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For Immediate Release

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston Deploys Public Health Preparedness Framework with Oracle and TopQuadrant

Integrated Semantic Web Solution Allows Intuitive Health Data Navigation for Public Health Information Exchange and Improved Decision Making

Redwood Shores, CA and Alexandria, VA 19-FEB-2007 TopQuadrant and Oracle today announced that the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UT Houston) uses Semantic Web technology from TopQuadrant and Oracle to enable public health preparedness and allow for improved decision making. UT-Houston's Situational Awareness and Preparedness for Public Health Incidences Using Reasoning Engines (or SAPPHIRE) system integrates a wide range of health and epidemiological data from local healthcare providers, hospitals and pharmacies. By applying social network analysis to the disparate data from multiple sources, healthcare providers can create a single, integrated metadata model to analyze, detect, and respond to public health matters.

UT-Houston's SAPPHIRE system facilitates bio-surveillance and symptom trending by enabling SAPPHIRE team members to take advantage of Semantic Web capabilities to integrate and manage myriad data from a variety of sources. UT-Houston built its SAPPHIRE architecture using Oracle's Resource Description Framework (RDF) Data Model, a feature of Oracle Spatial 10g, an option to Oracle Database 10g, integrated with TopQuadrant's TopBraid Composer.

World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) standards, such as RDF and Web Ontology Language (OWL), serve as the foundation for semantic technologies, which are designed to extend the capabilities of information on the Web and enable data to be integrated in a meaningful way. Oracle's RDF Data Model offers the industry's first open, scalable, secure and reliable RDF management platform.

"Oracle and TopQuadrant allow UT-Houston to shift the center of gravity for public healthcare delivery by moving beyond symptom detection to large-scale public health surveillance, via trend monitoring, detection and response," said Parsa Mirhaji, M.D., director of the Center for Biosecurity and Public Health Informatics Research at the University of Texas School of Health Information Sciences at Houston. "As a result, the

public health preparedness framework enables a semantic transformation from disparate data to actionable information that decision makers can easily access and compute."

The Semantic Web at Work - Hurricane Katrina Aftermath in Houston, Texas

"In a pilot project, UT-Houston used the Oracle and TopQuadrant-based approach as the basis of its SAPPHIRE system, which successfully monitored and analyzed public health information during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005 to allow public health officials to make improved decisions. Tested during the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in 2005, SAPPHIRE's surveillance techniques analyzed the health of evacuees at the Astrodome, Reliant Park and the George R. Brown Convention Center. A PDA extension of SAPPHIRE enabled more than 300 volunteers, led by the UT School of Public Health, to collect and analyze critical health data.

The information gleaned from the nearly 9,000 confidential patient encounters helped caregivers respond to the specific needs of the Hurricane Katrina evacuees. "The principles that UT employed during the Katrina disaster could serve as a model for the nationwide efforts involving public health information," said Oracle Vice President of Health Industries Mychelle Mowry. "The integration between Oracle and TopBraid enables simpler navigation of disparate health data, better public health information exchange and improved bio-surveillance efforts - ultimately helping to deliver better public healthcare."

"Professional grade tools like TopBraid Composer and Oracle Spatial 10g represent a significant milestone marking the emergence of Semantic Web standards from the research lab to meeting the demands of enterprise system development," said TopQuadrant Executive Partner Irene Polikoff. "The SAPPHIRE system is an important example of the many large scale systems we are beginning to see that are applying semantic web technology to complex, real-world problems."

About TopQuadrant

TopQuadrant is a leading semantic web solutions company, providing a full range of products services, knowledge, training programs and methods. TopQuadrant assists clients to achieve a wide range of business goals including semantic solutions for net-centric operations, semantic integration, search, collaboration, policy management, enterprise architecture, semantic web services and other ontology-driven applications. For more information, visit www.topquadrant.com.

About the UT Health Science Center at Houston

"The most comprehensive academic health center in the Southwest, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston is home to six schools devoted to medicine, nursing, public health, dentistry, health informatics and graduate studies in biomedical science. In addition to the Brown Foundation Institute of Molecular Medicine for the Prevention of Human Diseases (IMM), other components are the UT Harris County Psychiatric Center and the Mental Sciences Institute. The UT Health Science Center at Houston, founded in 1972, is part of the University of Texas System. It is a state-supported

health institution whose state funding is supplemented by competitive research grants, patient fees and private philanthropy.

About Oracle

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