

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

AGENT BASED INTEGRATION MODEL: A CASE STUDY OF KRA AND ITS MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

BY

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DECLARATION

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ABSTRACT

Kenya Revenue Authority provides medical care services to all its members of staff and their dependants through accredited medical service providers. These medical service providers use their own patient management systems to manage patient records. A member of KRA staff or beneficiary can visit any of these medical facilities and get treatment, after which a hardcopy invoice is sent to the authority for settlement. Real time invoices are not available and the physical ones could even take a month to get delivered to the Authority. On the other hand, the service providers do not have a proper mechanism of validating the staff or beneficiary before treatment can commence. A prototype has been developed which validates staff members and beneficiary before the start of the treatment commences. This validation is done by the facility admission office using a web interface which the facility users must first login into, after which validation can be done against the staff ID or beneficiary's medical card no. The patient invoices from the health centres are consolidated and relayed to KRA medical system via Multi Agents System approach, which work in the background to inform the central synchronization server of any patient treatment information taking place. Approaches that have been used previously in systems integration include building new Systems, Web services integration using XML, common data storage mechanisms using data ware houses, data replication and by the use of integration by middleware like SQL middleware. The integration approach used in this model revolves around abstraction at the data level with the aid of JADE frame work. The system agents work cooperatively with other agents in their social network that comprises heterogeneous systems comprising of syntactically and semantically differing data sources. The system delivers output by consulting and retrieving patient treatment records at a facility and where necessary updating the historical data warehouse while maintaining the ACID properties.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

ACL – Agent Communication Language

ADP – Agent Development Process

AgDL – Agent Definition Language.

AgML – Agent Modelling Language

AMS – Agent Management System.

CLI – Command Line Interface.

DF – Directory Facilitator

DML – Data Manipulation Language

EMR-Electronic Medical Records

FIPA – Foundation for Intelligent Physical Agents

FSM - Finite State Machine

GUI – Graphical User Interface

IDE – Integrated Development Environment

JADE – Java Agent Development Environment

JDK/JRE –Java Development Kit/Java Runtime Environment

JVM – Java Virtual Machine

MESSAGE – Methodology for Engineering Systems of Software AGEnts

MAS – Multi Agent System

MaSE – Multi-Agent Systems Engineering

R/W - Read / Write Access

RMI – Remote Method Invocation

RDBMS - Relational Database Management System

SOA – Service-Oriented Architecture

TDD –Test-Driven Development

UDF – User Defined Functions

UML – Unified Modelling Language

VM – Virtual Machine

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background to the problem

Kenya Revenue Authority has a workforce of about 4,500 members of staff who are distributed all over the country. The Authority has a medical scheme for all its members of staff and their dependants, who access the benefit through an approved network of fifty two (52) medical service providers. The Authority has a medical management system that manages staff and dependant records with such features as identification, entitlement management, staff entry and exit and management of treatment history from all the approved or accredited medical centres or facilities. This medical system is a standalone system and therefore does not transmit updated staff or dependant information to the medical centres or facilities. It does not also receive real time patient treatment data from the medical facilities once the patient has been attended to, but rather a hard copy of the invoice is delivered to the Authority. The medical card must be produced by the dependant or the staff ID before medical attention can commence after which the physical invoice raised must be signed by the patient before leaving the medical facility. The listed medical facilities or service providers are frequently furnished with an updated list of staff and beneficiary data, which they use to update their systems to minimise risks in the validation process.

The Authority has been facing various challenges in the past which include authenticating the invoice details. On the other hand, the medical service providers do not have a reliable means of identifying or authenticating KRA staff members and their beneficiary. When a service provider's invoice has been paid or settled by KRA, the service provider is not notified in real time of this update or if the invoice has been rejected. A printed list of the paid invoices is grouped in a batch alongside the payment information and sent to the respective service provider to settle the services that had been rendered. KRA and service providers have their own customized and heterogeneous patient and medical management systems, that run diverse RDBMs like Oracle, MS SQL, Informix, Mysql, Postgres and Sybase which are hosted on operating systems like Windows, Unix, Open source variants. These systems utilize different data types, syntactical and semantically varying data representations to refer to the information they hold or store. This posses a big challenge when trying to integrate or harmonise the same. All these diverse technologies need to be interlinked together so as to share data in a transparent way.

1.1 Problem statement

KRA manages its own stand alone medical system. The service providers on the other hand use customised proprietary systems to manage their patient records. There is no real time data relayed from the service providers to the KRA medical system and vice versa. The mechanisms used at the facilities or the medical centres for authenticating or validating KRA scheme members are not effective. Real time statistics regarding invoices from the service providers is not available.

1.2 Goal of the Study

To build and evaluate an integrated system that will enable inter linking between KRA medical system and the medical service provider systems to facilitate transparent information sharing for better decision making and compliance monitoring to reduce business risks.

1.3 Objectives of the study

Project objective:

To design, implement and evaluate an integrated data model between KRA medical system and the approved medical service providers.

System objectives:

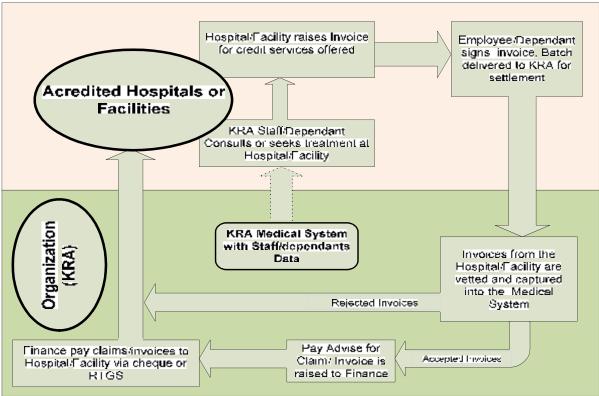
- a) To enable the approved medical service providers authenticate or identify all KRA members of staff or beneficiary by querying an online service.
- b) Have the KRA medical system notified by service provider systems about the invoices as they are generated i.e. the treatment information and the incurred cost. It should be possible to know the number of patients that have been treated per day and per facility.
- c) To ensure that the KRA medical system inform the service providers of the honoured/paid or the rejected invoices.
- d) To develop, evaluate and test the proposed model.

1.4 Significance of the study

- By integrating the heterogeneous systems, there will be timely decision making and planning for KRA. By having the real time invoices, the Authority will mitigate the risks of paying fraudulent invoices or double payment and also act as a reference for validating the physical invoices brought in for settlement from the various medical facilities.
- Medical service providers will be able to authenticate patients accurately since the web service will display patient photograph in addition to staff or dependant ID. The project will also pave way for the inclusion of a biometric identification system at the point of

treatment. The technology may be extended with ease to manage access control and staff movement within the KRA establishments.

Figure 1 : Overall Architecture



1.5 Business Analysis

The model will be designed to achieve the following business aspect:

• Enable the Authority to have access to the treatment invoices or bills in real time mode from the facility or the medical service providers. This will be beneficial since daily reports will be available for patients who accessed the scheme's medical benefits in whichever medical facility country wide, therefore leading to better decision making.

1.6 Assumptions and scope of the research

- a) The medical service providers or facilities have access to stable internet services and have a computerised patient management system supported by RDBMs in the back end.
- b) The integration and information exchange between the participating systems is done at the data level and not at the application level.
- c) The medical service providers are to provide access to treatment records, only for patients associated with the KRA scheme i.e. through a replication site or a secluded database on their end, where the local Agents will harvest data from.

d) Service providers will use the web interface to authenticate patients seeking treatment or consultation by login in using the provided credentials. Access to this web interface will be limited only to authorised service providers and will be controlled by implementing an IP Access list on the firewall and implementing an IP traffic filter at the Apache web server level.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

The deviation from the native and silo type or centralised systems has emerged out of the need to integrate disparate data systems as they stand. Systems developed to meet the needs of medical service providers have emerged and are usually designed for specific needs. Service provider mergers and purchases have also contributed to disparate systems within the medical domain (McDonald et al. 2000). The need to integrate these disparate systems has therefore resulted to heterogeneous distributed systems, which need to be harmonised so as to facilitate data sharing.

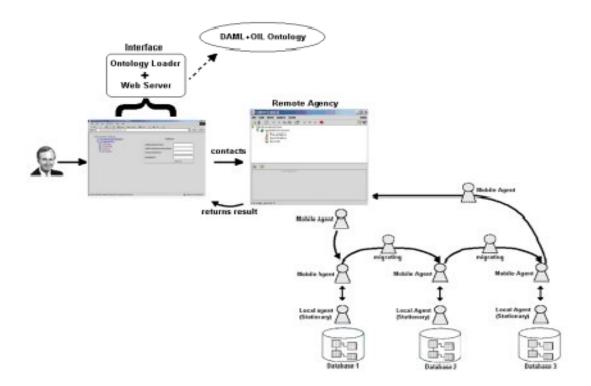
2.1 Related work on Data integration

There has been a wide range of approaches and methodologies proposed for the integrated access of information from autonomous systems and databases, stored in different software and hardware platforms, including federated database systems, multi-database systems, heterogeneous database systems, and mediator systems The common integration approaches that have been attempted have been classified according to the level of abstraction at the point where the integration is being performed as defined below. (Ziegler et al. 2004).

2.11 The use of mobile agents in an itinerary

(Philip Et al,2002) have used mobile agents to solve the data integration models of Federated databases, which enforces the virtual approach; data warehousing, which is based on the materialized approach; and mediators, which uses the virtual approach. Garcia-Molina (Garcia-Molina et al, 2002) discusses some of the important issues regarding

data integration that there are different data types in the different sources, data sources may use different names or format to refer the same object, the terms may have different semantics in the way they are stored in the data source and there are data that are not present in all the data sources. In this regard data Integration using agents (DIA) has been used by in this context for semantic integration of a federated database using mobile agents and ontologies where an itinerary is created, where the mobile agents must follow visiting each node along the path/and carrying with it the required data from that node. In this capacity the availability of an explicit ontology for the data sources was at the core of the integration process, as it represented the global schema of the federated database. The following diagram illustrates the integration approach taken by (Philip Et al,2002).



The payload is in the form of XML which increments in size as the mobile agents move from note to the other within the route. This kind of approach cannot be used in our case because of the number of nodes within the route/itinerary that will need to be visited.

2.12 Ontology in integrating heterogeneous RDBMs

The notion of Ontology provides definitions for the vocabulary used to represent knowledge in a certain domain like medical. Therefore to share and interchange information among different database systems would involve the presence of a common vocabulary, because syntactic and semantic conflicts would result from lack of standardization (consistency) in the meaning of concepts, terms and structures found in these data sources. Ontology does the standardization since it requires a precise semantic representation. There are two ways that have been used to resolve semantic conflict using ontology, first is to build the ontology for each system, then directly create the mapping between these ontology-based systems, or to create common ontology to specify the vocabularies and terms to describe and interpret shared information among its users, and build the mapping between the systems through the common ontology (Huang, 2002).

2.13 Common Data Storage integration

In this approach, the physical data integration is performed by migrating the existing data to a new environment and the local data sources can either be retired or remain operational. Physical data integration provides fast data access, the only problem is that discontinuing or retiring the local

data source will render the applications that access these datasets unusable until they are made to point or reference the new environment (McDonald,2000). If the local data sources or legacy systems must remain operational then periodic updating or refreshing of the common data storage elements must be factored in.

2.14 Additional layer integration

This is the inclusion of an additional layer of software for logical data integration and is based on the concept of integrated global conceptual schema which is achieved after converting the local schemas into the global model. This integration process requires expensive and time consuming alterations and modifications that need to be done on the local applications and existing conceptual model. According to Barret (1996), other approaches involve the use of frameworks that integrate specific data sources and use a particular query language that users need to learn in order to use the system. According to Andrea (2001), the creation of the global conceptual schema is supported by local conceptual model comparison, equivalence identification and conflict resolution. This is achieved by translating the local representation of data into global standards, the local and related applications are modified as well as the local data structure. Solutions based on mediators provide data access through a specific software layer between users applications and data sources. This middle-layer provides data access and data integration to users, but as pointed out by Cohen (2000), the main problem with this solution is that it requires additional processing and the inclusion of rules for each participant database and hence not suitable for our case.

2.15 Service-Oriented Architecture integration

SOA generally provides a way for consumers of services, such as web-based applications, to be aware of available SOA-based services. XML is often used for interfacing with SOA services. SOA defines how to integrate widely disparate applications for a Web-based environment and uses multiple implementation platforms. According to Wikipedia (2013), rather than defining an API, SOA defines the interface in terms of protocols and functionality. Service-orientation requires loose coupling of services with operating systems and other technologies that underlie applications. SOA separates functions into distinct units, or services, which developers make accessible over a network in order to allow users to combine and reuse them in the production of applications. These services and their corresponding consumers communicate with each other by passing data in a well-defined, shared format, or by coordinating an activity between two or more services triggered at the application level.

SOA is not an option to be considered in our integration problem because the systems requiring harmonization are not web based and also the fact that our scope revolves around the data and not application level integration.

2.16 Build new System to meet requirements

This includes Building a new System where a new system is developed to cater for the needs of the stake holders by soliciting user requirements as the initial step. Web services integration is also widely adopted where the data exchange occurs over the internet and is commonly achieved via XML based (Extensible Mark up language). In Common Data Storage & Warehousing, the warehouse system extracts, transforms, and loads data from heterogeneous sources into a single common schema hence data becomes compatible with each other. However, this approach offers a tightly coupled architecture because the data is already physically reconciled in a single repository at query-time, so it usually takes little time to resolve queries. But problems lie in the data freshness, that is, information in warehouse is not always up-to-date. Therefore, when an original data source gets updated, the warehouse still retains outdated data and the ETL process needs reexecution for synchronization. Change tracking (to monitor what may have changed) can be done using various methods such as enabling CT in MS-SQL server or by using triggers and UDFs. Integration By Middleware is a mediation kind of interface e.g. SQL middleware or JADE framework where the Agent platform can be distributed over the LAN or WAN and the Computers need not share the same OS or similar Data sources and it is the approach we have adopted in our case. Also there exists *Data Replication* which entails copying and maintaining database objects in multiple databases that constitute a distributed database system.

2.17 The use of commercial tools in data replication

This includes tools such as *DBSync* which can only do updates by synchronising the entire database but would take hours in case of a large data source. *Daffodil Replicator* (E) is another tool based on Java and ideal for data synchronization, data integration, data migration, and data backup between database servers. Daffodil Replicator works over standard JDBC driver and supports replication across heterogeneous databases. At present, it supports following databases: Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Daffodil DB, DB2, Derby, MySql, PostgreSQL and Firebird. Another proprietary tool is the *Microsoft BizTalk Server* which enables companies to integrate and manage automated business processes by exchanging business documents such as purchase orders and invoices between disparate applications, within or across organizational boundaries. Another

method that has been used is *two-way sync* with triggers which is tricky because the triggers could fire each other and cause strange locking errors will crop up. Linked servers can also be used in an environment where MSDTC (Distributed Transaction Coordinator) is already set up. If the schemas match, then replication should be ideal for both one-way and two-way synchronization.

2.2 The Agent Architecture

According to Wooldridge (2002), the structure of an agent generally consists of three parts namely: *input, process* and the *output*. The input consists of a sensor which captures the changes and stimuli of the environment in which the agent lives. The process part, also called kernel, processes the input data, performs the reasoning, and makes decisions based on knowledge and rules. The output part takes the appropriate actions to fulfill the agent's goals which may be to change the environment. A multi-agent system is a system that consists of a number of alive agents working together in an environment to accomplish designed goals in order to solve a common problem. By the above definition therefore, an agency system has four key elements: alive agents, cooperation, environment, and goals.

Alive agents: Refers to active entities such as persons, robots, intelligent objects, software agents that have resources, possess knowledge and skills, and can autonomously perform actions.

Cooperation: The agents are required to socialise in their natural environment or social networking using their defined rules and communication languages.

Environment: This represents the settings in which the agents live and act, which acts as a source of motivation and stimuli.

Goals: A MAS must fulfil the objectives to achieve its goals for which it was designed for.

2.21 JADE Framework (with MAS support)

JADE is a software framework fully implemented in Java language. It simplifies the implementation of multi-agent systems through a middle-ware that complies with the FIPA specifications. The agent platform can be distributed across machines over the LAN or WAN and which do not need to share the same kind of OS and the configuration can be done through the remote GUI. An application based on JADE is made of software agents each one having a unique name and these agents execute tasks and interact by exchanging messages. Agents live on top of a *Platform* that is composed of one or more *Containers*. Containers can be executed on different hosts thus achieving a distributed platform and each container can contain zero to *n* agents. There is a special container called the *Main Container* that exists in the platform and can contain agents but it is unique from any other container that may be started because;

- a) It must be the first container to start in the platform; all other containers will register to it at boot.
- b) It includes two special agents: the AMS that represents the authority in the platform and is the only agent able to perform platform management actions such as starting and killing agents or shutting down the whole platform. The DF that provides the Yellow Pages service where agents can publish the services they provide and find other agents providing the services that they need.

We have chosen JADE because of it is open source nature, simplicity and is also compliant with the FIPA specifications. JADE conceptualises an agent as an independent and autonomous process that has an identity, possibly persistent, and that requires communication (e.g. collaboration or competition) with other agents in order to fulfil its tasks. This communication is implemented through asynchronous message passing.

2.22 Agent Communication

The agents must communicate between them to cooperate through, querying and identifying other agents, expressing desires and intentions to another agent, transmitting data to agents, task coordination with other agents. Each communication is characterized by a communication mode, a communication protocol, a communication language, and by using ontology's that represent common knowledge of a domain.

2.23 Communication Modes

There exist three communication modes:

One-to-One. It is also called point-to-point. This communication mode allows an agent to send a message to another agent. For instance a facility agent communicates with the synchronization agent to relay the treatment medical record. *One-to-Many*. It is also called multicast. This communication mode allows an agent to send a message to a group of agents.

One-to-All. It is also called broadcast. This communication mode allows an agent to send a message to all agents in the system, such as a notification of an important event, an alert. For instance when a member of staff ceases to be a member of the scheme then all facility agents need to be notified of the new developments.

2.24 Communication Languages

Since the communication between agents is based on the exchange of messages, each message must be encoded in a language that the agents understand. The communication language is divided into two parts; the languages used to define the structure of a message and those to describe its

content or the body. The structure of a message contains the sender's address, the receiver's address, the subject of the message, the information content to be sent, the language which defines the syntax and the encoding scheme of the information content and the name of ontology if one has been defined. The languages used to define the structure of a message include KQML and FIPA ACL while those that describe the content include KIF and FIPA SL. The communicative intention or simply the *performative* indicates what the sender intends to achieve by sending the message to the receiver. The performative can be REQUEST, if the sender wants the receiver to perform an action,(e.g. in our case the facility agents request the synchronization agent to update the central treatment history repository on their behalf). INFORM, if the sender wants the receiver to be aware a fact (e.g. the KMSA-KRA Medical System Agent), QUERY_IF, if the sender wants to know whether or not a given condition holds, CFP (call for proposal), PROPOSE, ACCEPT_PROPOSAL, REJECT_PROPOSAL, if the sender and receiver are engaged in a negotiation. The content i.e. the actual information included in the message (i.e. the action to be performed in a REQUEST message, the fact that the sender wants to disclose in an INFORM message).

2.3 Methodologies for MAS Engineering

According to Sycara (1998), there are two technical hurdles to the extensive use of MAS, beginning with lack of a proven methodology for structuring systems into MAS and secondly, there is no ultimate tool for MAS engineering in the industry. Few selected methodologies are analysed below:

2.31 SADAAM Methodology

Software Agent Development An Agile, Methodology. SADAAM is an agent development methodology that utilises methods borrowed from diverse Agile Development methods, like the ones found in Extreme Programming (XP) to facilitate the development and implementation of software agents into MAS (Beck, 2003). According to Amor (2004), the approach used in SADAAM in agent development lays focus towards delivery of working code rather than the documentation and a detailed upfront design. SADAAM is an ADP that provides the core agile agent development process which consists of four main phases: Design, Test-Driven Implementation, Release and Review which are applied iteratively until the product is finished. The ADP methodology supports a bottom-up approach that increases flexibility and enables the development team to focus on the rapid delivery of working code, and hence give room to respond quickly to the changes in system requirements.

Advantages of SADAAM is that it promotes iterative, incremental, testing and development of agent-based systems; and injecting flexibility into the development cycle, therefore greatly increases productivity.

Disadvantage of SADAAM includes adoption of a minimal approach to the requirements capture, thus there is the danger of requirements creep or instability.

2.32 Gaia Methodology

According to Kinny et al.(1997), the Gaia methodology models both the macro (social) aspect and the micro (agent internals) aspect of the MAS. Gaia takes the view that a system can be seen as a society or an organization of agents. The methodology is applied after the requirements are gathered and specified, and covers the analysis and design phases. Gaia methodology is intended to allow an analyst to go systematically from a statement of requirements to a design that is sufficiently detailed which can be implemented directly. The requirements capture phase is independent of the paradigm used for analysis and design. In applying Gaia, the analyst moves from abstract to increasingly concrete concepts. Each successive move introduces greater implementation bias, and shrinks the space of possible systems that could be implemented to satisfy the original requirements statement. The key concepts in Gaia are roles, which have associated with them responsibilities, permissions, activities, and protocols. Roles can interact with other roles.

2.33 MaSE Methodology

The MaSE Analysis stage includes the Capturing of Goals where goals are identified and put into goal hierarchy form then use cases are used to elicit the overall system behaviour and sequence diagrams illustrating how activities relate to each other are also drawn. The final step constitutes refining of Roles and the output is the Role Model which describes the roles in the system. The Design Phase follows where the Agent Classes are created with the Agent Class Diagram as the corresponding output. The agent class diagram shows the agents and the roles they play within the system. Then the conversation diagrams are constructed, they depict communication between agents as defined by use cases. The Agent classes are the assembled together to define the system behaviour. System design forms the final stage where deployment diagrams are created to indicate agents in the model. According to Wooldridge (1999), there have been several proposed methodologies for analyzing, designing, and building multi-agent systems. The majority of these are based on existing object oriented or knowledge-based methodologies.

MASE Advantages:

- a) MaSE has extensive tool support in the form of *agentTool* and also provides automated support for transforming analysis models into design constructs.
- b) The main advantage of MaSE over previous methodologies is its scope and completeness.
- c) MaSE does not dictate any particular implementation platform.

MASE Disadvantages:

- a) MASE assumes that the system being designed is closed and that all external interfaces are encapsulated by an agent that participates in the system communication protocols.
- b) The methodology does not consider dynamic systems where agents can be created, destroyed, or moved during execution.
- c) Inter-agent conversations are assumed to be one-to-one, as opposed to multicast. However, substituting a series of point-to-point messages can be used to fulfil the requirement for multicast.
- d) MaSE is not very good in testing and debugging but the agents will be tested using the graphical testing and debugging tool provided by JADE platform.

2.34 MESSAGE Methodology

Methodology for Engineering Systems of Software AGEnts methodology covers MAS analysis and design and is designed for use in mainstream software engineering departments. UML concepts are used to model MESSAGE entities at a detailed (or micro) level.

2.35 MESSAGE Concepts

Most of the MESSAGE knowledge level entity concepts fall into three main categories namely *ConcreteEntity, Activity*, and *MentalStateEntity*. According to (Dardenne et.al,1993). The main types of *ConcreteEntity* are defined below;

Agent: An Agent is an atomic autonomous entity that is capable of performing some (potentially) useful function. This functional capability is captured as the agent's services.

Organisation: An Organisation is a group of Agents that work together towards a common purpose or goal. It is a virtual entity in the sense that the system has no individual computational entity corresponding to an organisation and its services are provided and purpose achieved collectively by its constituent agents.

Role: The Role describes the external characteristics of an Agent in a particular context. An Agent may be capable of playing several roles, and multiple Agents may be able to play the same Role. Roles can also be used as indirect references to Agents.

2.36 Types of Activities

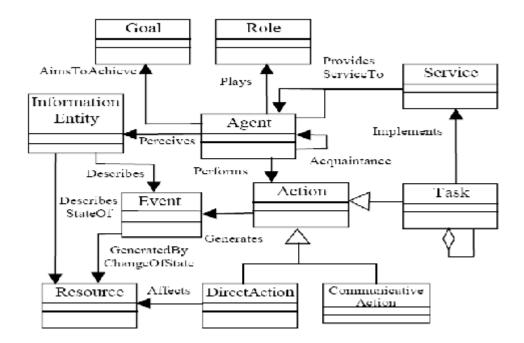
Task: A task has a set of pairs of Situations describing pre- and post-conditions. If the Task is performed when a precondition is valid, then one can expect the associated post condition to hold when the Task is completed. Tasks are State Machines, so that e.g. UML activity diagrams can be used to show temporal dependencies of sub-tasks.

Interaction and Interaction Protocol: The MESSAGE concept of Interaction borrows heavily from the Gaia methodology (Wooldridge ,1999). An Interaction has more than one participant, and a purpose which the participants collectively must aim to achieve. An Interaction Protocol defines a pattern of Message exchange associated with an Interaction. The internal architecture of an agent typically is based on one of several models derived from cognitive psychology. MESSAGE is intended to be applicable to a variety of agent cognitive architectures.

Goal: A Goal associates an Agent with a certain Situation. Some Goals are intrinsic to the agent's identity, and are derived from its purpose. These persist throughout the life of the Agent. Others are transient tactical Goals. It is often useful to express the purpose in terms of a utility function that associates 'goodness values' with Situations. The target situation of the Goal is then the one that is estimated to maximise utility.

Information Entity, this means an object encapsulating a chunk of information and Message. The agent-oriented concept of Message differs from the object-orient one in a number of respects. In UML, a Message is a causal link in a chain of behaviour, indicating that an Action performed by one object triggers an Action by another object. In MESSAGE, a Message is an object communicated between Agents. Transmission of a Message takes finite time and requires an Action to be performed by the Sender and also the receiver. The attributes of a Message specify the sender, receiver, a speech act (categorising the Message in terms of the intent of the sender) and the content (an Information Entity).

Figure 2: MESSAGE Concepts diagram



2.4 ANALYSIS MODEL VIEWS

An analysis model is a complex network of inter-related classes and instances derived from concepts defined in the MESSAGE/UML meta model. MESSAGE defines a number of views that focus on overlapping sub-sets of entity and relationship concepts that include;

Organisation view (OV) – This shows Concrete Entities (Agents, Organisations, Roles, Resources) in the system and its environment and the finer relationships between them. An acquaintance relationship indicates the existence of at least one Interaction involving the entities in the model.

Goal/Task view (GTV) – It shows the Goals, Tasks, Situations and the dependencies among them. Goals and Tasks both have attributes of type Situation, so that they can be linked by logical dependencies to form graphs that show e.g. decomposition of high-level Goals into sub-goals, and how Tasks can be performed to achieve Goals.

Agent/Role view (AV) – Focuses on the individual Agents and Roles. For each agent or role it uses schemata supported by diagrams to its characteristics such as what Goals it is responsible for, what events it needs to sense, what resources it controls, what Tasks it knows how to perform, 'behaviour rules'.

Interaction view (IV) – For each interaction among the agents or roles, it must indicate the initiator, the collaborators, the motivator (generally a goal the initiator is responsible for), the relevant information supplied/achieved by each participant, the events that trigger the interaction, other relevant effects of the interaction (e.g. an agent becomes responsible for a new goal).

Domain view (DV) – This shows the domain specific concepts and relations that are relevant for the system under development (e.g. for a system dealing with data integration, then this view will show concepts like hospital, treatment, invoice and patient).

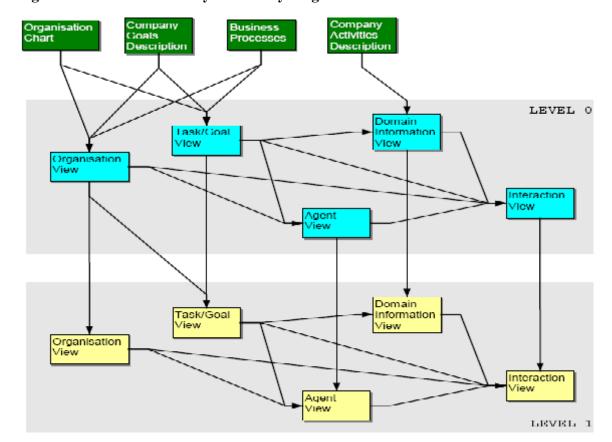


Figure 3: MESSAGE Analysis Activity diagram

2.5 The Analysis Process

The purpose of Analysis is to produce a model of the system to be developed and its environment, that is agreed between the researcher and the consumer and other stakeholders. It aids communication between the system developer and the customer, and provides a basis from which design can proceed with confidence. The analysis models are produced by stepwise refinement.

2.51 Refinement Approach:

The top level of decomposition is referred to as level 0. This initial level is concerned with defining the system to be developed with respect to its stakeholders and environment. The system is viewed as a set of organisations that interact with resources, actors, or other organisations. Actors may be human users or other existing agents. At level 0 the modelling process starts building the Organisation and the Goal/Task views. These views then act as inputs to creating the Agent/Role and the Domain Views. Finally the Interaction view is built using input from the other models. The level 0 model gives an overall view of the system, its environment, and its global functionality. The granularity of level 0 focuses on the identification of entities, and their relationships according to the meta model. In level 1 the structure and the behaviour of entities such as organisation, agents, tasks, goals domain entities are defined.

2.52 Analysis Refinement strategies

The agents needed for achieving the goals appear naturally during the refinement process. Then co-operation, possible conflicts and conflict resolution may be analysed. Agent centred approaches focus on the identification of agents needed for providing the system functionality. The most suitable organisation is identified according to system requirements. Interaction oriented approaches suggest progressive refinement of interaction scenarios which characterise the internal and external behaviour of the organisation and agents.

The goal or task decomposition approaches are based on functional decomposition where System roles, goals and tasks are systematically analysed in order to determine the resolution conditions, problem solving methods, decomposition and failure treatment. Task preconditions, task structures, task output and task post-condition may determine what Domain Entities are needed. Goals and tasks must be performed by agents playing certain roles.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The transformation of the research problem into a working prototype or model has been solved by creating a virtual environment and hosting four virtual machines which have been configured with windows and FOSS Operating system. RDBMs have been installed (MS-SQL, Oracle and Mysql) and a web server platform configured (PHP and Apache Tomcat), that will be used by the medical service providers to authenticate members of staff and their dependants. The agent decomposition process and assignment of the defined tasks to the respective agents has been illustrated and to determine the number of agents to be used, consideration has been made depending on the number of participating entities

The milestones that have been followed include the following:

- Requirements gathering
- MESSAGE analysis and design
- System implementation , testing and evaluation
- Documentation of all the work done

3.1 Requirements gathering

This has been done through reviewing documentation, journals and interviewing the medical system users at KRA. Also selected facility/hospitals were visited and a questionnaire used to elicit the situation on the ground.

3.2 Sources of data and its relevancy

The Medical facilities send or provide to KRA the hard copy of the bills or invoices for settlement. To facilitate this research, electronic copies of the same have been provided by selected medical providers in the form of data dumps as well as replicated database consisting of the relevant key information that contain treatment records for KRA related patients only. This is where the local agents will be searching and retrieving the required information and updating the status of the same once an invoice has been paid. KRA medical department did provide access to staff and beneficiary data in the format normally sent to the service providers.

3.3 MESSAGE methodology in System development

The main focus of MESSAGE is on the phase of analysis of agent-based systems, based on five analysis models classified as follows:

- The *Organization Model* captures the overall structure and behaviour of a group of agents, and the external organization, working together to reach common goals
- The *Goal/Task Model* defines the goals of the composite system (the agent system and its environment) and their decomposition into sub goals.
- The *Agent Model* consists of a set of individual agents and roles. The relationship between a role and agent is defined analogously to that between an interface and an objectClass: a role describes the external characteristics of an agent in a particular context
- The *Domain Model* functions as a repository of relevant information about the problem domain. The conceptualization of the specific domain is taken to be a mixture of;
- *Object-oriented approach* (by which all entities in the domain are classified in classes, and each class groups all entities with a common structure) and *Relational* (by which a number of relations describe the mutual relationships between the entities belonging to the different classes).
- The *Interaction Model* is concerned with capturing the way in which agents (or roles) exchange information with each another (as well as with their environment).

The analysis, design and implementation is carried out in the next chapter (chapter 4).

3.4 System implementation, testing and Validation.

The IDE selected is Netbeans given that it is freely available and has adequate API ready for use. JADE frameworks was used to derive the java agents that communicate by exchanging messages as defined or governed by the FIPPA standards. Unit, system and regression testing was the approach we used bounded by instances of sanitized real data (to conceal the sensitive patient information) that had been derived from the systems being integrated. In validating the web interface, we used the real employee staff IDs since it is what is presented to the facilities during treatment, and they are to confirm if patient is a beneficiary of the KRA medical scheme.

3.5 System Documentation

The documents produced at every stage of system development have been bundled into technical and user based documentation together generating this report write up.

CHAPTER FOUR: ANALYSIS, DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 Introduction

KRAMAS has been developed for data integration at the database level. Other mechanisms of integration are possible as discussed in chapter two. The user requirements are defined as what the user wishes to derive from the system. They include: KRA medical section to be able to know who has been treated and at what hospital. On the other hand, medical services providers should be updated whenever a certain invoice has been paid, also they need to have an efficient way of validating stuff when they seek medical attention.

4.11 System Analysis requirements

These are the specifications which include:

- Description of the Coordination model design
- The input types and number into the processing and the output (s).
- The operation that system agents performs for each input of data.
- The nature of output per each input that is directed to the system.

KRAMAS has been developed using five (5) agent programs which are the processing components of the system where some agents take in data, typecast or format before invoking the next process. Only the interface agent has a GUI, the others work in the background once started but are monitored and managed using the AMS.

4.12 Coordination model design

This coordination design illustrates the interaction between the system agents and how they relate to each other. Every facility or hospital has its agent which retrieves the relevant data from its source and relays the same to the synchronization agent SYNCA which then stores the received data permanently into a relational database. The CPM module has configuration items such as the frequency of sending data for the facility agents (polling parameters), the number of trials the agents should retry their respective transaction before scheduling the transaction as a task to be executed later by the agent which has been assigned that task.

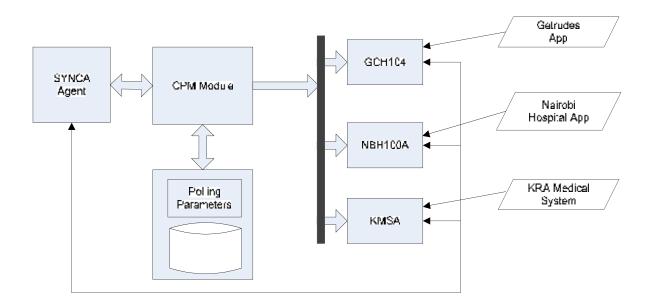
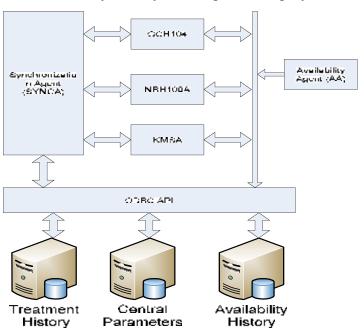


Figure 4 : Coordination Model

4.13 Agent Data Communication Design

The agents are able to access the CPM – Central Parameter Management database which is critical for their decision making process and they do this using the defined ODBC APIs. The Availability Agent, AA monitors the uptime of the other registered agents and registers in the availability database for the sake of capacity planning needs. Only the SYNCA has R/W access to the treatment history thereby ensuring data integrity of the relevant records from the sources.

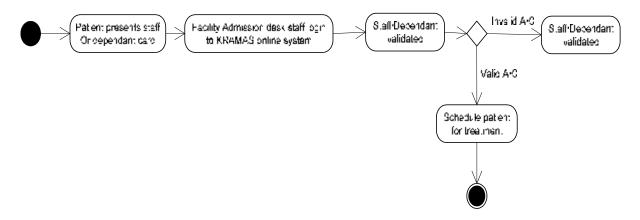


4.14 Activity and Interaction Diagrams

The sequence of activities involving a member of staff or beneficiary while seeking the medical services and the involvement of the KRA medical system is as shown below.

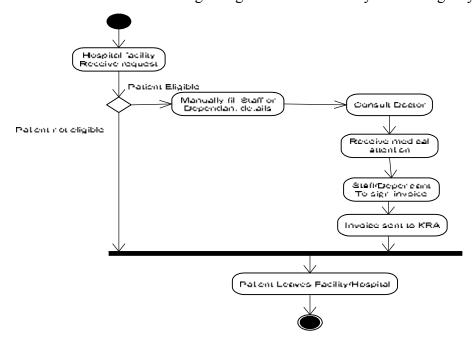
4.15 Staff/Patient accessing medical services

This process stipulates the various steps that are currently executed when the patient is seeking medical attention.



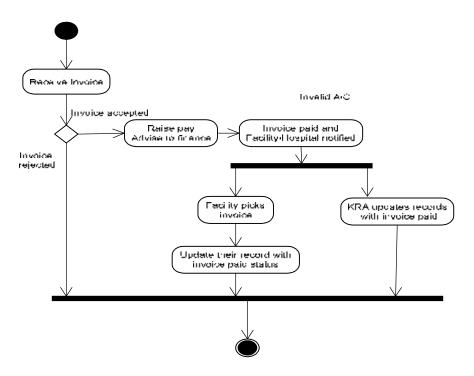
4.16 Treat Patient (Staff/Dependant)

The patient visits the facility, receives the required medical services and gets discharged or gets admitted. Soon after discharge, the responsible agent at that facility will pick each and every copy of all patients treated who only and only belong to KRA medical scheme. Each patient being treated at a given facility is associated with a certain organization, and this organization is represented by a unique ID and this is how the facility agents are able to know or differentiate which records to transmit or ignore given that the facility uses a single system for all its patients.



4.17 Invoice payment to Facility/Medical Service providers

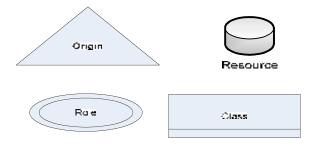
At this point the invoices from the facilities have already been received and the finance personnel just confirms from the system if the physical invoices indeed exist in the system and proceed to pay the same if the outcome is true else payment is halted (implying fraudulent invoice or one in error).

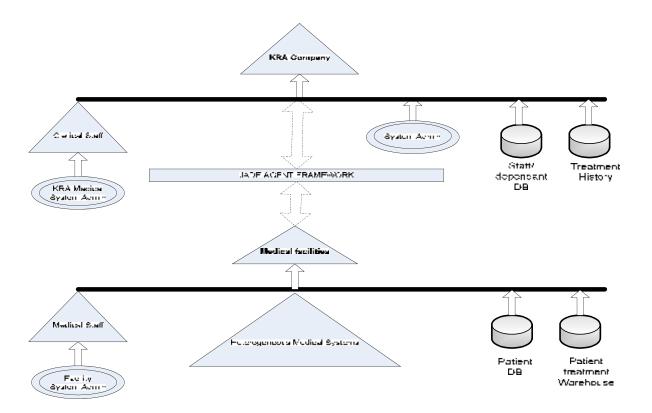


4.2 Analysis using the MESSAGE concept

The Structural Relationship between the entities involved in data integration is illustrated below with the following symbols or notations been used in the Analysis and Design work.

MESSAGE notations used:





4.3 Agent Task and Responsibility Analysis

The following are agents that comprise the model, the tasks or the services to be done, goals to be achieved as well as the collaborators.

a) SYNCA (Synchronization agent)- This has the duties

- i. Consult the CPM for polling frequency to use.
- ii. Receive INSERT, UPDATE and DELETE instructions from other agents
- iii. Check if the operation is permissible
- iv. Update the relevant record as per the primary key
- v. Inform the sender of that instruction that it has been made (else try three times and if still no success then mark it as uncompleted task to be done later)
- vi. Sleep and wait for new instruction.

Main Goal: Update the central repository

Sub goal: Notify the instruction sender agents of transaction status

Collaborators: Synchronization Database

✓ MH100A

✓ NBH100A

✓ GCH104A

✓ AA

b) KMSA (KRA Medical System Agent) The duties include:

- i. Consult the CPM for polling frequency to use.
- ii. Check the KRA medical system log tables (staff/beneficiary) for updates based on INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE operations.
- iii. If updates are found then check the operation type and format the data
- iv. Send the instruction request to the SYNCA to update the record based on the primary key.
- v. Wait for an ACK message from the SYNCA to signify task completed.
- vi. Get the next set of data meeting the criteria specified in step 1.

Main Goal: Have staff/dependant updates relayed

Collaborators: KRA medical system data source

✓ SYNCA

✓ AA

c) AA (Monitoring and availability Agent) The duties include:

- i. Consult the CPM for polling frequency to be used.
- ii. Send a broadcast message to all the agents in the system
- iii. Wait for a response from each Agent
- iv. Mark agent as non responsive after three(3) trials
- v. Repeat from step 1 above

Main Goal: Check uptime of system agents and record in a database

Collaborators: Synchronization Database

- ✓ SYNCA
- ✓ KMSA
- ✓ MH100A
- ✓ GCH104A
- ✓ NBH100A
- ✓ AA

d) n Facility Agents

- i. If it is a new facility created /accredited by KRA, then its data structure must be modified to reflect the data source architecture.
- ii. Else if it's a branch of an existing Facility/Hospital then an existing agent class is used and new branch name given to the agent during runtime.

- iii. Its CPM parameters are configured by the admin where the agent can now consult it for the polling frequency it is going to use.
- iv. Check the KRA medical system log tables (staff/beneficiary) for updates based on INSERT, UPDATE or DELETE operations.
- v. If updates are found then check the operation type and format the data
- vi. Send the instruction request to the SYNCA to update the record based on the primary key.
- vii. Wait for an ACK message from the SYNCA to signify task completed.
- viii. Get the next set of data meeting the criteria specified in step 1.

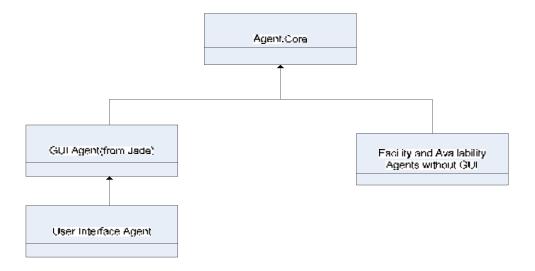
Main Goal: Have staff/dependant updates relayed

Collaborators: KRA medical system data source

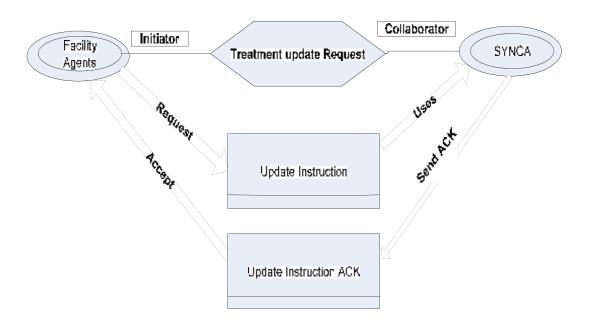
✓ SYNCA

✓ AA

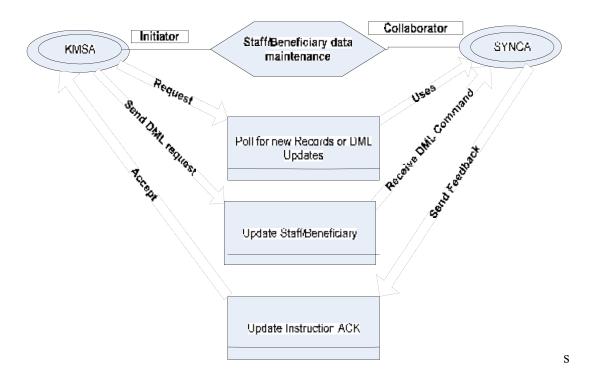
4.4 General class, Interaction and Sequence Diagrams



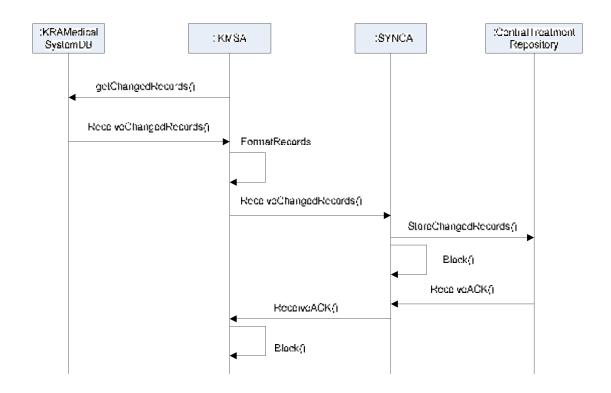
4.41 Global Interaction diagram between Facility Agents and SYNCA



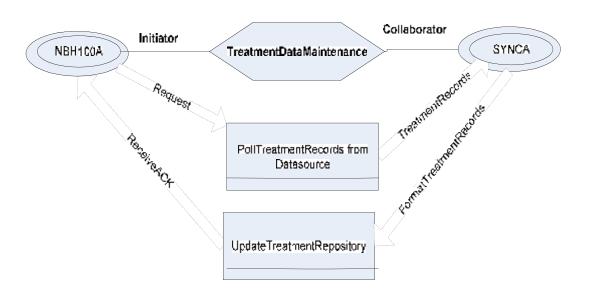
4.42 Interaction diagram between KMSA and SYNCA



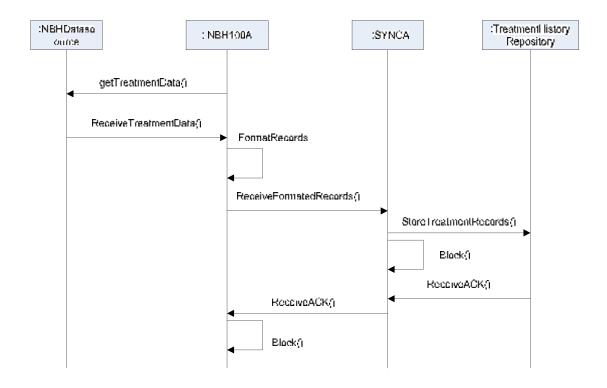
4.43 Sequence diagram between KMSA and SYNCA



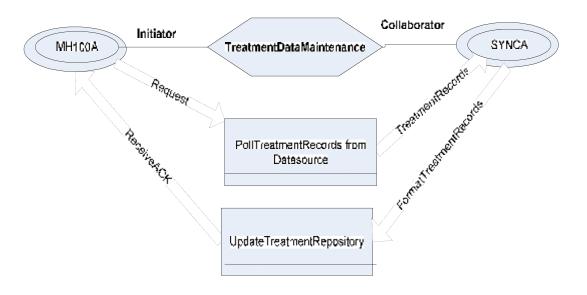
4.44 Interaction diagram between NBH100A and SYNCA



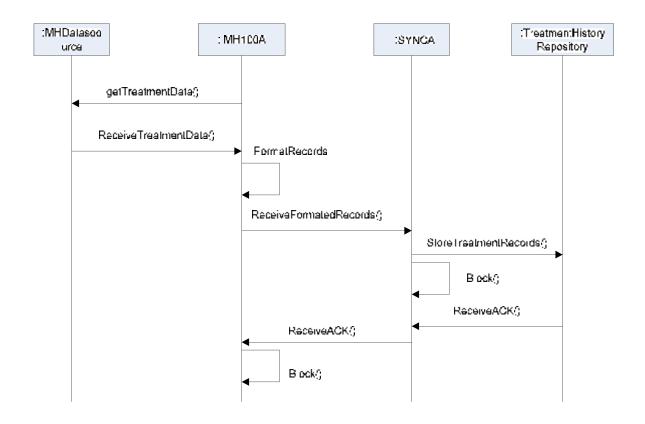
4.45 Sequence diagram between NBH100A and SYNCA



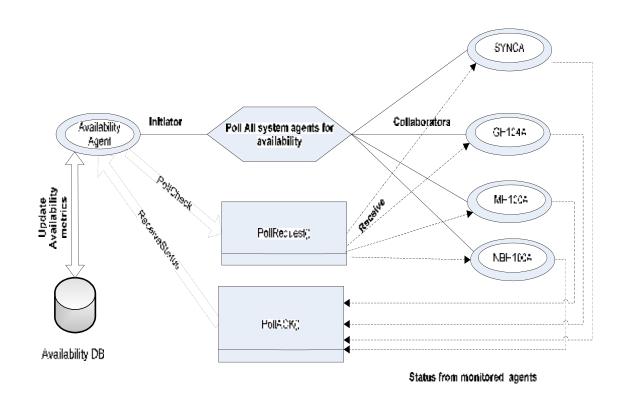
4.46 Interaction diagram between MH100A and SYNCA



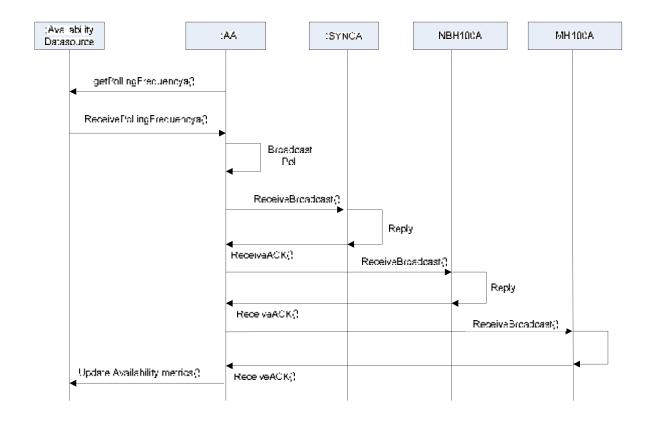
4.47 Sequence diagram between MHH100A and SYNCA



4.48 Interaction diagram between AA, SYNCA,GH104A,MH100A and NBH100A



4.49 Sequence diagram between AA, SYNCA, NBH100A and MHH100A



4.5 Prototype implementation, testing and evaluation

4.51 Virtualization and Web services

The Host PC runs Windows XP 32 bit, onto which VMware workstation 32bit has been installed. The four virtual machines and a virtual LAN are setup and configured with static IP addresses on a class C network addressing scheme 192.168.0.0, mask /24 .The web server is based on Apache 2.x and PHP 5.X as scripting language and housing a MySQL 5.0 database server. The database gets update from the KRA medical system which is based on MsSQL Server, and only the required fields are replicated.

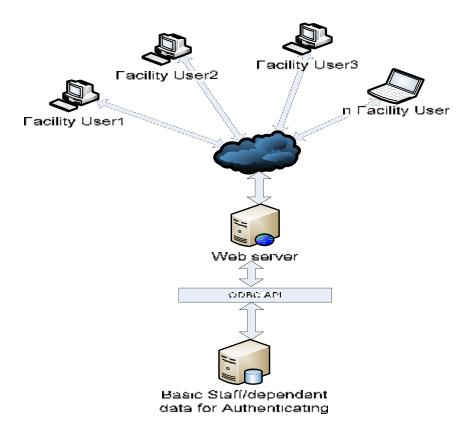


Figure 5: Online Validation Architecture

4.52 Virtual environment design

This step is necessary for enabling testing the model over a distributed environment. The following steps were used in creating the model.

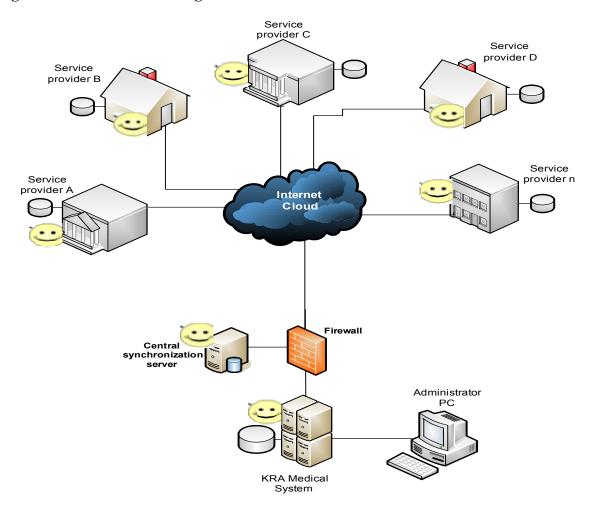
- a) VMware workstation was installed on top of the host operating system (Windows XP). Then four VMs are created
- b) Each facility has an agent responsible for picking up the treatment records and relaying to the synchronization agent for historical purposes. This means that only a single JVM is needed per host.
- c) Communications between JVMs is done automatically in JADE using RMI. The agent container is an RMI server object that manages a set of agents. Each agent gets one thread. The agent container handles the routing of messages.
- d) The agent platform provides a GUI for the remote management, monitoring and controlling of the status of agents. This GUI is implemented as an agent, the Remote Monitoring Agent (RMA).

The *Microsoft Loopback adapter* has been configured to ensure that the host PC can communicate with a virtual network environment where network access is not available.

4.53 Testing and Evaluation

This was carried out using data from the hospitals. INSERT, UPDATE and DELETE data manipulation commands (DML) are used to manage the new and old data. Specifically, the treatment history from the facility agents to the synchronization server (housing the SYNCA) is considered as new data /records, hence the instruction to SYNCA must be an INSERT DML command. The data from the KRA medical system (housing the KMSA) to the SYNCA can take any form of the above DML operation. INSERT (for example for new staff members/dependants), UPDATE (for example the routine maintenance operations such as data corrections, addition of spouse and dependants or filling prior data omissions).

Figure 6: Infrastructure Diagram



The treatment warehouse (repository with all those treated from the facilities) is only updated by the SYNCA (synchronization agent). It has information such as invoice no and amount, staff/beneficiary full names, nature of treatment, invoicing facility. When the facility agents wish

to send data to SYNCA, they first consult the CPM (Central Parameter Management) to learn about the polling frequency each should use.

The tables below shows the data definitions for selected facility/medical service provider data sources.

Table 1: Mater Hospital data source

serialno	Invoice No	Invoice Amount	Invoic eDate	Invoice Status	InvDat eSent	patie ntId	PayerA ccount	Payer Name	Staf fref	Depend antref	Firstn ame	Middlen ame	Lastname
14	BKX422 23	21,500.0 0		Not Sent		4322 118	M3009	KRA	660	400016	James		Waweru
18	BKX432 54	7,800.00		Not Sent		3345 321	M3009	KRA	820 1	400021	Winfre d		Melisa

Table 2: Nairobi Hospital data source

Recno	NBHNo	Vouc herno	Voucher amount	Vouche rnodate	Vouche rStatus	Voucher Datesent	Corpo rateID	Corpora teName	Staff Id	Depe ndan tId	First name	middlenam e	lastname
2	246732	OPR9 0003	7,920.20	27/03/2 013			N1020	Kenya Revenue Authorit y	7721		Carol ine	Onyango	Wacuka
4	489345	OPR9 0028	6,724.00	16/04/2 013			N1020	Kenya Revenue Authorit y	6602		Jame s		Waweru

Table 3: Getrude Hospital data source

RecI d	Patientno	memberref	Beneficiar y	InvoiceRe f	Amountdu e	Invoice Date	surna me	Firstnam e	Lastname	Compan y	CompanyR ef
16	421323	8880	400020	426932	6,800.00		Kioko	Titus	Mwania	KRA	6342

Table 4: Agent Responsibilities

NO	AGENT NAME	TASK TO DO	AGENT RUN MODE
1	KMSA	When it first starts, it communicates with SYNCA agent to ensure that the total count of records in the staff/beneficiary object (at the KRA medical system server) equals that found at integration server, which houses the SYNCA agent. If the two datasets contain the same number of records, what follows after is to monitor INSERTS,UPDATES and DELITIONS from the master(staff/beneficiary) and inform the SYNCA agent to update the same in the dependent table. Data picked is based on the current date and if the status field is 'pending'.	24/7 (but also depending on the parameters sent by the Admin).
2	SYNCA	It is responsible for receiving requests from the facility agents and updating the treatment history residing at the Synchronization server. It uses filters to inform the next course of action i.e. if the message is from KMSA then it is considered to be an INSERT, UPDATES or DELITION from the master (staff/beneficiary) data source and this needs to be reflected in the staff/dependant repository since it is the source the facilities use to authenticate if the patients belong to the KRA scheme.	24/7 (but also depending on the parameters sent by the Admin).
3	AA	The Availability/Monitoring agent runs continuously to check and log the uptime of all other agents for the review by the auditor. It should try three times to contact a non responsive agent before declaring it dead/out of service.	24/7 (running mode can also be based on parameters set by the Admin).
4	GCH104A	Getrudes Children Hospital Agents task include formatting/ typecasting and relay a message to the SYNCA agent requesting it to update the treatment history.	24/7 (but also depending on the parameters sent by the Admin).
5	MH100A	Mater Hospital Agent routinely picks the treatment records from the said Facility, does the formatting /typecasting and then relays a message to the SYNCA agent requesting it to update the treatment history with the records it found.	24/7 (but also depending on the parameters sent by the Admin).
6	NBH100A	Nairobi Hospital Agents task include formatting /typecasting and then relaying a message to the SYNCA agent requesting it to update the treatment history.	24/7 (but also depending on the parameters sent by the Admin).
8	nA	nFacility agents can be included into the infrastructure since the design is very modular	24/7 as above.

4.6 System Resources Required

The execution of the project will need resources such as hardware, software, service and stationery.

- **4.61 Hardware Requirement:** This will include a Laptop computer (the least of 4GB RAM, 2.5Ghz Duo core CPU), Wireless modem, 10 GB Flash disk and empty DVD for backup measures.
- **4.62 Software Requirement:** This will include a Laptop computer (the least of 4GB RAM, 2.5Ghz Duo core CPU), Wireless modem, 10 GB Flash disk and empty DVD for backup measures.
 - a) Microsoft Windows XP OS and Microsoft Windows Office
 - b) VM Ware, the virtualization Environment
 - c) JDK/JRE Java Development Kit/Java Runtime Environment
 - d) FOSS Free Open Source Software i.e. Ubuntu and Centos 5.8
 - e) Database Management System i.e. Oracle, Mysql and MS SQL Server 2005
 - f) Apache Tom cat web Server and PHP 5.x
 - g) Net Beans IDE 6.9.1
 - h) Java enabled web browser
 - i) Jasper and crystal Reporter

4.63 Agents implementation

The agent classes as defined in the analysis chapter were implemented using java and the JADE framework. The agents are started and tested in unit to see that they can exchange messages in a controlled manner. All the system agents are then tested to gauge if objectives are being attained.

4.64 Database implementation

This entailed installing MS SQL server, Oracle, Mysql and Postgresql, which are the most common databases in use today, which posed as the heterogeneous datasources.

4.65 Virtual LAN implementation

This was configured in VMware and a virtual network configured in the planned subnet. Virtual machines were then added into the virtual network each with an IP address in 192.168.0.0/24 network.

4.66 Summary of Prototype Implementation

The implementation consisted of the heterogeneous databases representing various facilities/hospitals, web server, the front end that was developed in PHP with a Mysql

database, Jade agents including KMSA,GCH104A,SYNCA,NBH100A and MH100A. In addition we had a virtual machine installed with Jasper and Crystal reports applications. The SQLyog database access tool was used for manipulating related backend data sources for Mysql data sources while Toad was used for Oracle and MS SQL server data sources.

CHAPTER FIVE: PROTOTYPE TESTING AND VALIDATION

5.1 Introduction

Testing was carried out to identify logical bugs and to conform that input is transformed into output as planned.

- ✓ Tools used: Remote Monitoring Agent (RMA), Sniffer Agent, database analysis tools
- ✓ Experiment objective: To verify that the prototype meets the system objectives.

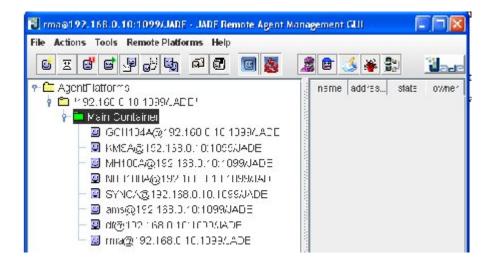
5.2 Results Analysis (Input, Processing and Output)

The analysis of the research project objectives is as shown below including explanations on how each objective was fulfilled. The testing steps are highlighted below:

We first start the JADE agents SYNCA, KMSA, GCH104A, NBH100A and MH100A to ensure that the facilities can interact. The Sniffer agent is also activated so that we can monitor message exchange between the agents. The polling parameters need be set by configuring using the CPM We then introducing a staff member or beneficiary into the scheme via INSERT DML command at the kra_medical database, and then validate the same over the web to confirm that KMSA actually receives the updates and post to the kra_central database.UPDATE DML command can also be utilised to edit the staff member or beneficiary data already contained in kra_medical database. And the same updates should be reflected at the kra_central database and be viewable over the web where applicable, i.e if an account is disabled.

5.21 How System Objectives were achieved

We start by activating the System agents (KMSA, SYNCA, NBH100A, MH100A and GCH104A)



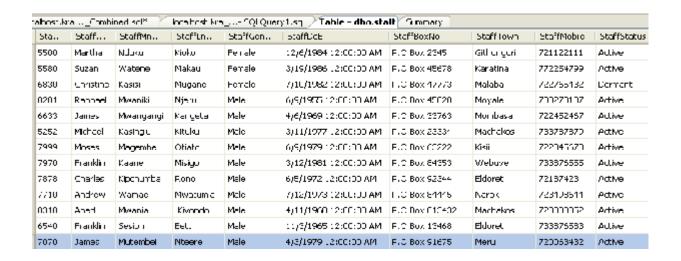
The screen shot below shows the system agents in action polling the data sources for new records that may not have been transmitted. The polling duration is variable defined or configured at the CPM.

MH100A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in : 2000 Seconds NUMBLUUA Polling for new records from Nairobi Hospital in : 2540 Seconds MH100A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in 2000 Seconds MMSA Polling for new/updates from Medical System in : 2666 Seconds NDULLOOA Polling for new records from Nairobi Hospital in : 2540 Seconds GCH104A Polling for new records from Getrude's Hospital in : 2888 Seconds MHIUUA Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in : 2000 Seconds RMSA Polling for new/updates from Medical System in 2666 Seconds NBH100A Polling for new records from Nairobi Hospital in : 2540 Seconds MIII00A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in : 2000 Seconds GCH104A Polling for new records from Getrade's Hospital in KMSA Polling for new/updates from Medical System in : 2666 Seconds NDULLOOA Polling for new records from Nairobi Hospital in · 2540 Second MH100A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in : 2000 Seconds GUNIU4A Polling for new records from Getrude's Nospital in : 2000 Seconds MH100A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in 2000 Seconds KMSA Polling for new/updates from Medical System in : 2666 Seconds

5.22 Introducing a Staff/dependant into the scheme

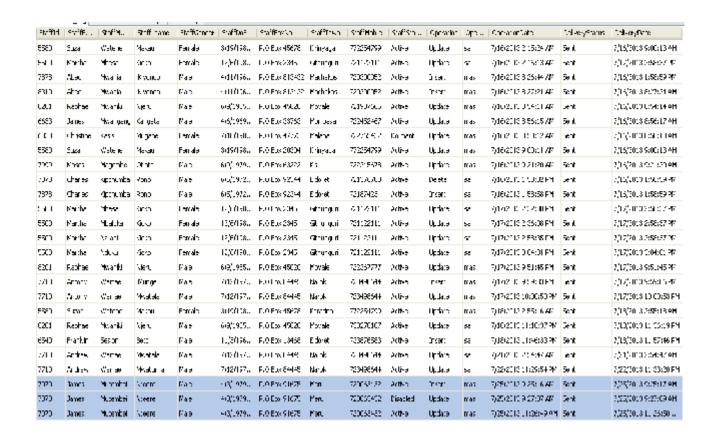
The scripts below illustrate the introduction of Staff or the dependant into the system, however it is the function of the responsible application that is meant to execute these DML commands and not to be done directly into the database.

```
insert into staff values (7070,'James', 'Mutembei','Nteere','Male','1979-04-
03','P.O Box 91675','Meru',0720063432,'Active');
insert into beneficiary values (400032,'Tanya','Nkatha', 'Nteere','2013-01-
12','Female',7070,'Daughter','Active');
```

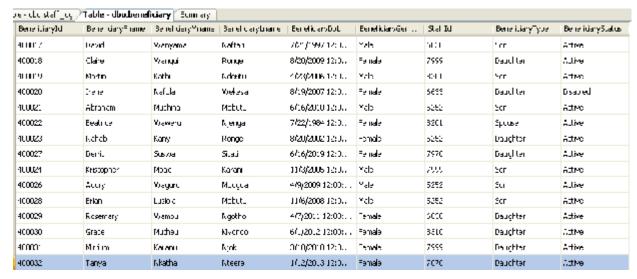


It is shown above that the record whose **StaffID** is **7070** has been posted into the kra_medical database, however the same record does not reflect in the synchronization server if the KMSA agent is not active (which is responsible for updating records from kra medical DB to kra central

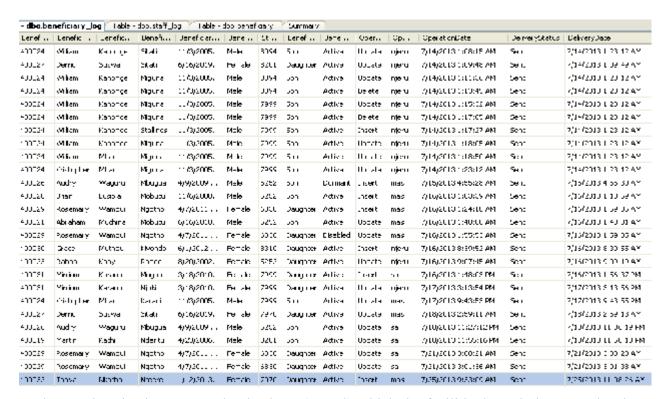
DB, which is queried by the facilities/Hospitals during the validation process). The first instance shows the record has been inserted into the DB then updates on the same record can be seen under the *Operation* column and the date when the operation was done is also shown as captured in the log table.



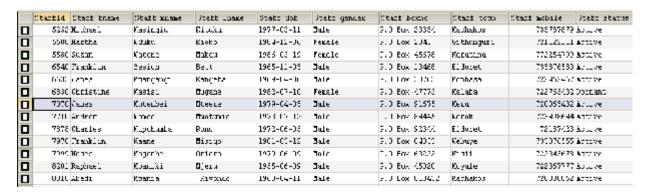
The record 400032 which is associated with staff 7070 (the KRA staff member) is shown below as being posted in the database and below the said table the corresponding entry as captured in the log stable showing transaction details as captured by the triggers.



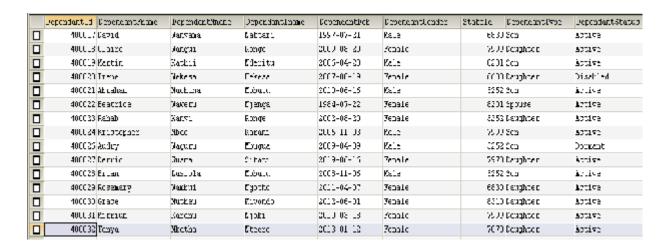
The log table entry below shows the type of operation done (INSERT) as well as the time it was done, on 7/25/2013 9.33.09 AM and the operator was *mas*, and that the record was sent or transferred to kra central database on 7/25/2013 11.08.26 AM.



At the synchronization server, the database (mysql) which the facilities/Hospitals access has been updated with both records (staff and beneficiary) which were captured in the Medical database system (based on MS SQL). The responsible agent that does this updates is the KMSA agent.



The Beneficiary record from the kra_medical database is now reflected as Dependant record in the Synchronization server, that houses kra central database as shown in the snap shot below.



5.23 Validating or Authenticating KRA Staff

Now that the staff/dependant has been introduced to Authenticating staff/dependants using the online service after KRA staff or beneficiary has gone to a facility/hospital to seek medical attention.

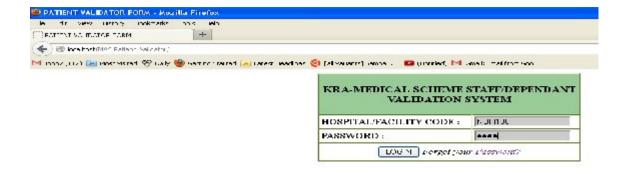
Inputs to the interface which the users at the facility/hospital Administration office

The screen shot below shows the interface validating to ensure that input details are supplied by the facility/Hospital users during staff/dependants validation process.



The Hospital/Facility name we choose to use is: *NBH100* (Nairobi Hospital), while the Password is managed at the KRA side, new passwords are generated automatically as defined in the KRA password rotation policy and relayed via email.

The required data has now been inserted into the capturing input boxes and the facility/Hospital user can now login.



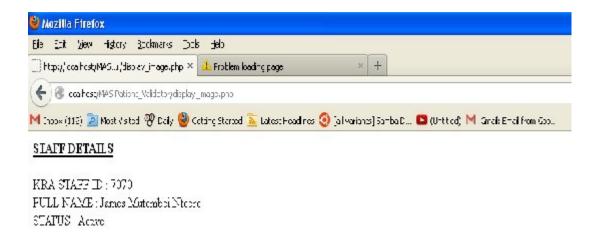
The facility/Hospital user has successfully logged in and the *Select Patient* option will determine the kind of patient being dealt with.



Validating the Staff ID: 7070 to see if he is an employee of KRA as well as the status of his account. (if eligible for treatment).



The querried details (if the system is accessed from Nairobi Hospital) of the staff member with ID 7070 is shown below.



5.24 Validating or Authenticating Dependant



The results of the above patient (dependant) being validated to know whether he/she is related to any staff member.



5.25 Sending of invoices from Facility/Hospital to KRA

Since the patient (i.e. the dependant 400032) has been validated and account status found to be Active then treatment process can commence and the following invoice is raised at Nairobi Hospital and the same is relayed to the Central Server (that hosts the invoice database) hosed at KRA.

a) Sample DML command to the Database that would be done by the Nairobi Hospital Medical System.

insert into billing values (347444,'OPR916545',34643.90,getdate(),'NotSent',",'N1020','Kenya Revenue Authority','7070','Staff','Nteere','James','Mutembei');

The screen shot below shows the SYNCA (Synchronization Agent) receiving a request message from NBH100A (Nairobi Hospital Agent)to update the invoice table (residing at the synchronization server) in KRA. After SYNCA has performed the request, it informs the requester (NBH100A) that the process has been performed successfully, which then updates the Voucher Status from Not Sent to Sent.

```
K38100A Polling for new records from Mairchi Bospital in : 2540 Seconds

847444 DPR316543 34543.5 MotSent 2013-C7-25 17:26:54.2 Kenya Revenue Authority 7070 Staff James Mteere Mutembei

->STMCA: K38100A3152.168.0.10:1059/JAD3,Sent the Querry : INSKRI INTO invoice (InvoiceMo_VoucherKO,Invoice_VoucherAncumt,FarmIityCo
K38100A Successfully Connected to Kna_Central Server...

GCB104A Polling for new records from Getrude's Hospital in : 2388 Seconds
```

b) Sample DML command to the Database that would be done by Getrude's Children Hospital Medical System.

insert into charges values

(494462,'GA083299',11452.25,getdate(),'NotSent',",'7070','400032','Tanya','Nkatha','Nteere','5050', 'Kenya Revenue Authority');

The screen shot below shows the SYNCA (Synchronization Agent) receiving a request message from GCH104A (Getrude's Children Hospital Agent) to update the invoice table (residing at the synchronization server) in KRA. After SYNCA has performed the request, it informs the requester (GCH104A) that the process has been performed successfully, which then updates the Invoice status from Not Sent to Sent.

```
WRHICLE Polling for new records from Estroic Hospital in : 2541 Seconds
CHICLE Polling for new records from Estroic Hospital in : 2000 Seconds
CCHICLE Polling for new records from Estroic Hospital in : 2558 Seconds
GCHICLE Polling for new records from Estroic Hospital in : 2558 Seconds
494668 GA081259 11452.25 2013-17-26 17:81:44.06 7070 400132 Mobile Tanya Masaka 5050 Kenya Bevarus Authority

->SSTIE: GTEICEA3052.158.0.10:1059/TACE.Second the Querry : INSERT CHTO invoice (InvoiceNo_ToucherCO, Invoice_ToucherEnding). FacilityTode_ResponsibleAgent_Invoice_ToucherEnding
GCHICLE Successfully Connected to King_Central Server...
GCHICLE Successfully Executed the request in the DE...
```

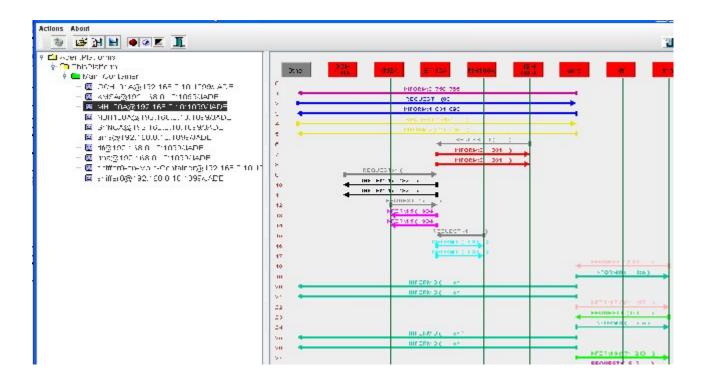
 a) Sample DML command to the Database that would be done by the Matter Hospital Medical System.

insert into invoice values

('k08228','12834.80',getdate(),'NotSent',",'871476','M3009','KRA','7070','400032','Tanya','Nkatha',' Nteere');

The screen shot below shows the SYNCA (Synchronization Agent) receiving a request message from MH100A (Matter Hospital Agent) to update the invoice table (residing at the synchronization server) in KRA. After SYNCA has performed the request, it informs the requester (MH100A) that the process has been performed successfully, which then updates the Invoice status from Not Sent to Delivered.

5.26 System Agents captured using the Sniffer Agent.



5.27 Shutting down agent platform and agent deregistration

```
MH100A Polling for new records from Matter Hospital in: 2000 Seconds GCH104A Polling for new records from Getrude's Hospital in: 2000 Seconds GCH104A Polling for new records from Getrude's Hospital in: 2888 Seconds GCH104A Polling for new records from Getrude's Hospital in: 2888 Seconds GCH104A-Aqent GCH104A@192.168.U.1U:1U99/JADK Terminating.

Jul 26, 2013 7:16:23 PM jade.core.messaging.MessageManager shutdown TNFO: MessageManager shutting down
Jul 26, 2013 7:16:23 PM jade.core.Duntime$1 run
INFO: JADE is closing down now.

MH100A Agent MH100A@192.160.0.10:1099/JADE Terminating.

NBH100A-Agent NBH100A@192.168.0.10.1099/JADE Terminating.

KSMA-Agent KMSA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE Terminating.

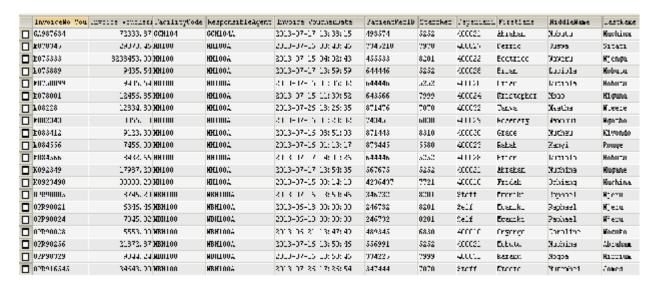
SYNUA-aqent SYNUA@192.168.U.1U:1U99/JADK Terminating.

BUILD SUCCESSFUL (total time: 127 minutes 30 seconds)
```

The responsible agents will find the invoices, convert/format into the destination type and then transmit bounded by the polling frequency. Three records are shown below as having been delivered successfully for the staff member 7070 and his dependant 400032. The staff was treated at Nairobi hospital while the dependant 400032 was treated at Getrude's (GCH104) and later at Matter Hospital (MH100), with other relevant invoice details as shown.



Screen shot below shows all the invoices combined as they are received from various Facilities/Hospitals, including the three selected above for Staff 7070.



5.3 System access and Usage

The various interfaces or mechanisms used to access the KRAMAN are explained below;

5.31 The login interface



5.32 CPM (Central Parameter Management) interface

The interface below is used to set the parameters which the agents need to use while interacting with the other agents;

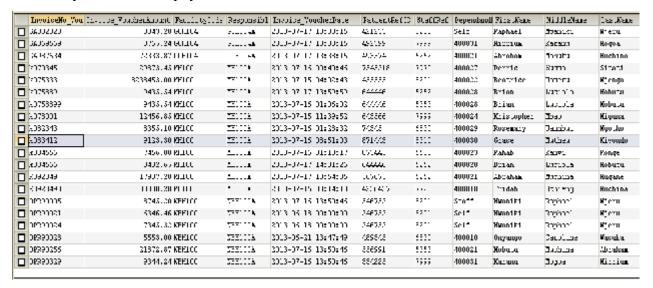


5.33 User Management interface.

The administrator of the system will need an interface for adding the authorised Facilities as well as the users who may login into the system.

5.4 Sample output screen shots

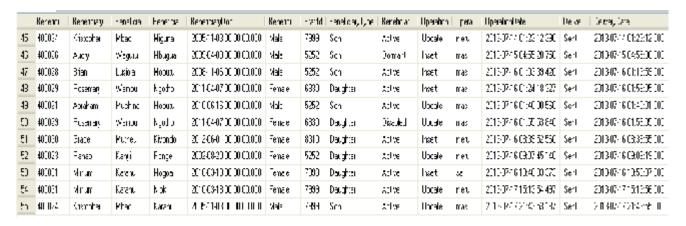
The screen shot below shows a collection of all invoices collected from the facilities. In the manual system this output can only be realised after the invoices have been captured into the KRA Medical system from the physical invoices.



The screen shot below shows the transaction activities that have been carried out on the staff table as captured by the triggers. This is the mechanism used to know what data has changed in the relevant table of the KRA Medical system.

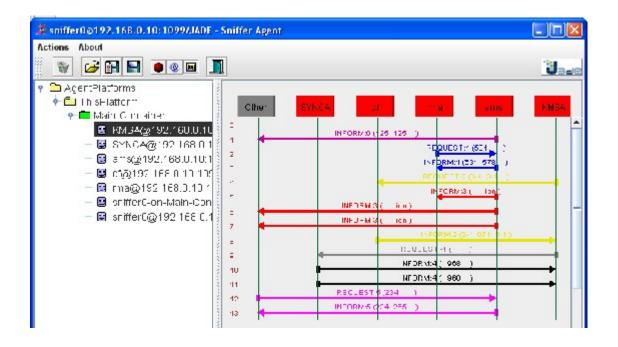


The screen shot below shows the captured operations that have been carried out on the Beneficiary table of the KRA Medical System.



5.5 KRAMAS System Monitoring

The following agent sniffer shows interaction between two agents, the KMSA and SYNCA. REQUEST and INFORM FIPA ACL messages are seen to be exchanged.



5.6 User friendly Crystal Report Outputs

The following screen short highlights a formatted report indicating the patients treated per certain facility or hospital. The consumer of this report would be the KRA medical system administrators who to have a global picture of what liabilities or expected bills to be settled before the physical invoices are received.

			KRAMASII	NVOICES	REPORT	PER FAC	LITY				
Invoice VoucherNO	Invoice Amount	Facility Code	Responsible Agent	Invoice Voucho		Patient Refi0	Statt Ref	Depend andRef	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
GCH104	Getrude Child	dren Hospital									
GAC02825	8 843 20	GCH104	GCH104A	7/17/2013	1:38:15FM	421233	E201	Self	Raphael	Mwaniki	Njeru
GAC69656	0 766 24	GCH104	GCH1E4A	7/17/2013	1:38:16FM	492399	7999	400001	Mirrium	Karanu	Magaa
G/C6957E	14 843 00	GCH104	GCH1C4A	8/5/2013	5.05.08PM	492456	E201	400017	Martin	Kathi	Nderitu
GA083299	11 452 25	GCH104	GCH104A	7/26/2013	5:51:44FM	494462	7070	400032	Tanya	Nkatha	hiteere
GAS87634	72 333 87	3CH104	GCH1E4A	7/17/2013	1.38.15≡M	493574	£252	400021	Apraham	Mubulu	Muchina
MH100	Mater Hospita	n1									
kC8367E	12 400 85	MH100	MH103A	8/5/2013	4.53.34PM	455533	8201	400022	Beatrice	Waweru	Njenga
kC84558	7 456 00	MH100	MH100A	7/16/2013	1:13:17AM	873445	5580	400023	Rahab	Kanyi	Ronge
kC84556	8 432.66	MH100	MH100A	7/17/2013	2.01.26⊨M	644446	6262	400028	Brian	Luciola	Mubulu
KD92349	17 987 20	MH100	MH103A	7/17/2013	∴:54:35∏M	567E75	5252	400021	Agraham	Muchina	Mugane
KD923498	88 888 20	MH100	MH100A	7/16/2013	3:14:13AM	4236437	7721	400010	Fridah	Ochieng	Muchina
kC83412	9 123 30	MH100	MH100A	7/16/2013	8.51.03AM	871443	E310	400030	Grape	Mutheu	Kivurido
kC82343	8.355.10	MH100	MH103A	7/16/2013	:28:32AM	74345	E830	400029	Rosemary	Wamnbul	Ngotho

NBH100	Nairobi Hosp	ital								
0.9590379	9,344,24	\=H100	MEHIJOA	7/16/2013 1.50 45PM	384395	7988	400031	≼ mar i	Mugur	Minima
Снаяция	20,872.87	N=####	N==1 I /s	7/16/3013 1 N 48PM	forkk1	£950	4 1 11/21	McLih	Mind ha	Whithairi
C 450078	5 553.00	1±H100	Ne=1JUA	3/21/2013 1/47/23PM	483545	68 <i>3</i> C	4.JU01U	Unyango	Caroline	Wacuka
C 3500E4	7 345.32	7=HI00	Ne=1JUA	3/18/2013 12 JU:0JAM	243762	E2J1	1le3	Mwar ki	Rachae	Njeru
0.7790001	3 343,43	VEH100	NE-100A	3/18/2013 12:00:00AM	243792	8201	Self	Mwan ki	Rachae	Njeru
07750005	3 775.20	\EH100	NE-100A	7/16/2013 LISC / 3PM	3/3782	8201	Staff	Mwan ki	Rachae	Njeru
CFR815015	34 610.90	NO 1100	NO 100A	7/20/2010 IC 36 64PM	C17411	7070	Staff	Vteera	Mutembai	James

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION

6.1 Results and output

A multi agent approach in data integration was successfully implemented and the prototype demo done. The user acceptance was done at KRA medical section, where the users of were able to view the treatment records/invoices even before the hard copy versions arrived for vetting and subsequent capturing into the system. The system has reduced the risks of paying duplicate invoices.

KRAMAS has enabled data sharing between the accredited medical service providers and KRA. This integration prototype is also modular in that it is easier to add new agents which will represent new facilities or hospitals. Since the prototype is a data integration model, another output of most importance is to ensure consistent invoice and staff/beneficiary databases.

6.2 Research Objectives Achievement

These have been met in the following ways:

Project objective: To design, implement and evaluate an integrated data model between KRA medical system and its medical service providers. This has been achieved using the prototype as demonstrated.

System objectives:

- a) To enable the service providers authenticate or identify all KRA members of staff or beneficiary by querying an online service. This has been achieved whereby it was possible to introduce a member of staff or beneficiary into the KRA medical systems and then the medical service providers were able to check the same while in the comfort of their premises via an online service i.e. before according treatment or consultation services to a patient who claims to be associated with KRA.
- b) The KRA medical system should be notified by service provider systems about the invoices as they are generated. The invoices being generated by the Medical service providers to KRA medical system contain treatment information such as date of treatment, name of facility, amount due, invoice date and the incurred cost among other details(See appendices for sample). With this data it was therefore possible to know the number of patients that have been treated per day and from which facility.
- c) *To develop, evaluate and test the proposed model.* The test criteria and results have included, refer to the testing and Validation section for more details.

6.3 Relationship to previous work

Data integration has previously been done using the following mechanisms:

- a) *Mobile agents* that move from data repository to another, where the collector agents accumulated data collected along the itinerary.
- b) *Replication mechanisms* This is where the schemas are similar between the source and destination data source. It could not work in our case because the systems are diverse and owned by private entities.
- c) *Middleware integration*, this include SOA and web services, but this method could not be used since we are tackling integration at the data source level and not at the application level where the above are characterised.

6.4 Agent based integration value to an organization

There is *availability of timely information* which is reliable and hence could be used for decision making both at the facility level and also at KRA. Also The model provides *a data warehouse* which KRA medical section decision makers could consult at any time using a client applications or a database access tool such as toad or crystal reports. Lastly the *risk of paying duplicate invoices is reduced* since the status of each invoice can be tracked from the time it is generated at the facility to the time its paid/honoured at KRA.

6.5 Major findings & Research Contribution

The research work has displayed the complexities exhibited in the integration of heterogeneous legacy systems and how they can be solved using database triggers and JADE agents while working at the data source level. The agents must be kept active and should start automatically when the hosting system starts. It was noted that opening say the *kra_medical* database objects like beneficiary or staff tables and editing a certain record, resulted to lost updates because the triggers did not fire to capture the updates meaning the agents did not participate in the process hence *kra_central* database remained inconsistent with the *kra_medical* database.

However if the prototype is adopted, this model would assist the accredited medical service providers in authenticating staff and dependants from KRA and on the other side there would be better planning and decision making process at KRA.

6.6 Recommendation to future researchers

✓ A mechanism to prevent lost updates between *kra_medical* and *kra_central* databases should be enforced. A simple work around to this vulnerability can be achieved by routine

- synchronization of the participating databases at pre defined times of the day so that the two ends remain consistent.
- ✓ SMS alerting mechanism should be included such when the Authority receives updates that a staff or dependant has been treated, then similar message should be sent to the patient or guardian as information.
- ✓ The password management process can be implemented in such a way that the users at the hospitals/facilities can be managing their own passwords guided by the set well defined policies and guidelines.
- ✓ The validation process should include the pictures of the staff or beneficiary in addition to the medical or staffID card.

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APPENDICIES

APF	PENDIX 1: KRAMAS UAT QUESTIONAIRE		Γ	ate	•••••	•••••	•••••							
Rese	Researcher: Name: Raphael Njeru													
Org	Organization from: Kenya Revenue Authority													
Tar	Target Organization(s): Selected Facilities/hospitals that KRA has Medical Services provision													
cont	ract for its employees and dependants.													
Pur	pose: As part of my academic requirement for attain	ing an	MSc i	n Com	puter S	Science	at the							
Univ	versity of Nairobi, I have proposed a framework	for data	integ	gration	betwe	en KR	A and							
med	ical service providers. Therefore I wish to collect us	ser view	s rega	arding t	he pro	posed	system							
and	the current scenario on the ground.													
Sect	ion A													
2. W 3. Se 18-2	hat is your role? (Cancel out) Doctor/Nurse/Admin/lelect your age bracket from the scale below: [4[] 25-32[] 33-37[] 38-41[] 45	Data cle	erk 52	-54 []	> 5	55 []								
Plea	se complete the following questionnaire with specific	regard	to the	above	purpo	se, by p	olacing							
		Strongly agree	Agree	Uncertain/ not applicable	Disagree	Strongly disagr								
1.	Are you are able to authenticate/validate accurately I staff/dependants before treatment?													
2.	Do you receive timely and accurate staff/dependant upofrom KRA medical section													
3.	A soft copy invoice and other bills incurred by pat affiliated to KRA should be sent in real/near real time													
4.	Introduction of an integrated platform for data sharing improve your work													
a CI	ROSS $\{X\}$ in the appropriate box.													

APPEDIX 2 : SAMPLE CODE (Synchronization Agent- SYNCA)

```
package KRAMED;
import jade.content.*;
import jade.content.lang.*;
import jade.content.lang.sl.*;
import jade.content.onto.basic.*;
import jade.util.leap.*;
import jade.core.Agent:
import jade.core.AID;
import jade.lang.acl.ACLMessage;
import java.sql.DriverManager;
import java.sql.Connection;
import java.sql.ResultSet;
import java.sql.Statement;
import jade.domain.*;
import jade.core.behaviours.CyclicBehaviour;
import jade.domain.FIPAAgentManagement.DFAgentDescription;
import jade.domain.FIPAAgentManagement.ServiceDescription;
public class SYNCA extends Agent
  AID AA = new AID("AA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE", AID.ISGUID);
  AID SYNCA = new AID("SYNCA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE", AID.ISGUID);
  AID MH100A = new AID("MH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE", AID.ISGUID);
  AID KMSA = new AID("KMSA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE", AID.ISGUID);
  AID NBH100A = new AID("NBH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE",AID.ISGUID);
  AID GCH104A = new AID("GCH104A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE", AID.ISGUID);
  protected void setup()
    DFAgentDescription dfd= new DFAgentDescription();
    dfd.setName(getAID());
    ServiceDescription sd =new ServiceDescription();
    sd.setType("KRA_MAS");
    sd.setName(getName());
    dfd.addServices(sd);
     try
       DFService.register(this, dfd);
       catch (FIPAException e)
       System.err.println(getLocalName()+"Registration with DF Failure Reason:"+ e.getMessage());
       doDelete();
         System.out.println("SYNCA Started...."+this.getLocalName());
         addBehaviour(new ReceiveTreatmentRecords());
  //implementation of ReceiveTreatmentRecords()
    protected void takeDown() {
                // Deregister from the yellow pages
                try {
                        DFService.deregister(this);
                catch (FIPAException fe) {
                        fe.printStackTrace();
                }// Printout a dismissal message
                System.out.println("SYNCA-agent "+getAID().getName()+" Terminating.");
```

```
private class ReceiveTreatmentRecords extends CyclicBehaviour
     //define variables
       public void action()
          ACLMessage msg = myAgent.receive();
             if (msg != null) //if there is a message(s)
                 switch (msg.getSender().getName())
                    case "KMSA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                    String SqlFromKMSA = msg.getContent();
                      System.out.println( "\n->" + myAgent.getLocalName() + ": "+ msg.getSender().getName()+
",Sent the Querry:" + SqlFromKMSA);
                     Connection conn = null;
                     String url = "jdbc:mysql://192.168.0.10:3306/";
                     String dbName = "kra central";
                     String driver = "com.mysql.jdbc.Driver";
                     String username = "root";
                     String password = "mysql";
                     try
                       Class.forName(driver).newInstance();
                       conn = DriverManager.getConnection(url+dbName,username,password);
                       Statement smt = conn.createStatement();
                      // ResultSet rst=smt.executeQuery(InsertQuerry);
                       System.out.println("KMSA Successfully Connected to Kra Central Server...");
                       //get the string message and perform the instruction on the DB as requested
                       smt.executeUpdate(SqlFromKMSA);
                       System.out.println("KMSA Successfully Executed the request in the DB...");
                       catch (Exception e){e.printStackTrace();}
                  //to reply to the sender
                  ACLMessage reply = msg.createReply();
                  reply.setPerformative(ACLMessage.INFORM);
                  reply.setContent("Record updates sent to the DB...");
                  reply.addReceiver(msg.getSender() );
                  send(reply);
                 break;
                 }//end case for "KMSA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                 case "MH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE": //From Matter Hospital
                      String SqlFromMH100A = msg.getContent();
                      System.out.println( "\n->" + myAgent.getLocalName() + ": "+ msg.getSender().getName()+
",Sent the Querry:" + SqlFromMH100A);
                     Connection conn = null;
                     String url = "jdbc:mysql://192.168.0.10:3306/";
                     String dbName = "kra central";
```

```
String driver = "com.mysql.jdbc.Driver";
                     String username = "root";
                     String password = "mysql";
                     try
                       Class.forName(driver).newInstance();
                       conn = DriverManager.getConnection(url+dbName,username,password);
                       Statement smt = conn.createStatement();
                       // ResultSet rst=smt.executeQuery(InsertQuerry);
                       System.out.println("MH100A Successfully Connected to Kra Central Server...");
                       //get the string message and perform the instruction on the DB as requested
                       smt.executeUpdate(SqlFromMH100A);
                       System.out.println("MH100A Successfully Updated the Invoice from Matter Hospital...");
                        catch (Exception e){e.printStackTrace();}
                  //to reply to the sender
                  ACLMessage reply = msg.createReply();
                  reply.setPerformative(ACLMessage.INFORM);
                  reply.setContent("Record updates sent to the DB...");
                  reply.addReceiver(msg.getSender() );
                  send(reply);
                  break:
                 }//end case for "KMSA@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                  case "NBH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                    String SqlFromNBH100A = msg.getContent();
                      System.out.println( "\n->" + myAgent.getLocalName() + ": "+ msg.getSender().getName()+
",Sent the Querry:" + SqlFromNBH100A);
                     Connection conn = null;
                     String url = "jdbc:mysql://192.168.0.10:3306/";
                     String dbName = "kra central";
                     String driver = "com.mysql.jdbc.Driver";
                     String username = "root";
                     String password = "mysql";
                     try
                       Class.forName(driver).newInstance();
                       conn = DriverManager.getConnection(url+dbName,username,password);
                       Statement smt = conn.createStatement();
                       // ResultSet rst=smt.executeQuery(InsertQuerry);
                       System.out.println("NBH100A Successfully Connected to Kra_Central Server...");
                       //get the string message and perform the instruction on the DB as requested
                       smt.executeUpdate(SqlFromNBH100A);
                       System.out.println("NBH100A Successfully Executed the request in the DB...");
                       //Update this Record to Sent status from Pending if it is an INSERT,
                       //Else just update it to reflect changes
                        catch (Exception e){e.printStackTrace();}
                  //to reply to the sender
```

```
ACLMessage reply = msg.createReply();
                  reply.setPerformative(ACLMessage.INFORM);
                  reply.setContent("Record updates sent to the DB...");
                  reply.addReceiver(msg.getSender() );
                  send(reply);
                 break;
                 }//end case for "NBH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                    case "GCH104A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
                      String SqlFromGCH104A = msg.getContent();
                      System.out.println( "\n->" + myAgent.getLocalName() + ": "+ msg.getSender().getName()+
",Sent the Querry:" + SqlFromGCH104A);
                     Connection conn = null;
                     String url = "jdbc:mysql://192.168.0.10:3306/";
                     String dbName = "kra central";
                     String driver = "com.mysql.jdbc.Driver";
                     String username = "root";
                     String password = "mysql";
                     try
                       Class.forName(driver).newInstance();
                       conn = DriverManager.getConnection(url+dbName,username,password);
                       Statement smt = conn.createStatement();
                      // ResultSet rst=smt.executeQuery(InsertQuerry);
                       System.out.println("GCH104A Successfully Connected to Kra Central Server...");
                       //get the string message and perform the instruction on the DB as requested
                       smt.executeUpdate(SqlFromGCH104A);
                       System.out.println("GCH104A Successfully Executed the request in the DB...");
                       catch (Exception e){e.printStackTrace();}
                  //to reply to the sender
                  ACLMessage reply = msg.createReply();
                  reply.setPerformative(ACLMessage.INFORM);
                  reply.setContent("Record updates sent to the DB...");
                  reply.addReceiver(msg.getSender() );
                  send(reply);
                 break;
                 }//end case for "NBH100A@192.168.0.10:1099/JADE":
               }//End of switch
               else {block();}
 }// End of class definition
```