



A Patient Centric Data Retrieval and Visualization Program

David Eibling MD
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System
David.Eibling@va.gov

Augie Turano PhD
IT Director VINCI
Augie.Turano@va.gov

VISTA still Near Top of the Deck

EHR Report 2012: Physicians Rank Top EHRs

August 23, 2012

The Best-Ranked EHRs
Overall Score

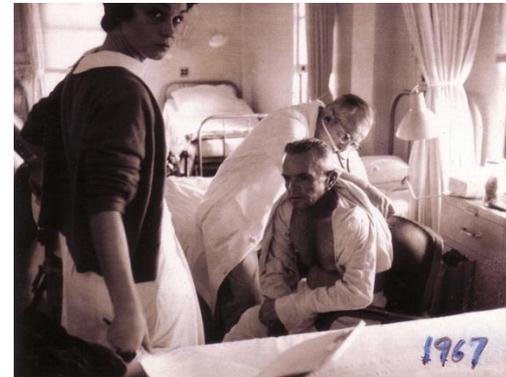
1 = Poor 5 = Excellent

Amazing Charts	4.22	Centricity	3.20
Practice Fusion	4.04	Cerner	3.15
VA-CPRS	3.89	Greenway	3.04
Medent	3.65	Allscripts	3.00
e-MDs	3.56	MEDITECH	2.94
Epic	3.51	Practice Partner	2.91
athenahealth	3.44	McKesson	2.91
eClinicalWorks	3.36	NextGen	2.81
Sage	3.22		

<http://www.medscape.com/features/slideshow/EHR2012>

Healthcare decisions have always been Information-Based

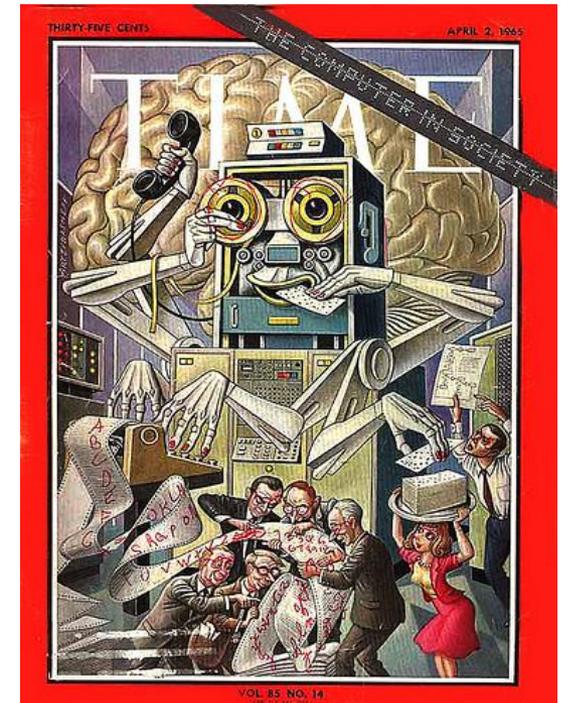
- Ancient writings
 - *“If a patient has this, then you should do that”*
- Traditional healers – until 1950’s??
 - Apprenticeship – learn what to do by watching teachers
- Modern medicine
 - Scientific principles, data driven
 - Compensate for imperfections of human memory
 - Data necessary for **decision-making**
- Healthcare System
 - Decisions about resource allocation, oversight, etc



Bay Pines VA 1967

What Information do **We** Need?

- Information about **This patient**
 - History of this disease – a narrative
 - *“Tell the story”*
 - Other facts about this patient
 - PMH, FH, SH, etc
- Information about **This disease**
 - Etiology
 - Natural history
 - Diagnostic tools
 - Ameliorating factors
 - Optimal Treatment
- Information about **This treatment**
 - Selection criteria
 - Probabilities of success, failure, other effects



Time April 1965

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/79996062@N08/7344930088/sizes/m/in/photostream/>

“If you install an EHR make sure you put a shredder by every printer” Dan O’Donnell MD

What Information do **THEY*** Need?

- Information about this **patient**
 - Nature of this disease
 - What is it, exactly?
 - *Coded information, not a story*
 - Other facts about this patient
 - Other illnesses
 - Who is paying for this care?
- Information about this **treatment**
 - What was done?
 - Where, by whom, with what resources?
- Information about the **outcomes** of the treatment
 - Did it work?
 - Were there complications?
 - What did the patient think?

* “**They**” =payers, govt agencies, patient advocacy groups, researchers and many others

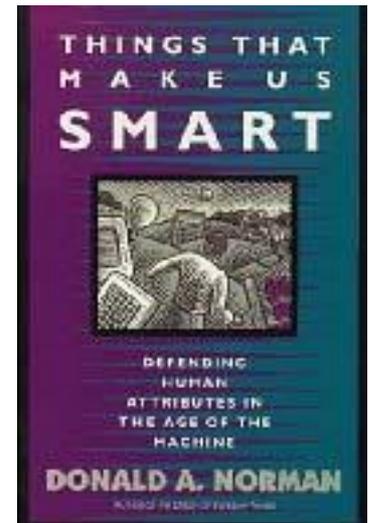
Why so much Information?

There is too much to know

- Increasing complexity of patients
 - Living longer
 - More illnesses
- Increasing complexity of care
 - And interactions between aspects of care
- More specialty care
 - More and more specialists know more and more about less and less
- More options – medications, treatment choices, etc
- Dramatic increase in literature
 - Up to 25,000 clinical trials published yearly
 - Thousands of Clinical Practice Guidelines
 - *Even specialists can't know it all*

So we rely on External aids to acquire, organize, and access information

"The power of the unaided mind is overrated....(Its) real powers come from devising external aids that enhance (its) cognitive abilities."

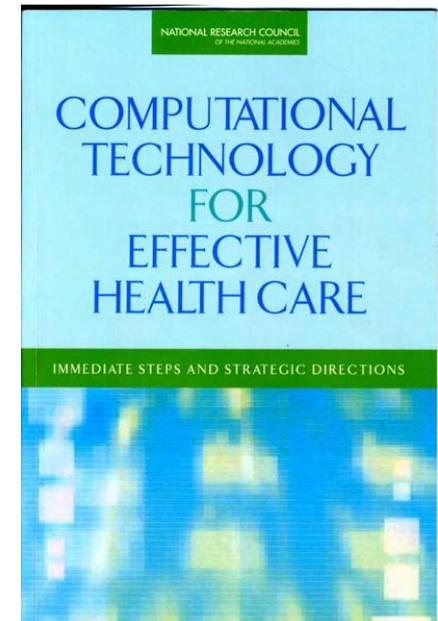


Norman. Things that Make us Smart 1993

EHR Systems Fail to support Physician Cognitive Tasks

"IT applications appear designed largely to automate tasks or business processes. They are often designed in ways that simply mimic existing paper-based forms and provide little support for the cognitive tasks of clinicians or the workflow of the people who must actually use the system"

Stead and Lin, eds. Computational Technology for Effective Health Care: Immediate Steps and Strategic Directions. National Research Council. National Academy Press Washington DC. 2009



Report Released Jan
2009

What is the Effect on the Physician?

- **Increased time requirement**
 - More work shifted to physician
 - Estimated 30-40% reduction initially
 - Learning curve impact
- **Interference with Physician-Patient interaction**
 - Looking at computer rather than patient
 - More than 50% in my case
- **Impact on cognitive resources**
 - “Treating the computer” trumps treating the patient
- **Frustration, discontent with role, generalized unhappiness**
 - Burn-out symptoms in 50% !*
 - May be difficult to dissect out which is due to EHR itself or which is new administrative requirement

Survey of Physician Sentiment: Dismal

Joseph Gosselin

JUN 14, 2012 11:41am CT

Too many administrative burdens, government interventions and frustrations with electronic health records systems are lowering physicians' optimism about their ability to deliver quality care and remain profitable, according to a new survey.

Health Data Management 23August2012

ONLINE FIRST

Burnout and Satisfaction With Work-Life Balance Among US Physicians Relative to the General US Population

Talit D. Shanafelt, MD; Sonja Boone, MD; Lijun Tan, PhD; Lotte N. Dyrbye, MD, MHP; Wayne Sotile, MD; Daniel Satele, BS; Colin P. West, MD, PhD; Jeff Sloan, PhD; Michael R. Oreskovich, MD

*Archives Int Med Online 20Aug2012

How did this Happen?

- App Designers misinterpret intended use
- Poorly designed user interfaces
- Inadequate testing
- Too many administrative tasks

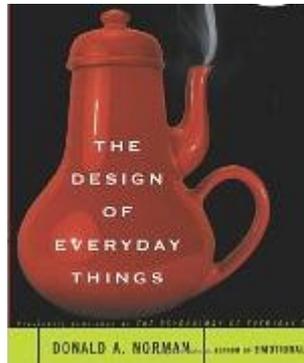


Image from Microsoft™

The most critical role of EHR Systems is

Clinical Decision Support

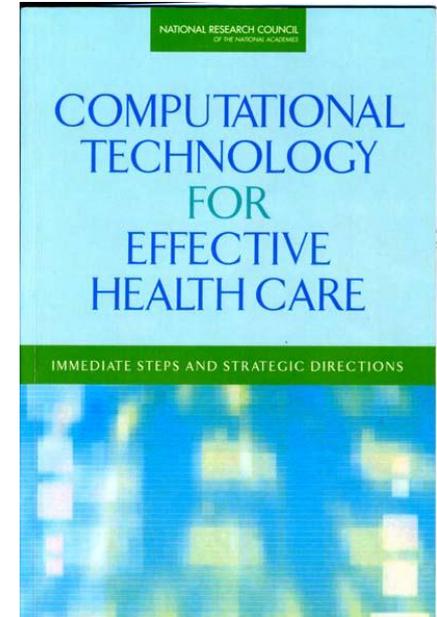
- Often defined as view alerts
 - But much more than that
- “Global” definition – *to provide all possible information to assist decision-making at the point of care*
 - Patient information
 - (this one)
 - Aggregated patient information
 - Information about all similar patients – predictive (pop stats) analysis
 - Evidence-based recommendations

Our Current Research



- **Web-based, secure, high speed, User-Centric Information Retrieval system for physician queries**
- **Accesses information within the VA VistA database**
- **Currently in prototype only**

"to exploit highly heterogeneous data effectively, users . . . need the ability to ask queries that span multiple data sources without requiring the data to be standardized . . . The user wants a single interface through which any query can be posed"



**Stead Report
Released Jan 2009**

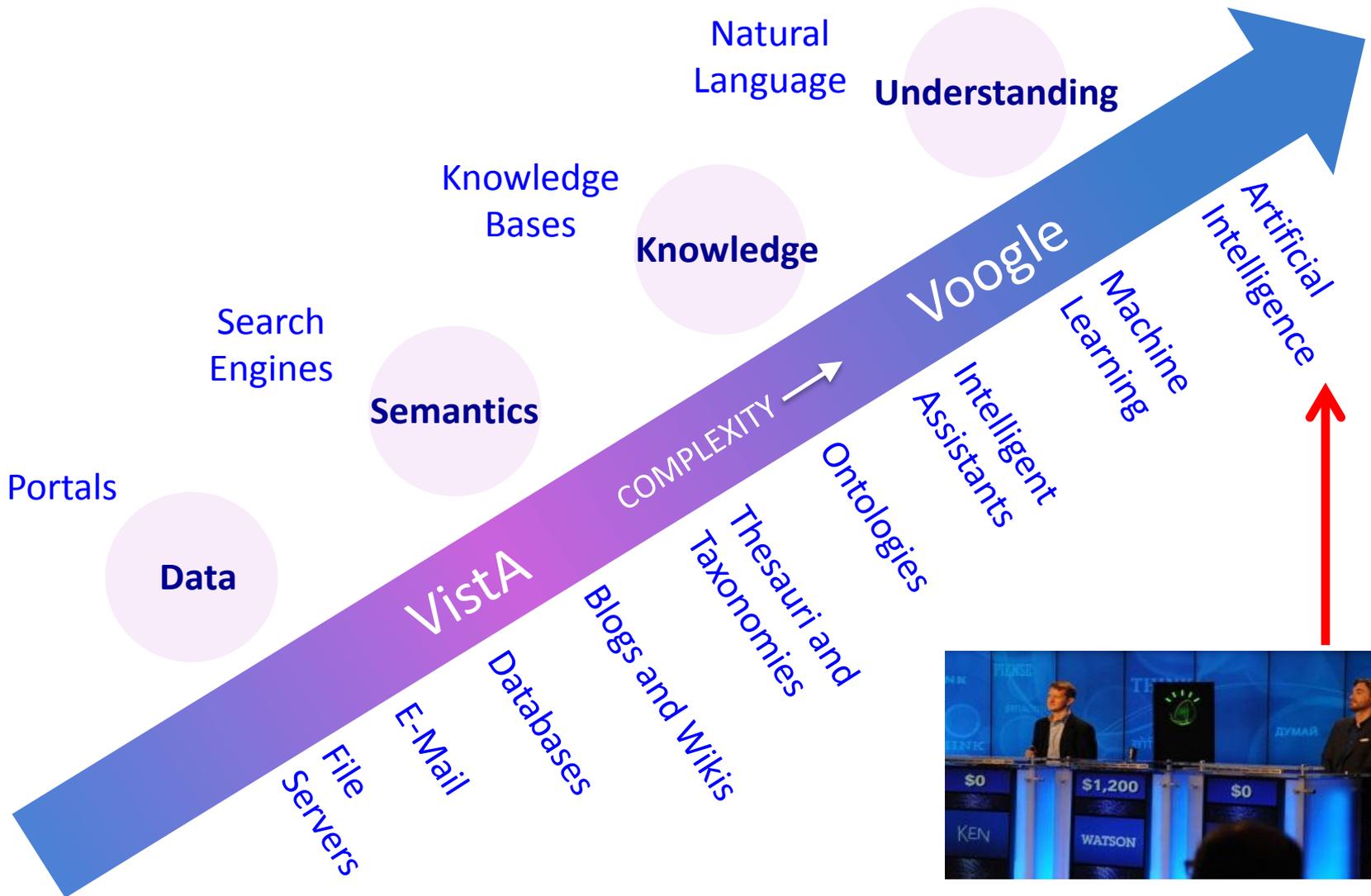
Stead and Lin, eds. Computational Technology for Effective Health Care: Immediate Steps and Strategic Directions. National Research Council. National Academy Press Washington DC. 2009

Voogle Features

- Clean “Google™-like” interface
- Data domains not limited to VistA – seamless internal and external data access
- No training required
- Natural language queries
- Direct data access, no menu navigation required
- Aggregated displays of multiple data fields
- User-directed display paradigms
- User-defined single-word groups (macros)

Voogle off-loads the search task !

Digital Evolution



Knowledge Base

- Knowledge base is key to Voogle functionality
- “Knows” where data located, or whether data present.
- Populated by a “crawler” that crawls through data structure and builds a “map” of data locations
- Can be configured to find information outside of VistA
 - “display expense form”
 - Could be programmed to access Pubmed
- Default display parameters can be overridden by user queries.
 - “. . . as timeline , datagrid, chart”

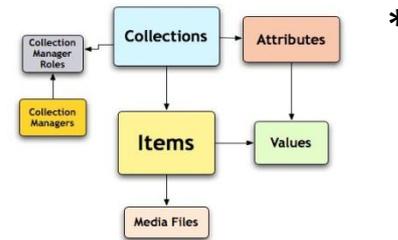


Methodology

Step 1: Crawl Data



Step 2: Create Metadata Knowledge Base



Step 3: Messaging and Visualization



*Image from <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/pkeane/2007/10/29/dase-metadata/>



Getting Data

- FileMan Fields - FM API calls
 - Single value fields
 - Multiples
 - Pointers
 - Word Processing
- Documents – SF171, 9957 etc
- Table oriented data – SQL, Excel, etc
- RPC function calls
- Web Service calls – Bing, Google

FileMan Calls

- Set DIC=70000102,DIC(0)="QZM" D ^DIC
- D GETS^DIQ(DIC,DA,DR_"*", "E", "ANS", "ERR")
- S DIC=70000102,DR="4",DA=123 S
DR(70000102.02)=".01:7",DA(70000102.02)=1
D EN^DIQ1

→ Use indirection for dynamic program execution

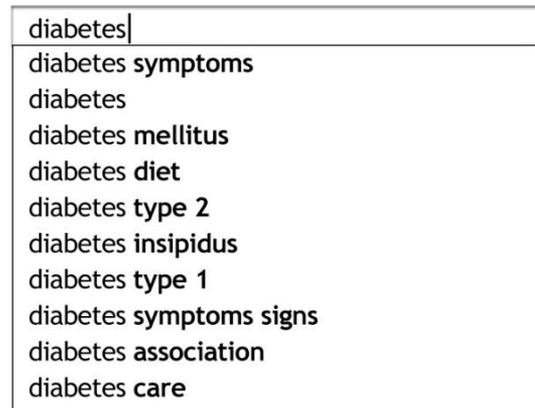
VistA uses File Manager DB for data storage both structured and unstructured



Benefits

- Direct queries not a series of menus
- User adaption, retention, and satisfaction
- Decrease medical errors
- Decrease support and training costs
- Auto completion can help guide users

For example:





Mechanics

- Parse input - tokenize
- Isolate data fields call and quantifiers
- Consult knowledge base to get context and frames of reference
- Call web services, FileMan, RPC's calls from knowledge base index and search
- Choose best output format-table, chart



Architecture

- Commodity processors and mainstream operating systems
- Knowledge base to locate data and data concepts
- Fast retrieval implemented via new network (Infiniband) that is 30x faster than Ethernet
- SSD (solid state disks) that deliver 10x the data rates of SAN (storage area network)

Enhancing EHR Infrastructure

- Update infrastructure – new OS, New Filesystem, Fast IO
- Why is this important?
 - **Web Services**
 - **Commodity Processors, JBOD's – low cost**
 - **Fast dual networks (IB-Ethernet)**
 - **Objects**
 - **Fast performance**
 - **Encryption/security**
 - **Backups**
 - **High availability – paired db server mirrors**



Hardware

- 12 Nehalem Servers (Quad)
- SATA JBODS with RAID Controller
- OS:Windows, Centos
- Networks:Infiniband (40gbs), Ethernet (1GeE)
- Horizontally scalable (2,400,000 gloref/sec typical VistA system does 250,000 gloref/sec)
- Storage:60 terabytes
- Cost:\$98,000



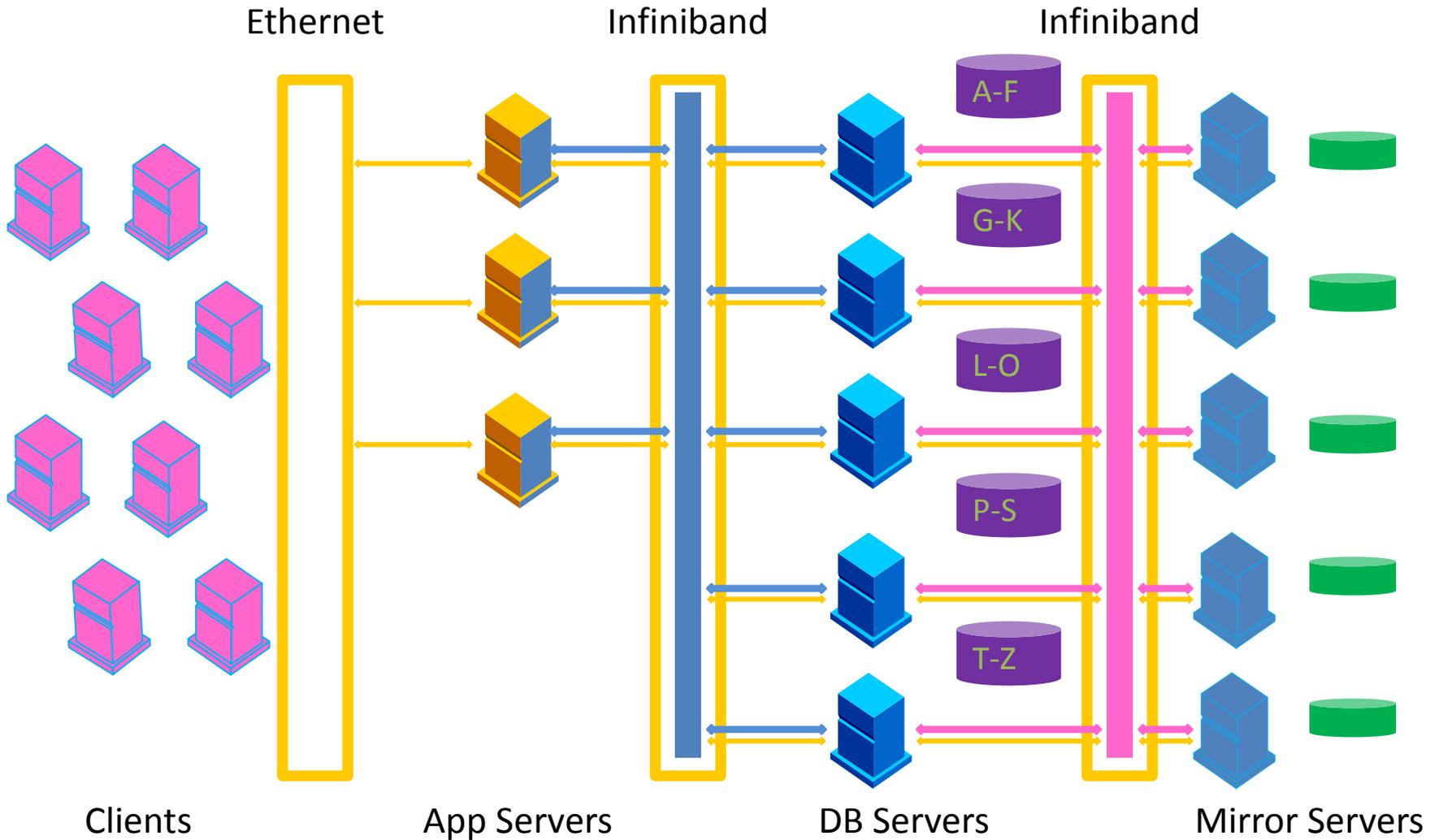
Hardware

All commodity servers – no blades
just rack mounts – swap them out if
they break – no maintenance
contract





Network Architecture





Security

- **VistA log in credentials**
- **Encrypted session identifier**
- **Knowledge base has authorization levels for each field**
- **User has authorization level – restricted by KB/User combination**
- **AES encryption (128 bit key)**

VoogLe Summary

- **Powerful and simple**
- **High speed data retrieval**
- **Web-based**
- **Natural language interface**
- **Multiple data sources**
- **Adaptive knowledge base**
- **User-directed data displays**

VoogLe Demo

Mining large amounts of Unstructured Data Using iKnow™ Software

- Natural “concept extraction”
- Enhancement to aid Decision Support
- iKnow™ can “search” text on a single patient – or millions of patients
- Does **NOT** require structured data entry or rule building
- iKnow™ will be incorporated into Intersystems Cache™ as of 2013

Unstructured Text

- **Far superior in “Telling the Story”**
 - “All my patients look the same”
- **Lots of information buried in free text**
- **Need a way to extract facts/concepts**
- **Discover correlations and relationships**
- **Can combine with structured data**
- **Classic word searches are not always effective**



Concepts and Relations

Input: A Brown dog barked at the mailman.

Concept: Brown dog

Relation: Barked

Concept: Mailman



No rule creation or dictionary is necessary before indexing.

Ambiguity ????

BANK

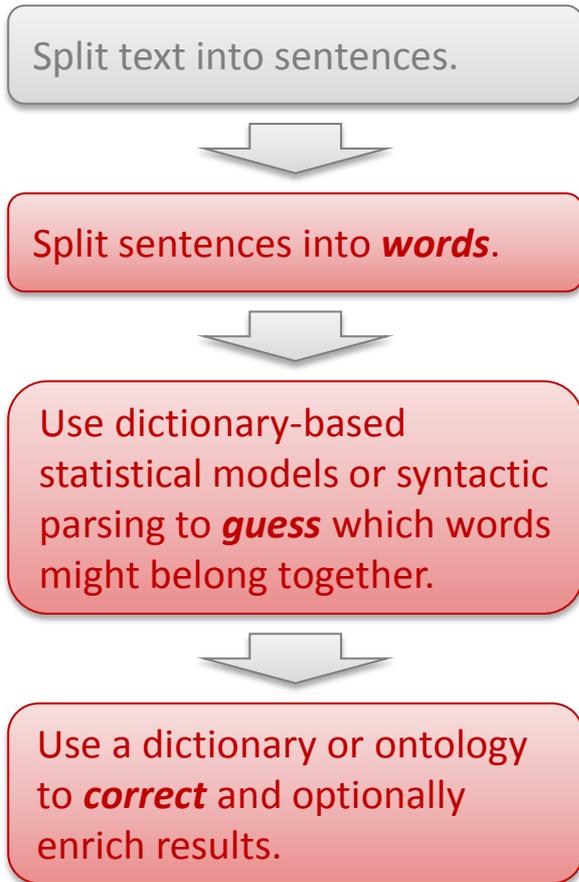
- Of a river?
- Bank in the road
- Where you keep money
- Bank of computers

In Sentences --

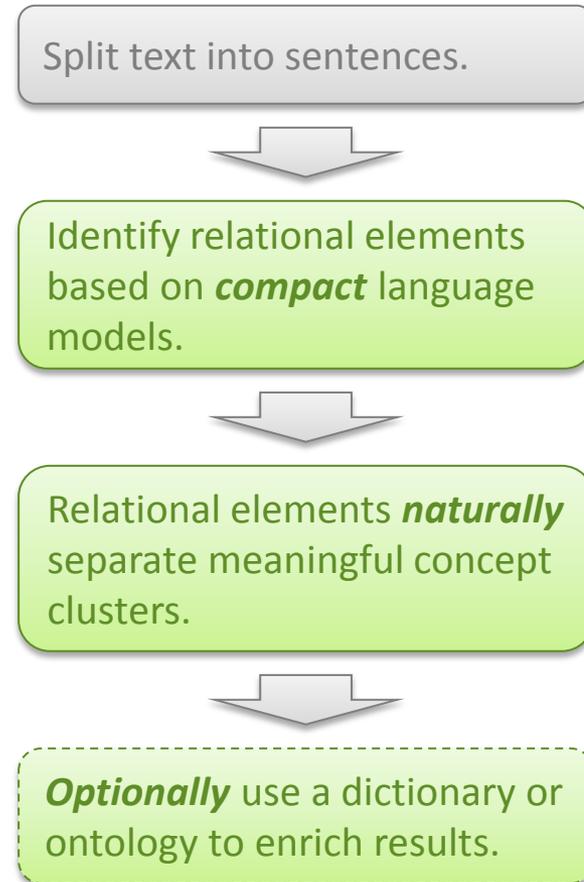
- Breast cancer in women mushrooms.
- Teacher strikes idle students.

Process Breakdown

Classic Approach

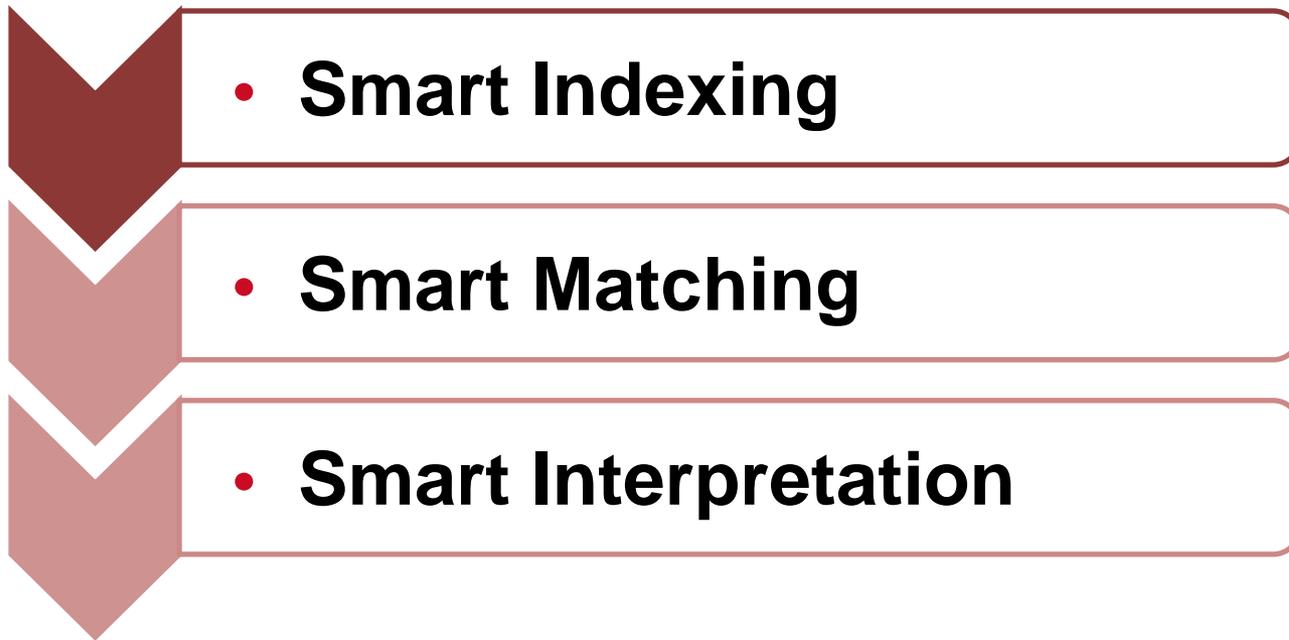


i.Know Approach



Capabilities

The iKnow approach to identifying concepts and relationships in unstructured text is only the starting point for more advanced analysis:

- 
- **Smart Indexing**
 - **Smart Matching**
 - **Smart Interpretation**

Smart Indexing

Two patients are suffering from congestive heart failure.

Smart Indexing (concepts and relations):

Two patients are suffering from congestive heart failure

relation
detection



concept
detection



Smart Index

Concept	Two patients
Relation	Are suffering from
Concept	Congestive heart failure

Two patients | Are suffering from | Congestive heart failure

Smart Mapping

The patient has « congestive heart failure »

Congestive Heart Failure **(Disorder)** **SNOMED ID: 42343007**

The patient has an « *acute* congestive heart failure »

Congestive Heart Failure **(Disorder)** **SNOMED ID: 42343007**

Acute **(Qualifier Value)** **SNOMED ID: 373933003**

This can aid with ICD-10, UMLS mapping

Choose Subject

Start from: [no filter]

built on top of the iKnow query APIs, displaying a browsable overview of the semantic elements identified by the iKnow Smart Indexing API.
Browse to the elements similar, related or containing the selected entity.

Use the filter button to filter the displayed results based on metadata criteria.

[hide](#)

Top Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
patient	36716	5584
veteran	29555	4770
history	26246	5412
yes	22671	4110
mouth	19415	3366
motion	19352	3171
pain	17518	4389
take	16862	2837
none	15805	3793
tablet	15208	2687

Similar Entities

entity	frequency	spread
No Results		

Related Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
No Results		

Note Entities Column

Start from: [no filter]

This is a sample User Interface built on top of the iKnow query APIs, displaying a browsable overview of the semantic elements identified by the iKnow Smart Indexing API. Click on an entity in a list to browse to the elements similar, related or containing the selected entity. Use the filter button to filter the displayed results based on metadata criteria. [hide](#)

Top Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
patient	36716	5584
veteran	29555	4770
history	26246	5412
yes	22671	4110
mouth	19415	3366
motion	19352	3171
pain	17518	4389
take	16862	2837
none	15805	3793
tablet	15208	2687

Similar Entities

entity	frequency	spread
hypertension	5470	1755
hypertensive heart disease	954	909
hypertensive cardiovascular disease	391	188
hyperthyroidism	383	383
hyperthyroid heart disease	379	379
hypertensive	290	264
pulmonary hypertension	281	214
pension examination hypertension	249	249
hypertensive heart disease present	214	214
hypertension ----- bp reading #1	188	188

Related Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
No Results		

Ready | Line 1/184 Col 1/34 | CAP NUM OVR READ | 4:00 PM 8/31/2012

Examine Source Sentence

Firefox

http://local...?domain=15# x CACHEB612 - Home x http://loca...CE=SAMPLES x Services x Execute SQL Query x Global Mappings x http://loca...PACE=IKNOW x +

localhost:57776/csp/sys/%25IKnow.UI.KnowledgePortal.cls?domain=58&NAMESPACE=IKNOW

Google

Top Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
patient	36716	5584
veteran	29555	4770
history	26246	5412
yes	22671	4110
mouth	19415	3366
motion	19352	3171
pain	17518	4389
take	16862	2837
none	15805	3793
tablet	15208	2687

<< >>

Similar Entities

entity	frequency	spread
hypertensive cardiovascular disease	391	188
hypertensive cardiovascular disease axis iv	7	7
hypertensive cardiovascular disease 2	6	6
> hypertensive cardiovascular disease	3	3
service-connected hypertensive cardiovascular disease	3	1
arteriosclerotic hypertensive cardiovascular disease 3	2	2
arteriosclerotic hypertensive cardiovascular disease axis iv	2	2
hypertensive cardiovascular disease 4	2	2
hypertensive cardiovascular disease chronic pain syndrome	2	2
> hypertensive cardiovascular disease nif lvh	1	1

<< >>

Related Concepts

entity	frequency	spread
history	138	138
diagnosis	108	108
heart template	33	33
hypertension	6	4
2006 current residual symptoms	5	5
likely	5	3
2001 current residual symptoms	4	4
2004 current residual symptoms	4	4
2008 current residual symptoms	4	4
complication	4	4

<< >>

Paths

pathid	path
899333	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
894805	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
894031	[veteran's] diagnosed [hypertension] with [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are [less likely] as not related or [complications] of [dm]
894030	[condition/disability 1]whether] or not [currently diagnosed hypertension] and [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are as [likely] as not related or [complications] of [diabetes mellitus]
894024	[1]whether] or not [currently diagnosed hypertension] and [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are as [likely] as not related or [complications] of [diabetes mellitus]
890365	[hypertensionn uncontrolled] with [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886342	[1997 current residual symptoms] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886341	[yes date] of [diagnosis] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886340	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
884972	[2008 current residual symptoms] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]

<< >>

Result Find In Files

Ready Line 1/184 Col 1/34 CAP NUM OVR READ

Start

4:00 PM 8/31/2012

Can Drill to Original Documents

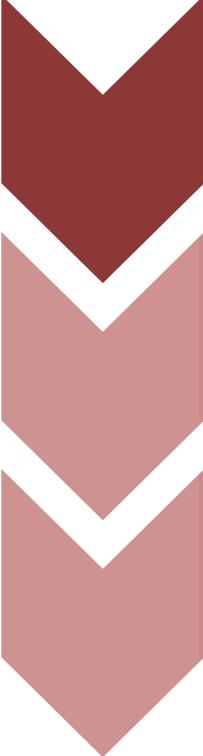
Paths

pathId	path
899333	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
894805	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
894031	[veteran's] diagnosed [hypertension] with [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are [less likely] as not related or [complications] of [dm]
894030	[condition/disability 1]whether or not [currently diagnosed hypertension] and [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are as [likely] as not related or [complications] of [diabetes mellitus]
894024	[1]whether or not [currently diagnosed hypertension] and [hypertensive cardiovascular disease] are as [likely] as not related or [complications] of [diabetes mellitus]
890365	[hypertensionn uncontrolled] with [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886342	[1997 current residual symptoms] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886341	[yes date] of [diagnosis] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
886340	[no] is [history] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]
884972	[2008 current residual symptoms] of [hypertensive cardiovascular disease]

Sources

sourceId	contents
9991	:FILE:d:\tiu_data\10k358989383.bt: ... Yes DESCRIPTION OF THE EFFECTS OF THE PROBLEM ON USUAL DAILY ACTIVITIES: Mild/moderate restriction REMARKS: The hypertensive cardiovascular disease is at least not related to DM. ...
9856	:FILE:d:\tiu_data\10k358987041.bt: ... SUMMARY OF PROBLEMS, DIAGNOSES, AND FUNCTIONAL EFFECTS ----- DIAGNOSIS AND ETIOLOGY: Hypertensive Cardiovascular disease hypertrophy, not in failure, Class II-B; ... Comments on records: VAE< March 2006: Hypertensive Cardiovascular disease , NIF, Class II-B, Mets 6 [Inadequate stress test] ... ***** SUMMARY OF PROBLEMS, DIAGNOSES, AND FUNCTIONAL EFFECTS ----- DIAGNOSIS: Hypertensive Cardiovascular disease , septal hypertrophy, not in failure, Class II-B; ... Comments on records: VAE< March 2006: Hypertensive Cardiovascular disease , NIF, Class II-B, Mets 6 [Inadequate stress test]

Gain Insight

- 
- **Index** unstructured data to get to know what's in this other 85% without reading it

- **Match** the result to what you already knew to find out what you should have known

- **Interpret** the result to know what to do next

Application To Any Domain

- **iKnow™ is not domain specific**
- **Input can be text from any domain and can feed a web service**
- **If the text size is reasonable the conversion of unstructured data to structured data can occur in real time**
- **Developers can design apps to use these features**

Conclusions

- **Healthcare is Information-rich**, and the quantity and complexity of this information is increasing at exponential rates
- Information needs far **exceed human cognitive abilities**
- Current **EHR designs are poor** at matching physician patient care needs with tasks, overburdening physicians with system needs.
- Current emphasis should be on **decreasing physician work** by off-loading data entry and simplifying information access.