



Guthrie County Public Health Uses Hewlett-Packard Solutions To Improve Data Protection, Patient Privacy And HIPAA Compliance

Guthrie County Public Health (GCPH), a public agency that provides nursing services to clients in Iowa, needed a new prescription for backup efficiency. For years, they had been operating on a peer-to-peer network and stored important data on individual hard drives, with no consistent backup plan.

The Treatment Plan

GCPH soon realized it needed to invest in an affordable business-class IT infrastructure with a centralized architecture and secure robust components, and sought the assistance of VentureTech Network member Arlin Sorensen of Heartland Technologies.

Business Challenge: Guthrie County Public Health (GCPH) needed a centralized IT infrastructure that increased data backup reliability, HIPAA compliance and staff productivity.

Approach: Collaborate with knowledgeable solution provider and HP to identify and implement the best solution.

Solution: HP tc2120 server, HP Compaq NX 9010 notebooks, Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003, Microsoft Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition and Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services.

In addition, GCPH was considering how technology could help them comply with the demands of HIPAA and new regulations for increased patient record privacy.

After receiving a bioterrorism grant, the GCPH purchased some new HP notebook computers with plans for nurses to take them into the field to fill out forms. However, since there was no remote access to their office network, nurses still had to drive to the office each morning to verify client appointments.

Sorensen recommended a solution that included a server configured for data security and backup, a business-class OS and network solution, standardization and locking down of the existing workstations, and upgrades to the existing notebooks to allow remote access to the server. With these components, GCPH could make business operations more efficient and secure, include VPN and remote access to allow HIPAA-compliant connections from notebooks in the field, and implement a web site. Sorensen suggested an entry-level HP server, the HP tc2120, combined with Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 as the office network solution and Microsoft Windows Server 2003 OS.

The HP tc2120 server is offered at a desktop price, with enough expansion to grow a small operation into the foreseeable future. Microsoft Windows Server 2003, included in Windows Small Business Server 2003, is a highly reliable network OS. Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003



integrates e-mail, fax, database and shared internet into one platform. Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 provides a preconfigured internal web site based on Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services that allows coworkers to share information, including document libraries, announcements, events and links. Enhanced Microsoft Outlook Web Access enables users to access an internet version of Microsoft Office Outlook 2003 to share files and schedules.

“Since budget was a major concern, the HP tc2120 server, Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 and backup storage were the perfect fit,” says Sorensen. “GCPH received enterprise-class products at an excellent price point.”

Making It Work

Heartland Technologies' engineer, Roger Crawford, installed an HP tc2120 server in one day, running Microsoft Windows Small Business Server 2003 and began migrating data to it immediately. The next day, they finished the configuration, setting up the system for the needed file sharing and security, continued to migrate data to the file server, and began training the staff. Within eight hours of installing windows Small Business Server 2003, GCPH had their first backup tape created.

“With the new system, we have more control and security now — we can see who is accessing the server, and we know who is not supposed to have access to the server,” says Jo Rasmussen, Secretary for Bookkeeping, Billing and Grants, GGPH. “There is a lot more protection.”

“Now we can schedule nursing visits in Microsoft Outlook if we wish to do so,” says Rita Petersen, Secretary for Statistics and Reporting, GCPH. “Nurses can access the calendar to check the visits from home if they choose.”

Prognosis

GCPH is pleased to know that their capacity to respond to local needs, whether emergency or otherwise, is greatly enhanced. “Now, if a disaster happens in our county,” says Rasmussen, “we could go to any location in the county with our laptops and set up a clinic with records by tapping into our own office server.”

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**— Arlin Sorensen,
Heartland Technologies**



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