

Multi-Level Healthcare Information Modeling  
STATEMENT of PRINCIPLES

July 7, 2010

Drafted by: Timothy W. Cook

Published 2010-07-07



Approved by the MLHIM Co-Founders:

Luciana Tricai Cavalini

Timothy W. Cook

Roger Erens

Sergio M. Friere

This statement of principles has been published by the founders of the Multi-Level Healthcare Information Modeling project on the date shown in the footer of this document. We together believe that these principles must be applied to all knowledge inside and outside of healthcare. Our primary mission is to promote the open publishing of knowledge that applies to all human beings, through the following principles:

## 1. Diversity

Platitudes are cheap. We've all heard services say they're committed to "diversity" and "tolerance" without ever getting specific, so here's our stance on it:

### **We welcome you**

We welcome people of any gender identity or expression, race, ethnicity, size, nationality, sexual orientation, ability level, neurotype, religion, elder status, family structure, culture, subculture, and political opinion. We welcome activists, artists, bloggers, crafters, dilettantes, musicians, photographers, readers, writers, ordinary people, extraordinary people, and everyone in between. We welcome people who want to change the world, people who want to keep in touch with friends, people who want to make great art, and people who just need a break after work. We welcome fans, geeks, nerds, and pixel-stained technopeasant wretches. (We welcome Internet beginners who aren't sure what any of those terms refer to.) We welcome you no matter if the Internet was a household word by the time you started secondary school or whether you were already retired by the time the World Wide Web was invented.

### **We welcome you**

You may wear a baby sling, hijab, a kippah, leather, piercings, a pentacle, a political badge, a rainbow, a rosary, tattoos, or something we can only dream of. You may carry a guitar or knitting needles or a sketchbook. Conservative or liberal, libertarian or socialist — we believe it’s possible for people of all viewpoints and persuasions to come together and learn from each other. We believe in the broad spectrum of human experience. We believe that amazing things come when people from different worlds and world-views approach each other to create a conversation.

### **We get excited about creativity —**

From pro to amateur, from novels to haiku, from the artist who’s been doing this for decades to the person who just picked up a sketchbook last week. We support maximum freedom of creative expression, within the few restrictions we need to keep the service viable for other users. We are serious about knowing and protecting your rights when it comes to free expression and privacy. We will never put a limit on your creativity just because it makes someone uncomfortable — even if that someone is us.

We think accessibility for people with disabilities is a priority, not an afterthought. We think neurodiversity is a feature, not a bug. We believe in being inclusive, welcoming, and supportive of anyone who comes to us with good faith and the desire to build a community.

We have enough experience to know that we won’t get any of this perfect on the first try. But we have enough hope, energy, and idealism to want to learn things we don’t know now. We may not be able to satisfy everyone, but we can certainly work to avoid offending anyone. And we promise that if we get it wrong, we’ll listen carefully and respectfully to you when you point it out to us, and we’ll do our best to make good on our mistakes.

We think our technical experience is important, but we think our community experience is more important. We know what goes wrong when individuals, groups and companies say one thing and do another, or when they refuse to say anything at all. We believe that keeping our operations transparent is just as important as keeping our servers stable.

We intend to use the services and artifacts we’re creating, and we built them because we wanted them ourselves. We won’t treat people as second-class undesireables because they’re non-mainstream or might frighten advertisers. We don’t have advertisers to frighten. To us, you’re not eyeballs. You’re not pageviews. You’re not demographic groups. You’re free people.

Come dream with us<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>*The only changes that were made from the original is; the portion concerning the location of servers and governing laws was deleted, and the portion regarding a specific company perspective was rewritten. Please read the original at <http://www.dreamwidth.org/legal/diversity.bml>*

## 2. Governing Laws

We believe that the ultimate governing law is the moral law of mankind. In compliance with the Diversity statement above. This idea comes down to two specifics. One that we should always strive to do no harm to another. Two, that we are obligated to share common knowledge whenever and where ever we can do so.

## 3.Malleability

We believe that anything created by humans, no matter how well intended, will have flaws. Any changes to this statement must be made by consensus of the MLHIM community for the lasting good of the MLHIM community. An accompanying set of Operating Principles is the more malleable day to day guidelines for accomplishing our ultimate mission; *to use our diverse abilities for the greater good of human beings everywhere.*