

CASE STUDY

INDUSTRY: HEALTHCARE

APPLICATION: MEDICAL
IMAGING

INTEGRATOR: GE®HEALTHCARE

SOLUTION: CENTRICITY®
PACS SYSTEM WITH PLASMON
UDO ARCHIVE APPLIANCE

Newport Imaging Centers
Newport Beach, California, USA

The Organisation

Newport Imaging is a free-standing outpatient diagnostic medical facility with two locations in Newport Beach, CA, and a third in Irvine, CA. Operated through a partnership between Hoag Hospital and Newport Harbor Radiology Associates, Newport Imaging Center has been serving Orange County residents for the past 15 years with a wide variety of radiology and imaging procedures including MRI, CAT Scans, Ultrasound, Bone Densitometry (DEXA), Mammography and Diagnostic x-ray procedures.

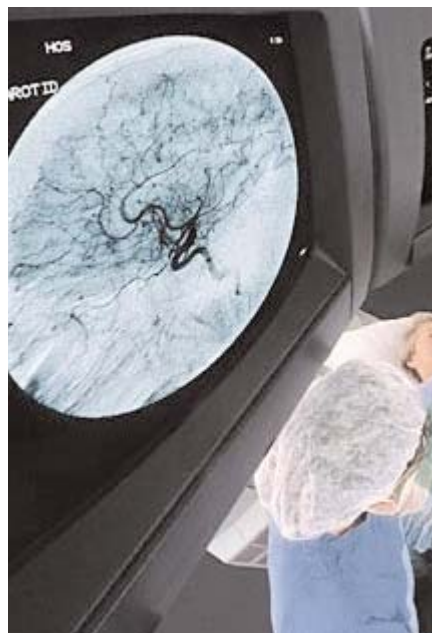
The Challenge

Until recently, Newport Imaging processed all its medical images through a GE Centricity PACS system and stored images simultaneously to local RAID, which would hold images for a period of 30 days, and a Plasmon MO library, which served as their long-term permanent archive. Increasing file sizes caused by advancements in imaging technology combined with Newport Imaging's expanding operations required Newport to research additional storage capacity that would meet both current and future needs.

Last year, as the Plasmon MO library began to reach its capacity, Systems Administrator Scot LaClair consulted GE Medical for the best solution to his data crunch. Newport Imaging needed a medical imaging archiving solution that could scale to handle both the historical medical images as well as all new images captured over the next five years.

"One of our main concerns was making sure we had a disaster recovery strategy. This is why we are migrating our historical archive over to the Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance, so we can have copies of our old images as well."

Scot LaClair,
Systems Manager
Newport Imaging Centers



*Newport Imaging Centers
archives medical exams,
enabling on-demand
availability for up to 30
users at three sites.*



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The Solution

LaClair considered several options for replacing his Plasmon MO library. He considered a DVD solution, which didn't provide the capacity he needed. He also looked at EMC's Centera, which had a lot of redundancy built in, but ultimately determined it to be too volatile and limited to online capacity. LaClair states, "We looked at Centera, but the reliability was in question -- you're not getting that copy to take off-site to store in a vault at Iron Mountain. It's volatile and regardless of how much redundancy or how many copies it makes, if something's corrupt then it's corrupted multiple times." Ultimately, the amount of space required for the Centera and its high cost deterred Newport Imaging from taking that direction.



After researching solutions based on performance, long-term storage and cost, LaClair settled on the Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance (AA174). This midrange model has slots for 174 30GB UDO platters, four UDO drives and a total capacity of 5TB. An integrated, tiered, all-in-one archival storage solution for long-term data/image retention, the UDO Archive Appliance leverages the performance of RAID and ease-of-use of NAS with the longevity and authenticity of UDO. Simple to deploy and use, the Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance provides Newport Imaging with the data control, access, speed and longevity necessary to meet federal and industry compliance regulations for data security and retention and provides safe, secure long-term storage for decades to come.

Newport Imaging required the new archival system to have all medical exams available on demand. Currently, Newport Imaging has more than 10 online workstations accessing the system between its three sites, plus an additional 20 to 30 remote users at doctors' offices. With such a high number of users accessing images at all times of the day, LaClair needed a system with high availability and quick access time; he did not want to have to remove any files from the archive. LaClair liked the fact that the technology roadmap for UDO doubled its capacity every two to three years. "At these capacity increases with the UDO, I don't ever foresee needing another archive solution".

LaClair desired a system that allowed duplication and removal of all its images to an offsite location for his future disaster recovery plans and was particularly attracted to the disaster recovery capabilities of the Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance, which can automatically make a second copy of each image to a second, removable UDO platter. When this backup platter is full, LaClair moves it off-site to ensure he has a backup version of his data in case the archive should ever be lost. The Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance also can be queried directly from a work station should the GE Centricity PACS system go down. "That's huge," said LaClair, "in case there's ever downtime of the system."

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Conclusion

While no one can predict what the evolution in storage technology will bring, Newport Imaging expects that the new Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance will meet their archiving requirements for many years to come. The center anticipates a jump in digital storage capacity demand when it migrates from analog to digital mammography, and its CR procedures will also require significant scaling of the system. "Our Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance is 174 slots," said LaClair. "We won't ever need an other appliance."

LaClair estimates his current annual average capacity to be between 550 to 650 GB/year, but once the digital mammography is online, he predicts that jump up to 420 GB/year more. Likewise, CT scanners are taking increasingly more data slices. But he still expects to use under a TB/year even with a growth rate of 10 to 20 %.

LaClair also is happy with the cost savings on UDO media for the Plasmon UDO Archive Appliance. The MO media for his previous library was incredibly expensive, but the UDO media basically cost the same as DVDs for a DVD jukebox. Clearly this is a big savings. "The more storage we can get for the price, the better," LaClair concludes.

