

Data Speak!

Tri-Analytics, Inc.

Experts in Medical Database Management

Collecting Better Data, Developing Better Information, Achieving Better Outcomes



What is XML and Why Should I Care?

Maureen Stark, PI Data Manager

XML (eXtensible Markup Language) is a data format for structured document interchange on the Web and between different systems and applications. XML produces files that are easy to generate and read (by a computer), that are unambiguous, and that avoid some common pitfalls for software developers, such as lack of extensibility, lack of support for internationalization and platform-dependency. XML provides a way to describe and organize data and provide interoperability between systems.

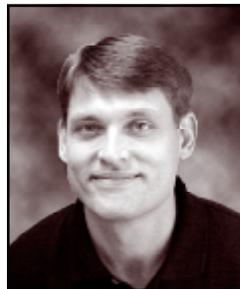
Development of XML started in 1996 and was accepted as a standard by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) in February 1998. This may lead you to think that XML is a rather immature technology. In fact, the technology was derived from SGML (originally developed in the early 1980's) and HTML (developed in 1990). SGML is a language widely used for large documentation projects, while HTML is used to describe how a document (such as a Web page) is displayed. The designers of XML simply took the best parts of SGML, guided by the experience with HTML, and produced something that is no less powerful than SGML, but vastly more regular and simpler to use.

TAI, in partnership with Digital Innovation, Inc. and the Society of Critical Care Medicine,

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Get to Know Us!

In the next few issues of *DataSpeak*, we will highlight employees at TAI so you can get to know us better. This month, we focus on our newest project, NRCPR.



Project Manager
Ted Bamb

First and foremost, Ted and Abbye (wife) have been blessed with two wonderful children Katie (3) and Jake (2). What a

blast! For TAI, Ted is the project manager for the National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR) project sponsored by the American Heart Association. Ted has been with TAI for seven years and started as a software trainer, technical support, and applications developer for the COLLECTOR Trauma Registry Software.

Ted has also assumed the CFO responsibilities at TAI. Recently, he received his MBA in Accounting from Loyola College. His undergraduate degree from Towson University is in Business Administration. He currently lives in Bel Air, MD, but his hometown is Buffalo, NY (go Bills!). Ted will be exhibiting the NRCPR software at ECCU 2000 in San Diego in September and at the AHA Sessions in New Orleans in November. If you attend these conferences, please visit the NRCPR/AHA booth and see pictures of his kids!

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DataSpeak Highlights

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NRCPR Picks Up Steam

The National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR), sponsored by the American Heart Association and managed by TAI has 90 participating hospitals in 36 states. The NRCPR is the first national registry of in-hospital resuscitation events and provides benchmarking and analysis to participants.

In addition, NRCPR enables hospitals to meet the new JCAHO requirements for reporting in-hospital resuscitation events. NRCPR provides user-friendly registry software and support to all participants. If you haven't already done so, type **www.nrcpr.org** into your web browser's "Location" or "Address" box and check out the NRCPR web site.

TAI is excited about the growth of NRCPR and hopes that even more hospitals decide to participate in NRCPR in the coming months!

Regional Training This Quarter

Collector Trauma/EMS

Digital Innovation conducts training sessions for all Collector Trauma and EMS Registry software.

Call Donna Youngberg at 800-344-3668 ext. 27 or email: dyoungberg@dicorp.com for more information.

Project IMPACT

6 Regional Sessions

Project IMPACT training sessions for the new version 3.0 software will be offered on a monthly basis around the US after the software is released. Exact price, dates, and locations to be determined.

For more info, contact Kimm Streit at Project IMPACT, 714-282-6070, fax: 714-282-6085, or email: kimm@sccm.org.

NRCPR

August 28

Both clinical and technical training for the NRCPR software will be held at AHA headquarters in Dallas.

The cost for this training session is \$199* and space is limited, so register today at www.nrcpr.org! Call 888-820-3282, fax: 410-838-1148, or email: info@nrcpr.org.

Additional Resources

Coming soon, both Project IMPACT and NRCPR will have training CDs and web downloads to help you learn the software and clinical info. Visit the web sites: www.sccm.org/pi (PI) and www.nrcpr.org (NRCPR) for full details or email info@trianalyticcs.com.

What is XML and Why Should You Care?

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are designing their Project IMPACT version 3.0 system, scheduled for release in December 2000, on an XML platform. XML will support local data storage, data transfer to the PI central registry and, potentially, aspects of the local and central site reporting capability. The planned architecture will provide a polished, feature-rich application that will seamlessly interact with the central registry via the web.

Look for XML in other future Tri-Analytics and Digital Innovation products as we continue to emphasize fully-capable, reliable and maintainable systems for clinical data management. .

Get to Know Us!

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Trainer/Customer Service Rep

Tim Evans

Tim joined the TAI team in April of this year. His three years of customer support and training

experience are serving him well as he conducts software training sessions and customer service activities for the AHA's NRCPR project. Tim is eager to take on software training responsibilities for the SCCM's Project IMPACT critical care data system and other projects in the near future. Tim hopes to pursue continuing education in computer applications and professional training.

Tim was raised in Delta, PA, where he now resides in a two-hundred year old historic stone house once owned by the DuPonts. Tim enjoys singing, working on old European cars, and leading the youth choir and Praise Team at his church. The next time you call Tim for customer service or technical support, ask him to sing for you! .

TAI Project Updates

ACFAS Outcomes Study

Tri-Analytics provides data management and reporting services for the American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons (ACFAS) Outcomes Study. TAI recently competed the first of two scheduled reports for the study. Reports were prepared for each of the 16 participating sites that compared their patients, care, and outcomes with those of patients with the same condition treated at other participating sites. A summary report for each condition was also prepared for the College. The report was based on data received at TAI through April 30, 2000. A second and final report will be prepared by TAI in June 2001 and will be based on all data received at TAI by the end of April 2001.

National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation

Over 85 hospitals in 36 states are participating in the NRCPR! Why not be the first in your state to participate? We are thrilled that a number of facilities have taken advantage of our three-year subscription offer. Check out the frequently updated participant map on the NRCPR web site (www.nrcpr.org) in the "News" section.

The web site also contains useful information for NRCPR participants in the "Member's Area" including frequently asked questions, new sample participant reports, software update information, user manual printouts, self-training modules for download, training information, clinical scenarios, participation agreement, and more! We encourage you to visit the web site frequently to see updated information as we add more content to the site.

NRCPR recently passed the data submission deadline for the first participant reports which will be released in late September. Many hospitals submitted data before the deadline and have contributed a number of patient/event records to the NRCPR central database for

analysis. Participant reports will be sent to all participants who have submitted data before the deadline. In addition, sample participants are available in the Member's Area of the web site.

Project IMPACT

PI Research Activities

Did you know that there is a research "branch" of the PI/SCCM web site? It contains a short application for access to the PI data base for hypothesis driven research. Several applications from researchers have already been approved and work is ongoing.

- ▲ Laurent Glance, MD: Consistency among the various severity scores implemented in PI
- ▲ Gilles Clermont, MD: The impact of ICU physician staffing patterns on outcome and resource utilization
- ▲ Alain Tremblay, MD: Impact of body mass index on mortality in critically ill patients
- ▲ Michael Diringier, MD: Variability of outcomes for patients with intracranial hemorrhage
- ▲ Donald Chalfin, MD: The use of neural networks to predict duration of mechanical ventilation
- ▲ Milton McPherson, MD: Outcomes of surgical patients receiving different forms of DVT prophylaxis

In addition, Daniel Teres, MD, has been awarded SCCM's Founders Grant for Research on the PI database. He is studying:
1) variability in the use of pulmonary artery catheters; 2) occurrence of "budget busting" patients; and 3) updates to measures of severity-adjusted resource utilization.

Sierra Sacramento Valley EMS Agency

TAI President, Wayne Copes, Ph.D., recently made a presentation to the Sierra Sacramento Valley Emergency Medical Services Agency (SSV-EMSA). Dr. Copes makes an annual presentation on database findings as part of TAI's database management contract with the Agency. TAI manages the central trauma database for SSV-EMSA and provides

confidential reports every 4 months to the participating trauma centers that describe their patients, give outcome evaluation results, and support CQI programs. TAI also provides the Agency with a report summarizing data from all participants. The most recently completed report was TAI's 11th for the SSV-EMSA. . .

If you are interested in finding out more about our database management and consulting services, give us a call at 800-706-0337, or send an email to info@trianalytics.com.

Dear Tech Nerd

How often should I submit data to the central database?

You should submit **at least** once per quarter, but we recommend that you submit data on a monthly basis to prevent you from accidentally missing a quarter if your submission gets to the central database after the deadline. If you submit monthly then you will at least have 2 month's of data in the report instead of no data. For project specific inquiries on data submission, contact the appropriate data manager.

I can't see all the information on the NRCPR web site or in the NRCPR software.

Some of you have had problems seeing the NRCPR software screens and web site. Both the software and the web site are designed for computers with 800x600 screen resolution. But what if you have 800x600 resolution and still can't see all of the information on the screens or web site? Below is a checklist to make sure you are experiencing all of NRCPR's features. If you have any questions, please contact us and we'll be glad to help!

1. Make sure your computer is set to 800x600

resolution or higher.

2. Change Windows font size to small fonts.
3. Maximize the NRCPR software.
4. Center the Record Manager screen so scroll bars disappear.
5. Video driver may need to be updated. Check nrcpr.org for hardware requirements (click on "About | Hardware Specs").

Note: To do # 1 and # 2, right-click on the desktop where no icons are, and choose "Properties," then click on the "Settings" tab and change the Font Size and Resolution as needed. To do # 3, click on the middle button in the upper right-hand corner of the NRCPR software screen and the picture on the button will change from two windows to one. As always, coordinate with your IS department if needed. . .

If you have a question for the Tech Nerd, send it to us:

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What's New?



New Phone Menu

The next time you call us, you will notice that our menu options have changed. The new options are listed below.

2 - Marketing & Sales

3 - National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation

- 1 - List of Customer Service Reps
- 2 - More Info or Sign-Up
- 3 - Customer Support
 - 2 - Data/Report Help
 - 3 - Software Technical Support
 - 4 - Clinical Support

4 - Project IMPACT

- 2 - Data/Report Help
- 3 - Software Technical Support

5 - American College of Foot & Ankle Surgeons Outcome Study

- 2 - Data/Report Help
- 3 - Software Technical Support

6 - List of Employee Names

Electronic Distribution of TAI Newsletters

TAI is offering our newsletters via email in a PDF file to those who'd rather receive it electronically instead of by mail. If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically, please send an email to newsletter@trianalytics.com.

TAI Web Site Gets a Face Lift

The TAI web site, www.trianalytics.com, will be getting a face lift this fall to improve both content and navigation. If you would like to see something on our web site that isn't already there, please let us know by sending an email to webmaster@trianalytics.com. We'd love to have your opinion to help make our site useful and easy to use! :)

Join the NRCPR

If you are interested in participating in the National Registry of CardioPulmonary Resuscitation (NRCPR), visit our web site: www.nrcpr.org for information on the project.

Change of Name or Address?

Please phone 800-706-0337 or email newsletter@trianalytics.com
Thank you for your help!

Ideas & Suggestions

If there are topics you'd like to see in future newsletters or **if you'd like to contribute an article**, please contact TAI at 800-706-0337 or email newsletter@trianalytics.com. Your ideas help us better serve you!