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White Paper

Legacy Archiving Solution (LAS)

An Innovative Cost-Effective Solution For Legacy Data Management

What Is Legacy Archiving

The dramatic changes occurring in healthcare are driving an explosion of data, creating challenges in data storage, processing and analysis. The growing number of hospital mergers and acquisitions, Accountable Care Organizations and the implementation of new EMR systems is forcing healthcare organizations to retire many outdated systems, creating huge amounts of legacy data. Solving the problem of what to do with data trapped in these retired systems can be complex and costly. The data must be managed systematically for data retention and governance reasons, with support for ongoing access to the data.

> **Implementation of new EMR systems is forcing healthcare organizations to retire many outdated systems**

One of the most practical, cost-effective solutions for managing legacy data is legacy archiving. The arrival of this new innovative archiving solution is providing healthcare organizations substantial savings in their IT operations and greatly simplifying how legacy data is managed and accessed. Data archiving involves extracting data from multiple legacy systems, and then transferring the data in some type of standardized format into an archival system. Ideally, the archival system is vendor-neutral, providing the ability to archive data silos from any vendor. A user interface is then employed, enabling the data to be searchable as separate discrete elements and to be viewed and manipulated in a format that closely resembles the original data. This active archiving solution provides real time access to records, maintains the integrity of the data and allows for timely decommissioning of the legacy application.

> **Data associated with patient financial services also presents significant challenges during a conversion**

Until the arrival of legacy archiving technology, few good options existed for maintaining access to legacy data. Healthcare organizations could continue to support the old systems, which was costly and exposed critical data to risk of loss if a vendor stopped servicing the outdated technology. Another possibility was to convert the data to the new system, referred to as data conversion, a complicated and time consuming process that involves taking data from a legacy system and trying to map it into a new system. This is also very costly and not without major risks, since clinical data, such as lab and radiology reports, is difficult and sometimes virtually impossible to transition. Data associated with patient financial services also presents significant challenges during a conversion, as data formats and functions are incompatible with many of the newer systems.

Why Is Legacy Archiving Important For Healthcare Providers?

Legacy archiving provides a secure, efficient, cost-effective method to manage legacy data, enabling healthcare organizations to have quick and easy access to this vital information without the expense of supporting retired systems. Legacy data must be securely retained and accessed for a variety of purposes, including:

✓ **Adherence to compliance and regulatory guidelines for patient information**

In addition to meeting HIPAA guidelines, various state mandates require that protected health information (PHI) be retained from seven to ten years, and in some cases, as long as 21 to 25 years for pediatric patients. An organization may also have its own data retention policies which must be followed.

✓ **The potential need to examine past financial and other business records**

Governmental policies require Human Resource departments to maintain records for at least ten years. Financial records affecting revenue must also be retained for future analysis, insurance audits and possible legal actions.

✓ **New governmental mandates requiring better coordinated care**

Healthcare organizations must provide efficient and timely access to comprehensive patient records to all providers a patient may see across the care continuum. When new EMRs are implemented, patient data is often left behind in the old system. Coordinated care cannot be achieved if patient records are trapped in retired data silos that cannot be easily accessed.

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In addition to providing quick and easy access to data housed in retired systems, legacy archiving also provides a significant cost savings to healthcare organizations. Supporting a wide range of systems with a variety of platforms is a costly, difficult task, consuming precious IT resources and diverting an already overworked IT staff from important strategic initiatives.

Challenges In The Healthcare Market Are Intensified By Legacy Data Issues

As new advanced technologies are deployed across the healthcare organization, old systems are left behind, many containing critical data. One analyst aptly described the situation: "The healthcare landscape is littered with silos of inconsistent data formats locked in clinical, administrative and financial systems that inhibit analysis. This has resulted in operational inefficiency and overlooked opportunities at best, and fatal errors and fines for non-compliance under the worst scenarios."[1]

On a broader scale, these silos of disparate legacy data worsen the many challenges the healthcare market is facing, including:

✓ **Financial Concerns**

Increasing fiscal pressures are among the top concerns of healthcare organizations. Gross charges denied by payers have grown to an alarming 15 to 20 percent of the nominal billing value of all claims submitted,[2] and reimbursement rates are declining. At a time when new technologies are desperately needed to increase efficiencies and cost-savings, ongoing support and maintenance for outdated legacy systems is consuming a huge portion of the hospital IT budget.

> **60% - 80%** of an average company's IT budget is spent on maintaining legacy applications[3]

According to Gartner, a leading industry research firm, between 60 and 80 percent of an average company's IT budget is spent on maintaining legacy applications and the mainframe systems that run on them.[3] Maintaining and integrating multiple software platforms becomes extremely expensive over time. Software and hardware support agreements with vendors are very costly. In many cases, vendors stop supporting these old technologies, and in-house expertise may no longer be available, putting the data at risk. Servers may also reach the end of their useful lifespan in seven or eight years, while requirements for data retention may extend many years beyond that time period. This forces organizations to spend limited IT dollars for hardware to support old systems, inhibiting implementation of new innovative technologies.

✓ Interoperability

Interoperability is a huge challenge confronting the healthcare market, and the problem is greatly complicated by legacy data that cannot easily be accessed and shared. Ninety-five percent of healthcare providers report that interoperability issues limit their ability to transfer data from one medical center to another.[4] Data trapped in legacy silos is a major inhibiting factor in the delivery of coordinated quality care across the care continuum.

✓ Data Security & Privacy Concerns

Data housed in various retired systems also creates security and privacy issues. A recent survey found 93 percent of all health data needs strong security protections.[5] Patient health information security and HIPAA compliance are major concerns in the industry today and at the top of every IT executive's priority list. Patchwork legacy systems, which are often decades old, are cause for concern due to ad hoc maintenance and enhancements that have occurred throughout the years. Legacy software patches must closely be tracked to maintain HIPAA compliance and secure PHI storage to avoid security breaches.

> **93%** of all health data needs strong security protections[5]

✓ Meaningful Use Requirements

In a recent Optum Institute survey of hospital CIO's, 34% cited legacy system incompatibility as the largest barrier to complying with Meaning Use requirements.[6] It is no wonder this statistic is so high, given that some large healthcare organizations may have upwards of 20 or 30 legacy systems. Consuming hundreds of thousands of dollars of the IT budget every year, these outdated technologies create a difficult maze of systems and applications users must conquer to access the legacy data.

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All of these challenges can impact the healthcare organization's bottom line and future viability. If not managed securely and efficiently, legacy data quickly becomes a liability for the organization, rather than an asset. Luckily, today there are new innovative archiving technologies that can effectively free healthcare organizations from the legacy data albatross.

The Cost-Effective Way To Efficiently Access, Update And Analyze Legacy Data

Now there is a simple, efficient way to solve critical data archive challenges—Legacy Archive Solution, Anthelio's innovative database-driven aggregation and presentation tool that brings valuable archived data back to life. Not only does LAS empower users to retire legacy systems, reduce costs and compliance risks, and retain easy access to clinical and financial data, it also provides unique features not available with other archive options.

Legacy Archive Solution aggregates and uploads data silos from any vendor— unlike similar products— to the client's data warehouse or Anthelio's world-class, national subterranean data center. This vendor neutral solution houses both clinical and financial data in a secure hosted environment, presenting a total view of patient records while eliminating vendor maintenance and licensing fees. It provides user-friendly simplified single window access for multiple types of information in one secure environment, enabling easy access for users to view, print, export and report information without complex programming queries.

In addition to being the only vendor neutral archive solution available today, LAS also offers several other unique features. It empowers users to quickly and easily update archived data, capturing revenue opportunities and keeping records current. It also offers both financial and clinical analytic capabilities, utilizing industry metrics in a user-friendly format to

drive enhanced financial performance or turn clinical data into actionable information to support quality care and lower healthcare costs.

LAS is fully HIPAA compliant with a wealth of built-in security features, including flexible role based security, detailed access logs and auditing, encrypted file transfer via Secure FTP, and SSL encryption to ensure secure information.

LAS Effectively Manages Data Archiving and Retrieval for Critical Operational Areas

Patient Accounting

General Ledger

Purchase Orders

Accounts Payable

Human Resources/Payroll

Patient Management

Orders and Results

Patient Clinical Information

LAS Has A Strong History Of Successful Implementations

Anthelio's internalized best practices and the expertise of highly-skilled professionals enable Legacy Archive Solution to be quickly and efficiently implemented. Since its release, LAS has been deployed in hospitals ranging from 150 to 450 beds, generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings every year. LAS currently stores information for 24 million visits representing almost 4 million patients.

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LAS Reduces Support And Maintenance Costs Up To 80%

Maintaining obsolete or old legacy systems can cost an organization millions of dollars, impeding IT investments in new technologies which are critical for success in today's challenging healthcare environment. Healthcare organizations using Legacy Archive Solution can reduce direct and indirect costs associated with supporting retired systems and remove the need for constant system upgrades and improvements, reducing support costs by as much as 80%. LAS also provides a short implementation cycle, expediting recovery of initial set up costs.

Conclusion

Healthcare organizations today are more dependent on data than ever before. With healthcare transforming to new care delivery models and responding to policy reforms that rely on access to accurate and timely data, organizations can no longer leave critical information locked in inaccessible obsolete systems when change occurs.

Legacy Archive Solution represents a whole new cost-effective approach to managing retired data systems, providing a wealth of unique features not available on other archive products. This vendor-neutral aggregation and presentation tool not only provides quick and easy access to legacy data, it also empowers users with clinical and financial analytic capabilities as well as enabling them to update information, transforming retired data into a valuable asset for the organization. As an industry price/performance leader, Legacy Archive Solution is the archive choice hospital CIOs and CFOs can agree on.

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Anthelio Healthcare Solutions

Anthelio is the largest independent provider of healthcare technology solutions in the market. We offer solutions across the spectrum of care, providing customers the ability to solve their critical technology needs from a single source while delivering cost savings and efficiencies. Our end-to-end solutions include IT infrastructure services, IT applications management, EHR optimization, Patient Engagement, Analytics, and Revenue Cycle Management (RCM) including HIM Services, Patient Financial Services and Cancer Registry Services. Anthelio drives sustainable value to over 63,000 physicians and nurses in hundreds of healthcare organizations supporting their annual revenue of over $67 billion and impacting quality care to over 60 million patients.

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