ST. ELIZABETH MED CENTER & CONNX CASE STUDY

St. Elizabeth Medical Center, with locations in Covington, Edgewood and Williamstown, Kentucky has been serving the health care needs of Northern Kentucky since its founding in 1861. As one of the largest and most respected medical centers in Greater Cincinnati, St. Elizabeth provides a comprehensive range of services including a nationally recognized cardiac program and Northern Kentucky's largest cancer treatment center.

Industry
Healthcare

Location
Covington, Kentucky

Objective
Provide a simplified data access and reporting solution to Allegra users.

Solution
Implement CONNX for RMS module & improve ease of downloading data from Allegra/McKesson software to create reports in Access and Excel.

Data Access Management Software Increases ROI

The IS department at St. Elizabeth Medical Center was facing a problem: They needed to create custom reports from their RMS-based Allegra software. But their new employees were hesitant to learn how to program in the proprietary language of the then-current reporting solution without the benefit of a Windows-style user interface. Together, Jerry Hon, Director of Decision Support, and Jerry Neuhaus, Assistant Director of Information Systems and President of the IntraNexus Healthcare Users Group, decided, "We've got to find something better."

They discovered CONNX, its ease of use and reasonable pricing plan, and soon after replaced their proprietary reporting solution with CONNX. Today, they use CONNX for reporting from their Allegra system using popular desktop tools, such as MS Access and MS Excel. Allegra data is easily exported into Excel formats and then converted into SQL databases. As Neuhaus states, "We use CONNX to connect to those SQL databases to do reporting off of, so that it doesn't put a burden on our patient accounting Allegra system . . . "

There are many other benefits the IS staff and users receive with CONNX. "It's a faster and easier process to pull data from the Allegra system using the CONNX product than it is to custom code each time in a proprietary language . . . Using CONNX along with the Microsoft products makes it a hundred times easier and quicker to pull data from the system."

"By using queries connecting to CONNX, we're able to update records and add online running queries using the CONNX ODBC driver. It's a great benefit...it cut the process out by 90 percent."

- Jerry Hon | Director of Decision Support

Benefits

- Produce revenue and patient account reports in minutes.

- Avoid Backlog reports.

- Create infrastructure for storage of results.

- Improve access to volumes of vital information.

- Broaden spectrum of IT workload.

- Initiation of user friendly interface.

The IS department at St. Elizabeth's rewrote all the monthly revenue reports for the hospital staff using CONNX to access their Allegra data with MS Excel and Word. Neuhaus states that, "We set up macros, export the data, send it out . . . and the end users can pull them up and know by mid-afternoon on the first of the month that they are going to have reports from the previous month." St. Elizabeth also uses CONNX to download information from their accounts receivable system and import the data into their collection company's system nightly. If their vendor wants to drill down into a particular account's details, CONNX provides them with the details they need.

Real-time Updates

CONNX is also used for mass updates to their Allegra system, including pricing. "Once a year, we update all our pricing. With CONNX, we're able to update 8,000 charge items in a matter of minutes, compared to what it would be if someone keyed them in one by one. CONNX is a great benefit to us; we've done numerous updating of files in administration. We have online interfaces between our McKesson system and ADT interface, and one between our McKesson and Allegra systems... with all these interfaces, the updates can still be done in real-time," said Jerry Hon. "By using queries connecting to CONNX, we're able to update records and add online running queries using the CONNX ODBC driver. It's a great benefit...it cut the process out by 90 percent."

Since implementing CONNX, St. Elizabeth estimates they have saved the equivalent of at least one full-time salary. "And that's a conservative estimate," said Neuhaus. "Before we had CONNX, when we were running reports, we were using a piece of software where we'd run a column in a report, break it out, take the column, export it to a text file, take the text file, import it into a database, take the database, and then manipulate it and export it to an Excel spreadsheet. We don't do that anymore."

Time Saver

When asked what their message would be to those who have yet to discover the many benefits of CONNX, they say, "...You're using soft-ware that everyone's familiar with: Microsoft products, ODBC drivers, and data dictionaries; and if you have IS people and end users you want to train and you don't want your IS staff doing the reporting, this is the way you've got to go. ...For the price and what you get for it, I just don't see why you wouldn't want to."

The IS department at St. Elizabeth was happy to hear that IntraNexus and CONNX recently partnered together to offer CONNX to all their users as a new reporting solution. To sum up, Neuhaus said, "CONNX is a good product; IntraNexus knows it's a good product. It works excellently with Allegra. That's why we kept promoting it all these years. We're happy with it."

About St. Elizabeth

St. Elizabeth Medical Center, with locations in Covington, Edgewood and Williamstown, Kentucky has been serving the health care needs of Northern Kentucky since its founding in 1861. As one of the largest and most respected medical centers in Greater Cincinnati, St. Elizabeth provides a comprehensive range of services including a nationally recognized cardiac program and Northern Kentucky's largest cancer treatment center. St. Elizabeth is a Distinguished Hospital for Service Excellence by J. D. Power and Associates for providing as outstanding patient experience and a Distinguished Hospital for Clinical Excellence by HealthGrades, placing it among a very select group of hospitals in the country. U.S. News & World Report recently named St. Elizabeth as one of the best hospitals in the nation for neurology and neuro-surgery. St. Elizabeth has been nationally distinguished as an employer, profiled by the Advisory Board for creating an outstanding work environment for nurses. Sponsored by the Diocese of Covington and a region of Catholic Healthcare Partners, St. Elizabeth carries out the commitment to a healing mission, providing over $23 million in uncompensated care and benefits to the community annually.

About CONNX

CONNX Solutions is a leader in data access, migration, integration, virtualization, and replication. Their solutions enable quick, secure, and scalable SQL access to legacy, non-relational, relational, and cloud data wherever it resides, however it is structured, without any change to your core systems. CONNX is quick and easy to set up and use and offers easy standards-based tools that are accessible, flexible, and scalable.

Since 2001, CONNX solutions have been installed in more than 3,200 organizations worldwide and across a range of industries including government, manufacturing, education, technology, human resources, financial services, and telecommunications. CONNX's solutions unleash the power and value of information, providing organizations the ability to make confident, evidence-based business decisions.

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