

HIT Standards Committee

Identifying Implementation Specifications & Gaps

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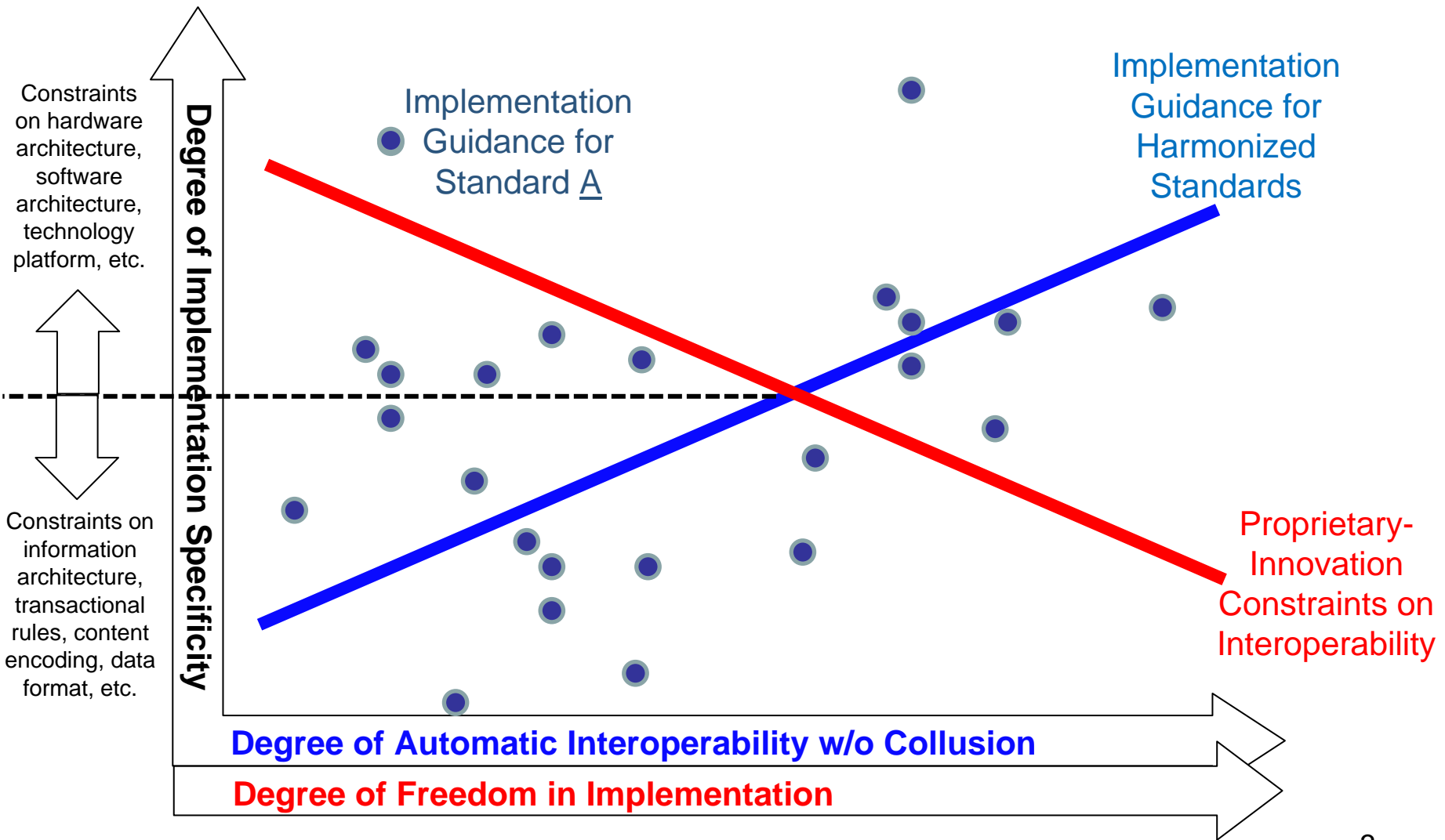
Healthcare Information Technology Standards Panel (HITSP)

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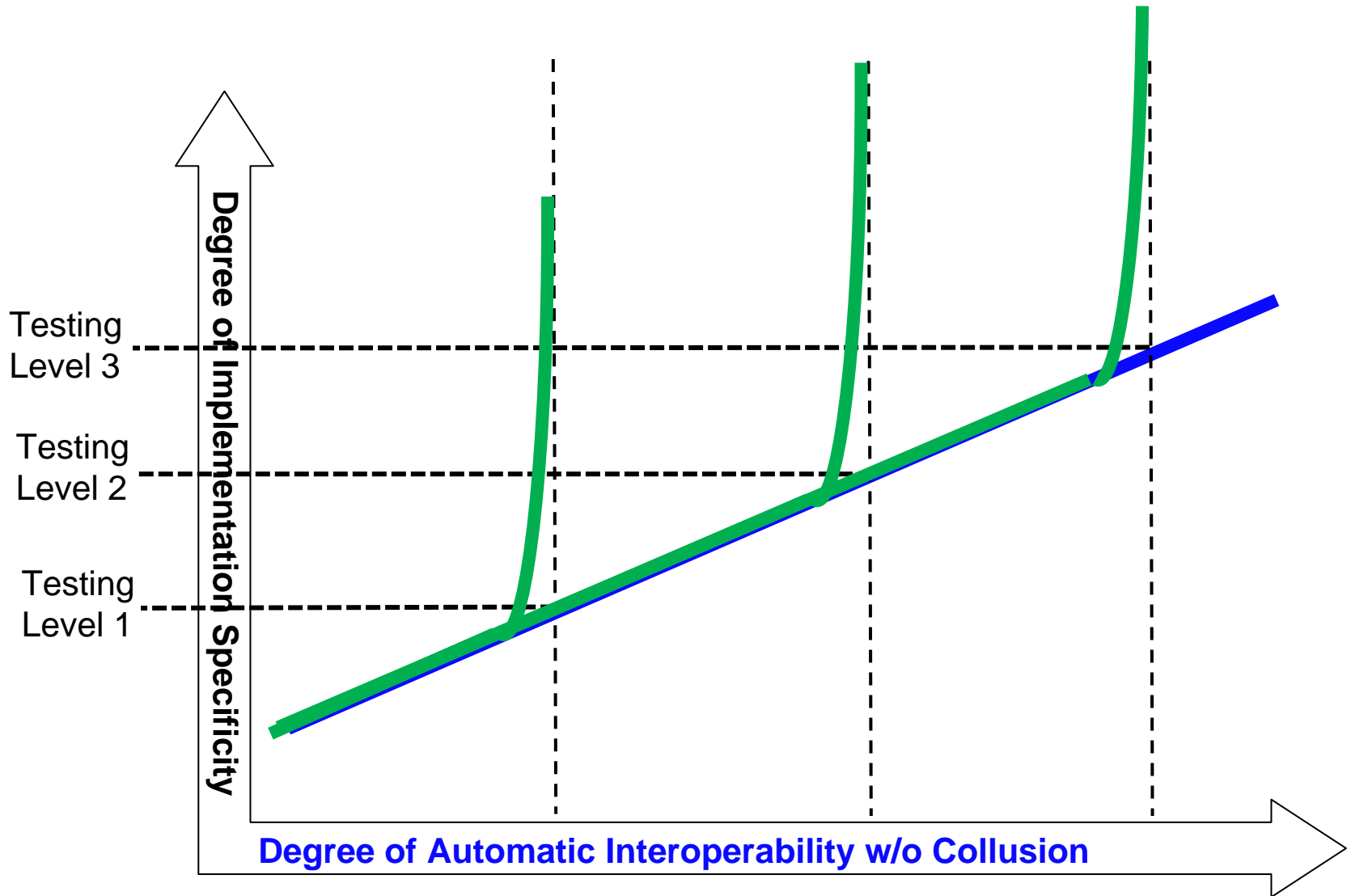
What is Implementation Guidance?

- Implementation “guides” for standards come in many forms, and there is no universal definition
 - Can be as “simple” as the definition of the standard itself
 - Can be as “complex” as a full reference implementation
- Implementation guidance can span different areas of implementation, so it is a question of degree of guidance across the continuum
 - Format, content, encoding, technology, architecture, etc.
- Our working definition of implementation guidance should account for its relationship to testing and/or certification for compliance determination

Appropriate Level of Implementation Guidance



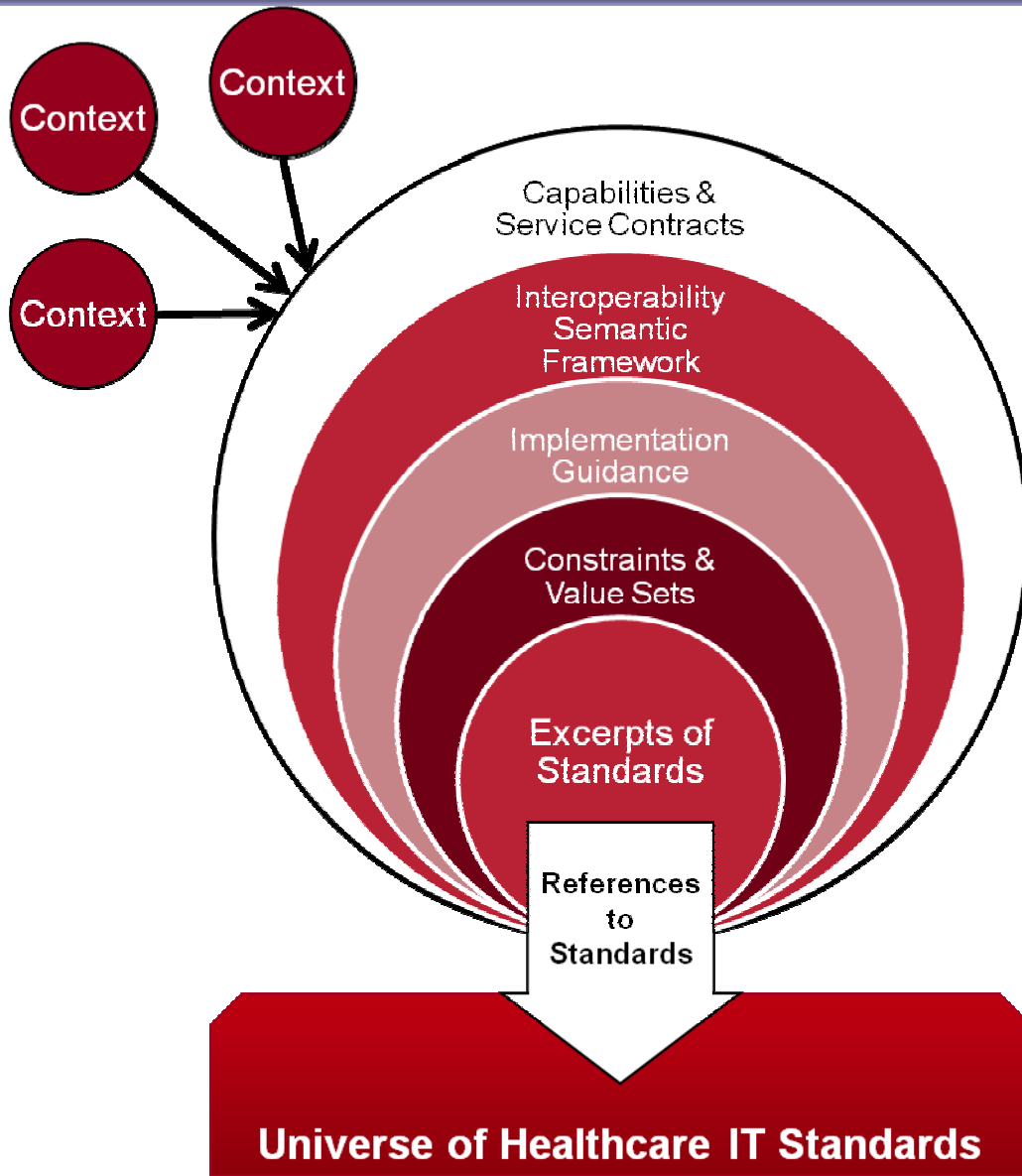
Testing's Relationship to Implementation Guidance



HITSP's Relationship to Implementation Guidance and Testing

- HITSP harmonizes standards by both:
 - identifying appropriate standards that support interoperability *AND*
 - identifying how to integrate those standards to realize interoperability *AND*
 - producing implementation guidance that is instructive on how to use the integrated standards to produce solutions
- HITSP's goal is to produce a system of documentation that facilitates disparate implementers to create consistently implemented solutions, and thereby aid interoperability among systems
- HITSP's implementation guidance is testable, and NIST has testing materials for our body of work
- Therefore, in your selection of HITSP specifications as a part of your recommendations to ONC, you have enjoined implementation guidance already

HITSP Does More Than Simply Pick Standards



The HITSP system of documentation provides reusable and extensive implementation guidance, which grafts in implementation guides from multiple sources

Comparison of Implementation Guidance Sources

Implementation Guidance Attribute	Base Standard	Base-Standard Implementation Guide	HITSP Implementation Guide
Data Format (e.g. message, document)	✓	✓	✓
Data Definition	✓	✓	✓
Baseline Transport Mechanisms	✓	✓	✓
Data Content Encoding (e.g. – vocabularies)		✓	✓
Data Encoding Value Sets			✓
Contextual Content Optionality		✓	✓
Universally-Defined Transactional Actors			✓
Required Additional Standards Enjoined (e.g. security)			✓
Contextual Conformance Requirements Enjoined			✓
Orchestrated Participation in Transaction			✓

Conclusions

- It is important to tie the definition of testing and certification to the specific implementation guidance referenced
- The implementation guides available from HITSP unify several sources of implementation guidance into a consistent framework
- To the extent the HITSP work is referenced, the references should be to specific HITSP artifacts so all of the attendant implementation guidance is included