FAQ: Weekly Office Hours for Projectathon Support

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

1. **Is peer-to-peer testing mandatory before the event?**
   Peer-to-peer testing is *optional*. Most participants rely on preparatory No-Peer-to- tests to test implementations before the event. If you want more practice or need extra verification, you can coordinate with other teams for peer-to-peer testing, but it is not required.

2. **Besides confirming our APIs work, is there anything else we need to do before the event?**
   You should ensure that your FHIR implementation is fully functional. In addition, verify that you have stable connectivity (whether local or in the cloud), confirm that your endpoints are accessible for event participants, and double-check your networking and proxy configurations.

3. **We can't get $summary (Patient Summary) to work in HAPI FHIR. Any tips?**
   First, you may need to *enable IPS support* (e.g., set a configuration flag like ips_enabled). Next, ensure you have *test data* (e.g., Patient, Observation) in your database. If problems persist, reach out to others who have successfully configured $summary for guidance or troubleshooting.

4. **How do we implement authorization for our FHIR endpoints?**
   Many participants use the *Infoway IUA simulator authorization server*, which issues OAuth 2.0 tokens. You can configure your server to validate these tokens and check the appropriate claims. Alternatively, you could run your own OAuth 2.0 server, but using the simulator is typically simpler for testing and interoperability demonstrations.

5. **How do we configure the proxy and network settings in Gazelle?**
   You should register your endpoint in Gazelle and *open only the port(s) you need.* Generally, route traffic through the *designated domain* (pancanadianio.ca) at your assigned port, rather than an IP address. If you test from a browser-based tool like Swagger UI, remember to *configure CORS* on your server so requests are not blocked.

6. **What if we need more help troubleshooting?**
   You can coordinate offline by sharing logs or arranging screen-shares with testing coordinators or other teams. It also helps to consult official documentation from the event organizers on topics such as enabling IPS, configuring OAuth, or setting up the Gazelle proxy.

7. **Is CORS enabled by default, and do I need it?**
   Most servers, such as HAPI FHIR, do not enable CORS by default. You typically need CORS if you plan to call your FHIR endpoints from a browser-based simulator tool, such as Swagger UI. In that case, you must explicitly enable CORS within your server configuration. You should consult your server's documentation to confirm or change your CORS settings.

8. **Can I use the Gazelle proxy domain instead of the IP address?**
   Yes, you can. Once the Gazelle proxy is set up, you access your endpoints through a domain like “pancanadianio.ca:<port>,” and Gazelle forwards requests to your actual endpoint behind the scenes. This means you no longer need to use the IP address.

9. **Why is my Gazelle phase indicator still blue and not green?**
   The color of the phase indicator reflects the event’s current overall phase, such as “Preparation.” It does not necessarily relate to your individual status. The indicator will change to green automatically when the event advances to the next phase.

10. **Is there a readiness checklist before the event?**
    An official checklist may be released, but you should confirm that you have registered the correct actors and profiles in Gazelle, that your endpoints are accessible through the Gazelle proxy, that you have verified your authentication process using either Infoway’s OAuth/IUA simulator or your own OAuth solution, that you have tested your data and operations such as the “$summary” endpoint, and that you have enabled CORS if you plan to make browser-based calls.

11. **When should I start using Gazelle’s testing features?**
    You should start using Gazelle’s testing features immediately during the preparatory phase. This allows you to run through test scripts for your actors and profiles, check transactions against simulators or peer endpoints, and provide evidence (such as logs or request-response URLs) within Gazelle. By doing so, you can confirm your system is ready for the official event testing.

12. **How do I navigate Gazelle Test Execution?**
    You log in to Gazelle and go to “Test Execution,” then select your actor and profile, such as “CA:FeX Data Consumer,” and open a relevant test case like “Ca:FeX_1A_Data Consumer.” You follow the listed steps by sending queries and checking responses, then attach or link your evidence. If everything matches the expected outcome, you mark the test status as “Verified by vendor.”

13. **What is the ‘Validate’ button in Gazelle for?**
    The “Validate” button is used when a test case requires resource validation, such as ensuring an PS-CA or **eReC Bundle** conforms to the expectations of the FHIR profile. In such cases, you upload or reference the JSON or XML content, view the validation results, and attach evidence of successful validation in the test steps.

14. **Who can I contact if I have more questions?**
    If you need additional assistance, please email us at interoperability@infoway-inforoute.ca. You can also share logs or error outputs for feedback from the community. Documentation related to the specific profiles, such as CA: FeX or IUA, and the manuals for your FHIR server (for example, HAPI FHIR) can also be helpful for troubleshooting or implementation details.

15. **How do I perform peer-to-peer testing in Gazelle during the preparatory phase?**
    Peer-to-peer tests do not automatically appear in your “Preparatory” test list. In the “Test Execution” section, look for a “Partners” column with the label “Preparatory” to identify tests that require a partner. When you launch one of these tests by clicking the “Play” icon, you will have the option to select a partner. If you wish to conduct peer-to-peer testing before the actual event, you can email the organizers or reach out to other participants to coordinate a session.

Some tests may not be fully enabled for peer-to-peer in the preparatory phase, so you may have to wait until the official event unless you make special arrangements.

16. **Why do we need a follow-up session about the `$summary` operation in HAPI FHIR?**
    Some implementers have encountered issues enabling `$summary` (for patient summaries) in HAPI FHIR. This often involves additional configuration flags or modules. If your HAPI server does not recognize `$summary`, you may need to enable IPS support or configure other settings. The follow-up session will clarify how to activate this feature and populate your database with sufficient test data.

17. **Where can I find sample data for eReferral or patient summaries?**
    Infoway provides sample data and test scenarios on its documentation sites (for example, Infoscribe). You can also look at data used by the provincial implementations in Alberta, Ontario, or British Columbia, which offer examples of real or fictional patient records. If you need more comprehensive datasets, contact the organizers, who can direct you to additional sample materials.

18. **Can I copy the simulator's database or seed my own server with the same data?**
    This is not an official feature, but the organizers are evaluating how best to provide sample data in a shareable format. Some teams only need a small set of resources (such as patients, allergies, or medications) to test `$summary` or eReferral workflows. You can request guidance from the Infoway team on how to export or recreate relevant resources. During any planned follow-up session, you may learn techniques for seeding your HAPI FHIR server with realistic test data.

19. **Does a simulator exist for eReferral testing?**
    Yes. There is a specialized eReferral simulator provided by Infoway that lets you interact with typical eReferral transactions. The organizers can share the proxy URLs and documentation so you can send eReferral requests to the simulator. Once configured, you can test your own endpoints using Gazelle's proxy to confirm proper functionality.

20. **What is the metadata (capability) endpoint, and do I need to implement it?**
    The metadata endpoint corresponds to the FHIR "CapabilityStatement," which advertises the features and operations your FHIR server supports. Although not always strictly enforced, it is a common expectation in FHIR-based systems to provide a capability statement at the "/metadata" endpoint. Most implementations, including HAPI FHIR, can generate it automatically or allow you to customize it to reflect your supported resources and operations.

21. **Do I need a dedicated user interface to demonstrate my system, or can I just show the transactions?**
    There is no requirement to have demonstrate a user interface. However using tools such as Postman, Swagger UI and other REST API testing tools is forrbidden during the event. The primary focus is on confirming that your system handles FHIR transactions and payloads according to the profiles and workflows being tested. **Is the eReferral server separate from HAPI FHIR or can I implement it on the same platform?**
    Some teams implement eReferral (using the FHIR messaging pattern with the "$process-message" operation) as part of their FHIR server, while others create a separate server or endpoint. HAPI FHIR does not include a complete out-of-the-box eReferral module, so you would need to add code or custom logic for messaging if you use HAPI FHIR as the foundation.

22. **Can I bring a physical server to the event instead of using the cloud, and will I get a static IP address there?**
    Bringing a physical server is generally permitted. You may need to request a static IP address or coordinate how your server's domain name or proxy configuration will be handled on-site. The organizers will provide more details on any constraints or setup instructions before the event.

23. **What if I need to open a ticket for technical issues or coordinate special requests like peer-to-peer testing?**
    If you have trouble with Gazelle, need unique testing arrangements, or want to initiate peer-to-peer tests before the official Connectathon, you can open a ticket or email us at interoperability@infoway-inforoute.ca . We will guide you in scheduling tests, adding partners in Gazelle, or handling any technical difficulties that arise.

24. **Where can I find sample data or seeding resources for testing?**
    Infoway publishes sample FHIR resources, including patient summaries, on its documentation sites (such as Infoscribe). You can manually import these examples into your FHIR server or use scripts to create the relevant resources. If you need additional guidance, such as how to handle references or organize your data for "$summary" queries, ask the organizers or attend specialized follow-up sessions where implementers share their methods.

25. **If my system is the server (responder) in a Gazelle no-peer test, why is there only an option to upload a file?**
    In no-peer tests, Gazelle provides a place to attach any evidence you want the event monitors to review, such as logs, screenshots, or exported data. This is why you see an "upload file" option. You can still complete your transactions by sending requests to or receiving requests from the Infoway simulator. The "upload file" field simply allows you to include any supporting material—like a saved response or a capability statement file—in your test steps.

26. **How do I provide evidence for a test if I am the "data responder" and my server receives the request?**
    You can send a request from the Infoway simulator to your server. Then, in Gazelle, you can open that test step (for example, step 10 or 20) and click "Add" or "Attach." This allows you to paste a link to the Gazelle proxy logs or any other resource showing that your server responded correctly. If everything matches the specifications, you can set the test step to "Verified by vendor," or leave it for the monitor to verify at the event.

27. **During the event, can I choose which peers to test with, or do I have to test with everyone?**
    During official Connectathon days, you can typically decide which peers to test with. On the first day, you may only do no-peer tests, ensuring your setup is correct. In subsequent days, you select partners whose actors match your own (for example, a data consumer pairing with a data responder). You do not need to test with every available partner, but testing with multiple partners offers broader interoperability validation.

28. **What is the difference between CA:FeX Option C and the same option labeled "IUA"?**
    The additional "IUA" labeling means the exact same CA:FeXworkflow is tested in conjunction with the IUA (Internet User Authorization) profile. In other words, you must demonstrate the same set of CA:FeX transactions but include OAuth-based authentication or authorization tokens.

29. **What does `$generate-metadata` refer to, and why would I need it?**
    In the context of document-oriented workflows (e.g., CA:FeXOption B), `$generate-metadata` is an operation that returns metadata describing a FHIR document that was submitted, such as the "DocumentReference" resource. A client can submit a document, and the server generates metadata so the client or other systems can search or retrieve that document later.

30. **Why do I see both "/$docRef" and "/Binary," and how do they differ from "/Bundle"?**
    "/$docRef" refers to the `DocumentReference` operation, which handles returning metadata related to a submitted resource. It can be linked to a `Binary` resource that holds the actual content of a file (often base64-encoded). It can also link to a "Bundle", which is a FHIR structure that can contain multiple resources in a single package (for instance, a collection of `Patient`, `Medication`, and `Observation` resources). In document workflows, you might use `Bundle` for clinical document compositions or use `Binary` for non-structured files like PDFs and JPGs

31. **Can I use the upcoming office hours or schedule a separate session to clarify setup details?**
    Yes. If you have complex configuration questions—such as enabling certain operations on HAPI FHIR or seeding test data—you can join the regular office hours or request a follow-up meeting with Infoway. You can also open a ticket or email us at interoperability@infoway-inforoute.ca. We will help you schedule time to troubleshoot your specific issues or walk through solutions step by step.

32. **Do I need to do anything special before the next office hours or the event itself?**
    It is wise to test as much as possible in Gazelle now, especially the no-peer scenarios. Ensure your system is reachable through the Gazelle proxy, verify transactions in the proxy logs, and attach evidence in the relevant test steps. If you encounter problems, note your questions and bring them to the next office hours so that you can resolve them before the event begins.