Client Success Story

Alder Hey Children's Hospital
Replaces Point to Point Integration with Centralized Interface Management System

CLIENT
Alder Hey Children's Hospital
Liverpool, England

CHALLENGE
The leadership team at Alder Hey Children's Hospital recognized that the migration to MEDITECH 6.x presented an opportunity to move from a costly point to point integration strategy to centralized interface management.

SOLUTION
Alder Hey selected Summit Express Connect as the integration platform that would support their new approach. They also extended the use of the Summit Scripting Toolkit to manage dictionary builds, management and synchronization hospital-wide.

RESULTS
The hospital successfully integrated 18 interfaces at go live. Summit Express Connect also serves as the hub between MEDITECH's ERP module and nine other systems. Half a million messages were sent via these pathways in the first 24 hours.

PROFILE
Located in Liverpool, England, Alder Hey is one of Europe's busiest children's hospitals, caring for over 270,000 young people and their families every year. When the hospital's IT/IS team decided to migrate their electronic health records (EHR) platform to MEDITECH 6.x, they recognized that this presented the opportunity to also update other elements of their paperless patient data strategy.

One of these was the way the hospital managed system integration with the EHR suite. Until this point, Alder Hey had used a point by point approach that required a distinct interface for each feed. This was costly, time-consuming and prevented them from re-using existing data. From a day to day management standpoint, 19 point to point connections required individual attention.

CHALLENGE
Once Alder Hey decided to move away from the point to point approach, they soon chose Summit Healthcare as their integration partner. The hospital had already derived success from using the versatile Summit Scripting Toolkit, and recognized the potential of further developing the strategic relationship. The Summit Express Connect interface engine gives hospitals a broad range of integration functionality that makes it simple to transition existing system interfaces and create new connections between the EHR platform and third party software – making it perfect for Alder Hey's project.

From day one, hospital staff worked closely with teams from Summit Healthcare and MEDITECH to set expectations, goals and deadlines for the migration and interface centralization. This close cooperation meant that the impacts of the transition were understood in advance and adherence to the plan ensured there were no surprises for the operational teams.

SOLUTION
One of the keys to a successful migration was ensuring that all the interfaces went live at the same time as MEDITECH 6.x, so there was

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> – *Cathy Fox, Associate Director of Informatics, Alder Hey Children's Hospital*

no lag time in data exchange. The simplicity of the Summit Express Connect architecture allowed for local control each interface transition. This ensured that every interface was aligned to the individual business need of each receiving system and the dependent operational services.

During interface testing, it became apparent that there were some issues with the initial input/throughput and the high volume of messages that the 18 interfaces would be sending into MEDITECH. Summit Healthcare's professional services group worked hand-in-hand with Alder Hey's IT team and MEDITECH implementation staff to reconfigure the system and ensure it met the hospital's requirements.

As a result of this well-planned, six-month planning and testing phase, 18 interfaces were up and running at the same time as the hospital went live with MEDITECH 6.x. Alder Hey also successfully integrated MEDITECH's ERP module with nine other system.

RESULTS

As a result of the tight integration between MEDITECH and Alder Hey's third party applications, more than half a million messages were successfully sent during the first 24 hours. Compounding this initial success, operational performance of the Integration Engine has maintained live, up to date communications between all connected systems since the transition.

"Summit Healthcare helped ensure that our transition to MEDITECH 6.x was as smooth as possible," said **Cathy Fox, Associate Director of Informatics at Alder Hey Children's Hospital**. "It was crucial that our interfaces were up and running when we went live with the new platform, and that's exactly what we achieved."

Now that Alder Hey has moved from a point to point approach to a centralized integration strategy, Fox and her team no longer have to manage multiple interfaces individually. Instead, they have a one-stop solution that manages all system feeds into and out of MEDITECH 6.x.

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In addition to using Summit Healthcare's integration engine, Alder Hey also relied on the Summit Scripting Toolkit, a powerful MEDITECH workflow automation tool, to support the migration to 6.x with dictionary builds, management and synchronization. The application continues to automate key processes across the hospital.

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