

AbstractID: 1923 Title: Experience in Integrating Old PACS to New PACS in a Multi-Site Clinical Center

Many PACS have been successfully accepted and implemented in the last several years by clinical institutions. With the ever changing technology in the PACS area, the life span of a PACS system is short. In the institution, the old PACS was a six years old US mini PACS, the DICOM the vendor interpreted and used was not exactly the same as used by most of today's PACS vendors. It is challenging for the old PACS database/images to be accessible for 5-7 years after it is replaced by a new department wide PACS. After careful evaluation, it was decided to integrate the database from the old to the new PACS. Old archived images were sent to the new PACS as DICOM 3.0 compliant through a gateway from the old PACS vendor. Since multiple sites were involved, the new PACS was implemented in several phases. There was a transitional phase during which new US studies were sent to the old PACS from some sites, and new US studies were sent to the new PACS from other sites. The process of reading the old MODs and then transferring to the new PACS is a slow process. The database transfer started from the latest MOD toward early MODs, so that they can be queried from the new PACS right after they are transferred. In conclusion, through careful evaluation and planning, integrating old PACS to new PACS can be successful without expensive third party data transfer service, and the process can be seamless.