

CASE STUDY – Mobile Computing

MACNEAL

Pen Computer gives healthcare providers decision support at the point of care



"We selected Fujitsu's pen tablets because the system performed best during testing and, most importantly, our caregivers felt the new technology was very user-friendly."

MacNeal Health network

MacNeal Health Network (MHN), a prominent provider of health service based in United States, which provides combined healthcare services for more than 75 years, including a 427-bed hospital, Health Centers and Home Health Services, saw Fujitsu's mobile computing solutions an opportunity to reduce administrative costs and make clinical documentation easier.

The Challenge

Hospitals are facing daily challenges of the paper-based systems that were very difficult to maintain and become time-intrusive. Caregivers need to search through paper files which are always unavailable or misplaced, moreover, potential wrong data caused by human errors in manual inputting is another common issue that limits quality of patient care and efficiency in this time-critical environment.

The Mobile Solution

MHN has installed a dedicated wireless LAN in conjunction with the use of pen computers in its health facilities. Fujitsu and our business partner provided hardware and software solutions to MHN. Now, doctors and nurses are no longer required to carry heavy files when visiting patients. Instead, they just need to bring along a Fujitsu's Tablet PC through which accurate and real-time medical data can be retrieved.

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Comparison

As compared with PDAs and notebooks, Tablet PC is more effective when used in conjunction with wireless LAN in hospital. Though PDAs are easy to use and portable, it is not powerful enough to handle data intensive applications and the screen is less favourable to view medical charts. Sometimes notebooks were found to be too cumbersome especially when there is no surface on which to perch. Thanks to pen computers, healthcare professionals can bring the pen computer to the bedside and talk to a patient with many resources available to them, such as charts, test results, medical research. They don't have to be tied to a notebook on a desk. It allows healthcare workers interact in the way they like.

The Benefits

MNH has greatly eliminated the need of paper forms and stationary. More than 2.2 million pieces of paper has been saved. At the same time, since storage of paper files is not needed any more, their storage room has been converted into clinical space to accommodate additional patients. One of MHN's facilities reported revenue increase by 39 percent after adopting the technology.

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