

American Health Centers Seamlessly Moves Data and Applications to the Cloud

American Health Centers, Inc. (AHCI) is the premier provider of quality, cost-effective, value-added diagnostic medical imaging within the northern New England area.

AHCI prides itself on providing rural hospital facilities with caring, cost-effective services and state-of-the-art technologies and innovative programs that help diagnose illness and injuries and restore health to their patients.

The company was established in 1987 to acquire and manage cutting-edge technology health care modalities, particularly MRI, CT and Nuclear Medicine services. In February of 1994, AHCI acquired St. Anthony's Enterprises, Inc. Mobile Diagnostic Operation and became headquartered in Bedford, New Hampshire. St. Anthony's had "set the pace" for other providers by successfully operating the first Mobile Picker .5 HP Tesla Active Shield MRI Unit in New Hampshire.

Today, AHCI continues to be a technological leader, keeping pace with the changes in today's healthcare environment by regularly adding proven new technologies to its fleet.

CHALLENGES

AHCI's mission is to bring innovative, high quality and affordable healthcare solution to the communities it serves as a way to ensure patients receive the best possible care. With locations dispersed across northern New England and the need to remain connected with an increasingly mobile workforce, the organization was looking for a way to allow its employees easy, protected, anytime access to their critical business applications and data. AHCI also wanted to make it easier to add new employees or offices to its system.

In addition to the above, AHCI has an obligation to protect and safeguard patient data while preventing access from unauthorized parties. With strong, inflexible data protection regulations and requirements before it, AHCI would need to run a risk assessment of any potential partner and ensure its patients and physicians were well-protected.

SOLUTION

Using the power of cloud computing to empower employees with access to their applications and data wherever they might be made sense for AHCI on two fronts:

1. Employees could work more efficiently, especially on the road.
2. As the company expanded, it would not need to continue to invest in equipment, memory, processing speed, etc.

The cloud could be both an enabler and a cost cutter.





Eliminating the need to spend on maintaining or expanding our infrastructure has enabled us to re-invest where it matters most—providing world-class patient care.



AnnMarie Nolin,
Director of Operations at
American Health Centers, Inc.

AHCI turned to The Cloud Workspace™ to bring its applications and data into the cloud. The solution enables organizations to rapidly transition away from traditional IT and quickly realize the cost savings and operational advantages of the cloud.

AHCI seamlessly transitioned all of its core applications to the cloud, ensuring that employees' workflow not be interrupted and that all functionality was the same as before, except for the login point.

In terms of data security and protections, the AHCI risk assessment determined that security would actually be improved in the cloud, because AHCI could not match the monitoring or access controls provided. Several control mechanisms were put in place to protect the data and restrict access by any and all unauthorized parties, ensuring that AHCI was compliant with all regulatory requirements.

BENEFITS

AHCI saw benefits almost immediately. AHCI was able to provide its employees with cutting-edge technology and remote access to applications by using The Cloud Workspace's™ remote client solution. This empowered employees to work and connect while off-site—and helped to lower AHCI's infrastructure, hosting and overall IT costs.

With security for AHCI's applications and data being managed in the cloud, the company could rest easily knowing that its patient data was in good hands and they would not need to spend the time and money on monitoring, updating and testing systems on a regular basis any longer.

"We never had to worry," said AnnMarie Nolin, Director of Operations at American Health Centers, Inc. "After doing extensive research, we discovered that The Cloud Workspace was perfect to help us maintain our technological advantage and protect our patients' private data. Eliminating the need to spend on maintaining or expanding our infrastructure has enabled us to re-invest where it matters most—providing world-class patient care."