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Indiana Regional Medical Center Saves $25,000 Using iatricSystems™ EasyConnect Jaguar Interface Engine

OBJECTIVE: Indiana Regional Medical Center is committed to exchanging patient information electronically in order to improve care, maximize efficiency, and meet Meaningful Use requirements. Their main interoperability objective was to be able to connect their primary healthcare information system (HIS) with disparate healthcare systems such as ADT, radiology, and ER reporting. They also wanted to be able to connect to external physician offices. In order to make these connections, they needed a fast and easy way to replace current point-to-point interfaces and also be able to build their own interfaces cost-effectively. This entails replicating current interfaces and then customizing to the specific interoperability needs of each healthcare system—regardless of the vendor type. Additionally, they wanted to save time by creating and managing the interfaces themselves, instead of contracting the services to an outside company.

SITUATION: Indiana Regional Medical Center is a 168-bed facility offering many types of healthcare services for its patients. They faced a challenge familiar to many hospitals that have limited staff and financial constraints: building interfaces between different systems and data formats is normally a complex process requiring specialized coding knowledge that is typically not available internally.

SOLUTION: Using iatricSystems™ EasyConnect Jaguar interface engine, in-house staff at Indiana Regional are now able to build interfaces quickly and easily. The intuitive dashboard allows even non-technical users to apply filters, templates, and other functions to a raw data feed with drag-and-drop simplicity; recycle and modify interface settings, and test a new interface in a sandbox (a testing and development environment that doesn't disrupt existing operations). New interfaces can be set up within an hour and can 'go live' when ready.

RESULTS: EasyConnect Jaguar simplifies what had been a complex, time-consuming, and expensive process. Indiana Regional Medical Center can now build interfaces in a fraction of the time it took previously, and modify existing interfaces on the fly rather than wait for a vendor to do it. Clinical and accounting information now flows smoothly to disparate internal and external systems, with more interfaces on the way. There also have been significant cost savings (more than $25,000 in 2011; and considerably more projected for 2012).

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>
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>   Clinical Analyst
>   Indiana Regional Medical Center

One of the greatest technology challenges facing any hospital is exchanging, integrating, sharing, and retrieving electronic health information across multiple systems. The complexity of building interfaces to share vital data continues to prove daunting (and expensive) for many healthcare providers.

At Indiana Regional Medical Center, system interoperability has taken a huge leap forward with iatricSystems EasyConnect Jaguar interface engine, a software tool that allows hospital staff to build the interfaces they need without the need for coding. Rather than months of development work, in-house staff can create interfaces quickly and easily using an intuitive dashboard that shields them from the underlying technical heavy lifting.

Simplicity that Saves Money

Donna Jackson, Clinical Analyst at Indiana Regional Medical Center, explains that the ability to modify existing definitions is much more efficient than continually building interfaces from scratch. "Using EasyConnect Jaguar, we now have much more flexibility for building and maintaining the interfaces we need. For example, if we need to connect another physician office that uses an Allscripts EMR system, we already have the criteria and filters in place. We can replicate the settings, make a few adjustments for the specific practice, and have the interface ready for testing within an hour. Otherwise it would have taken weeks to build the connection."

This simplicity translates to significant cost savings. "Last year, we saved about $25,000 using the iatricSystems interface engine. With the additional connections we plan to build, this year the savings will be much higher," Donna adds.

Interfaces Built So Far

EasyConnect Jaguar provides a central hub for integrating a wide variety of systems both within Indiana Regional Medical Center and externally to EMR systems used in physician practices. A long-time iatricSystems customer, Indiana Regional already used another iatricSystems product, Physician Office Integration, to connect with outside physician practices. No problem—the existing product simply plugs into EasyConnect Jaguar, much like an extension cord with multiple branches.

To date, some of the interfaces Donna has built include internal ADT interfaces to a radiology billing application from Radcom, a coding product from Links, and an ER reporting system from Blue Panda. She has also created external interfaces to physician practices running EMR systems from ADAPTAMED, Allscripts, and MedReport. Using EasyConnect Jaguar, she applied filters and transformations to raw feeds of lab and radiology data flowing into the interface engine to create tailored feeds flowing out to each practice. All these interfaces are now live, and many others are in the testing or planned phase.

Donna adds that EasyConnect Jaguar is allowing her to create interfaces between internal systems and to outside physician practices—with efficiency never before possible. "I'm constantly getting requests from physician offices," Donna says. "I'm building multiple interfaces in parallel, at different stages of assembly and testing. I don't wait until I complete one; for example, right now I have three new interfaces underway."
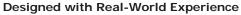
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Designed with Real-World Experience

iatricSystems drew upon its 20+ years of experience of helping many different healthcare information systems interface with more than 700 healthcare vendor systems. The result is an advanced interface engine solution filled with practical features for building connections between a variety of system architectures and data formats, even by non-technical users. Donna particularly likes the drag-and-drop functionality, the dashboard with a real-time view of all connections, and the testing and development environment that allows interfaces to be perfected without disrupting live operations. She adds that the ability to define email and text message alerts is another advantage. "It tells you if another vendor's server is down or if there are connectivity issues, and it guides you to where the issues are so they can be fixed quickly with little or no downtime."

A Better Way to Exchange Data

Donna adds that any hospital looking for an easier way to exchange data between different systems should strongly consider the EasyConnect Jaguar interface engine. "EasyConnect Jaguar provides the flexibility and control we need to build interfaces in a timely manner rather than wait for someone to build them for us. It's very cost-effective and convenient; especially with the support from iatricSystems we can call upon when we need it."

To learn more about **EasyConnect Jaguar** please contact us using the information below.