

Long-term Storage of PHI: "Easy to use and maintain"



HEALTHDATA
ARCHIVER

Indiana University
Health, Bedford Hospital

CASE STUDY

As technology evolves in healthcare, Directors of IS are routinely replacing old technology with new. With the cost and complexity of data conversions, complete patient records from a legacy application are not typically ported over to the new software. This can result in a collection of read-only systems that carry with them a price tag for service and support, a burden of keeping software patched and users trained as well as a technical risk as infrastructures age.

"We needed to comply with medical record retention requirements," says Tara Williams, MSN, RN and Director of Information Systems at Indiana University Health Bedford Hospital, "but, we knew that our costs would be cut significantly if we archived versus keeping inactive systems up and running long-term."

When evaluating archival solutions, Tara and her team sought a vendor who could consolidate the data from disparate legacy systems into a single relational database. They wanted a system that would be both easy to use and to maintain for decades to come.

"When it came right down to it," Tara says, "the simplicity of HealthData Archiver® was what won us over. Honestly, I think my kids could teach you how to use this product."

HealthData Archiver® is an easy-to-use, vendor-neutral repository that helps reduce the costs of legacy system maintenance and bypass the complexity of conversions. Unlike active archives that re-create a billing system, HealthData Archiver® is an intuitive static archive requiring little to no training.

"Our analysis shows an 18-month return on investment," says Tara. "To eliminate the support costs, license fees and IT administration burden of multiple legacy systems over time is a no-brainer."

IU Health Bedford Hospital is a critical access facility located in Bedford, IN. To start, they have arranged for Harmony Healthcare IT to archive three legacy systems into a single repository. The solution will scale over time as additional protected health information is secured for long-term storage.



Tara Williams,
Director, MSN, RN information Systems

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Challenge

To retain protected health information over time as technology evolves and legacy applications are replaced.

To merge data from disparate legacy systems into a single data base that offers easy accessibility.

Solution

HealthData Archiver® emerged as the market leader for offering relational database storage with an easy-to-use interface that would make user training and IT maintenance a snap for years to come.

