













Forecasting

National Immunization Forecast Tester



Immunization Forecast Tester

Nathan Bunker
Software Developer
Texas Children's
Hospital

William G. Adams, MD
Professor of Pediatrics
Boston University
School of
Medicine/Boston
Medical Center

Background

Texas Children's Hospital (TCH)

2009
 Forecaster developed

2012
 Forecast testing system online

Massachusetts
Immunization
Information System
(MIIS)

2007
 Immunization Forecaster
 Module (IFM) deployed
 as independent webservice



Vision for Forecasting

Accurate – based on latest recommendations

- Consistent results match other system results
- Ubiquitous available with every shot history



Current Barriers

- Forecaster Testing
 - Forecasters may not directly support testing
 - Organization may not have the capacity to test
- Non-standard Integration
 - Forecaster integrated directly into IIS or EHR
 - Separate system with proprietary access method



Proposed Solution

- Centralized location for testing forecasters
- System that can store and organize:
 - Test cases from many different sources
 - Expert opinions on the correct results for test cases
 - Actual results from forecasters

- System that can:
 - Connect to multiple forecast systems
 - Compare expert opinions and actual results



How Solution Will Realize Vision

- Accurate based on latest recommendations
 - Experts come to consensus on correct results
 - Real forecasters can be both tested and used as known reference forecasters

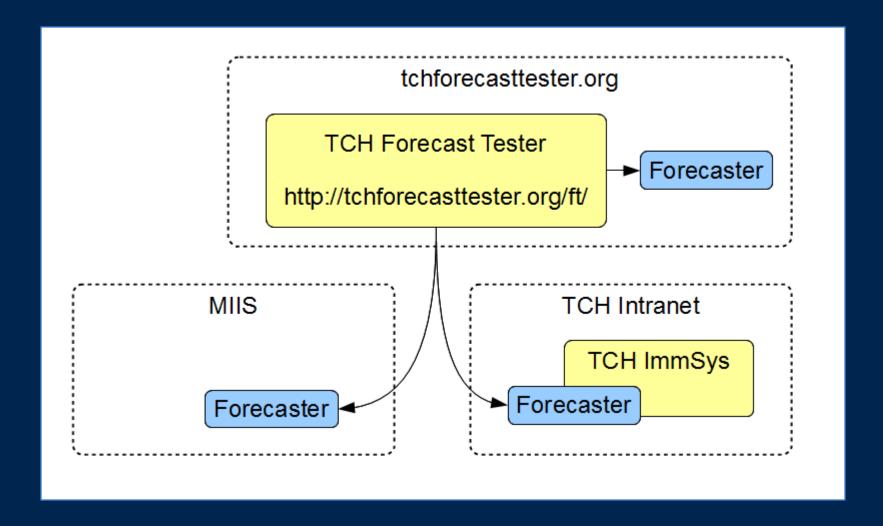
- Consistent results match other system results
 - Results from working forecasters can be compared for differences



How Solution Will Realize Vision

- Ubiquitous available with every shot history
 - Integration with national system would encourage the adoption of a national web service standard

Current System



Current Status

Number of Test Cases

• TCH: 880

• MIIS: 840

- Forecasting for all 840 MIIS messages:
 - TCH with no network penalty: 30 seconds
 - TCH with network penalty: 1 minute 16 seconds
 - MIIS with network penalty: 1 minute 22 seconds



Future Work

- Compare results between TCH and MIIS
- Collect more test cases

- Connect to other forecast engines
- Recruit experts to review and give opinions



System Demonstration

- Test cases are purposefully designed to over represent edge cases or unusual situations
- The forecast tester is very strict and focuses on exact dates and dose number

 Edge cases contain many issues that have had various interpretations over the last few years



System Demonstration

 This system often finds many differences between two forecasting systems

 It is amazing is how often two different systems do actually agree exactly

System Organization

 Expert – a forecast tester user who can give opinions on correct forecast results

 Task Group – a set of experts that work together to create sets of tests

• **Test Panel** – a collection of test cases



System Organization

Test Case – a single scenario with expected answers

 Software – a forecaster that can evaluate a test case and give an answer



Test Case Information

- Date of Birth, Sex
- Evaluation Date

- Vaccination History
 - CVX
 - MVX (optional)
 - Administration Date

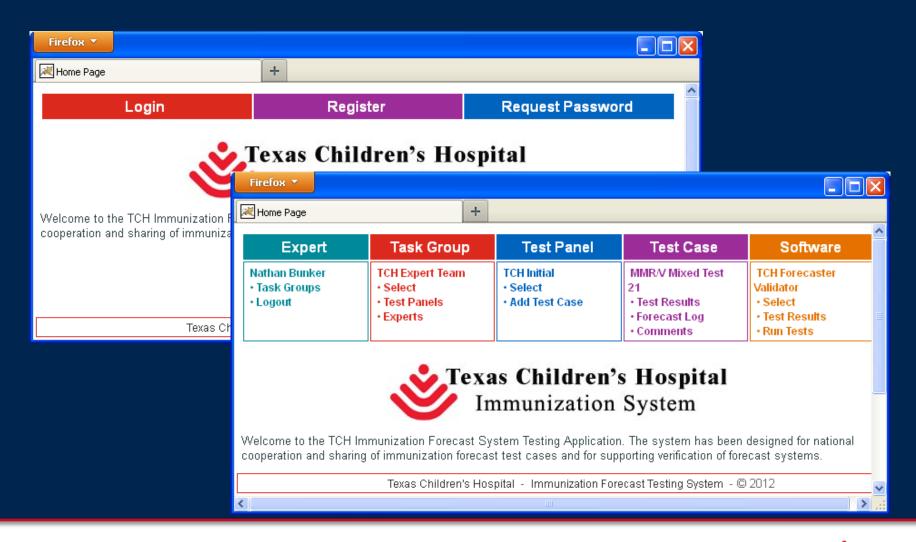
Test Case Expectations

- Forecast results:
 - Dose Number
 - Valid Date (earliest date)
 - Due Date
 - Overdue Date

- Evaluation results:
 - Not tested directly
 - Future improvement

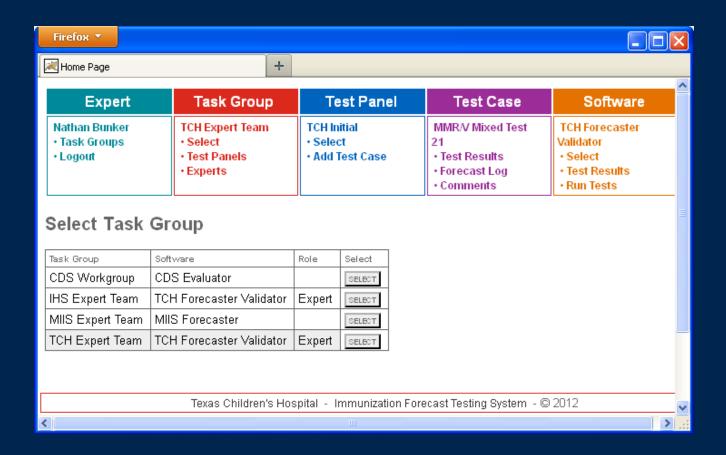


Login



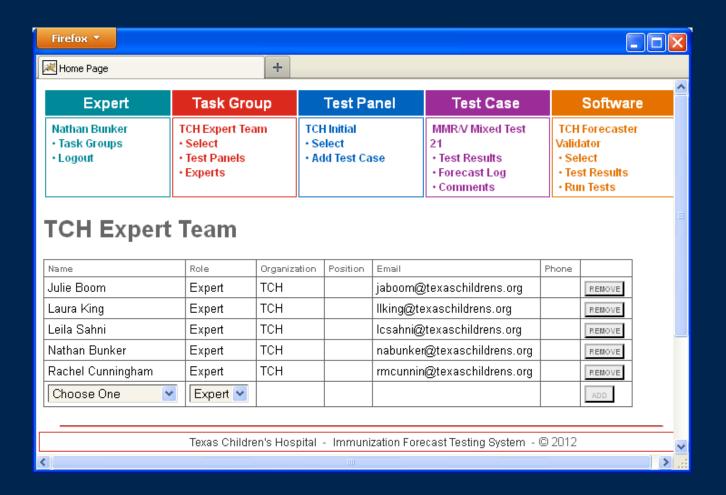


Task Groups

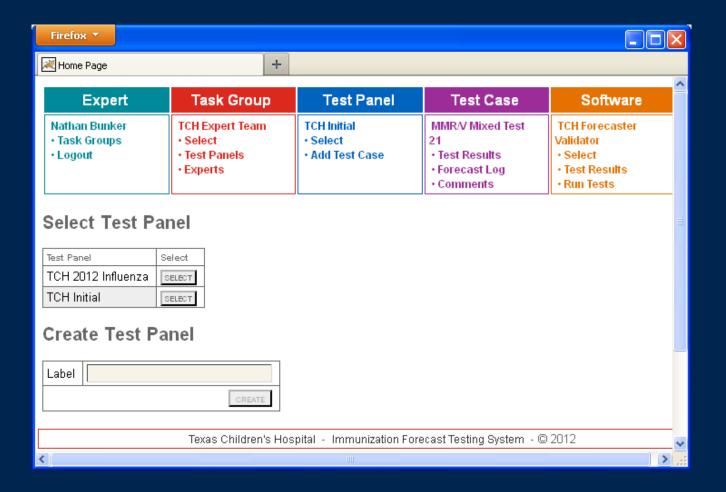




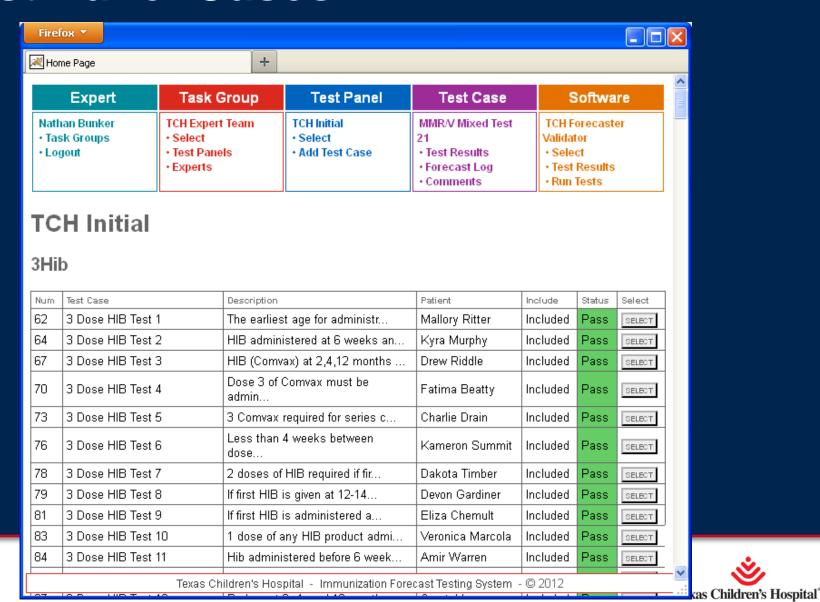
Expert Team



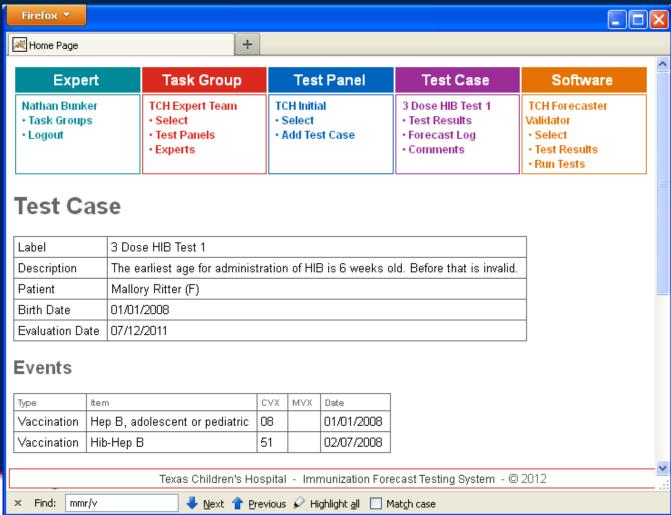
Test Panels



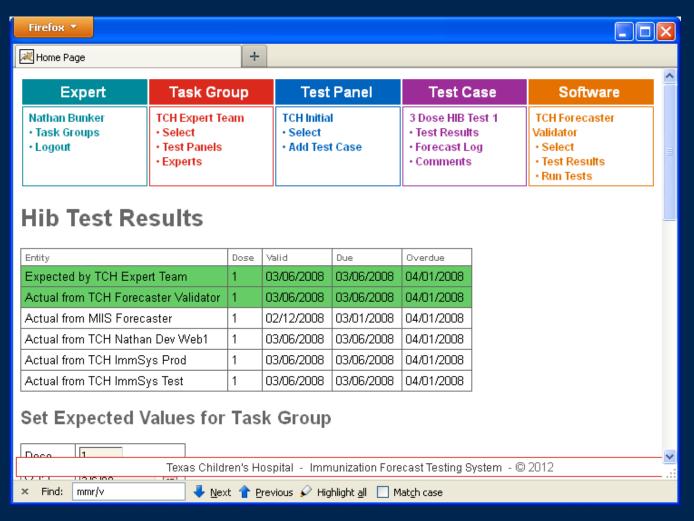
Test Panel Cases



Test Case

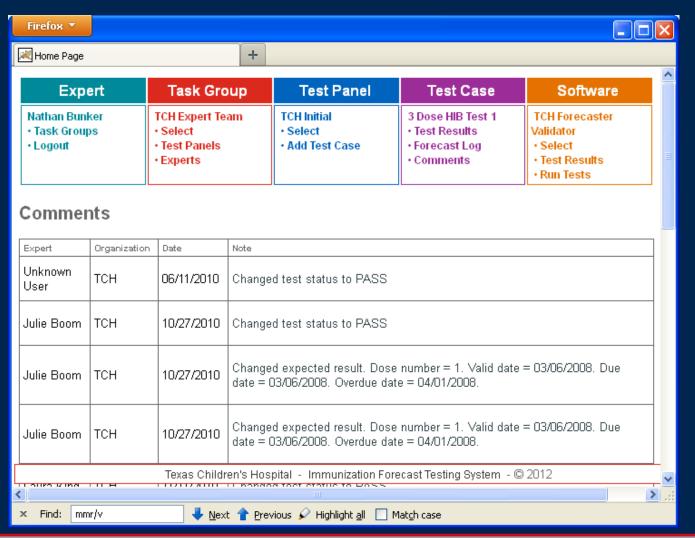


Test Case Results



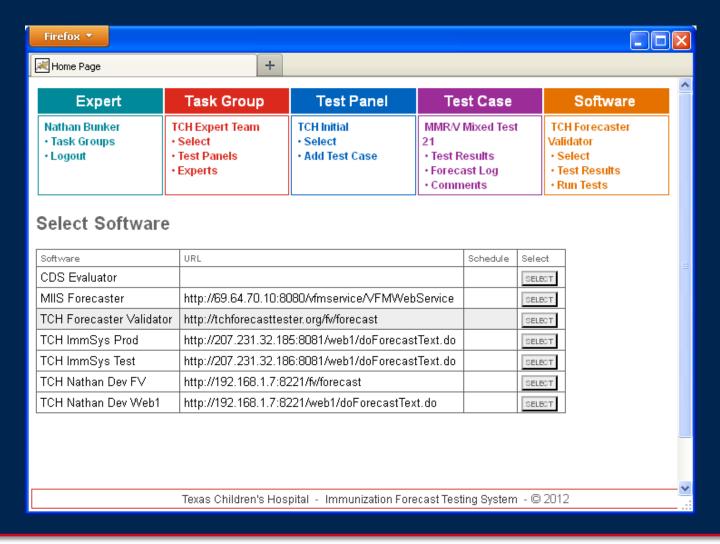


Test Case Comments



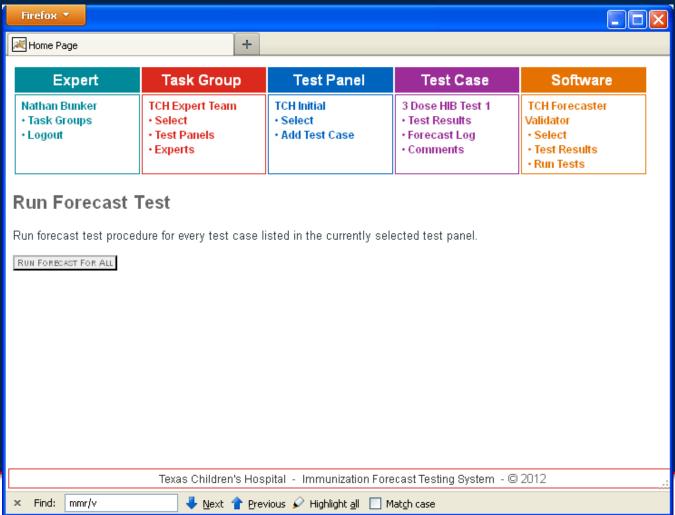


Select Software

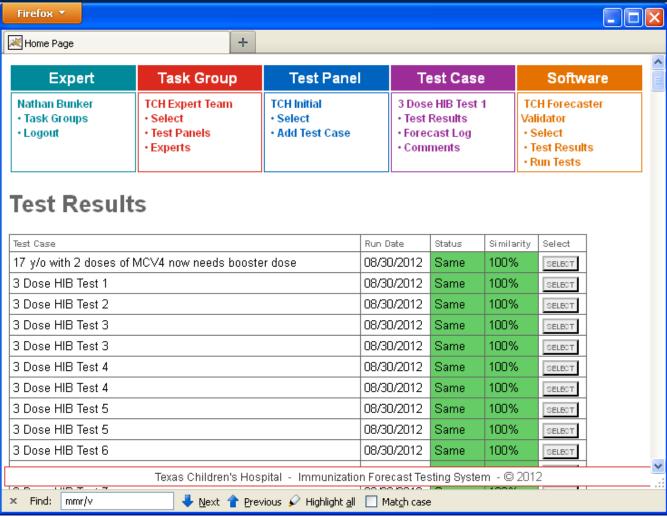




Run Tests



Test Results



Become Involved!

- Register at http://tchforecasttester.org/ft/
- Contact technical team to:
 - Bulk upload test cases
 - Connect your forecaster
- Contact Information
 - Nathan Bunker nabunker@texaschildrens.org
 - Bill Adams badams@bu.edu

