Seedpod - A Model Driven Laboratory Information Management System*

Maya Li MITRE TIE E549 March 19, 2008

* PhD thesis project, Department of Biomedical informatics, University of Washington. Thesis adviser is Dr. Jim Brinkley.

Problem Statement

 Biomedical researchers need data management tools that are more robust than excel spreadsheets. However, the rate that biomedical informaticists have been developing laboratory information management systems (LIMS) can't keep up with the demand for LIMS and the rate that experiment protocols change.

Background: Biomedical Research



Background: Biomedical Data Management

- Needs from the biomedical researchers*
 - Data handling problem has become a barrier to progress of research
 - Available computational solutions are prohibitively expensive
 - Available solutions are too complex for their needs
 - No solution to their specific problems

N.R. Anderson, ES Lee, JS Brockenbrough, ME Minie, S Fuller, J Brinkley, P Tarczy-Hornoch. Issues in Biomedical Research Data Management and Analysis: Needs and Barriers. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2007;14:478-488. DOI 10.1197/jamia.M2114

Background: Biomedical Informatics

- LIMS development is challenging
 - Diversity in biomedical research makes LIMS solutions labspecific.
 - Research protocol change frequently, every 4 months to a year.

Biomedical Researchers' Wish List

- Data management (Seedpod)
- Data archiving
- Data analysis
- Protocol management
- Workflow management
- Data sharing

- Data management for researchers
 - Organize and store large heterogeneous data set
 - Enter and browse data through a user friendly interface
- LIMS development for informaticists
 - Cost-efficient development
 - Generalizable solution























Part 1: Create a Protege model of LIMS

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Part 1: Create a Protege model of LIMS

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Part 1: Create a Protege model of LIMS

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Part 2: Automatically Transform Protege Model to Relational Schema

CREATE TABLE <a>Family_Study (

ID INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,

city VARCHAR (50),

zip VARCHAR (5),

address VARCHAR(100),

family_study_ID INTEGER);

CREATE TABLE Subject (

ID INTEGER PRIMARY KEY,

dob DATE,

subjectID INTEGER,

last_name VARCHAR(50), ...

Transform Class -> Table

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Transform Class -> Table

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	state	single	String	
	wk_phone	single	String	
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Extended Slot Definition To Bridge Model Differences Between Protege and Relational Model

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Extended Slot Definition To Bridge Model Differences Between Protege and Relational Model

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Family_Study Class

Template Slots			
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address	single	String	
home_phone	single	String	
Family_Members	multiple	Instance of Subject	inverse-slot=belong_to_family
FamilyStudyID	single	String	
state	single	String	
wk_phone	single	String	

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Family_Study Class

Template Slots			
Name	Cardinality	Туре	Other Facets
city	single	String	
🗖 zip	single	String	
address	single	String	
home_phone	single	String	
Family_Members	multiple	Instance of Subject	inverse-slot=belong_to_family
FamilyStudyID	single	String	
state	single	String	
wk_phone	single	String	

Family_Study ID FamilyID

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Family_Study Class

Template Slots			
Name	Cardinality	Туре	Other Facets
city	single	String	
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address	single	String	
home_phone	single	String	
Family_Members	multiple	Instance of Subject	inverse-slot=belong_to_family
FamilyStudyID	single	String	
state	single	String	
wk_phone	single	String	

Family_Study ID FamilyID

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Logo courtesy of http://protege.stanford.edu/

Family_Study Class

Template Slots			<u> 2 2 ≒ ∞ = = = t</u> +
Name	Cardinality	Туре	Other Facets
city	single	String	
🗖 zip	single	String	
address	single	String	
home_phone	single	String	
Family_Members	multiple	Instance of Subject	inverse-slot=belong_to_family
FamilyStudyID	single	String	
state	single	String	
wk_phone	single	String	



protégé

Transforming Hierarchy



Autoimmune_ Disease_Subject ID dob* ref_physician



Transforming Hierarchy



Database



- Meta-data
 - Data model
 - UI customization
 - Model mapping
- Experiment data
 - Schema specific to lab application

Meta-data Tables

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Part 3: Set-up Web Server Application



Server Application

- Config database connectivity
- Load meta-data
- Interpret model (no hard-coded data objects)
- Dynamically generate web pages for browsing experiment data and data entry

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Server Application

- Config database connectivity
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- Interpret model (no hard-coded data objects)
- Dynamically generate web pages for browsing experiment data and data entry

Browse Data on the Web

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Data Entry

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New Autoimmu	ne_Disease_Subject	Tools
Attribute	Value	<u>Create new Instance</u>
Comments		Class: Autoimmune_Disease_Subject <u>New</u>
id_prefix	✓ PLE IRA	Browse instances Create similar
Disease	NOP SOC	 Browse relations
Family*	THY Jata.	Class Information
Age @ onset		Autoimmune_Disease_Subject MetaCls: :RDB_CLASS Concrete: true
Onset Date		inLine: false
biopsy_comment	S M T W Th F S	
birth order		
First Name	9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
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Customize GUI Components

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Customize GUI Components

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Single Unit Recording Model















System Evaluation

Seedpod Aim	Significance	Test
More robust way to manage data	Allowing scientists to store and manage data in a relational database improves efficiency and query capabilities.	Compare a user query in Excel vs Relational database. Compare the amount of time and effort required. For example, ask for an aggregate question, ask someone to do that in excel. And then have a DBA to write the same query and get the result.
Reduce expertise required to LIMS development	Less expertise required by using Seedpod lowers the complexity and increases efficiency of system development	In the past, LIMS needs to be developed with a domain subject expert, someone who understands model design, relational database implementation, system engineering, and software development. Seedpod only requires a DSE and someone that understands how to model the data in Protégé.
Bridge the gap between domain subject matters and engineers	Reducing the upfront knowledge learning on the account of the researchers	Researchers and data model engineers can converse purely in terms of the domain subject and stay away from technical jargons of database development. The model makes it easier to say something about the data.
Lower cost	Increased reusability	The system only needs to be set up once and can be used to serve a community of labs.
Reduce the amount of time to make changes	Development can now keep up with change of experiment protocol	In the past, when experiment protocol changes, it may take another round of development time to create an experiment management system. Seedpod uses the amount of time to understand data model and the time to model.

Transformation Evaluation

Seedpod Aim	Significance	Test
Completeness	Is all information from protege model captured	List all entities in Protege and see if they have 100% coverage in the RDB Schema
Minimality	No redundant information	Test for a normalized database. Data is not captured redundantly.
Understandability	Subjective evaluation of whether the schema is easily understandable. (This is usually a trade off with completeness and minimality)	Have another DBA look at the schema and see if that's understandable.

Conclusion

- Seedpod
 - Provides a data management solution for biomedical researchers
 - Cost-effectiveness development for biomedical informaticists
- Future work:
 - A better modeling environment
 - Change management, protocol management
 - Data analysis, query interface, security and privacy

Thank you!

• Questions?

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