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Definitions: Core Issue of eHealth Initiatives

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  - Healthcare Providers
  - Payers
  - Health Industry Vendors
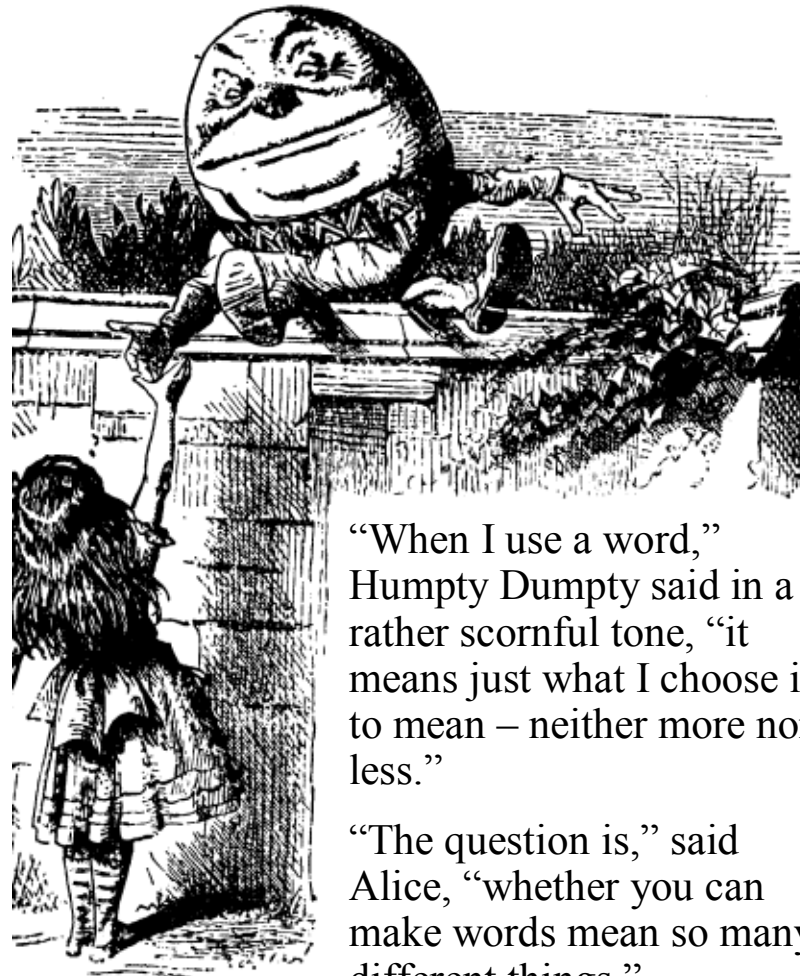 - Technology Vendors

IDC Insights' Research
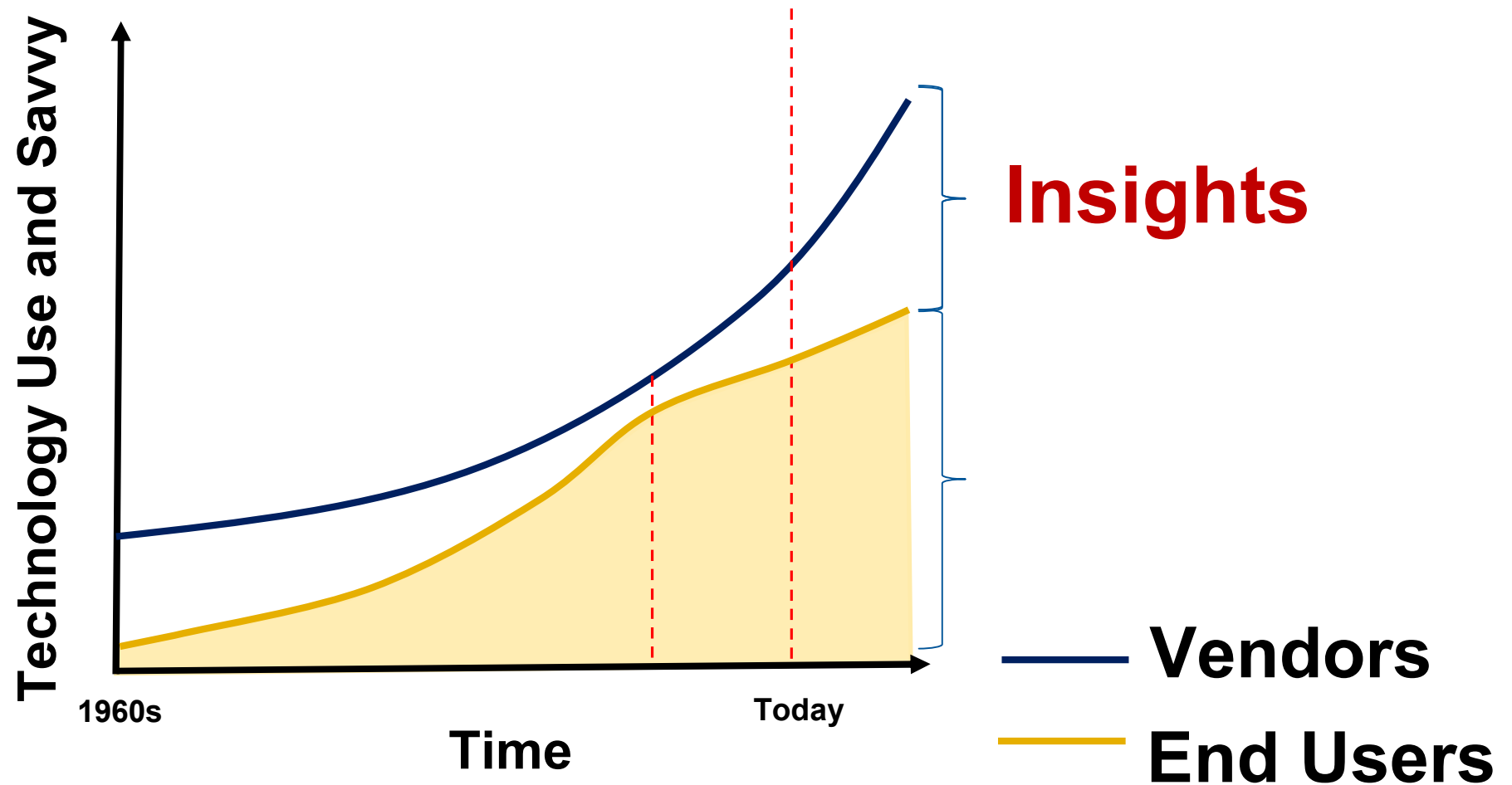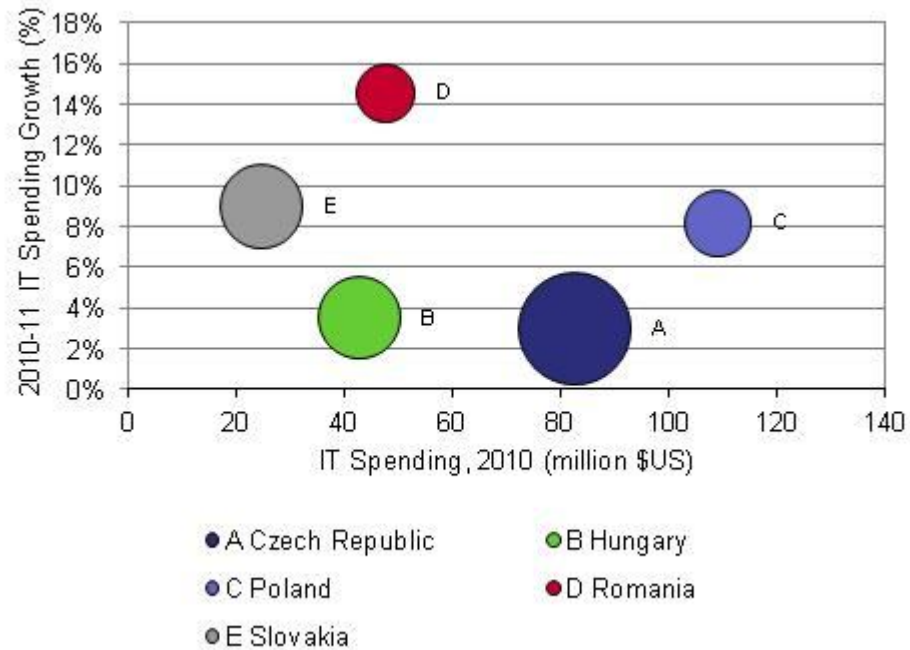
Definitions

- Public Health

- eHealth

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said in a rather scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean – neither more nor less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you can make words mean so many different things."

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What is ehealth?

Is it spending money on IT?

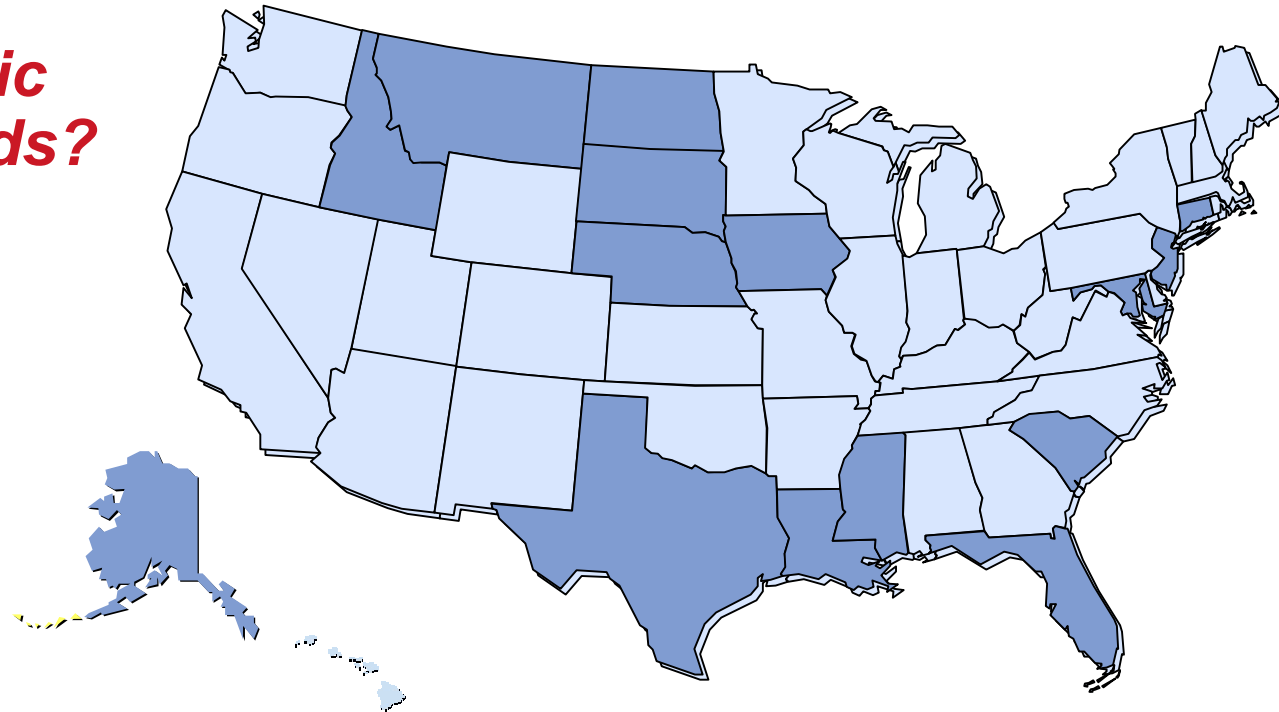**Healthcare Provider IT Spending in CEE, 2010**

Source: IDC, 2011

Note: Bubble size is proportional to healthcare provider IT spending per capita; IT spending includes spending on information technology hardware, software, and services.

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What is ehealth?

Is it electronic health records?

$1.2 billion in grants!

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# What is ehealth?

Source	Definition
World Health Organization	eHealth is the transfer of health resources and healthcare by electronic means.
European Commission-DG Information Society and Media	eHealth means the use of modern information and communication technologies (ICT) in support of health and health-related fields to meet needs of citizens, patients, healthcare professionals, healthcare providers, and policy makers.
Research Houses	In 1999 ehealth was used to refer to healthcare organization's web presence, now it is often used to refer to the act of a consumer/citizen going online to obtain health information.

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What is ehealth?

Source	Definition
CIO of a large university hospital in Central and Eastern Europe	"eHealth means mobile health, the ability to monitor patients in their homes."
IT Director at a mid-sized research-focused hospital in Central and Eastern Europe	"I suppose it can mean the extension of rational use of computers in everyday life into healthcare."
IT Director at a mid-sized hospital in Central and Eastern Europe	"eHealth is a political term, it means nothing."
Citizen	"I don't want people knowing when I go and see a doctor."

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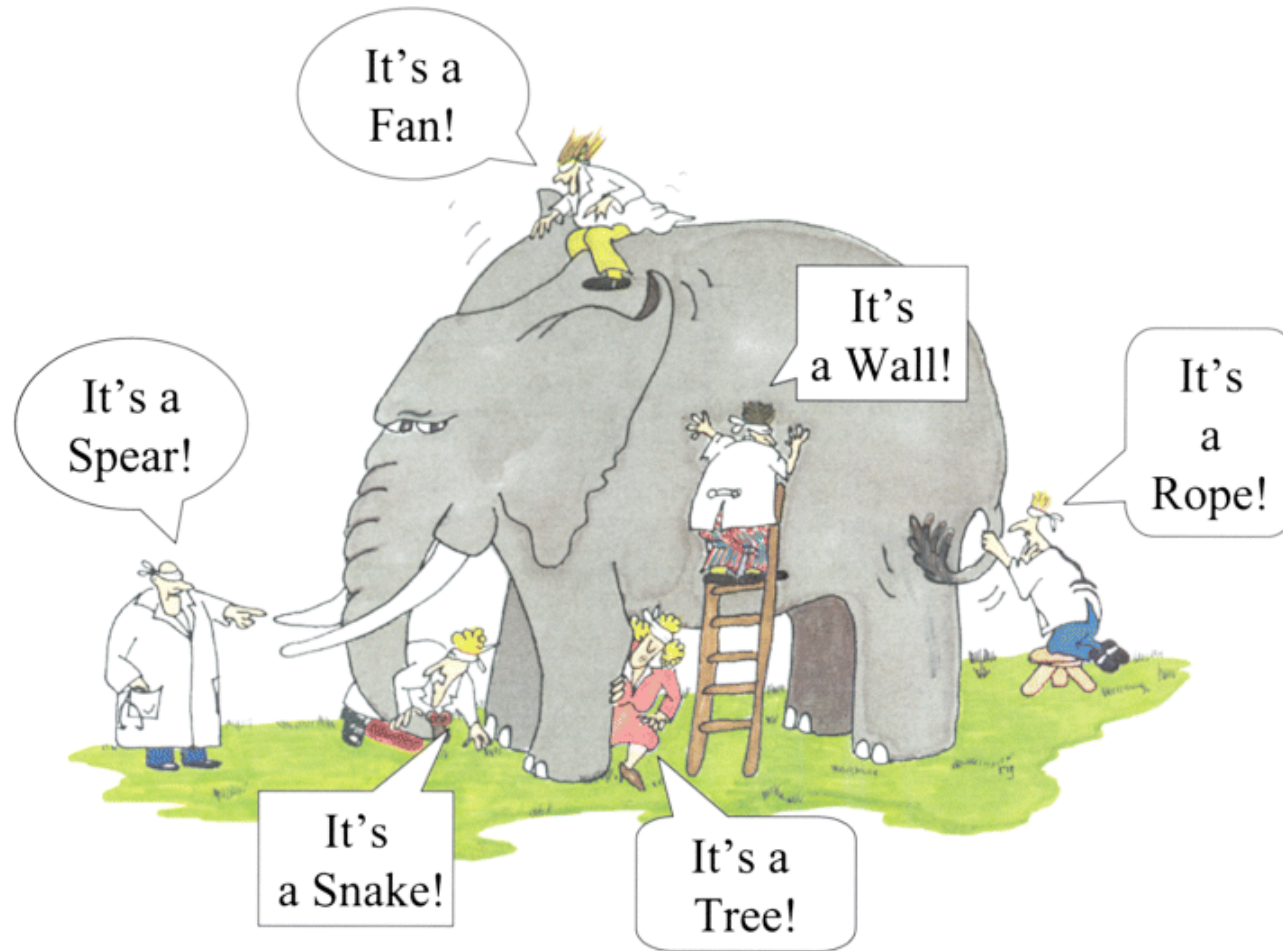
eHealth?

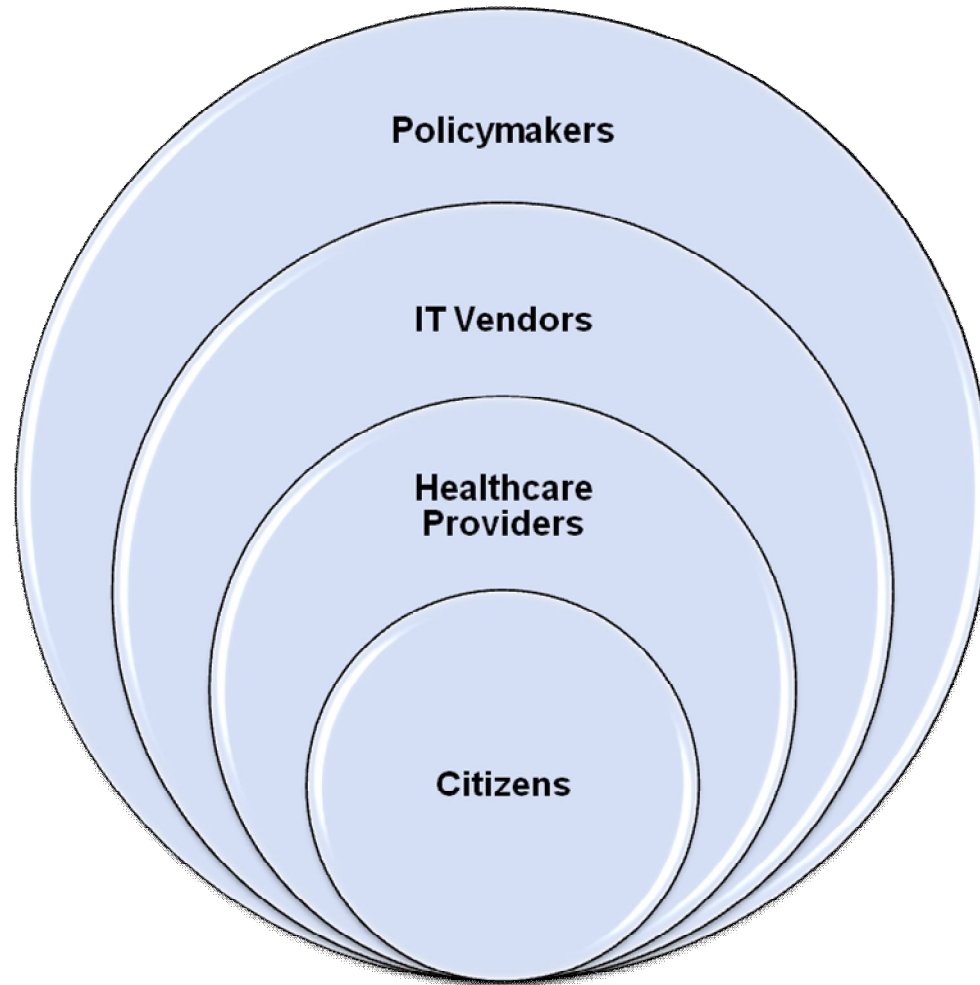

The blind men and the elephant. Poem by John Godfrey Saxe (Cartoon originally copyrighted by the authors; G. Renee Guzlas, artist).

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When do ehealth initiatives work?

	Market	
Definition	**Same**	**Different**
Same	**Works!**	**Might work** ...but will need product development
Different	**Can work** ...but will need market development	**?**

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Market Development

Policymakers
IT Vendors
Healthcare Providers
Citizens

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Can ehealth help the Slovak healthcare system?

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Yes!

- Improved **coordination of care**

- Increased sharing of health information has the potential to elevate the **quality of care** for all

- Electronic access to their own health and wellness information can **motivate consumers** to improve their health and well-being

- Improved **community health** through the use of aggregated health data for research, public health, emergency preparedness and quality improvement efforts

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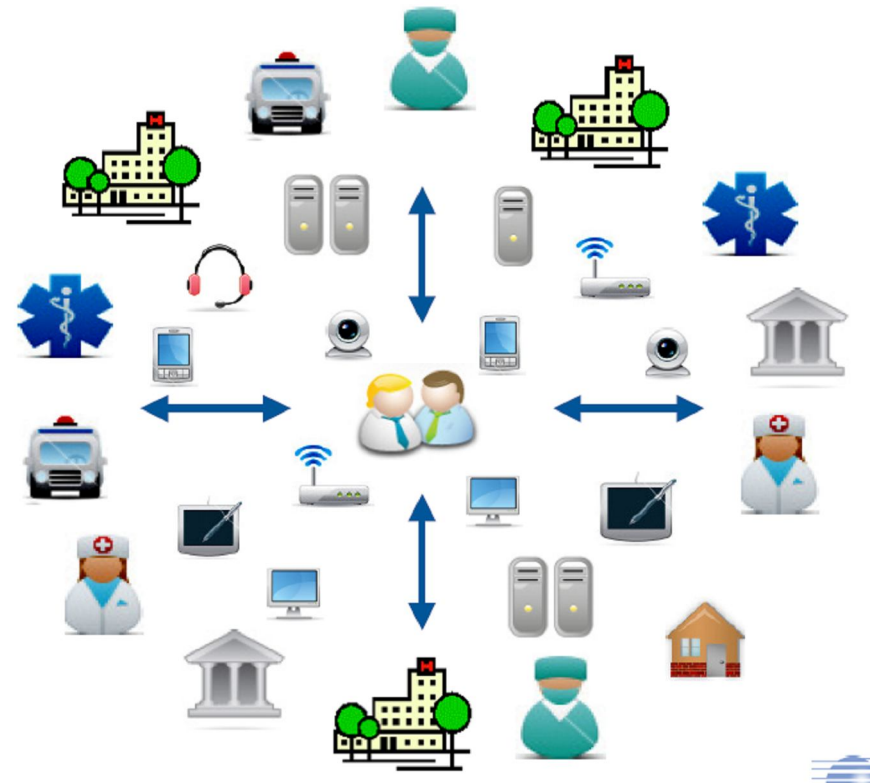
…__but__,

- You have to know __what you are talking about__ to know

- where you are going.

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Questions?

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