

Silent Cubes Success Story

Project: m&i Fachklinik Ichenhausen

Solution: synedra AIM

Partner: synedra

“Compared to the other alternatives for revision-safe archiving, the Silent Cubes long-term storage solution clearly comes out on top.”

Timo Rumpf,

Director of IT & Administration at m&i-Klinikgruppe Enzensberg

High security for radiographs and patient data at the m&i specialist clinic in Ichenhausen



Hard disk-based archiving solution from FAST LTA and synedra now guarantees against data loss

The m&i-Fachklinik in Ichenhausen, a renowned emergency and rehabilitation clinic with 320 beds, is part of m&i-Fachklinik Enzensberg, a privately-managed healthcare services company and the umbrella organization for ten interdisciplinary specialty clinics and health centers throughout

Germany. A hospital group of this size generates large volumes of sensitive patient data – particularly in radiology – all requiring revision-safe and legally-compliant long-term storage.

Prior to mid-2009, the hospital group did not have a PACS in place and thus nor did they have digital archiving. The ever-multiplying number of X-rays were conventionally exposed on film, consulted when making diagnoses, and then manually filed away in an archive.

But space was quickly becoming an issue for the archives and the efforts as well as the costs associated with maintaining this type of long-term storage were continually growing. Nor was the process very user or patient-friendly.

To make the whole process more efficient, the clinic in Ichenhausen decided to invest in a PACS. On the technical side, the Fachklinik group focused on a centralized approach, one which would not only provide digital image archiving at the clinic in Ichenhausen but also form the technical basis for PACS at the other group locations. The system purchased to digitize the radiodiagnostics was introduced in mid-2009 at the Ichenhausen clinic and thus a substantial step was taken toward the full-fledged introduction of electronic patient records (EPA). Given the proper access rights, it was now possible for any number of users on any number of monitors to access the images at any time – day or night. Yet doing away with photographic prints of X-rays does necessitate data storage which is unconditionally revision-safe.

Specialist match-up for a sophisticated PACS/storage solution

The hospital group's search for a suitable PACS led them to system and software provider synedra, who in turn enjoys a close working partnership with FAST LTA, a specialist in digital long-term storage. Synedra utilizes the hard disk-based Silent Cubes storage cubes from FAST LTA for their archiving hardware. In the preliminary stages

of awarding the contract, in addition to researching the Silent Cubes solution online, the IT heads in Enzensberg not only requested information on Silent Cubes from synedra, but also from their clients. A case study published in a medical journal about the successful cooperation between synedra and FAST LTA for an Austrian hospital group piqued their interest further. After an exhaustive evaluation, the contract was awarded to synedra and FAST LTA.

synedra



“All factors pointed to Silent Cubes. Compared to the other alternatives for revision-safe archiving such as tapes, DVDs or even high-performance universal memory technologies, this solution clearly comes out on top. The hard disk-based WORM solution is easier to manage plus it’s much more economical, scalable and far more secure than the other storage media. Also, combining the synedra AIM system with Silent Cubes enables clearly faster access to the data,” notes Timo Rumpf, Director of IT & Administration at m&i-Klinikgruppe Enzensberg, in validating the decision.

As a universal medical archiving system, the certified solution from synedra covers all of a hospital's departments and not only manages their data, but also allocates and visualizes it. Together with synedra, FAST LTA fully integrated its Silent Cubes storage system into the PACS. In combining their applications, the partners enabled the Ichenhausen clinic to safely archive its patient data from the synedra software on the Silent Cubes at reasonable cost. Resulting in a highly efficient and low-maintenance software/hardware combination for the legally-compliant long-term storage of large volumes of data.

„Silent Cubes are much more economical, scalable and far more secure than the other storage media.“

The data processing center for the hospital group is located at its headquarters in Hopfen am See. The digitized X-rays are transferred to Hopfen every night from the Ichenhausen clinic for centralized storage on Silent Cubes. This type of data network allows further locations of the group to eventually link into the central data processing center in Enzensberg without difficulty. The centralized structure moreover enables the simplified integration of many different applications – scalability times two.

Timo Rumpf, m&i-Klinikgruppe Enzensberg

Problem-free implementation and introduction

The solution has been in operation for a good four months now with absolutely no problems from Day One. Installing this total package solution took just half a day, with the FAST LTA technicians linking up the storage cubes on-site. “The solution is just as ‘silent’ and unobtrusive as its name suggests. Only a short training session was needed on properly operating the administrative functions. Data was stored and is now guaranteed to remain as is without change for up to 30 years. We were also more than pleased with the service we received from FAST LTA and synedra,” adds IT manager Rumpf.

The clinic currently uses the archiving system to store all its digital radiographic data. In the near future, the system will also be used to archive all email correspondence. That will give more than 1000 colleagues the ability to professionally secure their data. When the solution is extended to include additional locations, a planned second Silent Cubes will be purchased. As a second data processing center already exists, patient data can also be replicated there. This feasible expansion was another reason for deciding in favor of Silent Cubes. The cubes

already incorporate quadruple redundancy and prevent data loss due to batch errors by using hard disks from three different manufacturers within one storage unit. A special WORM controller additionally protects the contents of all the hard disks against deliberate or inadvertent deletion and/or change down to the very lowest hardware level.

FAST LTA will be responsible for servicing the autarkic storage cubes. Although based on the routine reports provided by the Silent Cube early warning system, the service center will always remain informed about a cube's status at all times. The FAST LTA service contract guarantees the clinic on-site rectification of any problems which might arise – with all services performed by its own in-house technicians – without any disruption to system operations nor loss of any data.

Describing the potential of the innovative archiving solution and the development of the project, Reiner Bielmeier, FAST LTA Business Manager, notes that “both the hardware as well as the software components are based on a modular structure and thus easily updated and highly scalable. They can therefore readily adapt to and grow right along with changing conditions. The Enzensberg hospital group thus acquires a solution proven many times over with absolutely no risks, a solution which combines the key expertise of two specialized providers and at the same time offers the full gamut of configuration possibilities.

Working together with synedra on this – as we already experienced on other mutual projects – went off without a hitch. In fact, we're already looking forward to our next collaboration.”



Fachklinik Ichenhausen

Information about the Silent Cubes long-term storage solution can be found at www.silentcubes.com

The m&i Klinikgruppe Enzensberg

For more than 25 years, we have been helping our patients to overcome illnesses, regain lost quality of life and discover new strength for a healthier future.

With high-quality medicine, tried-and-tested and successful treatment, prudent care and qualified employees with many years of experience, we tackle these often-difficult tasks.

Personal care of every detail, the consideration of special features of the illness, a tailored, individual treatment, therapy and regular examination of the achieved advances characterise our work.

The basis for this is formed by the interdisciplinary focus of our clinics and health centres together with our medical experiences and our knowledge.

For decades, this has given our patients and sponsors the security and trust for successful treatment.