

# Continua Health Alliance: Architectural Overview & Comparison with 2009 Phoenix Architecture

Christopher J Adams

Phoenix Project

<http://www.phoenix.tc-ieee.org/>

[adamscj@ieee.org](mailto:adamscj@ieee.org)

© 2010 Christopher J. Adams

12 September 2010

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.  
To view a copy of this license, visit <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/> or send a letter to Creative Commons, 171 Second Street, Suite 300, San Francisco, California, 94105, USA.

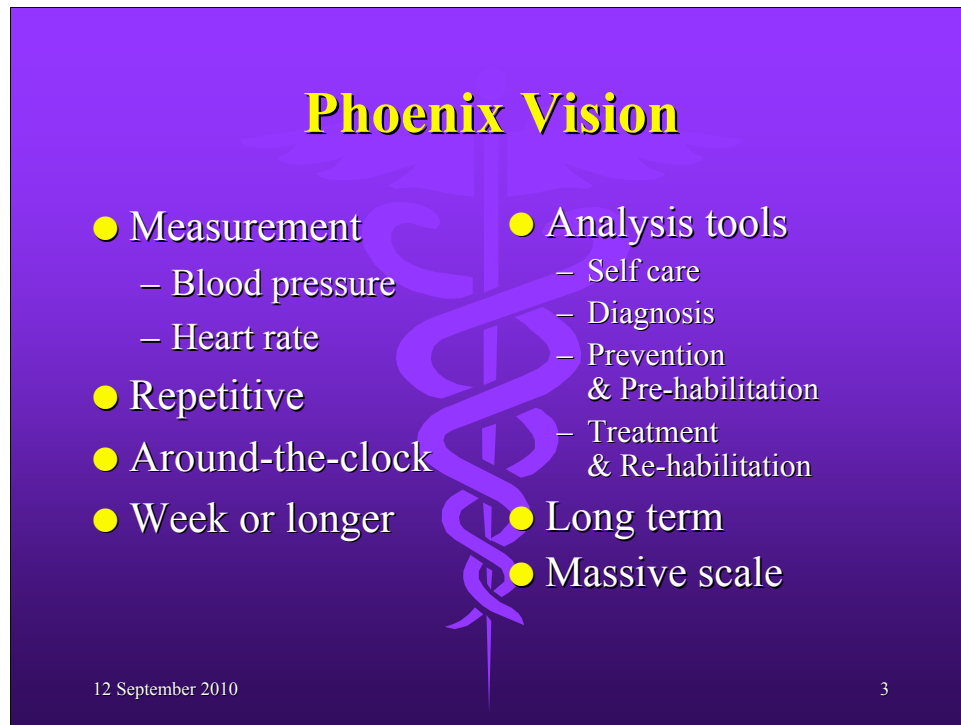
1

## Table of Contents

- Phoenix Background
  - Vision & Mission
  - Architectural Requirements
  - Architectural Model 2009
- Continua Health Alliance
  - Vision & Mission
  - Use Cases
  - Architectural Model
  - Current “Eco-System”
- Conclusions

12 September 2010

2



## Phoenix Vision

- Measurement
  - Blood pressure
  - Heart rate
- Repetitive
- Around-the-clock
- Week or longer
- Analysis tools
  - Self care
  - Diagnosis
  - Prevention & Pre-habilitation
  - Treatment & Re-habilitation
- Long term
- Massive scale

12 September 2010 3

**Repetitive** -- automatic, periodic measurement

**Around-the-clock** -- regardless of person's activity

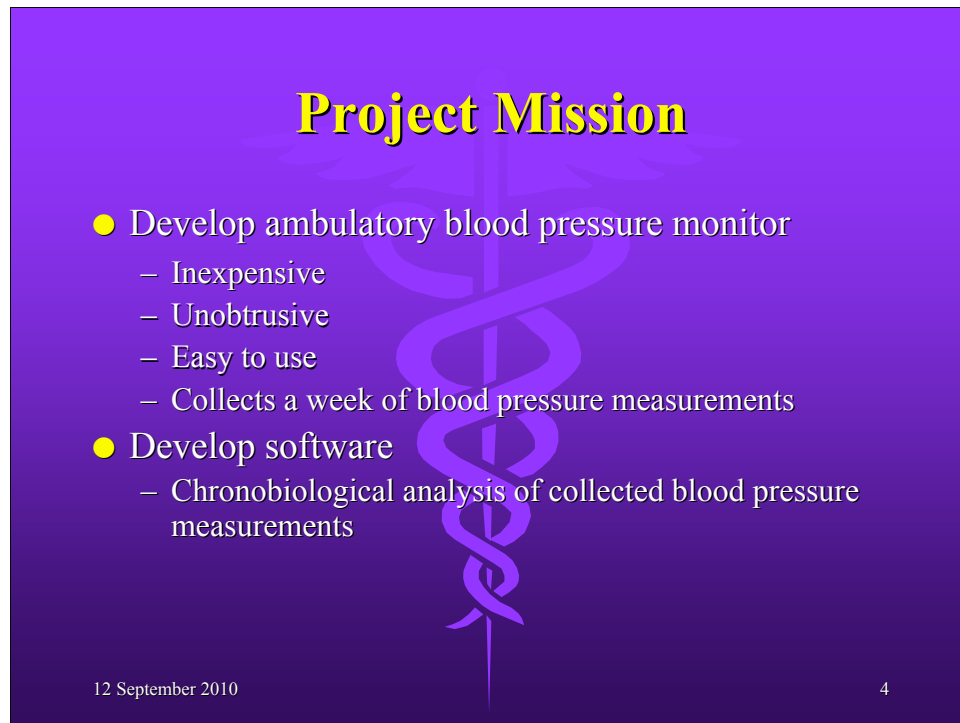
**Week or longer** -- initially, collect at least one week of data per session

**Long term** -- data for an individual may span the individual's life

**Massive scale**

From current load of hundreds of sessions per year

To millions of sessions per year



## Project Mission

- Develop ambulatory blood pressure monitor
  - Inexpensive
  - Unobtrusive
  - Easy to use
  - Collects a week of blood pressure measurements
- Develop software
  - Chronobiological analysis of collected blood pressure measurements

12 September 2010 4

### **Inexpensive**

- Price not a barrier to use
- Less expensive than blood pressure cuff
- Comparably priced to other personal accessories (less expensive than wrist watch; < US\$50)
- Globally affordable (less expensive than “two bushels of yams”; < US\$10)

### **Unobtrusive**

- When wearing monitor, patient can
  - Forget about, be unaware of device
  - No more encumbering than wrist watch, Band-aid™, piece of jewelry
- Usable wherever the patient is
  - At home, at work
  - Not only in clinical setting

### **Easy to use**

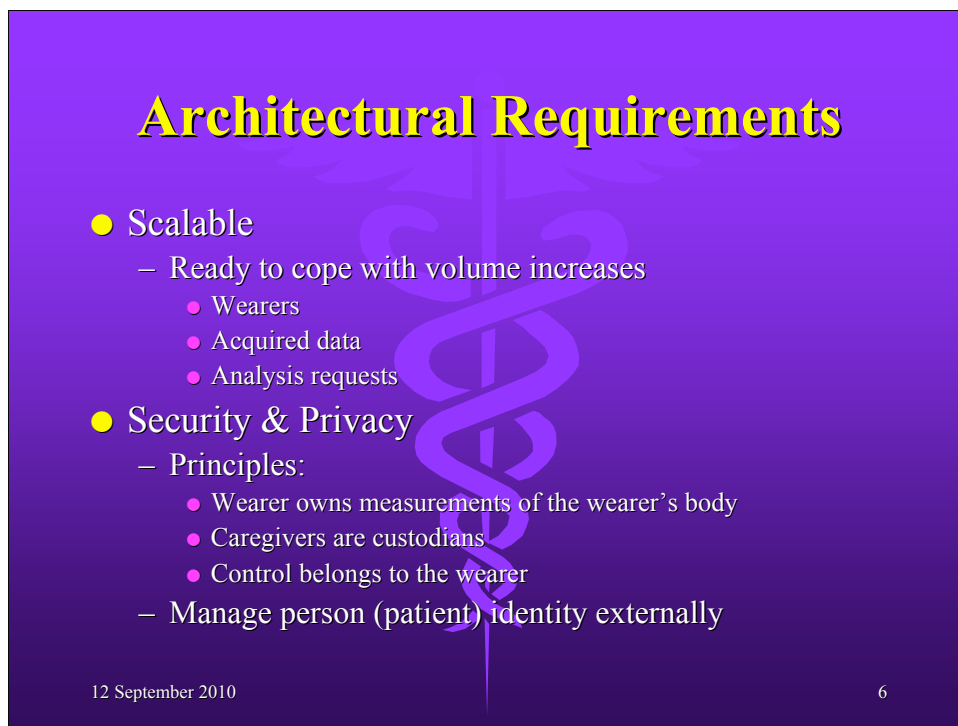
- Easier to use than current BP cuffs, home BP monitors
- Patient can:
  - Ignore device
  - Determine that device is functioning normally
  - Observe a blood pressure and heart rate measurement
- Device is automatic -- takes measurements regardless of patient behavior
- Allows manually initiated measurements

## Architectural Requirements

- Inexpensive
  - Open source
  - Free intellectual property, volunteer labor
- Highly decomposed
  - Consequence of open source
  - Each component quickly engineered by very small team (usually one person)
- Extensible -- highly recomposable
  - Consequence of multiple actors, vaguely organized
  - Evolving user classes, usage scenarios, environments
  - Highly re-usable components

12 September 2010

5



## Architectural Requirements

- Scalable
  - Ready to cope with volume increases
    - Wearers
    - Acquired data
    - Analysis requests
- Security & Privacy
  - Principles:
    - Wearer owns measurements of the wearer's body
    - Caregivers are custodians
    - Control belongs to the wearer
  - Manage person (patient) identity externally

12 September 2010 6

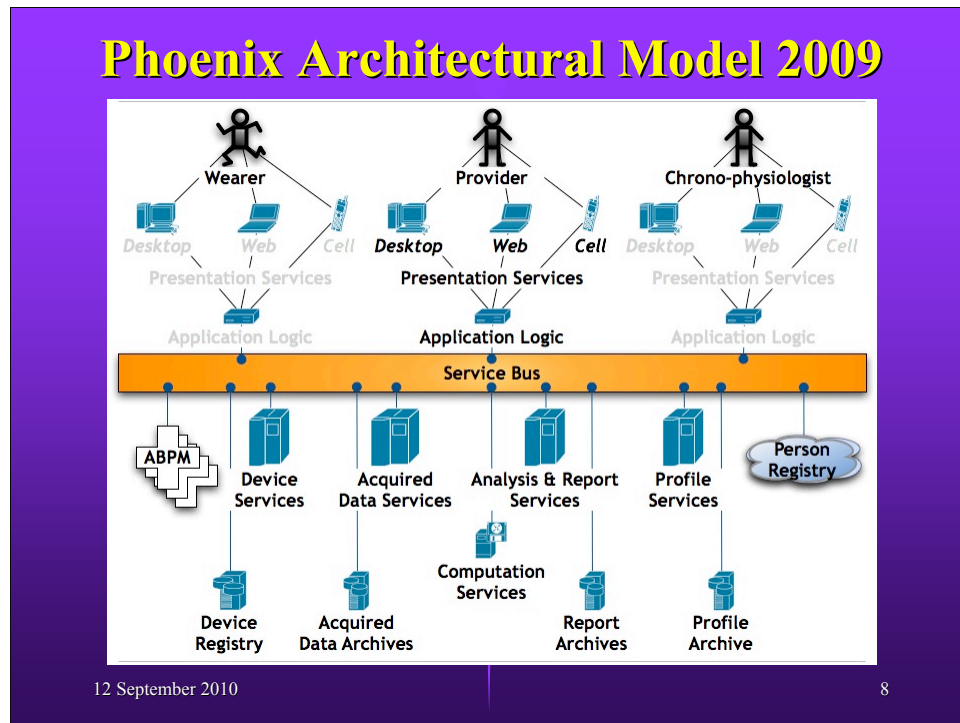
NOTE: Project has not yet investigated security issues

## Phoenix 2009 Architectural Layers

- Actors
- Applications
- Presentation Services
- Data Acquisition
- Modeling and Profiling
- Person Identity Management
- Analysis and Reporting
- Service Bus

12 September 2010

7




Two compatible architectural styles:

1. Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) -- loosely coupled, distributed computing
2. Cloud computing -- internet-based computing, with shared resources available on-demand

Advantage: promotes decomposition and recomposition

Disadvantage: ABPM as a service seems a stretch





**Continua Health Alliance:**  
**The Next Generation of Personal Telehealth is Here**

A non-profit, open industry alliance of the finest healthcare and technology companies in the world joining together in collaboration to improve the quality of personal healthcare.

Objective of Continua (telehealth) is broader than that of Phoenix (ABPM with chronobiological services)

All slides taken from  
[http://www.continuaalliance.org/static/cms\\_workspace/Continua\\_Overview\\_Presentation\\_v19.4.pdf](http://www.continuaalliance.org/static/cms_workspace/Continua_Overview_Presentation_v19.4.pdf)

12 September 2010 9

 **Continua Health Alliance**



**“Our Mission is to establish an eco-system of interoperable personal health systems that empower people & organizations to better manage their health and wellness”**

12 September 2010 10

 **The Continuum of Care**

**Infant**  


**Amateur Athlete**  


**Diet/Fitness Focused**  


**Worried Well**  


**Chronic Patient**  


**Acute Recovery**  


**Elderly Living Independently**  


**CONTINUUM of LIFE**

**Continua Health Alliance enables a personal health eco-system that empowers individuals & families to better manage their own health and wellness across the continuum of life and care methods.**

**CONTINUUM of CARE GIVERS**

**New Parents**  


**Fitness Wellness Coach**  


**The Family**  


**Home Nursing Professional**  


**Doctor/NP/Nurse**  


7/19/2010 3

High degree of alignment with Phoenix

12 September 2010 11

 **The Challenge & The Opportunity**

- Worldwide today:
  - 1 billion adults overweight
  - 860 million chronic disease patients
  - 600 million elders age 60 or older

75-85% of healthcare spending is on chronic disease management

Source: World Health Organization, McKinsey

Consistent with, though broader than, Phoenix

12 September 2010 12




Additional Phoenix challenge: broaden chronomedicine beyond its current scope of sleep therapy

## Continua Use Cases

<http://www.continuaalliance.org/connected-health-vision/aging-independently.html>

<http://www.continuaalliance.org/connected-health-vision/health-and-wellness.html>



People are at the center of everything we do

<http://www.continuaalliance.org/connected-health-vision/disease-management.html>

12 September 2010 13

**Continua**  
HEALTH AND WELLNESS

## Health and Wellness

One billion adults overweight world wide

**"Worried well" vital sign monitoring:**

- Weight
- Blood pressure
- Glucose
- Cholesterol
- Activity level

**Benefits:**

- Monitor and motivate
- Achieve individuals' goals
- Access personal fitness information anywhere
- Enhance trainers' services

**Healthy Family**

*Continua member companies help people live healthier, more active lives by connecting them to their health and wellness team through a more efficient exchange of their personal fitness information.*

**Digital Home**

Blood-pressure Cuff, Heart Strap, Pedometer, Weight Scale, Fitness Equipment, Medication Tracking, Cell Phone, PC


**Internet**

Weight loss and fitness coaching, Healthcare Professionals, Personal Health Record

The diagram illustrates a digital health ecosystem. On the left, a 'Healthy Family' photo is shown. Below it, a 'Digital Home' is depicted as a house containing a 'Cell Phone' and a 'PC'. Surrounding the house are various health monitoring devices: a 'Blood-pressure Cuff', 'Heart Strap', 'Pedometer', 'Weight Scale', 'Fitness Equipment', and 'Medication Tracking'. A double-headed arrow labeled 'Internet' connects the 'Digital Home' to a service box on the right. This service box, which is circled in pink, contains three components: 'Weight loss and fitness coaching', 'Healthcare Professionals', and 'Personal Health Record'. A quote above the service box states: 'Continua member companies help people live healthier, more active lives by connecting them to their health and wellness team through a more efficient exchange of their personal fitness information.'


12 September 2010

14



## Disease Management

860 million chronic disease patients world wide



**Vital sign monitoring: (remote patient monitoring)**

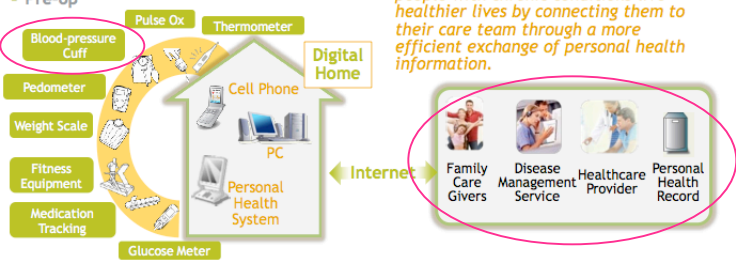
- Diabetes
- COPD
- CHF
- Hypertension

**Benefits:**

- Provide better-coordinated care
- Connect to care team
- Empower individuals
- Encourage early detection
- Reduce costs

- Chronic disease
- Post trauma
- Pre-op

*Continua member companies help people with chronic conditions live healthier lives by connecting them to their care team through a more efficient exchange of personal health information.*



The diagram illustrates a 'Digital Home' ecosystem. On the left, various health devices are listed: Blood-pressure Cuff, Pulse Ox, Thermometer, Pedometer, Weight Scale, Fitness Equipment, Medication Tracking, and Glucose Meter. These devices are connected to a central 'Personal Health System' (containing a PC and Cell Phone) within a 'Digital Home' icon. An 'Internet' connection links this system to external services: Family Care Givers, Disease Management Service, Healthcare Provider, and Personal Health Record.

12 September 2010

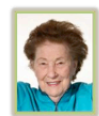
15



**Continua**  
HEALTH AND CARE

## Aging Independently

600 million elderly individuals world wide



**Basic life monitoring:**

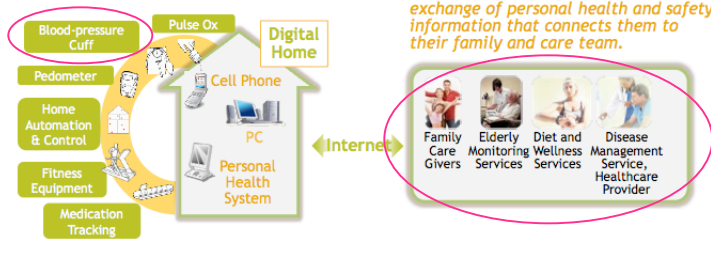
- Bed pressure (sleep)
- Bathroom sensor
- Gas / water sensor
- Emergency sensor

**Benefits:**

- Involve family members
- Allow remote analysis & care
- Provide integrated view
- Encourage early detection
- Reduce costs

- Independent living
- Chronic disease

*Continua member companies help the elderly age independently, with dignity and security, through the efficient exchange of personal health and safety information that connects them to their family and care team.*



12 September 2010

16



 **Continua**  
HEALTH ALLIANCE

**Guidelines → Certification → Recognizable Logo**

**Guidelines**  
Continua member companies will select connectivity standards and publish Guidelines for strict interoperability.

**Certification and Logo**  
Continua is establishing a test and certification program with a recognizable logo signifying the promise of interoperability with other certified products.

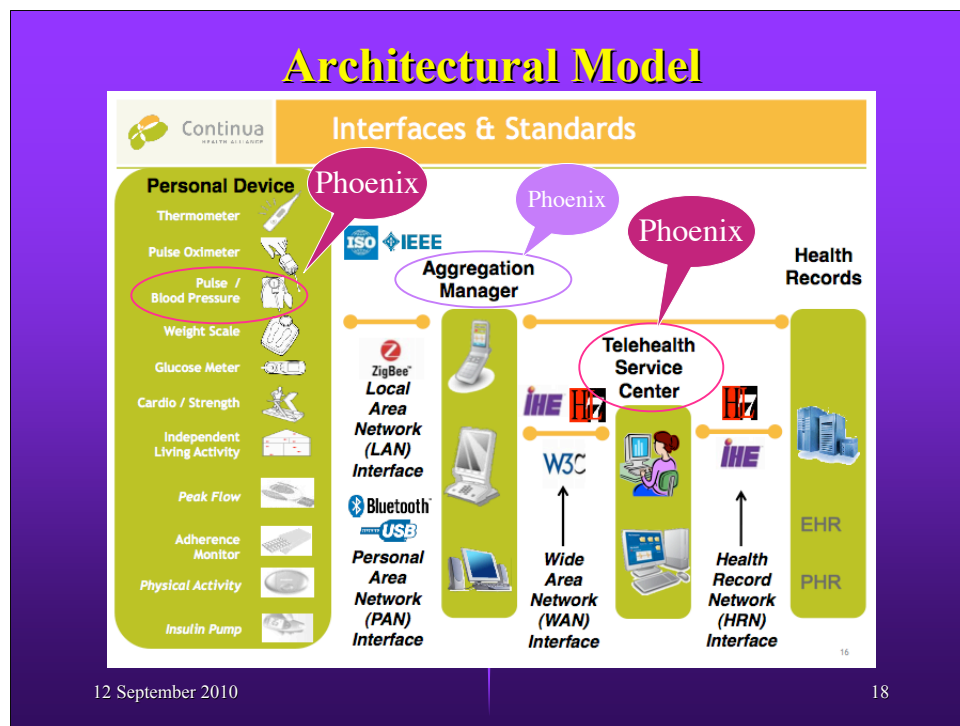
**Electronic Media / Software**  
  


**Product Packaging**  
  
  
  


**Product Applications**  


**Product Substrates**  

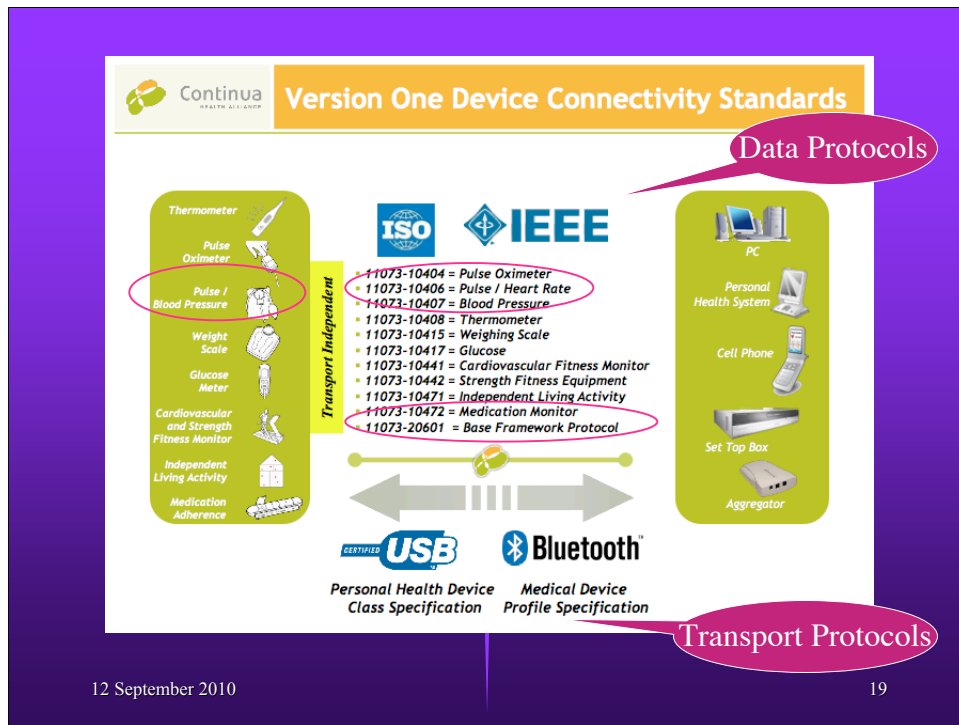

12 September 2010 17

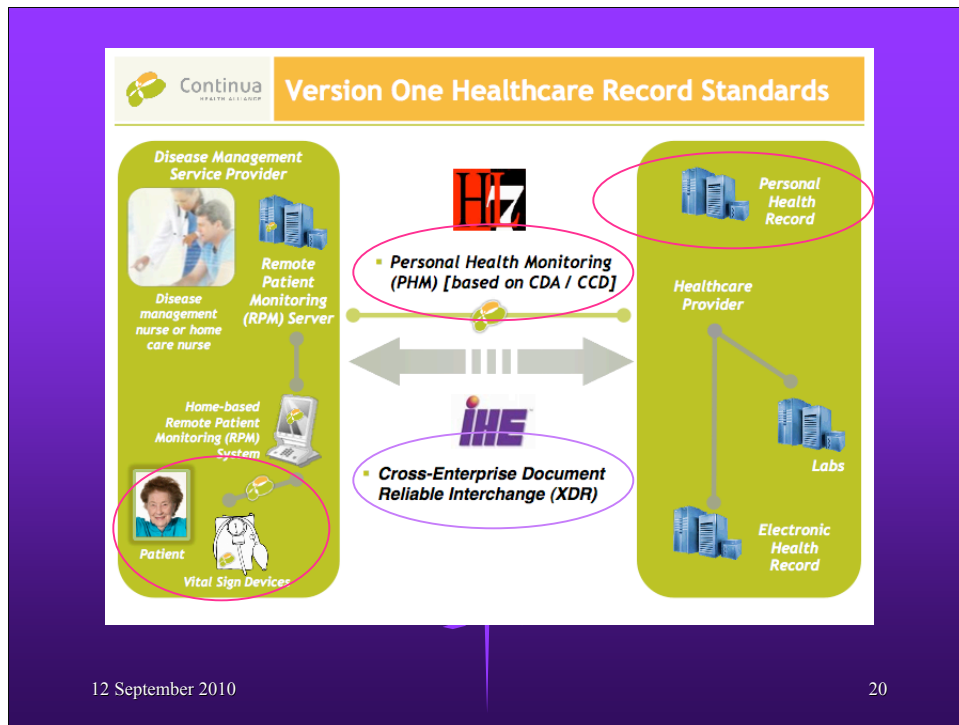


ZigBee -- wireless protocol based on IEEE 802.15.4, which is longer range than Bluetooth. Low power consumption. Designed for device interconnection.

“ZigBee was created to address the market need for a cost-effective, standards-based wireless networking solution that supports low data-rates, low-power consumption, security, and reliability.

“ZigBee is the only standards-based technology that addresses the unique needs of most remote monitoring and control and sensory network applications.”





## Current Eco-System

Continua  
Free Reference Source Code  
Save \$800K on Product Development!

### Source Code Library

- 500 modules of member-written source code already available in our library...downloaded by dozens of companies
- We are paying contractors to write the rest. Currently investing over \$800k...will add more code to the library each year
- Structured as library of modules w/ API
- Reference code only—use at your own risk (disclaimer)

### Generic Reference Platform

- Operating system: Windows XP
- Hardware: X86-based
- Language: Object Oriented C++ | C for embedded components

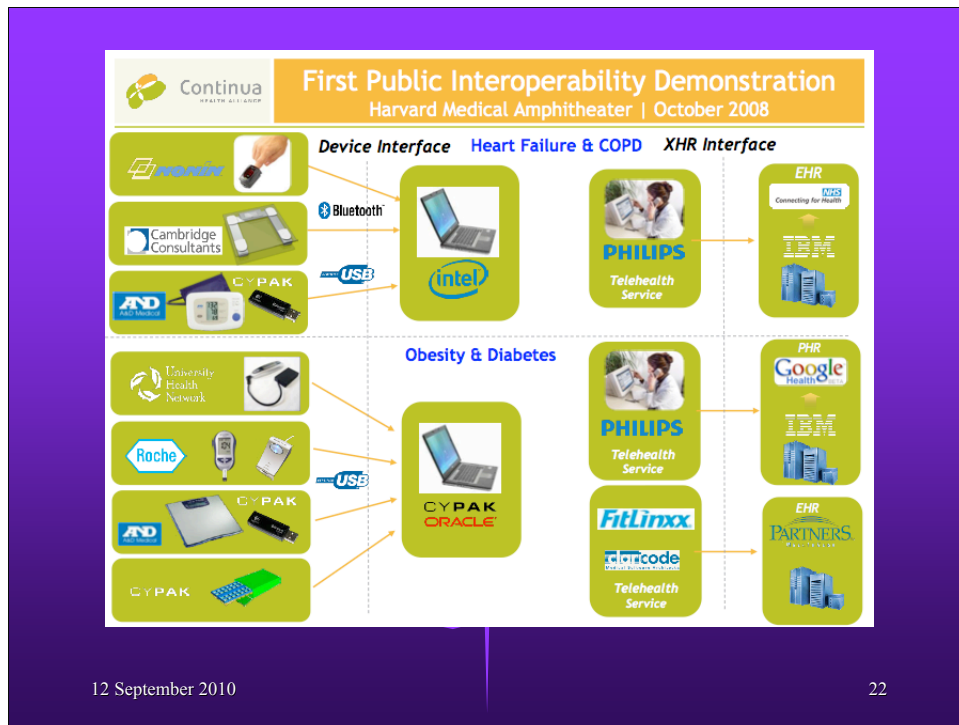
### Implement Mandatory Features of Guidelines

- Common Source for Certification Test Tool, Plugfest System Simulator, Member Implementations

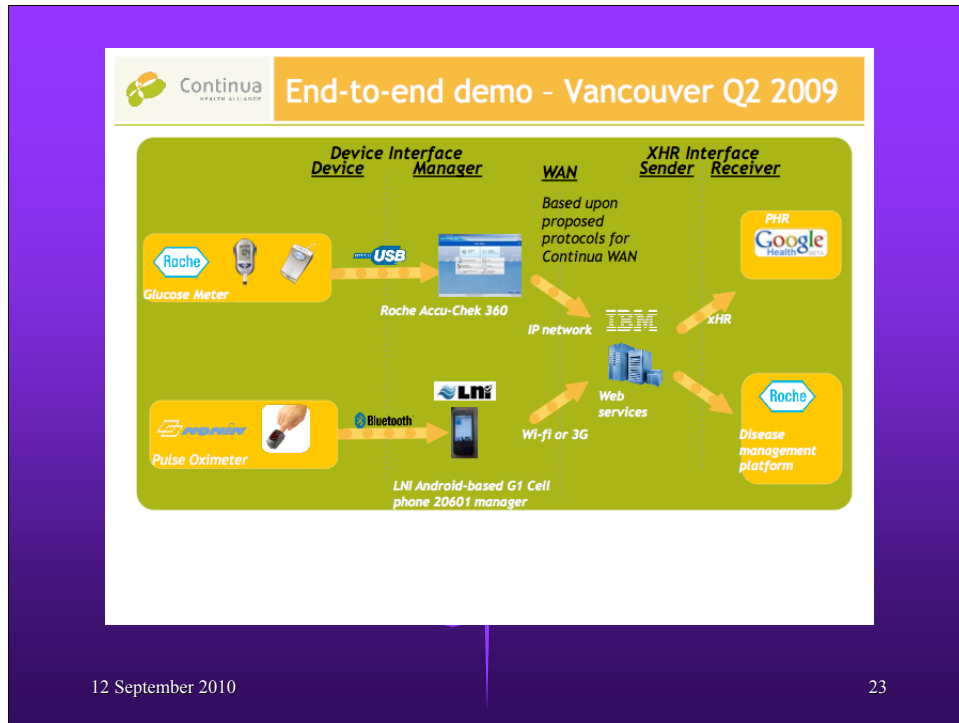
12 September 2010 21

The source code is “free” with annual membership: \$6500

External design guidelines alone: “free” with membership, \$500 without

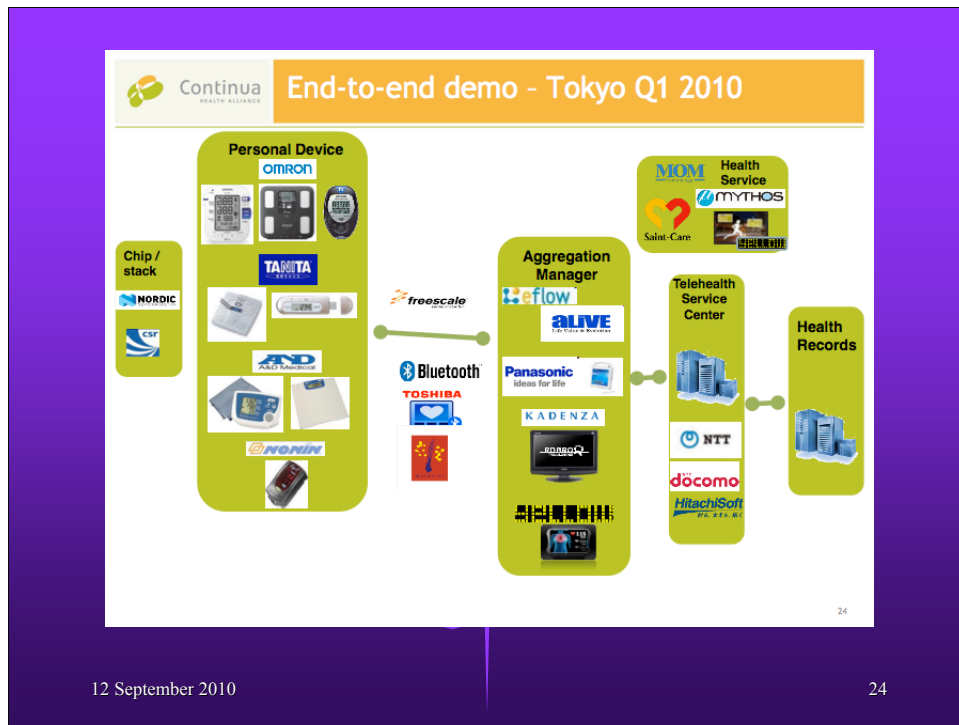


COPD = chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (e.g., asthma, chronic bronchitis, pulmonary emphasema)



12 September 2010

23







**Continua**  
HEALTH ALLIANCE

### Latest Continua Certified™ Products

**Panasonic**  
ideas for life  
Panasonic TOUGHBOOK H1 with Blood Pressure Monitor, Cardiovascular and Weighing Scale device specializations by Bluetooth

**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS**  
Texas Instruments MSP430 USB Agent Platform

**A&D Medical**  
A&D Blood Pressure Monitor w/ CPX186 Converter Cable  
A&D Weight Scale w/ CYPAK Converter Cable  
A&D Medical Blood Pressure Monitor  
A&D Medical Weight Scale

**TOSHIBA**  
Continua Bluetooth Manager Stack for Windows, manufactured by Toshiba

**OMRON**  
Omron Pedometer  
Omron Continua Certified Weighing Scale with a Body Composition Monitor  
Omron Blood Pressure Monitor

**Roche**  
Roche Accu-Chek® Smart Pix Device Reader

**NONIN**  
Nonin Pulse Oximeter  
Nonin Wireless Fingertip Pulse Oximeter

**Continua**  
CERTIFIED

12 September 2010 25

## Conclusions

- Con
  - Cost of Continua membership is prohibitive to Phoenix
  - Concerned that Continua license would infringe on Phoenix mission and license
    - Further investigation needed
- Pro
  - Continua sufficiently supported by industry to justify Phoenix's adoption of Continua standards
    - Would improve chance of industry adoption of Phoenix

12 September 2010

26

## Recommendations

- Retrofit architecture model with layers for
  - Personal device
  - Aggregation manager
  - Telehealth service center
  - Health records
- Investigate ISO/IEEE 11073 Personal Health Data Standards
  - Consider wrappers for 11073 protocol stack
  - Consider adoption of standards outright
    - May be issue of when to adopt

12 September 2010

27