



CREATING HARMONY IN HEALTH SYSTEMS

Taming the complexity of the imaging ecosystem improves interoperability and security, while helping deliver more value for patients

Interview with:

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As healthcare technologies have advanced, healthcare IT interoperability and security have not always kept pace. The result is costly inefficiencies that prevent resource optimization, and ultimately impact the delivery of patient care. Instead of focusing on value-creation tasks, IT staff must spend time managing multiple systems and processes, and managing security across a broad range of potential threats. At the same time, despite a wealth of data being generated, clinical care providers still miss a complete overview of the patient.

Health systems lack harmony: which the Enterprise Imaging platform creates. A single database, combined with a single methodology for how and what data are used to describe patient, study and results, produces a harmony that lowers the total cost of ownership (TCO) while enabling stronger, more meaningful relationships with patients.

From system complexity to a unified enterprise approach

Healthcare is certainly not the only sector to face issues of interoperability and security. But how have other sectors, like banking, for example, managed to resolve them, while healthcare lags behind?

These other domains have already adopted converged or consolidated platforms that have simplified processes – and saved money – by decreasing the number of systems to manage, and thereby reducing the resources needed to do so.

Yet healthcare has continued to work with data housed in multiple incompatible systems, creating inefficiencies that can impact the delivery of patient care.

Enterprise Imaging delivers a consolidated platform that reduces IT resource redundancy and budget complexity, while improving data governance and accessibility, and security management. It tames the complexity of multiple systems to create a harmonized care delivery ecosystem.



Guarding fewer gates: managing security with fewer resources

With Enterprise Imaging, data is accessed through a reduced number of systems, which improves workflows and productivity. But this also strengthens organizational security.

With fewer 'gates' to guard, the organization can focus on the intensity of security analysis and measures, rather than stretching resources to cover more access points and potential breach risk points. The result of consolidation: 'depth' to deliver 'breadth'.

As a unified system, Enterprise Imaging allows greater visibility into IT for the organization's executive level. Penetration analysis and security and access control can all be managed centrally. This provides better defenses, while reducing the expense of analyzing multiple systems.

Putting the focus on value-creating, frontline activities

With fewer systems to manage, staff are freed up, as well. What opportunities does this create for the organization? In conversations with CIOs, there is rarely hesitation: when staff no longer need to spend as much of their time on cybersecurity and administrative processes, they can dedicate more of their efforts to activities that benefit patients. They can spend more time on the frontline, ultimately supporting care providers' goal to improve care to patients.

Systemness: the whole is more powerful than the parts

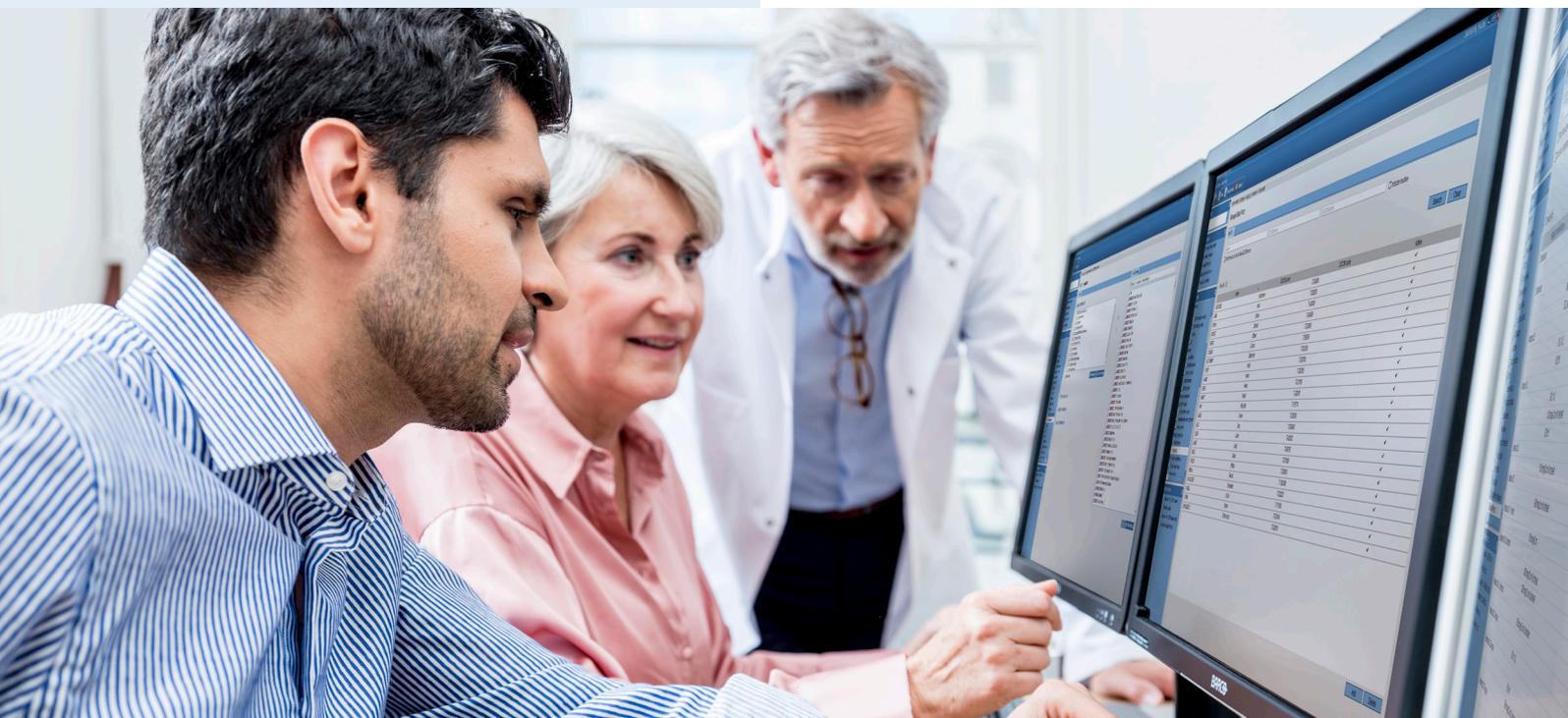
Harmony across health systems is also necessary to creating systemness: the coordination of multiple components working together to create a network of activity that is more powerful than any individual action of their own.

With more and more care delivered outside the acute setting, clinicians need access to the patient's complete information – from the moment they enter the health system, and all along their care journey – to help deliver optimal outcomes. But multiple IT systems, each speaking its own language, can block this ideal from becoming a reality.

I liken it to an entire workforce, unable to speak the same language, using an on-line translation application to communicate. Some of the core information may be translated, but the essence doesn't necessarily come across.

Nowhere is this more apparent, perhaps, than in imaging. Over the past 20 years, there have been tremendous advances made in the introduction of new components and modules, leading to an explosion in patient data. Individually, these devices do their job. But without interoperability, they add little benefit to clinical workflows and processes, and in fact increase, rather than decrease, complexity.

By creating harmony across the health system, Enterprise Imaging puts behavior and information into the same language, delivering true systemness. Different systems can talk and work together to provide clinicians with information and tools they need to provide the best possible care.





Enabling enterprise-wide change

Historically, change management in healthcare has been initiated on the departmental level. But Enterprise Imaging allows CIOs to provide services enterprise-wide, to create institutional transformation. In this way, as health systems continue to grow, patients and physicians can be confident that the tools they need will be part of their health system's environment.

This fits squarely within Agfa HealthCare's commitment to elevating care providers' ability to deliver quality care, by eliminating costly, risky inefficiencies, and creating harmony and systemness across the organization.



Contact your Agfa HealthCare representative for more info

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