

Case Study: Software Architecture



technology for people



Seattle Children's Gains HIPAA Compliance with Disclosure Tracking System

Situation

The Health Information professionals at Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center in Seattle, a renowned pediatric care and research center, have a HIPAA-mandated requirement to track and report on certain disclosures of patient information to outside individuals and entities. This requirement applies to all healthcare organizations.

The need to gain compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) also prompted a review of the department's existing software for tracking disclosures, and Children's asked ESG to help design an integrated system.

"Children's embrace of the latest industry standards meant we could implement a solution without worrying about technological boundaries."

Steve Kaiser, Senior System Architect
Enterprise Solutions Group, Inc.

Solution

ESG worked with Children's team members to design a disclosure tracking system that incorporates functionality from Children's legacy disclosure software. ESG used an iterative approach to software development, releasing frequent test builds approximately every two weeks with significant new features. The ESG approach incorporates people-focused requirements analysis, in order to provide a solution that increases productivity through exceptional ease of use.

Marita Meyer, Health Information Manager at Children's, has this view of the solution: "The quality of the design, workmanship and degree of testing has made this an exceptional system for us to use on a daily basis."

The solution includes industry-standard technologies, including a database server running Microsoft SQL Server, and a web front-end developed with ASP.NET. In addition, .NET web services were used as a proxy to Active Directory. The application includes integration with Active Directory for lookup of user information, and a clinical scheduling database for verification of patient details. In addition, the application accepts uploaded Excel files for bulk disclosure information, giving hospital employees a simple interface to the system that requires no training. The use of .NET languages enabled rapid development, simplified debugging, and enabled a modular, easy-to-maintain design.

Following the successful, on-time completion of the project, the system has been handed off to Children's internal analysts for further customization and support.

About ESG

ESG is a trusted advisor to numerous medical organizations, providing innovative solutions for today's demanding healthcare needs.

Based in Seattle, ESG provides infrastructure and software solutions for companies of all sizes. ESG is a Microsoft Certified Partner in Advanced Infrastructure Solutions.

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About Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center

Consistently ranked as one of the best children's hospitals in the country by U.S. News & World Report and Child magazines, Children's serves as the pediatric referral center for Washington, Alaska, Montana and Idaho. Children's delivers superior patient care, advances new discoveries and treatments in pediatric research, and serves as the primary pediatric teaching site for the University of Washington School of Medicine.