

Case study

Rural Radiology - Bemidji, MN

Tailored integration dramatically improves workflow



aycan helps Rural Radiology Consultants optimize its systems to enhance operating efficiencies.

BACKGROUND

Rural Radiology Consultants is a radiology consulting firm in Bemidji, a small college town nestled in Minnesota's north woods. The company's President and Owner, Dr. Hilton Bakker, believes that the best way to serve his patients is to invest in technology. His goal is to provide patients with high-quality radiological imagery while making sure Rural Radiology operates smoothly and cost effectively.

Because it is critical for hospitals to share and distribute both radiological images and patient information, Dr. Bakker installed a Radiology Information System (RIS) solution from MedQ, Inc.. Combining this solution with a PACS solution, Dr. Bakker would be able to read from seven area hospitals on a unified worklist.

In order to continue providing the best in radiological services, Dr. Bakker wanted a fully integrated PACS. He experimented with solutions from three separate vendors. Since Rural Radiology uses Apple hardware and software as well as Windows applications such as the MedQ RIS solution, no vendor was able to provide an efficient system.

Dr. Bakker knew he needed help to avoid suffering through another long period of unsuccessful PACS trials. He went looking for a company with years of experience and deep expertise. That is when he discovered aycan Medical Systems.

" aycan store is PACS at its best and at one-tenth the cost."

Dr. Hilton Bakker, President and owner
Rural Radiology Consultants

CHALLENGE

It is not unusual for radiology environments to evolve piece by piece. Disparate hardware platforms, operating systems and healthcare software solutions, plus a variety of medical devices, are often used together. Integrating these components has traditionally been a difficult and expensive journey.

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The systems eventually work, but workflow inevitably suffers and there are always compromises.

Dr. Bakker did not want to compromise. And aycan recognized the technical challenges, as well as the need to keep a tight rein on costs. Of course there could be no compromise on quality and performance. Rural Radiology's unique mix of hardware and software had to be transformed into a stable, optimized system.

SOLUTION

A dedicated aycan team studied Rural Radiology's requirements. The primary goals were to develop a tailored solution for the company's operations, consolidate existing resources, and implement technologies that would streamline its workflow.

The team installed **aycan store** and **aycan workstation OsiriX^{PRO}**. aycan store is a scalable, high performance archiving and distribution system which can be accessed on-site or off-site through aycan's secure data center.

"I call aycan and there's a real live person to talk to me."

Designed by radiologists for radiologists, OsiriX^{PRO} is a DICOM viewer, ideal for reviewing and post-processing of multimodality and multidimensional images. With very fast image upload times, OsiriX^{PRO} shortens the "waiting time" for radiologists and its plug-in architecture allows for easy expansion of capabilities.

The aycan team worked with MedQ to develop a tailored solution to meet Rural Radiology's needs. Utilizing VMWare Fusion and Apple hardware, aycan was able to consolidate what would normally be three separate workstations into one.

Rural Radiology's system was optimized end-to-end via aycan's tailored integration. The implementation was accomplished quickly and painlessly. "aycan's installation process was an absolute joy," says Dr. Bakker. "It exceeded all my expectations."

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RESULTS

With the aycan solution, radiologists at Rural Radiology Consultants are able to read from multiple remote locations from a unified worklist and return reports in as little as 30 minutes. Workflow has been streamlined significantly, and much less time is wasted dealing with equipment glitches.

Dr. Bakker can work using Rural Radiology's system from anywhere in the world via his laptop. He is also very pleased with aycan's customer service. "I call aycan and there's a real live person to talk to. The entire aycan staff is great."

Since Rural Radiology's aycan installation, Dr. Bakker's enthusiasm for OsiriX^{PRO} and aycan store hasn't faded: "I'm looking forward to making our system the best PACS possible, and we'll do it at a tenth of the cost of systems from other vendors. Now I can spend more time looking at radiological images. Thank you, aycan."

aycan Medical Systems is a leading provider of cost effective turn-key solutions and services for the medical imaging market. Designed to meet the growing challenges of the medical industry, other innovative solutions include: aycan xray-print, a leading DICOM paper print solution for radiological images, aycan workstation OsiriX^{PRO}, an FDA cleared, 64-bit post-processing for everyone and aycan store, a scalable, high performance DICOM archiving and distribution system that can be tailored to meet customer specific needs.

For more information on aycan solutions, visit www.aycan.com or contact us at info@aycan.com

