



Enforcing Patient Privacy in Healthcare

Department of Veterans Affairs

A recent report by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST) underscores the need for tagged data in the enforcement of patient privacy. The tagged data approach provides fine-grained controls for implementing privacy controls, including patient-controlled privacy preferences. The Department of Veterans Affairs will demonstrate an attribute-based access control model supporting PCAST. The approach is capable of enforcing patient privacy using currently available commercial security products. HL7 standard sensitivity vocabulary is used to tag EHR data matched with Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) extensible access control markup language (XACML) policy rules.