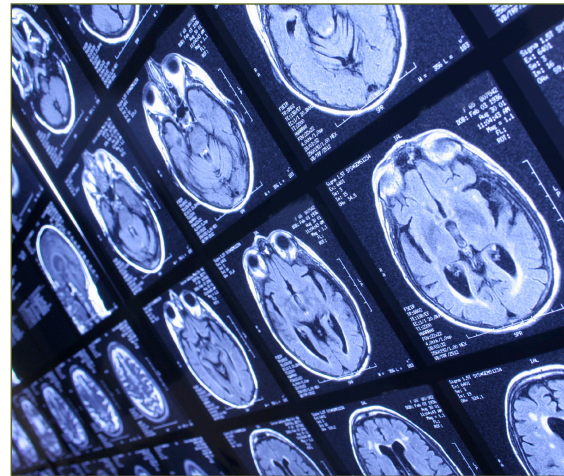


ProStor InfiniVault- DICOM – The Best Storage for Medical Images



Medical images in digital form from scanning devices (modalities) and systems such as Picture Archiving and Communication Systems (PACS) and Radiology Imaging Systems (RIS) are critical information that must be protected and retained for long periods of time. Storing medical images is a concern for a variety of reasons including the economics for long-term retention, HIPAA compliance, and ensuring the availability of the images when needed.

The retention period of medical images varies depending on the type of image and the institutional practices. Some images must be retained for seven years to decades, making the costs of storage an ongoing and increasing concern. During the period that an image must be retained, the factors for storing an image may change significantly:

- There may be storage technology changes such that the images must be migrated to a newer technology that replaces the current. Regularly converting to the new technology may represent a significant cost.
- As more images are stored, the systems used to store the images will consume increasing space and power and continue to require cooling that becomes more expensive over time.

Another major concern for storing medical images is the increasing capacity demand. The fact that more studies are being done and the technology-driven larger exam sizes cause the economics of retaining images and the technology obsolescence issues to be a strategic consideration.

The ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system solves the problem for storage and long-term retention of medical images. It can protect from technology obsolescence by storing images in the DICOM format and using RDX removable disks that have a 30-year archival life and allow for usage of higher capacity disks as they become available with no changes required. Unlike usage of other technologies such as magnetic tape – media and drives – which must be totally replaced when a tape drive technology change occurs (average cycle is 6 years), or non-removable disk systems which must be replaced every 5 years, or optical devices where the drive to read the optical platters is no longer manufactured and the storage capacities are comparatively small, the ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system protects from the expense of technology obsolescence.

The increasing capacity demand for storing medical images is also addressed with the ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system. The intelligence in the InfiniVault – DICOM system manages the images or files according to the retention requirements and the access of the information. Removable RDX disk cartridges are used for storing information where the oldest (not likely to be recalled) images can be removed but still tracked and managed by the system. The automatic management of the images and files by the ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system also maintains strict control over the information and ensures HIPAA compliance.

As an archive system for medical images, the ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system removes the complexity of storing and managing images. Connecting over an Ethernet network, ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM receives DICOM images from PACS, RIS, or Modalities and manages them for the defined retention period. Automatic creation of multiple copies of images on removable RDX cartridges provides for disaster protection of those images. The ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM system can be the deep archive for storage of large amounts of images and can also serve as the primary archive in smaller environments with fewer active images.

ProStor Systems InfiniVault – DICOM provides one of the most innovative answers as to how to retain images for a long period of time and do so as the most economical solution available. It represents a new opportunity for environments where managing images are a required part of operation. The latest technology using removable disks can be exploited with new and even denser removable disk cartridges becoming available while remaining completely forward and backward compatible, protecting from technology obsolescence and addressing increasing capacity demands. The automation of managing images while maintaining compliance removes additional concerns and issues from administrators. ProStor InfiniVault – DICOM is the best answer for long-term protection of medical images

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