

A Public Comment submitted to CT Health Information Technology Advisory Council Meeting on Sept 19th, 2019

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I am in the healthcare information technology (HIT) sector for economic development in Connecticut. I work with small startups and major corporations, hospitals, non-profits, and academic institutions (UConn & Yale Universities). I am part of the State Innovation Model (SIM) program in the Practice Transformation Task Force (PTTF).

HIT Ecosystem

High tech HIT innovations are occurring with small startup entrepreneurs that are within academic settings. These cutting-edge technologies target far-sighted horizons using platforms² and ecosystems³. Technologies include Big Data, Advanced analytics, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Cloud computing, and more. The state has large development projects like the Health Information Exchange (HIE), APCD (Claims database), and CDAS (Analytics). I have found that the external entities – organizations large and small startups, have a need to get their bearings in the state's HIT ecosystem. I would like to briefly outline a few topics below that will help promote the HIT ecosystem.

Availability of systems documentation

Technical documentation of HIE, APCD, and CDAS systems should be made readily available. Document repositories with authenticated access such as GitHub⁴ can be beneficial. Documents showing architectures, schemas, systems requirements, and technical diagrams can provide deep insights. An example in the use of GitHub was displayed in the recent UConn MedRec Hackathon.

Data quality and procedures - DataOps⁵

Healthcare analytics demands not only data quality but a process-oriented methodology that is automated for timely delivery. Data security and data ownership⁶ are also of paramount importance.

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² Bringing the Power of Platforms to Health Care (via Harvard Business Review)
<https://hbr.org/2016/11/bringing-the-power-of-platforms-to-health-care>

³ Insurance beyond digital: The rise of ecosystems and platforms (via McKinsey)
<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/financial-services/our-insights/insurance-beyond-digital-the-rise-of-ecosystems-and-platforms>

⁴ GitHub repository - Healthcare topics
<https://github.com/topics/healthcare>

⁵ 3 reasons why DataOps is essential for big data success (via IBM)
<https://www.ibmbigdatahub.com/blog/3-reasons-why-dataops-essential-big-data-success>

⁶ Hugo Health - Data ownership platform
<https://hugo.health/>

Healthcare startups need data access be secured and made available, preferably in real-time. This is crucial in AI applications that require pristine datasets. DataOps can provide best practices and procedures to meet demands and do it uniformly, across participating organizations in the ecosystem.

HIT Platforms and Ecosystem – Application Program Interface (API)

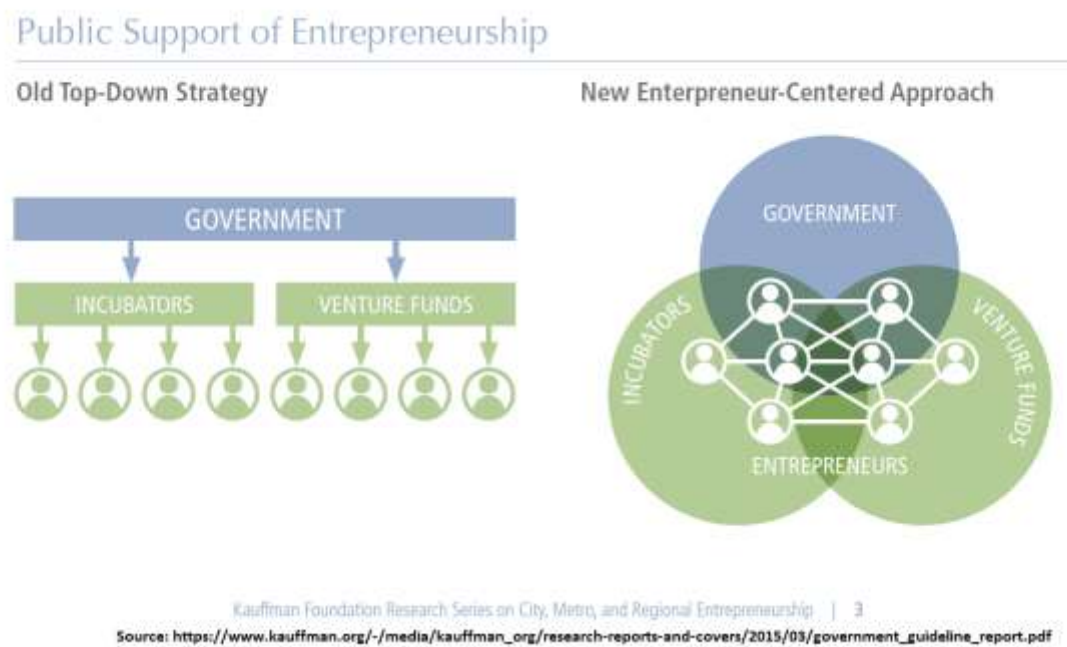
Large scale applications that perform computations and generate reports utilize a ‘platform’ architecture to address complexity and flexibility for changes and growth. APIs provide the mechanisms to achieve the flexibility. Programmatic access to datasets behind reports provide versatility in analytics and to integrate it with other datasets. An example of APIs FHIR and HL7 was shown in the recent UConn MedRec Hackathon.

Growing HIT Ecosystem with entrepreneurship

Growing HIT ecosystem with startup entrepreneurship can be done by via programs and activities that bring technologists and clinicians together to explore innovation (e.g., Yale Healthcare Hackathon). The growth of startups in the cluster will be dependent upon a collaborative HIT ecosystem.

Thank you.

Figure - Public Support of Entrepreneurship⁷



⁷ Guidelines for Local and State Governments to Promote Entrepreneurship (Kauffman Foundation, March 2015) <https://www.kauffman.org/what-we-do/research/city-metro-and-regional-entrepreneurship/guidelines-for-local-and-state-governments-to-promote-entrepreneurship>