

Giving Back Crucial Time to Healthcare Staff

Overview

With privacy concerns, strict HIPAA regulations and the increasing demands of today's ever changing Healthcare industry, healthcare providers are finding that their time has become more valuable than ever. Every second saved is that much more time that could be spent focusing on the most important aspect of their day: *improving patient care*. From critical elements such as patient treatment and updating patient records, to the daily administrative responsibilities, healthcare faculty find their time to be consistently engaged in these essential pressing tasks. Gone are the days in which one doctor and one nurse had the leisuring abilities to focus on only a few select patients. With today's expanding world of healthcare, staff are finding themselves assuming more responsibilities and simultaneously taking on an increasingly substantial patient list, all the while keeping in mind and recognizing the fact that each and every patient requires and deserves one-on-one personalized care.

Problem

Most, if not all healthcare staff have found their schedules to be extensively booked from the moment their day begins. No matter the size or type of facility, the daily demands of healthcare providers can be crippling if time management isn't maximized. One of the nation's oldest and top ranked healthcare facilities in Maryland is no exception. When it comes to how valuable each and every employee's time is to the facility and more importantly, the patients, they know every minute counts. No matter what position, from doctors to nurses to system administrators, every employee is required to sign on to workstations throughout the facility numerous times per day, taking up precious time, of which they have none to spare.

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The problem was obvious, valuable time, in an industry where every second counts, was being absorbed through the mundane task of simply signing onto workstations. The solution, however, was unclear. Facility officials knew they were in need of some sort of technological solution, but also further acknowledged an essential specification, it would need to be one that could improve organizational workflow while remaining secure and compliant with the stringent HIPAA requirements.

Solution

With over 15 years of industry experience RF IDEas was able to create a cost effective and comprehensive pilot program for the facility that exceeded their expectations. The plan called for leveraging the identification credentials the facility had already issued to each employee for building access, as a way to sign on to the secured data network of the facility. By using RF IDEas' pcProx® Enroll reader together with OneSign®, Imprivata's single sign on (SSO) software, a solution was developed that would allow employees to sign on and be authenticated at different workstations throughout the facility with a simple wave of their identification credential, providing healthcare professionals and their patients with enormous benefits. Eliminating the manual sign on process and allowing employees to securely sign on instantly provided more time to focus on patient care.

Results

After the pilot deployment of hardware and software, the facility immediately recognized how the new system had improved workflow for its staff. The staff found it much easier to sign on to different workstations throughout the facility and weren't pressed to spend valuable time entering user names or passwords. They could now sign on just by waving their building access badge over any workstation equipped with a pcProx Enroll reader, which resulted in more optimized workflow and an increase in productivity by eliminating the manual sign on processes.

Benefit

With the new authentication solution consisting of RF IDEas' pcProx Enroll and Imprivata's OneSign SSO software, the facility saw immediate results. The number one issue of finding a way to improve daily workflow for every employee, allowing more time to focus on patient care was resolved. Not only was workflow improvement immediately recognized by the staff, additional benefits were noticed as well. The hospital was able to leverage their previous identification credential

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infrastructure investment, which up until integrating RF IDEas' card readers and Imprivata's OneSign solution, was used solely for building and door access. With the success of the initial pilot program, management has begun deploying this solution throughout the entire facility.

The staff has seen an increase in productivity from the time saved entering user names and passwords but most importantly are able to focus more on patients and their overall care. A simple upgrade to a door access system became a huge asset to the hospital thanks to a unique approach from RF IDEas.

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