

Session #8

Opinion Piece

February 10, 2003

The logo for HIMSS (Healthcare Information Management Systems Society) features a stylized graphic on the left consisting of overlapping yellow, red, and blue squares with a black crosshair. To the right of this graphic, the text "HIMSS" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, with a registered trademark symbol (®) to the upper right of the "S".

HIMSS[®]

**WILL THE REAL
ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
PLEASE BE INSTALLED!**



About Deborah Kohn, Speaker

- **Worked with Electronic Document Management Systems (EDMSs) since 1987**
- **Assisted in the design and installation of the first EDMS for patient record documents in a US healthcare provider organization**
- **Recently architected the integration of a large, university-based, healthcare delivery network's clinical documentation system and EDMS**
- **Founded the national Patient Medical Record and Patient Financial Record EDMS User Groups**



Learning Objectives

- 1. Differentiate between EDMs and other, similar types of information systems, such as content management systems, record management systems, and electronic patient record systems**
- 2. Explain why EDMs and their component technologies play critical, middleware roles in enterprise-wide IT infrastructures**
- 3. Use EDMS component technologies as springboards for healthcare organization web strategies**
- 4. Develop an enterprise strategy for electronic document management that best suites the organization**



What is a Document?

**any Analog or Digital,
Formatted, and Preserved**

CONTAINER

**of Data or Information
that is Interpreted in
an Audible, Readable, or Visual
Manner**



Data Contained in a Document

Structured?

or

Unstructured?



Healthcare Documents - Analog

- Hand-written / type-set, paper-based
 - forms
 - notes
 - letters
 - reports
- Photographic film-based
 - diagnostic images
 - photographs



Healthcare Documents - Digital

- **Computer-generated**

- forms
- notes
- letters
- reports

- **Computer-generated**

- diagnostic images
- photographs



Healthcare Documents - Digital

- **Graphics**
- **Audio clips**
- **Video clips**
- **Microsoft Office files**



Healthcare Documents - Digital

- **Email Message exchanges**
- **Instant Message exchanges**
- **Vmail Message exchanges**
- **Web pages!**



What is an EDMS?

**ANY Electronic System
that Manages
DOCUMENTS**

**to Realize Significant Improvements
in Business Work Processes**



What is an EDMS?

**ANY Electronic System
consisting of
Technology Components
that support
DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Analog Document Capture**

(i.e., **Document Imaging Technology**)

- **Scanning / Faxing**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Digital Document Indexing**

- **Metadata**

- **Digital Document Retrieval**

- **Printing to Paper, Film and / or Screen**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Character Recognition or Automatic Identification**
 - **Intelligent Character Recognition**
 - **Optical Character Recognition**
 - **Optical Mark Recognition (Mark Sense)**
 - **Bar Coding**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Document Management**

- **Document Assembly**

- **Version Control**

- **Document Tracking (Check In/Check Out)**

- **Document Content Management**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Records Management**

- **Mass Storage**

- **Retention**

- **Archiving**

- **Purging**



EDMS Component Technologies

- **Workflow**
- **Enterprise Report Management (ERM)**
- **Automated Forms Processing**
- **Digital Signature Management**



Today's Terms for an EDMS

INCORRECT

- **Imaging System**
- **Document Imaging System**
- **Optical Imaging System**
- **Electronic Patient Record System**



Examining the Perceptions

- **“An EDMS is an Imaging System, Document Imaging System, Optical Imaging System,”**
- **“An Imaging System, Document Imaging System, Optical Imaging System, is an EDMS.”**
- **“Document imaging is synonymous with document management.”**



The Consequences

- Most of today's existing, healthcare organization EDMSSs are just document imaging technology systems.



Examining the Perceptions

- **“There is no need for an EDMS because the healthcare enterprise is implementing all-digital information systems, such as clinical data repositories, clinical documentation systems, financial information systems, etc.”**



The Consequences

- **Paper AND Electronic Interim**
- **Paper TO Electronic Transition**



Examining the Perceptions

- **“The healthcare organization will become ‘paperless’ when all-digital information systems are implemented.”**



The Consequences

- **What if other healthcare organizations are NOT fully digitized when all-digital information systems are implemented in your organization?**



Examining the Perceptions

- **“The healthcare organization will become ‘paperless’ when it acquires and implements an EDMS.”**



The Consequences

- **Little demand**
- **Systems that have been dominated by dedicated, high-volume applications located in one healthcare organization department**



Examining What's Real

- Many IT decision-makers do not understand documents.
 - They understand structured data.
 - And, unstructured data and documents are processed differently.



Examining What's Real

Many executive decision-makers do not understand document management until they are confronted with or responsible for managing document-related issues:

- archival issues
- output management issues
- storage issues.



Examining What's Real

- It's **VERY** difficult convincing healthcare decision-makers that electronic document management is a strategic requirement, especially when they don't know what it really is.



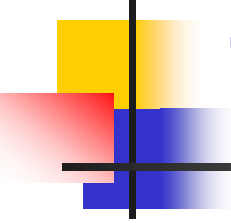
Where Are We?

**As yet, no fully-functional,
REAL
EDMSs
have been installed.**



Where Are We?

Ironically, today, healthcare organizations' existing and future data and information processing, transaction-based systems require a number of EDMS component technologies to complement those systems.



The Not-So-Good News

- **Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization still faxes documents!**
- **Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization still prints digital documents to paper and film for storage and distribution purposes!**



The Good News

- **Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization requires automated workflow!**
- **Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization benefits from document management, especially version and access control!**



The Good News

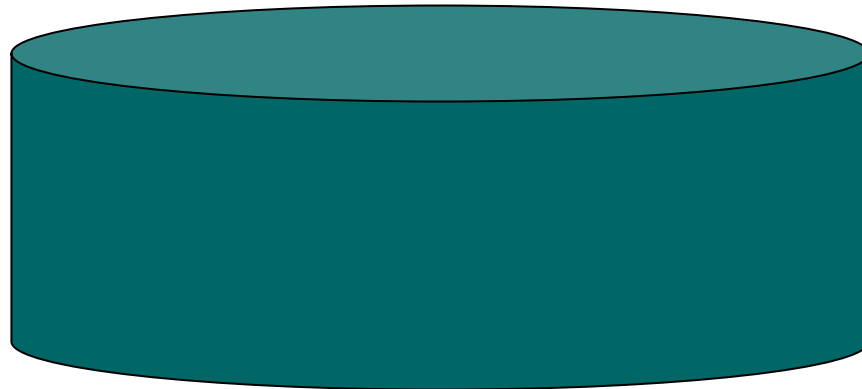
Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization requires digital signature management!

- **Almost EVERYONE in a healthcare organization benefits from content management, especially when developing and maintaining documents published on public and private websites!**



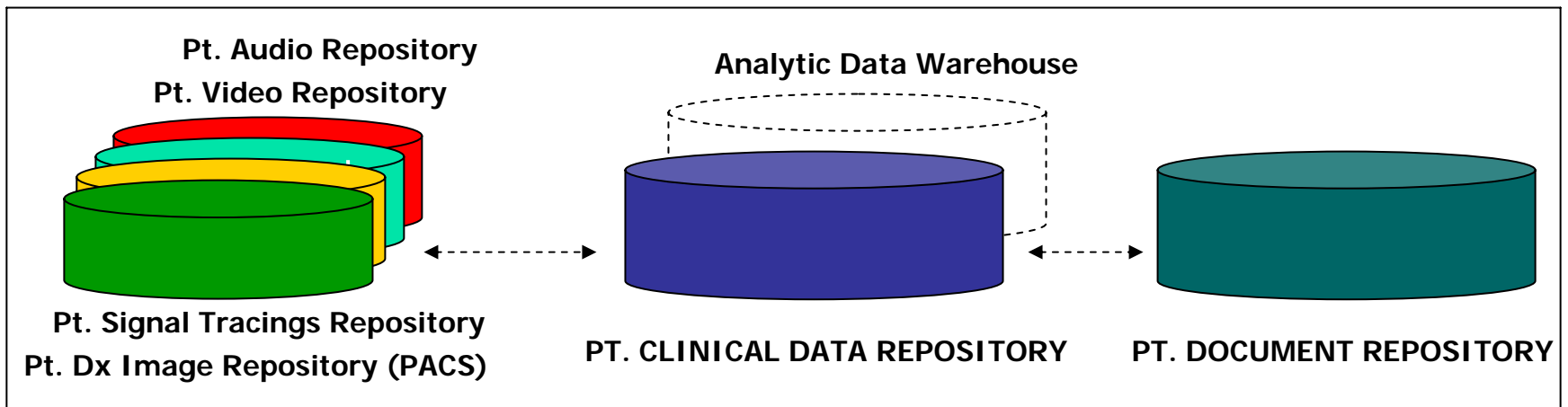
A Different Strategy

The Document Repository



A Different Strategy

Physical data and document repositories, logically linked





A Different Strategy

- **Most of the EDMS component technologies should be viewed as enterprise-wide, middleware services.**



A Different Strategy

- This means including the following EDMS component technologies in the middle layers of IT infrastructure:
 - Analog document capture (i.e., **Document Imaging**)
 - Character Recognition / Automatic Identification
 - ERM
 - Document Management
 - Content Management
 - Automated Forms Processing
 - Digital Signature Management
 - Records Management



A Different Strategy

- This means that application software systems across the enterprise can take advantage of the EDMS component technologies as needed.



A Different Strategy

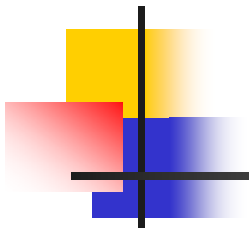
**NOT ON AN
APPLICATION-BY-APPLICATION
BASIS!**



A Different Strategy

This means including those EDMS component technologies with enterprise integration applications, such as:

- Interface engines/gateways
- APIs
- Industry-standard messaging protocols
 - HL7
 - DICOM



END-USER INTERFACE LAYER

**END-USER APPLICATION SYSTEMS LAYER
(Existing and Future)**

MIDDLEWARE LAYERS

ENTERPRISE APPLICATION INTEGRATION LAYER

**Document
Imaging**

**Printing
Output
Management**

**Mass Storage
Retention
Archival**

**Document
Management**

**Content
Management**

Workflow

**Digital Signature
Management**

**Character
Recognition**

**Automated Forms
Processing**

NETWORK LAYER



Take-Home Proposal

- **Since EDMs are cost-effective and feasible for enterprise wide solutions...**
 - **On the hardware side**
 - **On the software side**
 - **On the maintenance side**



Take-Home Proposal

- **Since enterprise-wide EDMS platforms exist that provide integrated suites of the component technologies ...**



Take-Home Proposal

- **Develop enterprise-wide EDMS strategies that correctly define electronic document management...**



Take-Home Proposal

- **and that pay attention to strategic IT infrastructure requirements, including...**



Take-Home Proposal

- **Integrating the EDMS with existing and planned transaction processing systems**
- **Aligning the EDMS with intranets**
- **Analyzing the EDMS' effects on existing and future infrastructure budget and resource constraints**



Strategy Benefits

- **allows users to pay-as-they-go**
- **helps to reduce capital spending and align costs with demand**



Strategy Benefits

- **moves IT into a more “managed service provider” (MSP) model where the management and performance of non-core, technical functions can be outsourced to an expert third party or remain in house**



Questions & Answers

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