feeder audit model is that there are two groups of meta-data which should be recorded about an imported information item. The first is medico-legal meta-data about its creation: the system of origin, who created it and when it was created. The second is identifying meta-data for the item from the originating and feeder system, and potentially other intermediate systems in the feeder chain, where necessary to support duplicate detection, version detection and so on.

#### Meta-data

The potentially available medico-legal meta-data about the received item is as follows:

- · identifier of the originating system (where the item was originally committed);
- identifier of the information item in the originating system;
- · agent who committed the item;
- timestamp of committal or creation of the item;
- type of change, e.g. initial creation, correction (including deletion of a subpart), logical deletion (e.g. due to cancellation of order);
- status of information, e.g. interim, final;
- version id, where versioning is supported.

The above information is equivalent to the audit trail and versioning data captured when information created in an *open*EHR system is committed in a Composition version.

Various kinds of identifying information may be required including the following:

- subject identifier (often more than one, e.g. national patient id, GP's local patient id, lab's local patient id) are usually recorded and may be required for traceability purposes;
- subject identifier(s) may identify someone other than the subject of the record as being the subject of the incoming item;
- · location of the feeder system;
- identifier of the feeder system (which may be one of many at the feeder system location);
- · identifer the feeder system uses for the item in question (often known as an "accession id");
- identifier of request or order to which the information is a response (sometimes known as a "placer's request id");

- identifier of the information item used by the originating system (sometimes known as a "filler's request id");
- timestamp(s) assigned by feeder system to the item.

Some or all of this information will usually be sufficient to perform a number of tasks as follows.

#### **Traceability**

The first is to support medico-legal investigation into the path of the information item through the health computing infrastructure. This requires the availability of sufficient identifier information that the origin of the information item can be traced.

Subject identifiers where available should be used to ensure that the received data go into the correct EHR, by ensuring that the relevant lookups in client directories or other lookup mechanisms can be effected. Again, in rare cases, the subject of the incoming data item may not necessarily be the subject the EHR - a test result may be made from a relative or other associate which will be stored in the patient's EHR.

#### **Version Detection**

The second is to detect new versions of an item (e.g. interim and final versions of a microbiology test result). This can usually be achieved by using various identifiers as well as the originating system version id and/or content status (interim, final etc). A new *open*EHR Composition version should always be created for each received version, even where the content does not change at all (e.g. a microbiology test where the result is "no growth" in both interim and final results).

### **Duplicate Detection**

Another task is to disambiguate duplicates (often caused by failure of a network connection during sending) coming from the feeder system. In some cases however duplicates are erroneously given new ids by the feeder system, giving the receiver the impression of a new information. In such cases, a further item of meta-data may be required:

hash or content signature generated (most likely by the converter) from the received information.

#### **Differentially Coded Data**

A further problem is that the originating system may send new versions of an item which are not complete in and of themselves, i.e. which only include new or changed elements with respect to a previous send of the same item. An example is a system which sends a correction to an HL7v2 blood test message, where the correction includes just the "serum sodium" data item. In this case, special processing will be required in the *open*EHR converter component, in order to regenerate a full data item from difference data when it is received. Such processing may also have to take account of deleted items.

In summary, the Feeder audit class design tries to accommodate the recording of as much of the above meta-data as is relevant in any particular case. It is up to the design of *open*EHR conversion front-end components as well as proper analysis of the situation to determine which identifiers are germane to the needs of traceability. In general, any meta-data of medico-legal significance should be captured where it is available.

### **Using Feeder Audit in Converted Data**

Although the design of the *open*EHR converter is outside the scope of the current document, it is worth considering a common design approach, and where the FEEDER\_AUDIT class fits in. An effective way of converting non-*open*EHR data such as HL7v2 messages, relational data etc, is in two steps. The first is to perform a 'syntactic' conversion to Compositions containing instances of the

GENERIC\_ENTRY class (described in the Integration IM), using 'legacy archetypes'. The resulting database will contain versioned Compositions containing GENERIC\_ENTRY instances; logically this database does not contain EHRs but simply external data converted to *open*EHR computational form. The relevant FEEDER\_AUDIT instances should be attached to the Compositions containing the corresponding GENERIC\_ENTRY instances. The second step is to perform a 'semantic' conversion to subtypes of ENTRY, i.e. OBSERVATION, EVALUATION, INSTRUCTION and ACTION, according to standardised clinical archetypes. There are various possibilities for what to do with the Feeder audit. The minimum Feeder audit required on the final instance contains the originating system audit information, but none of the information to do with feeder or intermediate systems. This will satisfy medico-legal needs. Alternatively, a complete copy could be made, even though the feeder-related meta-data is probably only of use in the conversion environment. What the Feeder audit looks like in the EHR proper may depend on local legislation, norms or other factors. Completely alternative conversion processes are also possible, in which no intermediate form of data exists.

#### **Structural Correspondence**

There is no guarantee that the granularity of information recorded in the feeder system obeys the rules of Entries, Compositions, etc. As a consquence, feeder information might correspond to any level of information defined in the *open*EHR models. In order to be able to record feeder audit information correctly, the model has to be able to associate an audit trail with any granularity of object. For this reason, feeder audit information is attached to the LOCATABLE class via the *feeder\_audit* attribute, even though it is preferable by design to have it attached to the equivalent of Compositions or at least the equivalent of archetype entities (i.e. Compositions, Section trees and Entries). Its usual usage is to attach it to the outermost object to which it applies. In other words, in most cases, during a legacy data conversion process, the entirety of a Composition needs only one FEEDER\_AUDIT to document its origins. In exceptional cases, where feeder data comes in in near real time, e.g. from an ICU database, separate FEEDER\_AUDIT objects may need to be generated for parts of a Composition; each commit in this situation will create a stack of versions of one Composition, with a growing number of FEEDER\_AUDIT objects attached to internal data nodes, each documenting the last import of data.

The Feeder audit information is included as part of the data of the Composition, rather than part of the audit trail of version committal, because it remains relevant throughout the versioning of a logical Composition, i.e. when a new version is created, the feeder information is retained as part of the current version to be seen and possibly modified, just as for the rest of its content. If the main part of the content is modified so drastically as to make the feeder audit irrelevant, it too can be removed.

A second consequence of feeder and legacy systems is that structural data items may need to be synthesised in order to create valid structures, even though the source system does not have them. For example, a system may have the equivalent data of Entries, but no Sections or other higher-level data items; these have to be synthesised during conversion. To indicate synthesis of a data node, a FEEDER\_AUDIT instance is attached to the LOCATABLE in question, and its *change\_type* set to "synthesised".

# 3.2 Class Descriptions

### 3.2.1 Class LOCATABLE

| CLASS      | LOCATABLE (abstract)   |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Root structural class of all information models. The <i>parent</i> feature may be implemented as a function or attribute.  |  |
| GEHR       | Name attribute in ARCHETYPED, m  | eaning attribute in G1_PLAIN_TEXT.   |
| Synapses   | Each record component includes a Synapses Object ID attribute to reference the Synapses Object (archetype) used as the basis for its construction. All record components include a name attribute intended for the same purpose as the <i>open</i> EHR equivalent. |  |
| Abstract   | Signature Meaning  |  |
| 01         | parent: LOCATABLE Parent of this node in compositional hierarchy.  |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning  |  |
| 01         | uid: OBJECT_ID   | Optional globally unique object identifier for root points of archetyped structures.   |
| 11         | archetype_node_id: String  | Design-time archetype id of this node taken from its generating archetype; used to build archetype paths. Always in the form of an "at" code, e.g. "at0005". This value enables a "standardised" name for this node to be generated, by referring to the generating archetype local ontology.  At an archetype root point, the value of this attribute is always the stringified form of the archetype_id found in the archetype_details object. |
| 11         | name: DV_TEXT  | Runtime name of this fragment, used to build runtime paths. This is the term provided via a clinical application or batch process to name this EHR construct: its retention in the EHR faithfully preserves the original label by which this entry was known to end users.   |
| 01         | archetype_details:Details of archetyping used on this node.ARCHETYPED  |  |

| CLASS     | LOCATABLE (abstract)   |  |
|-----------|--|--|
| 01        | feeder_audit: FEEDER_AUDIT   | Audit trail from non- <i>open</i> EHR system of original commit of information forming the content of this node, or from a conversion gateway which has synthesised this node. |
| 01        | links: Set <link/>   | Links to other archetyped structures (data whose root object inherits from ARCHE-TYPED, such as ENTRY, SECTION and so on). Links may be to structures in other compositions.   |
| Functions | Signature  | Meaning  |
| 11        | is_archetype_root: Boolean   | True if this node is the root of an archetyped structure.  |
|           | <pre>path_of_item (a_loc: LOCATA- BLE): String</pre>   | The path to an item relative to the root of this archetyped structure.   |
|           | <pre>item_at_path (a_path: String):    ANY</pre>   | The item at a path (relative to this item).  |
|           | <pre>valid_path (a_path: String): Boolean</pre>  | True if the path is valid with respect to the current item.  |
| 01        | concept: DV_TEXT require is_archetype_root   | Clinical concept of the archetype as a whole (= derived from the 'archetype_node_id' of the root node)   |
| Invariant | Archetype_node_id_valid: archetype_node_id /= Void and then not archetype_node_id.is_empty  Name_valid: name /= Void  Links_valid: links /= Void implies not links.empty  Archetyped_valid: is_archetype_root xor archetype_details = Void |  |

#### 3.2.2 **ARCHETYPED Class**

| CLASS   | ARCHETYPED   |
|---------|--|
| Purpose | Archetypes act as the configuration basis for the particular structures of instances defined by the reference model. To enable archetypes to be used to create valid data, key classes in the reference model act as "root" points for archetyping; accordingly, these classes have the archetype_details attribute set. An instance of the class Archetyped contains the relevant archetype identification information, allowing generating archetypes to be matched up with data instances |
| GEHR    | G1_ARCHETYPED  |

| CLASS              | AF  | RCHETYPED   |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Synapses/<br>SynEx | The SynEx approach does not distinguish between multiple layers of archetypes; hence an 'archetype' covers all information in an entire composition. Consequently, there is only one place where archetype identifiers in the <i>open</i> EHR sense are used (at the top); all other archetype identifiers are equivalent to the <i>archetype_node_id</i> attribute from LOCATABLE.   |   |
|                    | 5 1 5 1   | rovides a unique reference to each fine-grained therefore also functionally equivalent to the oints in an <i>open</i> EHR structure.              |
| CEN                | The 1999 pre-standard does not include any equivalent to the archetype concept. However each architectural component must include a reference to an entry in the relevant normative table in the Domain Termlist pre-standard (part 2), to provide a high-level semantic classification of the component. All Architectural components include a component name structure to specify its label: the source of possible values for such a label was not clearly defined. The 2003 revision of ENV 13606 explicitly includes archetype identification attributes in the class RECORD COMPONENT. |   |
| Attributes         | Signature   | Meaning   |
| 11                 | archetype_id: ARCHETYPE_ID  | Globally unique archetype identifier.   |
| 01                 | access_control: ACCESS_GROUP_REF  | The access control settings of this component.  |
| 11                 | rm_version: String  | Version of the <i>open</i> EHR reference model used to create this object. Expressed in terms of the release version string, e.g. "1.0", "1.2.4". |
| Invariant          | <pre>archetype_id_valid: archetype_id /= Void rm_version_valid: rm_version /= Void and then not rm_version.is_empty</pre>   |   |

### 3.2.3 LINK Class

|   | CLASS | LINK  |
|---|-------|---|
| Purpose  ENTRYS or an ENTRY and a COMPOSITION. Links can be used across compared tions, and across EHRs. Links can potentially be used between interior (and archetype root) nodes, although this probably should be prevented in arch Multiple LINKs can be attached to the root object of any archetyped structure give the effect of a 1->N link  1:1 and 1:N relationships between archetyped content elements (e.g. English can be expressed by using one, or more than one, respectively, DV_1: |       | The LINK type defines a logical relationship between two items, such as two ENTRYs or an ENTRY and a COMPOSITION. Links can be used across compositions, and across EHRs. Links can potentially be used between interior (i.e. non archetype root) nodes, although this probably should be prevented in archetypes. Multiple LINKs can be attached to the root object of any archetyped structure to give the effect of a 1->N link |
|   |       | 1:1 and 1:N relationships between archetyped content elements (e.g. ENTRYS) can be expressed by using one, or more than one, respectively, DV_LINKS. Chains of links can be used to see "problem threads" or other logical groupings of items.  |

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| CLASS      |  | LINK  |
|------------|--|---|
| MisUse     | Links should be between archetyped objects only, i.e. between objects representing complete domain concepts because relationships between sub-elements of whole concepts are not necessarily meaningful, and may be downright confusing. Sensible links only exist between whole ENTRYS, SECTIONS, COMPOSITIONS and so on.                       |   |
| CEN        | The Link Item class is a simplified form of the Synapses Link Item, permitting links to be established but with limited labelling and no representation for importance.  |   |
| Synapses   | The Link Item class provides the means to link any arbitrary parts of a single EHR, for the overall linkage network to be labelled and revised, and for each direct link to be labelled explicitly. An importance attribute provides guidance on how links should be handled if only part of a linkage network is requested by a client process. |   |
| GEHR       | n/a  |   |
| HL7v3      | The ACT_RELATIONSHIP class   | in some cases appears to correspond to LINK.  |
| Attributes | Signature  | Meaning   |
| 11         | meaning: DV_TEXT   | Used to describe the relationship, usually in clinical terms, such as "in response to" (the relationship between test results and an order), "follow-up to" and so on. Such relationships can represent any clinically meaningful connection between pieces of information.  Values for <i>meaning</i> include those described in Annex C, ENV 13606 pt 2 [11] under the categories of "generic", "documenting and reporting", "organisational", "clinical", "circumstancial", and "view management". |
| 11         | type: DV_TEXT  | The <i>type</i> attribute is used to indicate a clinical or domain-level meaning for the kind of link, for example "problem" or "issue". If type values are designed appropriately, they can be used by the requestor of EHR extracts to categorise links which must be followed and which can be broken when the extract is created.   |
| 11         | target: DV_EHR_URI The logical "to" object in the link relation, as per the linguistic sense of the <i>meaning</i> attribute.  |   |
| Invariant  | Meaning_valid: meaning /= Void Type_valid: type /= Void Target_valid: target /= Void   |   |

# 3.2.4 FEEDER\_AUDIT Class

| CLASS      | FEEDER_AUDIT  |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Purpose    | Audit and other meta-data for systems in the feeder chain.                  |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning   |  |
| 11         | originating_system_audit:<br>FEEDER_AUDIT_DETAILS                           | Any audit information for the information item from the originating system.  |
| 01         | <pre>originating_system_item_ids: List<dv_identifier></dv_identifier></pre> | Identifiers used for the item in the originating system, e.g. filler and placer ids.                                 |
| 01         | feeder_system_audit: FEEDER_AUDIT_DETAILS                                   | Any audit information for the information item from the feeder system, if different from the originating system.     |
| 01         | <pre>feeder_system_item_ids:   List<dv_identifier></dv_identifier></pre>    | Identifiers used for the item in the feeder system, where the feeder system is distinct from the originating system. |
| Invariants | Originating_system_audit_valid: originating_system_audit /= Void            |  |

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# 3.2.5 FEEDER\_AUDIT\_DETAILS Class

| CLASS      | FEEDER_AUDIT_DETAILS   |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Audit details for any system in a feeder system chain. Audit details here means the general notion of who/where/when the information item to which the audit is attached was created. None of the attributes is defined as mandatory, however, in different scenarios, various combinations of attributes will usually be mandatory. This can be controlled by specifying feeder audit details in legacy archetypes. |  |
| Attributes | Signature  | Meaning  |
| 1          | <pre>system_id: String</pre>   | Identifier of the system which handled the information item.   |
| 01         | <pre>provider:     PARTY_IDENTIFIED</pre>  | Optional provider(s) who created, committed, forwarded or otherwise handled the item.  |
| 01         | location: PARTY_IDENTIFIED   | Identifier of the particular site/facility within an organisation which handled the item. For computability, this identifier needs to be e.g. a PKI identifier which can be included in the <i>identifier</i> list of the PARTY_IDENTIFIED object. |
| 01         | time: DV_DATE_TIME   | Time of handling the item. For an originating system, this will be time of creation, for an intermediate feeder system, this will be a time of accession or other time of handling, where available.   |
| 01         | subject: PARTY_PROXY   | Identifiers for subject of the received information item.  |
| 01         | version_id: String   | Any identifier used in the system such as "interim", "final", or numeric versions if available.  |
| Invariants | System_id_valid: system_id /= Void and then not system_id.is_empty   |  |

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# 4 Generic Package

### 4.1 Overview

The classes presented in this section are abstractions of concepts which are generic to the domain of health (and most likely other domains), such as 'participation' and 'attestation'. Here, "generic" means that the same model can be used, regardless of where they are contextually used in other models. The generic cluster is illustrated in FIGURE 4.

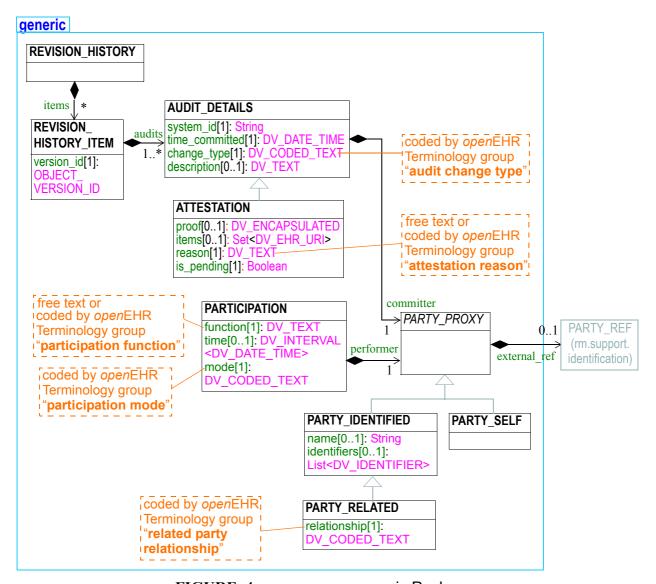


FIGURE 4 rm.common.generic Package

## 4.2 Design Principles

There are two ways to refer to an identity in the *open*EHR EHR: using PARTY\_REF directly, which records an identifier of the party in some external system, and using PARTY\_PROXY, which supports a small amount of descriptive data, depending on the subtype, and an optional PARTY\_REF. The semantics of PARTY\_REF are described in the Common IM, identification package, while the semantics of PARTY\_PROXY and use of PARTY\_REF in such entities are described below.

### 4.2.1 Referring to Demographic Entities

The approach taken in *open*EHR for representing demographic and user entities in the EHR data is based on the following assumptions:

- there is at least one human readable name or official identifier of the party, such as "Julius Marlowe, MD", "NHS provider number 1039385", or a system user id such as "Rahil.Azam";
- there might be data in a service external to the EHR for the party in question, such as a demographic, identity management or patient index service; if there is, we want to reference it:
- the subject of the record is never to be identified in any direct way (i.e. via the use of her name or other human-readable details), but may include a meaningless identifier in some external system.

The PARTY\_PROXY class and subtypes model references to parties based on these assumptions. The semantics of PARTY\_PROXY enable a flexible approach: in stricter environments that have identity management and demographic services, and where there is an entry in such a service for the party in question, PARTY PROXY. external ref will be non-Void, while in other environments, it will be empty.

The two subtypes correspond to the mutually distinct categories of the 'subject of the record', known as the 'self' party in *open*EHR, and any other party. Whenever the record subject has to be referred to in the record, an instance of PARTY\_SELF is used, while PARTY\_IDENTIFIED is used for all other situations. The latter class provides for optional human-readable *names* and formal *identifiers*, each keyed by purpose or meaning.

The RELATED\_PARTY type is used whenever the relationship of the party to the record subject is required. Relationships are coded and include familial ones ('mother', 'uncle', etc) as well as relationships like 'donor', 'travelling companion' and so on.

### PARTY\_SELF and Referring to the Patient from the EHR

There are three schemes which are likely to be used for referring to patient (i.e. the record subject) demographic or patient master index (PMI) data from within the EHR, each likely to be valid in different circumstances. These are as follows.

- Once only in EHR. subject using the PARTY\_SELF. external\_ref. Since the EHR object is separate from the EHR contents, the root instance of PARTY\_SELF will generally not be visible.
- Setting the *external\_ref* in every instance of PARTY\_SELF; this solution makes the patient external ref visible in every instance of PARTY\_SELF, which is reasonable in a secure environment, and convenient for copying parts of the record around locally.
- On no instances of PARTY\_SELF. This is the most secure approach, and means that the link between the EHR and the patient has to be done outside the EHR, by associating EHR.uid and the patient demographic/PMI identifier. This approach is more likely for more open environments.

All three schemes are supported by the *open*EHR model, and will probably all find use in different settings and EHR deployment types.

### 4.2.2 Participation

The Participation abstraction models the interaction of some Party in an activity. In the openEHR reference models, participations are actually modelled in two ways. In situations where the kinds of participation are known and constant, they are modelled as a named attribute in the relevant reference

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model. For example, the *committer*: PARTY\_PROXY attribute in AUDIT\_DETAILS models a participation in which the function is "committal". Where the kind of participation is not known at design time, a generic PARTICIPATION class is used. This class refers to a Party via a PARTY\_PROXY inst-sance, and records the function, time interval and (coded) mode of the participation. It can be used in any other reference model as required.

#### 4.2.3 Audit Information

#### **Audit Details**

Three classes are provided to represent audit information. The first, AUDIT\_DETAILS expresses the details that would be captured about a user when committing some information to a repository of some kind, which may be version controlled. It records committer, time, change type and description. Committer is recorded using a PARTY\_PROXY, allowing for PARTY\_SELF to be used when the committer is the record subject, and for other identifying information to be included for other users, expressed using PARTY\_IDENTIFIED. The kind of identifying information used in PARTY\_PROXY instances in AUDIT\_DETAILS may be different from that used in COMPOSITION.composer or elsewhere, i.e. in the form of a system login identifier, e.g. "maxime.lavache@stpatricks.health.ie".

#### **Revision History**

The classes REVISION\_HISTORY and REVISION\_HISTORY\_ITEM express the notion of a revision history, which consists of audit items, each associated with a revision number. An instance of the REVISION\_HISTORY\_ITEM class is designed to express the information that corresponds to an item in a revision history, i.e. a list of all audits relating to some information item. The *version\_id* is included to indicate which revision each audit corresponds to. These classes provide an interoperable definition of revision history for the VERSIONED OBJECT and AUTHORED RESOURCE classes.

#### 4.2.4 Attestation

Attestation is another concept which occurs commonly in health information. An attestation is an explicit signing by one healthcare agent of particular content for various particular purposes, including:

- for authorisation of a controlled substance or procedure (e.g. sectioning of patient under mental health act);
- · witnessing of content by senior clinical professional;
- indicating acknowledgement of content by intended recipient, e.g. GP who ordered a test result.

Here it is modelled as a subtype of AUDIT\_DETAILS, meaning that it is logically a kind of audit, with additional information pertinant to the act of signing, namely a proof object and the list of identifiers of the attested items. At a minimum, the proof should be a digital certificate which binds the following items together:

- the identity of the attesting party;
- the thing attested to, e.g. a statement like "Do you agree that the form below is an accurate record of the clinical session just completed?", and potentially a hash or other compressed, encoded representation of the attested-to content;
- · the time;
- appropriate digital signatures.

Such a certificate may be included in the record, or it may exist in some other place such as a notary service or similar. The use of the DV ENCAPSULATED type for the *proof* attribute allows for either.

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Normally the list of items should be a single Entry or Composition, but there is nothing stopping it including fine-grained items, even though separate attestation of such items does not appear to be commensurate with good clinical information design or process.

The reason attribute is used to indicate why the attestation occurred, and is coded using the openEHR Terminology group "attestation reason", which includes values such as "authorisation" and "witnessed". The is\_pending attribute marks the attestation as either having been done or awaiting completion depending on its value. This facilitates querying the record to find items needing to be signed or witnessed. When an attestation is required, the most common scenario will be that a Composition Version will be committed with a commit\_audit of type ATTESTATION, rather than just AUDIT\_DETAILS; the is\_pending flag will be set to True to indicate that the committed information needs to be signed by another person. When signing occurs, it will cause a new ATTESTATION object to be added to the VERSION.attestations list, this time with is\_pending set to False, and the appropriate proof supplied. Thus, the common situation in which content is committed to the record by needs review and signing by a senior person will cause the creation of two ATTESTATION objects.

### 4.3 Class Descriptions

### 4.3.1 PARTY\_PROXY Class

| CLASS      | PARTY_PROXY (abstract)   |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Abstract concept of a proxy description of a party, including an optional link to data for this party in a demographic or other identity management system. Subtyped into PARTY_IDENTIFIED and PARTY_SELF. |  |
| Attributes | Signature  | Meaning  |
| 01         | external_ref: PARTY_REF  | Optional reference to more detailed demographic or identification information for this party, in an external system. |
| Invariant  |  |  |

### 4.3.2 PARTY\_SELF Class

| CLASS      | PARTY_SELF   |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Party proxy representing the subject of the record.  |  |
| Use        | Used to indicate that the party is the owner of the record. May or may not have <i>external_ref</i> set. |  |
| Inherit    | PARTY_PROXY  |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning  |  |
|            |  |  |
| Invariant  |  |  |

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# 4.3.3 PARTY\_IDENTIFIED Class

| CLASS        | PARTY_IDENTIFIED   |   |
|--------------|--|---|
| Purpose      | Proxy data for an identified party other than the subject of the record, minimally consisting of human-readable identifier(s), such as name, formal (and possibly computable) identifiers such as NHS number, and an optional link to external data. There must be at least one of <i>name</i> , <i>identifier</i> or <i>external_ref</i> present. |   |
| Use          | Used to describe parties where only identifiers may be known, and there is no entry at all in the demographic system (or even no demographic system). Typically for health care providers, e.g. name and provider number of an institution.  |   |
| Misuse       | Should not be used to include patient identifying information.   |   |
| Inherit      | PARTY_PROXY  |   |
| Attributes   | Signature  | Meaning   |
| 01<br>(cond) | name: String   | Optional human-readable name (in String form).        |
| 01<br>(cond) | <pre>identifiers: List<dv_identifier></dv_identifier></pre>  | One or more formal identifiers (possibly computable). |
| Invariant    | Basic_valid name /= Void or identifiers /= Void or external_ref /= Void Name_valid: name /= Void implies not name.is_empty Identifiers_valid: identifiers /= Void implies not identifiers.is_empty   |   |

### 4.3.4 PARTY\_RELATED Class

| CLASS      | PARTY_RELATED  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Denote a party and its relationship to the subject of the record.  |  |
| Use        | Use where the relationship between the party and the subject of the record must be known.  |  |
| Inherit    | PARTY_IDENTIFIED   |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning  |  |
| 11         | relationship: DV_CODED_TEXT  | Relationship of subject of this ENTRY to the subject of the record. May be coded. If it is the patient, coded as "self". |
| Invariants | <b>Relationship_valid</b> : relationship /= Void <b>and then</b> terminology("openehr").codes_for_group_name("related party relationship", "en").has(relationship.defining_code) |  |

# 4.3.5 PARTICIPATION Class

| CLASS      |  | PARTICIPATION  |
|------------|--|--|
| Purpose    | Model of a participation of a Party (any Actor or Role) in an activity.  |  |
| Use        | Used to represent any participation of a Party in some activity, which is not explicitly in the model, e.g. assisting nurse. Can be used to record past or future participations.  |  |
| Misuse     | Should not be used in place of graphic entities.   | of more permanent relationships between demo-  |
| HL7v3      | RIM Participation class.   |  |
| Attributes | Signature  | Meaning  |
| 11         | performer: PARTY_PROXY   | The id and possibly demographic system link of the party participating in the activity.  |
| 11         | function: DV_TEXT  | The function of the Party in this participation (note that a given party might participate in more than one way in a particular activity). This attribute should be coded, but cannot be limited to the HL7v3:ParticipationFunction vocabulary, since it is too limited and hospital-oriented. |
| 11         | mode: DV_CODED_TEXT The mode of the performer / activity interaction, e.g. present, by telephone, by email etc.  |  |
| 01         | <pre>time: DV_INTERVAL</pre>   | The time interval during which the participation took place, if it is used in an observational context (i.e. recording facts about the past); or the intended time interval of the participation when used in future contexts, such as EHR Instructions.                                       |
| Invariant  | <pre>Performer_valid: performer /= Void Function_valid: function /= Void and then function.generating_type.is_equal("DV_CODED_TEXT") implies terminology("openehr").codes_for_group_name("participation function", "en") .has(function.defining_code) Mode_valid: mode /= Void and terminol- ogy("openehr").codes_for_group_name("participation mode", "en").has(mode.defining_code)</pre> |  |

# 4.3.6 AUDIT\_DETAILS Class

| CLASS   | AUDIT_DETAILS  |
|---------|--|
| Purpose | The set of attributes required to document the committal of an information item to a repository. |

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| CLASS      | AUDIT_DETAILS  |  |
|------------|--|--|
| Synapses   | Composition class  |  |
| GEHR       | G1_COMMIT_AUDIT  |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning  |  |
| 11         | <pre>system_id: String</pre>   | Identity of the system where the change was committed. Ideally this is a machine- and human-processable identifier, but it may not be. |
| 11         | committer: PARTY_PROXY   | Identity and optional reference into identity management service, of user who committed the item.                                      |
| 11         | time_committed: DV_DATE_TIME   | Time of committal of the item.   |
| 11         | change_type: DV_CODED_TEXT   | Type of change. Coded using the <i>open</i> EHR Terminology "audit change type" group.   |
| 01         | description: DV_TEXT   | Reason for committal.  |
| Invariants | System_id_valid: system_id /= Void and then not system_id.is_empty  Committer_valid: committer /= Void  Time_committed_valid: time_committed /= Void  Change_type_valid: change_type /= Void and then  terminology("openehr").codes_for_group_name("audit change type", "en").has(change_type.defining_code) |  |

### 4.3.7 ATTESTATION Class

| CLASS      | ATTESTATION   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Purpose    | Record an attestation of a party (the committer) to item(s) of record content. The type of attestation is |  |
| Inherit    | AUDIT_DETAILS   |  |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning   |  |
| 01         | proof: DV_ENCAPSULATED  | Proof of attestation.  |
| 01         | <pre>items: Set <dv_ehr_uri></dv_ehr_uri></pre>   | Items attested. Although not recommended, these may include fine-grained items which have been attested in some other system. Otherwise it is assumed to be for the entire VER-SION with which it is associated. |

| CLASS      | ATTESTATION   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| 11         | reason: DV_TEXT   | Reason of this attestation. Optionally coded by the <i>open</i> EHR Terminology group "attestation reason"; includes values like "authorisation", "witness" etc. |
| 11         | is_pending: Boolean   | True if this attestation is outstanding; False means it has been completed.  |
| Invariants | <pre>Items_valid: items /= Void implies not items.is_empty Reason_valid: reason /= Void and then (rea- son.generating_type.is_equal("DV_CODED_TEXT") implies terminol- ogy("openehr").codes_for_group_name("attestation reason", "en").has(reason.defining_code))</pre> |  |

# 4.3.8 REVISION\_HISTORY Class

| CLASS      | REVISION_HISTORY  |                            |
|------------|---|----------------------------|
| Purpose    | Defines the notion of a revision history of audit items, each associated with the version for which that audit was committed. |                            |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning   |                            |
| 11         | <pre>items: List <revision_history_item></revision_history_item></pre>  | The items in this history. |
| Invariants | <i>Items_valid</i> : items /= Void  |                            |

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# 4.3.9 REVISION\_HISTORY\_ITEM Class

| CLASS      | REVISION_HISTORY_ITEM   |  |  |
|------------|---|--|--|
| Purpose    | An entry in a revision history, corresponding to a version from a versioned container. Consists of AUDIT_DETAILS instances with revision identifier of the revision to which the AUDIT_DETAILS intance belongs. |  |  |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning  |  |
| 11         | <pre>audits: Set<audit_details></audit_details></pre>   | The audits for this revision; there will always be at least one commit audit (which may itself be an ATTESTATION), there may also be further attestations. |  |
| 11         | version_id: OBJECT_VERSION_ID   | Version identifier for this revision.  |  |
| Invariants | Audit_valid: audit /= Void and then not audits.is_empty  Version_id_valid: version_id /= Void   |  |  |

Date of Issue: 26 Mar 2006

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# 5 Directory Package

### 5.1 Overview

The directory package is illustrated in FIGURE 5. It provides a simple abstraction of a versioned folder structure. The VERSIONED\_FOLDER class is the binding of VERSIONED\_OBJECT<T> to FOLDER, i.e. it is a VERSIONED\_OBJECT<FOLDER>. This means that each of its versions is a FOLDER structure. It provides a means of versioning FOLDER structures over time, which is useful in the EHR, Demographics service or anywhere else where Folders are used to group things. A FOLDER instance is simple: it contains more FOLDERs and/or items, which are references to other (usually versioned) objects. A FOLDER structure is therefore like a directory containing references to objects. Since they are only references, multiple references to the same object are possible, allowing the structure to be used to mutiply classify other objects. If it is used with VERSIONED\_COMPOSITIONs for example, the folders might be used to represent episodes and at the same time problem groups.

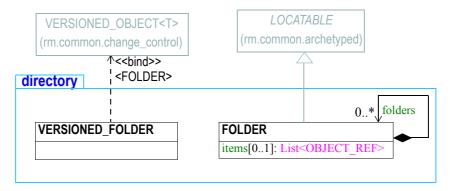


FIGURE 5 common.directory Package

FOLDER structures inside the VERSIONED\_FOLDER are archetypable structures, and FOLDER archetypes can be created in the same fashion as say SECTION archetypes for the EHR.

#### **5.1.1** Paths

Directory paths are built using the *name* attribute values inherited from LOCATABLE into each FOLDER object. In real data, these will usually be derived from the value of the *archetype\_node\_id* attribute, plus a uniqueness modifier if required. Example paths:

```
/folders[hospital episodes]/items[]
/folders[patient entered data]/folders[diabetes monitoring]
/folders[homeopathy contacts]
```

Uniqueness modifiers are appended in brackets, and are only needed to differentiate folders at the same node that would otherwise have the same names, e.g.

```
[hospital episodes]
[hospital episodes(car accident Aug 1998)]
```

# 5.2 Class Descriptions

# 5.2.1 VERSIONED\_FOLDER Class

| CLASS      | VERSIONED_FOLDER  |         |  |
|------------|---|---------|--|
| Purpose    | A version-controlled hierarchy of FOLDERs giving the effect of a directory. |         |  |
| Inherit    | VERSIONED_OBJECT <folder></folder>  |         |  |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning |  |
| Invariants |   |         |  |

### 5.2.2 FOLDER Class

| CLASS      | FOLDER  |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Purpose    | The concept of a named folder.                              |   |
| CEN        | FOLDER class  |   |
| Synapses   | RecordFolder class  |   |
| Inherit    | LOCATABLE   |   |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning   |
| 01         | folders: List <folder></folder>                             | Sub-folders of this FOLDER.   |
| 01         | <pre>items: List<object_ref></object_ref></pre>             | The list of references to other (usually) versioned objects logically in this folder. |
| Invariants | Folders_valid: folders /= Void implies not folders.is_empty |   |

# 6 Change Control Package

#### 6.1 Overview

As described in the Architecture Overview document, formal version control and change management is used in *open*EHR to support the construction of EHR and other repositories requiring the properties of consistency, indelibility, traceability and so on. The change\_control package supplies the formal specification for these features in *open*EHR.

FIGURE 6 illustrates a formal model of a version repository. In this model, the class VERSIONED\_OBJECT<T> provides the versioning facilities for one versioned item. Although any kind of data can be versioned using the model presented here, versioning in *openEHR* is limited to top-level structures, such as an EHR Composition, or a Party in a demographic system.

Each version is an instance of the class VERSION<T> or its subtypes IMPORTED\_VERSION<T> and MERGED\_VERSION<T>. The VERSION class combines the data being versioned, audit trails, and any attestations applied to the version. The classes VERSIONED\_OBJECT<T>, VERSION<T>, MERGED\_VERSION<T> and IMPORTED\_VERSION<T> are generic classes, with the generic parameter type T being the type of the data. This ensures that all versions in a given VERSIONED\_OBJECT are of the same type, such as COMPOSITION, FOLDER, or PARTY and that the version container itself is properly typed.

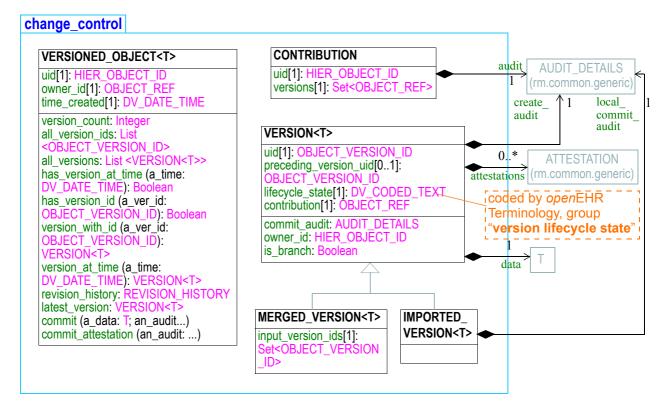


FIGURE 6 rm.common.change control Package

Each VERSIONED\_OBJECT has a unique identifier recorded in the *uid* attribute (a HIER\_OBJECT\_ID typically containing a GUID), and a reference to the owning object (e.g. the owning EHR) in the *owner\_id* attribute (this is typically also a GUID). The latter helps ensure that in storage systems, Versioned objects are always correctly allocated to their enclosing repository, such as an EHR.

The data in a VERSIONED\_OBJECT is a collection of instances of VERSION<T> and its subtypes, and is specified only in terms of its functional interface. How the representation of this collection is implemented inside the VERSIONED\_OBJECT is not defined by this specification, only the form of any given Version is. Implementations of VERSIONED\_OBJECT might range from the simple (all versions stored as full copies in a list) to a sophisticated compressed versioning approach as used in software file version control and some object databases. (The persistent data format of implementations of VERSIONED\_OBJECT developed by different organisations will in general be incompatible. For purposes of sharing, an interoperable expression of VERSIONED\_OBJECT is defined by the X VERSIONED\_OBJECT class in the EHR Extract IM.)

The class VERSION<T> defines the data and meta-data of a single version in a VERSIONED\_OBJECT. The *uid* attribute, of type OBJECT\_VERSION\_ID (see Support IM, identification package), contains the attributes *owner\_id*, *creating\_system\_id*, and *version\_tree\_id*, and constitutes a globally unique version identifier enabling Versions to be identified and merged correctly regardless of copying and subsequent changes. The details of the version identification scheme are described below. The attribute *preceding\_version\_uid* indicates which Version elsewhere in the tree is considered the previous one to the current one; in other words, which Version was "checked-out" to create the current Version

The class CONTRIBUTION records the set of Versions committed to an repository at one time by one committer, along with an audit for the entire Contribution, distinct from the audits of each of the Versions in the Contribution. CONTRIBUTIONS refer to their member VERSION objects via OBJECT\_REFs.

#### **6.1.1** Audits

Audits are recorded in the form of instances of the class AUDIT\_DETAILS (common.generic package), which defines a set of attributes which form an audit trail, namely <code>creating\_system\_id</code>, <code>committer</code>, <code>time\_committed</code>, <code>change\_type</code>, and <code>description</code> or its subtype ATTESTATION, which adds a number of other attributes (see below). When a new Version is created locally, the <code>create\_audit</code> attribute is set to contain an audit object corresponding to the local act of committal. All <code>VERSIONs</code> in all <code>VERSIONED\_OBJECTs</code> in any <code>openEHR</code> deployment obey this rule.

However, if the Version being committed is a 1st-generation copy of a VERSION originally created and committed elsewhere, it is committed locally as an instance of the IMPORTED\_VERSION class, with the <code>local\_commit\_audit</code> attribute of this class being used to capture details of local committal; the <code>create\_audit</code> is retained meaning unchanged, i.e. it records the details of the committal action at initial creation time. If on the other hand the received Version is actually an <code>IMPORTED\_VERSION</code> (meaning it has already been copied elsewhere), the <code>local\_commit\_audit</code> is rewritten to a new value. The function <code>commit\_audit</code> is defined on the class <code>VERSION</code> to return the audit corresponding to the local committal of the item; this will be the <code>create\_audit</code> in the case of locally created <code>VERSIONs</code>, and <code>local\_commit\_audit</code> in the case of <code>IMPORTED\_VERSIONs</code>.

This scheme ensures that the audit from initial creation - which is the clinically meaningful audit - is preserved no matter how many times the Version is copied.

The CONTRIBUTION class also contains an *audit* attribute. Whenever a CONTRIBUTION is committed, this attribute captures to the time, place and committer of the committal act; these three attributes (*creating\_system\_id*, *committer*, *time\_committed* of AUDIT\_DETAILS) are usually copied into the corresponding attributes of the *commit\_audit* of each VERSION included in the CONTRIBUTION (there is nothing to stop this being overridden however. This is done to enable sharing of versioned entities independently of which Contributions they were part of.

email: info@openEHR.org web: http://www.openEHR.org

In terms of database management, Contributions are similar to nested transactions. An attempt to commit a Contribution should only succeed if each Version in the Contribution is committed successfully.

### 6.1.2 Attestation

The VERSION. attestations attribute allows attestations to be associated with the data in the version. Attestations are treated in openEHR as a kind of audit, with additional attributes, and are described in detail in the common.generic package section of the Common IM. Any number of attestations to be associated with each Version of a Versioned object. Attestations can be added at any time after committal of the content being attested. They can be used as required by enterprise processes or legislation, and indicate by whom and when the item in question was attested. A digital "proof" is also required, although no assumption is made about the form of such proof.

Attestations may be used in different ways as follows.

- Signing content at committal: for some reason, the information being committed needs to be digitally signed. It may be that sensitive information is to be added to the EHR, e.g. recording the fact of sectioning of a patient under the mental health act, diagnosis of a fatal disease etc, or simply something which the user wants to sign. In this case, VERSION.commit\_audit is of type ATTESTATION rather than AUDIT DETAILS.
- Marking content for review and signing: data entered and committed by a data-entry person e.g. a secretary, transcriptionist or student need to be reviewed and signed by a senior clinician. Similarly to the above case, this will cause VERSION.commit\_audit to be of type ATTESTATION, but in this case, the Attestation will have its is\_pending flag set True to indicate that attestation is required.
- *Post-committal signing*: data committed with an Attestation in the *is\_pending* state is reviewed and signed at a later point in tme by an appropriate member of staff. This action will cause an ATTESTATION to be added to the VERSION. *attestations* list.

Normally, Attestations refer to the entire version to which they are attached. However, it is possible for an ATTESTATION instance to refer to some finer-grained item within the data of the version, such as a single ENTRY within a COMPOSITION.

When subsequent Versions are added, the existing Attestations can not be assumed to be valid for the new Version, since the nature of an attestation is that it records the witnessing of exactly the content displayed at the time of witnessing.

## 6.1.3 Version Lifecycle

Versioned content has a lifecycle state associated with it, modelled using the VERSION. lifecycle\_state attribute, which is coded from the openEHR Terminology "version lifecycle state" group. The possible values are "complete", "incomplete" and "deleted". Usually content will be committed in the "complete" state. However, in some circumstances, e.g. because the author has run out of time or due to an emergency, it may be committed as "incomplete" meaning that it is either incomplete or at least unreviewed. In hospitals this is a common occurrence. Unfinished Compositions cannot be saved locally on the client machine, since this represents a security risk (a small client-side database would be much easier to hack into than a secure server). They must therefore be persisted on the server, either in the actual EHR, or in a 'holding bay' which was recognised as not being part of the EHR proper. Either way, the author would have to explicitly retrieve the Composition(s) and after further work or review, 'promote' them into the EHR as 'active' Compositions; alternatively, they might decide to throw them away.

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Going from "incomplete" to "complete" almost always corresponds to a change in content, and corresponds to a new VERSION regardless. This modelling approach allows such content to exist on the EHR system, but to be flagged as incomplete when viewed by a user.

#### 6.1.4 Version Identification

The version identification scheme described here is adapted from the work of Hnìtynka and Plášil [3]. VERSION objects are identified by a *uid* attribute, which is a three-part identifier consisting of the attributes *object\_id*, *version\_tree\_id* and *creating\_system\_id* (see support.identification package in the Common IM). The first part of the VERSION identifier - the *object\_id* attribute - is a copy of the *uid* of the VERSIONED\_OBJECT in which the VERSION was originally created. The second and third parts of the identifier are explained below.

### **Local Versioning**

The *version\_tree\_id* attribute of VERSION.*uid* identifies a version of an item with respect to other versions in the same tree. The requirements are the same as for typical versioning systems in use in software configuration management, and are as follows:

- to encode the relationship between versions in the version id, that is to say, version ids are
  constructed such that given a series of ids, the relative positions in the tree can be determined;
- to allow for branches, so that variants of a particular node can be created; e.g. due to translation, or for training purposes.

A suitable scheme satisfying the above requirements for health information is the simplest possible, i.e. a single number representing the version. Version identifiers thus start at 1 and continue by single increments. The succession of version identifiers formed by changes over time is known as the "trunk" of the version tree.

To support branching, a further pair of numbers is added. The first number identifies the branch (e.g. the 1st branch, 2nd branch etc from that trunk node), while the second identifies the version. Both of these numbers also start at 1. The result of this is that version numbers like 1.1.1 (first version of first branch from trunk node 1), 2.3.3 (3rd version of 3rd branch from trunk node 2) are possible. Inside *openEHR* systems where sharing with other systems does not occur, it is expected that branched versioning will be used rarely; translation is likely to be the only reason (for example if a Portuguese translation of an English language version is made).

#### **Distributed Versioning**

However, in a distributed environment where copying and subsequent modification can be made, there are more requirements of the version identification scheme, as follows:

- it must be possible for an item to be copied and for local modifications then to be made without causing version clashes;
- it must be possible to send more recent versions from the original system to a target system that has already received earlier versions, and for these versions to be distinguishable from versions in the receiving system, including the previously imported versions this enables the receiving system to know how and where to commit the received versions;
- it must be guaranteed that any version of any object is uniquely identified globally, no matter whether it is a locally created trunk version, a locally created branch version or a version containing changes made to a copied version.

To satisfy these needs, two modifications are made to the identification scheme. The first is in the form of the *creating\_system\_id* attribute of VERSION. uid, representing the system where the version

was created. This is a machine processable identifier, such as a reverse internet address or GUID. Whenever a new VERSION in a particular VERSIONED\_OBJECT (with a particular uid) is created locally, the VERSION.uid.creating\_system\_id is set to the identifier of the local system; if the version was imported, creating\_system\_id will already have been set to the identifier of the system of original creation

The second modification is to require branching version identifiers to be used when local modifications are made to copied versions from elsewhere; this ensures that the modifications now being made in the target system are considered in a global sense as logical branches or variants rather than trunk versions which are made in the originating system. It also allows later trunk versions from the originating system to be copied at some future time to the target system without version identifier clashes.

In summary, this scheme uses the tuple {owner\_id, creating\_system\_id, version\_tree\_id} to globally uniquely identify any openEHR VERSION object.

## 6.1.5 Semantics of Copying in Distributed Systems

In *open*EHR, the only unit of copying of content between systems that satisfies traceability requirements is the VERSION (or IMPORTED\_VERSION). In order to copy a COMPOSITION or even an OBSERVATION somewhere else and retain versioning capability, its enclosing VERSION<T> object must be sent. When the type of content is a COMPOSITION, a VERSION<COMPOSITION> (or IMPORTED\_VERSION<COMPOSITION>) object is sent. At the receiving system two things can happen.

If it is the first time *any* version of the item logically identified by its VERSION.uid.object\_id (i.e. the uid of its original VERSIONED\_OBJECT) was received from the originating system, a new VERSIONED\_OBJECT<T> (e.g. VERSIONED\_OBJECT<COMPOSITION>) is created, with its uid set to the same value as the received VERSION.uid.object\_id. This establishes the newly created VERSIONED\_OBJECT as being a clone of the one from which the received VERSION was copied. An IMPORTED\_VERSION instance is then generated from the received VERSION instance, and committed in the normal way (i.e. as part of a Contribution). The IMPORTED\_VERSION is a copy of the received VERSION with its local commit audit set as described above under Audits on page 38.

The alternative situation is if some version of the original item had been copied earlier. In this case, the newly received VERSION (or IMPORTED\_VERSION) will be committed as an IMPORTED\_VERSION to the VERSIONED\_OBJECT that must already have been created, with its uid.version tree id and uid.creating system id attributes intact.

In most cases, the received information will remain as is for the duration. However, in some cases, users at the receiver system might want to make modifications as well. This is likely to happen in the case of information items representing things like medication lists and allergies. When new versions are added locally to a copied object, branching numbering is used in the *uid.version\_tree\_id*, while the local system id is recorded in the *uid.creating system id* attribute.

Thes copying scenarios are illustrated in FIGURE 7. On the left hand-side of the figure, a version container (i.e. an instance of VERSIONED\_OBJECT) with *uid*=1 is shown; the first Version has *uid.creating\_system\_id*="sysA"; *uid.version\_tree\_id*="1". Further local trunk and branch versions are also shown.

When the first VERSION is copied (copy #1) to system B, it is committed as an IMPORTED\_VERSION to a VERSIONED\_OBJECT which is a clone of the original. Subsequent copies (copy #2 and copy #3) can be made of later versions from system A to system B, with the effect that the version tree can be recreated inside system B (if required; there is of course no obligation to do anything with the received information). Users in system B an also make modifications to the received Version copies;

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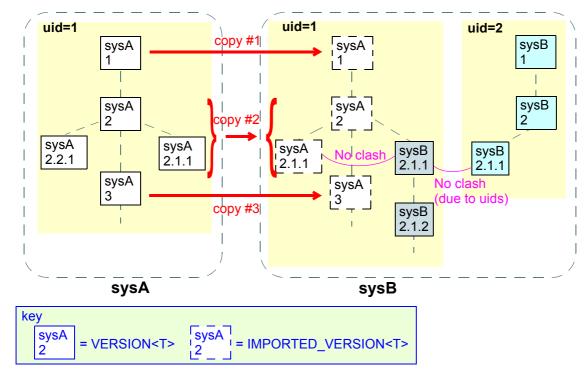


FIGURE 7 Versioning in a distributed environment

these modifications are shown in grey, as branched versions with *uid.creating\_system\_id* = sysB. Independently, users in system B will of course be creating other content locally, e.g. as shown on the right-hand side, where a Versioned object with *uid*=2 has been created. Two places are indicated on the diagram where identification clashes could have occurred, but are prevented due to the use of the 3-part unique Version identifier scheme.

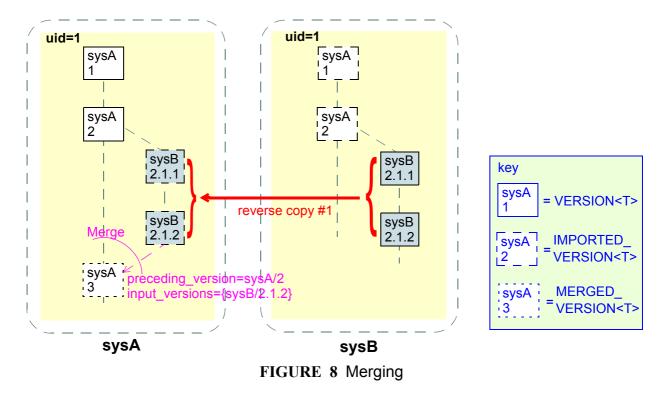
Two rules are required to make this system work, as follows:

- branch versions from the original systems that are copied to another system cannot be copied without their corresponding preceding versions on the same branch if any) and trunk versions also being copied;
- no system should create a new Versioned object (with a new uid) without first determining
  that it does not already have one with the same uid. This should happen automatically if
  GUIDs are being used (and the generating software is reliable); checks may have to be made
  if ISO Oids are being used.

## 6.1.6 Semantics of Merging Versions

One of the most common operations in distributed versioned environments, particularly in healthcare, is that content created in one system is imported into another system, modifications are created locally there which are then sent back the first system. This information pathway corresponds to scenarios such as the patient being referred from primary care into a hospital, and later being discharged into primary (or other care). The usual need when the first system receives changes made to the data by the second system is to merge them back into the trunk of the version tree. Logically a 'merge' is the operation of using two versions of the same content to create a third version. How the source versions are used will vary based on the semantics of the information; it could be that the either is simply taken in its totality and the other discarded, or some mixture might be created of the two in a process of editing by the user. In many cases in health, such as where the content is a medication or problem list, the user in the original system will review the received content and create a new trunk version

locally using that content, since it will be deemed to be the most accurate available in the clinical computing environment. This scenario is illustrated in FIGURE 8.



In this figure, versions 1 and 2 of the content (e.g. a medication list) from Versioned object with *uid*=1 are copied from system A (e.g. a GP) to system B (e.g. a hospital). In system B, changes are made to version 2, creating a branch (as an instance of IMPORTED\_VERSION<T>) as required by the rules described above. These changes (modified medication list) are then imported back into system A. The system A user performs a merge operation to create a new trunk version 3, using the sysB/2.1.2 and sysA/2 content; most likely, he/she simply reviews the two input versions and uses the sysB/2.1.2 content unchanged (the result is that system A now has an up-to-date medication list for the patient, including medications originally recorded at system A, as well as additions recorded at system B). The new Version is an instance of MERGED\_VERSION<T>, with its *input\_ids* attribute set to include the OBJECT\_VERSION\_ID representing sysB/2.1.2 (it does not need to include sysA/2, since this is already known in the *preceding version*).

## **6.1.7** Semantics of Moving Version Containers

It will not be uncommon that whole VERSIONED\_OBJECTS need to be moved to another system, e.g. due to a move of a complete patient record (due to the patient moving), or the relocation of an EHR data centre. The semantics of a move are different from those of copying: with a move, there is no longer a source instance after the operation; the destination instance becomes the primary instance. When the move is effected, the identifier of the system in which the VERSIONED\_OBJECT now exists will usually be different from what it was before. As a consequence, subsequent versions of the content created in a moved version container will now have the *uid.creating\_system\_id* set to the id of new system only (rather than the concatenation of the new and old system ids, as happens in the copying case). This creates another variation on the version lineage, one in which the *uid.creating\_system\_id* value can change in the trunk line, as shown in FIGURE 9.

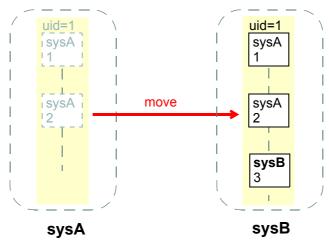


FIGURE 9 A Moved Version Container

# 6.2 Class Descriptions

# 6.2.1 VERSIONED\_OBJECT Class

| CLASS      | VERSIONED   | )_OBJECT <t></t>   |
|------------|---|--|
| Purpose    | Version control abstraction, defining semantics for versioning one comple object. |  |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning  |
| 11         | uid: HIER_OBJECT_ID   | Unique identifier of this version repository.  |
| 11         | owner_id: OBJECT_REF  | Reference to object to which this versioned repository belongs, e.g. the id of the containing EHR. |
| 11         | time_created: DV_DATE_TIME  | Time of initial creation of this versioned object.   |
| Functions  | Signature   | Meaning  |
| 11         | <pre>all_versions: List <version<t>&gt;</version<t></pre>                         | Return a list of all versions in this object.  |
| 11         | <pre>all_version_ids:   List <object_version_id></object_version_id></pre>        | Return a list of ids of all versions in this object.   |
| 11         | version_count: Integer  | Return the total number of versions in this object   |

| CLASS | VERSIONED_OBJECT <t></t>  |  |
|-------|---|--|
|       | has_version_id (a_ver_id:  OBJECT_VERSION_ID): Boolean  require  an_id /= Void  | True if a version with an_id exists.                                 |
|       | has_version_at_time (a_time:DV_DATE_TIME): Boolean require a_time /= Void   | True if a version for time 'a_time' exists.                          |
|       | <pre>version_with_id (a_ver_id:     OBJECT_VERSION_ID): VER-     SION<t>     require     has_version_id(a_ver_id)</t></pre>   | Return the version with id 'an_id'.                                  |
|       | <pre>version_at_time (a_time:    DV_DATE_TIME): VERSION<t> require has_version_at_time(a_time)</t></pre>  | Return the version for time 'a_time'.                                |
| 11    | latest_version: VERSION <t></t>   | Return the latest version.   |
| 11    | revision_history: REVISION_HISTORY  | History of all audits and attestations in this versioned repository. |
|       | <pre>commit (a_preceding_version_id:    OBJECT_VERSION_ID; an_audit:    AUDIT_DETAILS; a_data: T) require Preceding_version_id_valid:    all_version_ids.has(a_preceding_version_id) or else version_count = 0    audit_valid: an_audit /= Void    data_valid: a_version_data /= Void</pre> | Add a new version.   |
|       | commit_attestation (an_attestation: ATTESTATION; a_ver_id: OBJECT_VERSION_ID) require an_attestation /= Void has_version_id(a_ver_id)   | Add a new attestation to the specified version.                      |

| CLASS     | VERSIONED_OBJECT <t></t>  |
|-----------|---|
| Invariant | <pre>uid_valid: uid /= Void owner_id_valid: owner_id /= Void time_created_valid: time_created /= Void version_count_valid: version_count &gt;= 1 all_version_ids_valid: all_version_ids /= Void and then all_version_ids.count = version_count all_versions_valid: all_versions /= Void and then all_versions.count = version_count latest_version_valid: latest_version /= Void revision_history_valid: revision_history /= Void</pre> |

# 6.2.2 VERSION Class

| CLASS      | VERSION <t></t>   |  |
|------------|---|--|
| Purpose    | One version within a Version container, containing data, create and commit audit trails, and optional attestations. |  |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning  |
| 11         | uid: OBJECT_VERSION_ID  | Unique identifier of this version, containing owner_id, version_tree_id and creating_system_id.                          |
| 01         | <pre>preceding_version_uid:   OBJECT_VERSION_ID</pre>   | Unique identifier of the version of which this version is a modification; Void if this is the first version.             |
| 11         | data: T   | The data being versioned.  |
| 01         | attestations: List <attestation></attestation>  | Set of attestations relating to this version.  |
| 11         | create_audit: AUDIT_DETAILS   | Audit trail corresponding to the committal of this version to the VERSION_REPOSITORY where it was first created.         |
| 11         | contribution: OBJECT_REF  | Contribution in which this version was added.  |
| 11         | lifecycle_state: DV_CODED_TEXT  | Lifecycle state of the content item in this version.   |
| Functions  | Signature   | Meaning  |
| 11         | owner_id:<br>HIER_OBJECT_ID   | Unique identifier of the owning VERSIONED_OBJECT.  |
| 11         | commit_audit: AUDIT_DETAILS   | Audit trail corresponding to the local committal of this version. In instances of this class, the result = create_audit. |

| CLASS     | VERSION <t></t>  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| 11        | is_branch: Boolean   | True if this Version represents a branch.   |
| Invariant | ogy("openehr").codes_for_g "en").has(lifecycle_state.def Create_audit_valid: create_a Attestations_valid: attestation Contribution_valid: contribution | d.object_id.value)  rcle_state /= Void and then terminol- group_name("version lifecycle state", fining_code) audit /= Void  ons /= Void implies not attestations.is_empty aution /= Void and contribution.type.is_equal("CON- idity: uid.version_tree_id.is_first xor |

# 6.2.3 IMPORTED\_VERSION Class

| CLASS             | IMPORTED_VERSION <t></t>   |   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| Purpose           | Versionable objects that have been copied from another location and imported into a local version container. |   |
| Inherit           | VERSION <t>.</t>   |   |
| Attributes        | Signature Meaning  |   |
| 11                | local_commit_audit: AUDIT_DETAILS  | Audit trail corresponding to the committal of this version to the local VERSION_REPOSITORY where it is currently located. |
| Functions         | Signature  | Meaning   |
| 11<br>(redefined) | commit_audit: AUDIT_DETAILS  | Audit trail corresponding to the local committal of this version. Result = local_commit_audit.                            |
| Invariant         | Local_commit_audit_valid: local_commit_audit /= Void   |   |

# 6.2.4 MERGED\_VERSION Class

| CLASS   | MERGED_VERSION <t></t>   |
|---------|--|
| Purpose | Merged Versions, recording the list of input versions to the merge in addition to standard Version attributes. |
| Inherit | VERSION <t>.</t>   |

| CLASS      | MERGED_VERSION <t></t>  |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Attributes | Signature Meaning   |   |
| 11         | <pre>input_version_ids:    Set<object_version_id></object_version_id></pre>                           | Identifiers of the Versions used as input into this merged version. There is no guarantee that the identifiers of all content Versions are included here. |
| Invariant  | <pre>Input_version_ids_valid: input_version_ids /= Void and then not input_version_ids.is_empty</pre> |   |

## 6.2.5 CONTRIBUTION Class

| CLASS      | CONTRIBUTION  |   |
|------------|---|---|
| Purpose    | Documents a contribution of one or more versions added to a change-controlled repository.   |   |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning   |   |
| 11         | uid: HIER_OBJECT_ID   | Unique identifier for this contribution.  |
| 11         | <pre>versions: Set<object_ref></object_ref></pre>   | Set of references to versions causing changes to this EHR. Each contribution contains a list of versions, which may include paths pointing to any number of VERSIONABLE items, i.e. items of type COMPOSITION and FOLDER. |
| 11         | audit: AUDIT_DETAILS  | Audit trail corresponding to the committal of this Contribution.  |
| Invariants | <pre>uid_valid: uid /= Void audit_valid: audit /= Void Versions_valid: versions /= Void and then not versions.is_empty Description_valid: audit.description /= Void</pre> |   |

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# 7 Resource Package

#### 7.1 Overview

The common.resource package defines the structure and semantics of the general notion of an online resource which has been created by a human author, and consequently for which natural language is a factor. The package is illustrated in FIGURE 10.

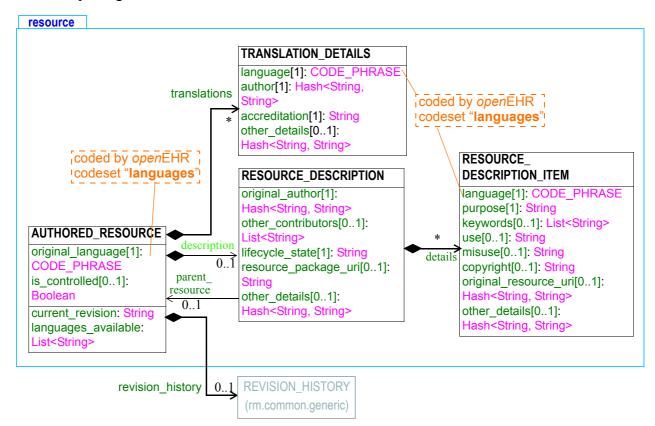


FIGURE 10 openehr.rm.common.resource Package

## 7.1.1 Natural Languages and Translation

Authored resources contain natural language elements, and are therefore created in some original language, recorded in the *orginal\_language* attribute of the AUTHORED\_RESOURCE class. Information about translations is included in the *translations* attribute, which allows for one or more sets of translation details to be recorded. A resource is translated by doing the following:

- translating every language-dependent element to the new language;
- adding a new TRANSLATION\_DETAILS instance to *translations*, containing details about the translator, organisation, quality assurance and so on.
- any further translations to language-specific elements in a instances of descendent type of AUTHORED RESOURCE.

The *languages available* function provides a complete list of languages in the resource.

#### 7.1.2 Meta-data

What is normally considered the 'meta-data' of a resource, i.e. its author, date of creation, purpose, and other descriptive items, is described by the RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION and

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RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION\_ITEM classes. The parts of this that are in natural language, and therefore may require translated versions, are represented in instances of the RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION\_ITEM class. Thus, if a RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION has more than one RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION\_ITEM, each of these should carry exactly the same information in a different natural language.

## 7.1.3 Revision History

When the resource is considered to be in a state where changes to it should be controlled, the *is\_controlled* attribute is set to True, and all subsequent changes should have an audit trail recorded. Usually controlled resources would be managed in a versioned repository (e.g. implemented by CVS, Subversion or similar systems), and audit information will be stored somewhere in the repository (e.g. in version control files). The *revision\_history* attribute defined in the AUTHROED\_RESOURCE class is intended to act as a documentary copy of the revision history as known inside the repository, for the benefit of users of the resource. Given that resources in different places may well be managed in different kinds of repositories, having a copy of the revision history in a standardised form within the resource enables it to be used interoperably by authoring and other tools.

Every change to a resource committed to the relevant repository causes a new addition to the *revision\_history*.

## 7.2 Class Definitions

## 7.2.1 AUTHORED\_RESOURCE Class

| CLASS        | AUTHORED_RESOURCE (abstract)  |  |
|--------------|---|--|
| Purpose      | Abstract idea of an online resource created by a human author.                          |  |
| Attributes   | Signature Meaning   |  |
| 11           | original_language: CODE_PHRASE  | Language in which this resource was initially authored. Although there is no language primacy of resources overall, the language of original authoring is required to ensure natural language translations can preserve quality. Language is relevant in both the description and ontology sections. |
| 01           | <pre>translations: Hash   <translation_details, string=""></translation_details,></pre> | List of details for each natural translation made of this resource, keyed by language. For each translation listed here, there must be corresponding sections in all language-dependent parts of the resource.   |
| 01           | description: RESOURCE_DESCRIPTION   | Description and lifecycle information of the resource.   |
| 01<br>(cond) | revision_history: REVISION_HISTORY  | The revision history of the resource. Only required if <i>is_controlled</i> = True (avoids large revision histories for informal or private editing situations).   |

| CLASS     | AUTHORED_RESOURCE (abstract)  |   |
|-----------|---|---|
| 11        | is_controlled: Boolean  | True if this resource is under any kind of change control (even file copying), in which case revision history is created. |
| Functions | Signature   | Meaning   |
| 11        | current_revision: String  | Current revision if <i>revision_history</i> exists else "(uncontrolled)".   |
| 11        | languages_available:<br>Set <string></string>   | Total list of languages available in this resource, derived from <i>original_language</i> and <i>translations</i> .       |
| Invariant | Original_language_valid: original_language /= void and then code_set("languages").has(original_language.as_string)  Languages_available_valid: languages_available /= Void and then languages_available.has(original_language)  Revision_history_valid: is_controlled xor revision_history = Void  Current_revision_valid: current_revision /= Void and not is_controlled implies current_revision.is_equal("(uncontrolled)") |   |

# 7.2.2 TRANSLATION\_DETAILS Class

| CLASS      | TRANSLATION_DETAILS  |   |
|------------|--|---|
| Purpose    | Class providing details of a natural language translation.   |   |
| Attributes | Signature Meaning  |   |
| 11         | language: CODE_PHRASE  | Language of translation   |
| 11         | <pre>author: Hash<string, string=""></string,></pre>   | Translator name and other demographic details                               |
| 01         | accreditation: String  | Accreditation of translator, usually a national translator's association id |
| 01         | other_details: Hash <string, string=""></string,>  | Any other meta-data   |
| Invariant  | Language_valid: language /= Void and then code_set("languages").has(language) Author_valid: author /= Void |   |

# 7.2.3 RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION Class

| CLASS   | RESOURCE_DESCRIPTION                             |  |
|---------|--|--|
| Purpose | Defines the descriptive meta-data of a resource. |  |

| CLASS      | RESOURCE_DESCRIPTION  |   |  |
|------------|---|---|--|
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning   |  |
| 11         | <pre>original_author: Hash<string, string=""></string,></pre>   | Original author of this resource, with all relevant details, including organisation.  |  |
| 01         | <pre>other_contributors: List<string></string></pre>  | Other contributors to the resource, probably listed in "name <email>" form.</email>   |  |
| 11         | lifecycle_state: String   | Lifecycle state of the resource, typically including states such as: initial, submitted, experimental, awaiting_approval, approved, superseded, obsolete. |  |
| 11         | details: List <resource_ description_item=""></resource_>   | Details of all parts of resource description that are natural language-dependent.   |  |
| 01         | resource_package_uri:<br>String   | URI of package to which this resource belongs.  |  |
| 01         | <pre>other_details: Hash<string, string=""></string,></pre>   | Additional non language-senstive resource meta-data, as a list of name/value pairs.   |  |
| 01         | parent_resource: AUTHORED_RESOURCE  | Reference to owning resource.   |  |
| Invariant  | Original_author_valid: original_author /= Void and then not original_author.is_empty  Lifecycle_state_valid: lifecycle_state /= Void and then not lifecycle_state.is_empty  Details_valid: details /= Void and then not details.is_empty  Language_valid: details.for_all (d   parent_resource.languages_available.has(d.language))  Parent_resource_valid: parent_resource /= Void implies parent_resource.description = Current |   |  |

#### RESOURCE\_DESCRIPTION\_ITEM Class 7.2.4

| CLASS      | RESOURCE_DESCRIPTION_ITEM   |  |  |
|------------|---|--|--|
| Purpose    | Language-specific detail of resource description. When a resource is translated for use in another language environment, each RESOURCE_DESCRIPTION_ITEM needs to be copied and translated into the new language.  |  |  |
| Attributes | Signature   | Meaning  |  |
| 11         | language: CODE_PHRASE   | The localised language in which the items in this description item are written. Coded from <i>open</i> EHR Code Set "languages".                       |  |
| 11         | purpose: String   | Purpose of the resource.   |  |
| 01         | keywords: List <string></string>  | Keywords which characterise this resource, used e.g. for indexing and searching.   |  |
| 01         | use: String   | Description of the uses of the resource, i.e. contexts in which it could be used.  |  |
| 01         | misuse: String  | Description of any misuses of the resource, i.e. contexts in which it should not be used.  |  |
| 01         | copyright: String   | Optional copyright statement for the resource as a knowledge resource.   |  |
| 01         | <pre>original_resource_uri: Hash<string, string=""></string,></pre>   | URIs of original clinical document(s) or description of which resource is a formalisation, in the language of this description item; keyed by meaning. |  |
| 01         | other_details: Hash <string, string=""></string,>   | Additional language-senstive resource metadata, as a list of name/value pairs.   |  |
| Invariant  | Language_valid: language /= Void and then code_set("languages").has(language)  purpose_valid: purpose /= Void and then not purpose.is_empty  use_valid: use /= Void implies not use.is_empty  misuse_valid: misuse /= Void implies not misuse.is_empty  copyright_valid: copyright /= Void implies not copyright.is_empty |  |  |

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## A.6 Resources

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