

DRV FlexTools™ help small, rural hospitals control costs and save thousands of man-hours / \$ per year.

DRV Technologies' software generates electronic medical forms and archives Siemens MedSeries 4 financial reports on the IBM i platform.

Overview: Switching report management software saves money and yields additional benefits

Sometimes, an ending is just the beginning of a better solution. That's what Ken Abendshien, Director of Information Systems at Midwest Health System Data Center (MHSDC), discovered when his forms management software vendor announced it would no longer support the IBM i platform.

Because the IBM i is cost-effective for the small, rural hospitals that MHSDC serves, Abendshien was determined to find a software replacement that would deliver the same features, yet would promise continued support of the IBM i (i5, iSeries, AS/400).

Abendshien was pleased to find that DRV Technologies' (www.drvttech.com) FormFlex software was more cost-effective than their previous software vendor. He also discovered the benefits of DRV's SpoolFlex software for archiving IBM i reports and distributing them to multiple locations via PDF. Both software solutions address MHSDC's unique needs for routing and report formats.

Customer Profile: Midwest Health System Data Center

Midwest Health System Data Center is a fully-owned subsidiary of Great Plains Health Alliance (www.gpha.com), a non-profit management organization that provides administrative and support services for community hospitals. MHSDC provides I.T. purchasing power and support services for the member hospitals, serving 28 hospitals throughout Kansas and Nebraska that range in size from 50 employees up to 250 employees.

Problem: Searching for a native IBM i software solution

Abendshien originally looked for a solution to electronically replicate and print hospital forms. DRV Technologies' FormFlex software fulfilled those tasks, but he quickly realized that SpoolFlex could solve the hospitals report distribution and archiving problems.

The hospitals need the ability to print one report to multiple locations – without requiring the user to save the print job and move it to a different printer. Multiple print locations are necessary because some of the hospitals use an off-site billing center to handle Medicare and insurance billing. In the past, the hospitals printed the report and faxed it to the off-site billing center.

The hospitals also struggled with labor-intensive manual archiving of reports. Occasionally the process broke down, resulting in lost reports.

Customer Profile

Midwest Health System Data Center – Hays, Kansas

This I.T. organization is the first line of support for small, rural community hospitals running the Siemens MedSeries 4 hospital information systems.

Existing Technology

IBM i platform running Siemens MedSeries 4 hospital information system

Objectives

Map hospital forms to print on the IBM i platform.
Automatically archive reports as well as distribute them to multiple printer locations.

Solution

DRV FlexTools™ Including SpoolFlex and FormFlex

FormFlex Benefits

Creates and stores electronic forms and check overlays natively on the IBM i.
Eliminates expense of storing and handling pre-printed forms.
Electronically delivers and files documents.

SpoolFlex Benefits

Converts reports to PDF, Excel, HTML, and Word.
Distributes reports to file servers or via email.
Bursts a report into separate reports or combines multiple reports into one.
No programming required
Very affordable (often pays for itself in paper savings alone).

Cost

Both SpoolFlex and FormFlex: \$12,500

Solution: Additional software features make

Choosing DRV Technologies' software was "a no-brainer" for Abendshien because of all the additional capabilities that DRV delivered over MHSDC's previous vendor – especially after he recognized how affordable the software was. Being part of a non-profit organization that serves hospitals struggling to keep up with technology, MHSDC was hyper-conscious of the cost of any I.T. purchase. "It was probably one of the fastest decisions I've ever gotten the financial management team to buy off on," says Abendshien.

FormFlex Helps with UB-04 Billing Format Conundrum

When the new UB-04 billing format was mandated in early 2007, the hospitals that MHSDC supported were faced with purchasing expensive, edge-to-edge printers to accommodate the print stream from the IBM iSeries. However, MHSDC used FormFlex to avoid this cost by mapping the print stream to a tighter width. This enabled the hospitals to use standard laser printers – at a much more reasonable cost – to print data onto the UB-04 forms.

Now the hospitals can print or email IBM i reports as PDFs to multiple locations (internally and externally), as well as electronically archive 75 day-end financial reports. The hospital staff is glad to not have to search for reports, which they can now access through their hospital Intranet.

SpoolFlex's flexible configuration makes it simple to distribute the reports to each hospital's specific requirements. Abendshien says, "The beauty of SpoolFlex is that it helps a hospital's I.T. department bring a higher level of automation to report distributing."

One of the biggest benefits of implementing SpoolFlex at the hospitals has been time savings. Abendshien reports, "The time spent on spool management and manually archiving critical reports

has now just gone away." The hospitals that use SpoolFlex each save a minimum of 30 minutes each day – that's 182 hours times 28 locations adding up to over 5,000 hours per year!

Evaluation

Not only is SpoolFlex "a lot easier to work with and more intuitive" than their previous report management software, Abendshien appreciates the web training and assistance he and his staff have received from DRV's in-house technical support. "I think DRV has some very fine people that do troubleshooting."

But most important, the hospitals don't worry about printing, distributing, storing, or finding reports. They're pleased and so is MHSDC. "Letting the hospitals determine what their needs are – rather than us dictating how we're going to do the process – is more customer-friendly."



"SpoolFlex and FormFlex give us the ability to be more customer-oriented."

"DRV's solutions are a whole lot less expensive than our previous software and provide us with ten times the functionality."

"Once you set up SpoolFlex, the end user doesn't have to deal with the report delivery or spool management at all."

"Automation tools like SpoolFlex can enhance a hospital's I.T. organization so that they can spend their time doing other things."

"SpoolFlex's automatic archiving gives the hospitals peace of mind so that they don't have to worry about lost reports anymore."

Ken Abendshien,
Director of Information Systems,
Midwest Health System
Data Center

Future Plans for FormFlex

MHSDC plans to expand their use of FormFlex by employing it to create hospital consent forms. When a hospital admits a patient, FormFlex (with some additional programming) will fill in the consent forms with the appropriate patient information (patient name, birth date, and so forth). Based on the patient's upcoming procedures at the hospital, FormFlex will print out the relevant consent forms for the patient to sign.