

MEDICAL IMAGING ARCHIVE OPTIMIZATION

How will you determine and communicate the value of VNA?

Vendor Neutral Archiving (VNA) is emerging as the big picture solution for the requirements of rapid accessibility, efficiency and shared utilization of medical imaging assets within and outside a Healthcare System. VNA's value is significant in terms of increased functionality, cost savings (reduced storage, reduced data migrations, etc.), increased revenue (consistent view of data, reduced time to resolution, and effective decision making) and competitive advantage (operational efficiency, improved visibility to disparate systems, federation of patient information, and enhanced patient safety).

Ascendian Healthcare Consulting's expertise allows our clients to quickly analyze VNA, build a business case, and implement the right solution based on future requirements and existing environments with minimal disruption!

EXPLORING THE EXISTING UNIVERSE OF VNA SOLUTIONS

There are three types of VNA products now available in the archive market, as defined by Ascendian: Full VNA, Hybrid VNA, and PACS Neutral Archive (PNA). A fourth category might include the vendors touting their PACS solution as a VNA. As a result, confusion is rampant in the community since the definition of a VNA depends on which vendor you speak with. Vendor selection in this market will have a significant impact on the clinical and technical functionality of your archive. Thus, you must first understand what defines the three categories of VNA.



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1. FULL VNA: A Full VNA is not only an all in one solution but offers the ability to fully utilize non DICOM objects without manipulation or intervention. A Full VNA provides an embedded and supported universal viewer that is capable of displaying DICOM and non DICOM objects within a single application without wrapping or encapsulating the object simply to archive the object and make it useful with current technology.

2. HYBRID VNA: A Hybrid VNA offers the basic core infrastructure of a Full VNA but often does not include a univiewer by default that ties the entire package together. A Hybrid VNA is lacking in a unified viewer, it allows you, the customer, to choose best of breed when selecting a viewer for your enterprise. It provides the viewer a Direct Access Link (DAL) to the object storage location. Hybrids are capable of storing non DICOM objects but typically by default do not provide an ability to utilize the non DICOM object unless the chosen third party viewer is capable of displaying that file type. Consider this a finger pointing session between the clinical application system and the third party unified viewer. The VNA vendor will simply provide storage and access to the object.

3. PACS NEUTRAL ARCHIVE (PNA): PNA's are simply third party DICOM archives that are typically rebranded by existing storage vendors with an inbound interface to keep the records and PACS in synch with the enterprise. They offer the ability to store and archive images from multiple DICOM systems but usually lack the ability to store non DICOM data without wrapping or encapsulation. They often also usually lack Image Lifecycle Management (ILM) and Web Services to publish the data to an Health Information Exchange (HIE). There are many vendors in this space touting VNA.

ELEVATING THE OUTCOME®

VNA EVALUATION

- Analysis & Business Case development
- Identify & develop VNA strategic vision & road map
- RFP & RFI development
- Identify & organize steering committee & stakeholders
- Project planning & Kick-off
- Imaging current state workflow & gap analysis
- Current state technical & infrastructure analysis
- VNA server architecture & storage requirements

VNA DATA MIGRATION & METHODOLOGY PLANNING

- Equipment reconciliation
- Data analysis & identify any normalization requirements
- Identify any need for enhanced metadata capture
- Communication planning

VNA IMPLEMENTATION

- Project planning & Kick-off
- Installation & configuration
- Perform analysis for DICOM data scrub
- Training plan
- Technical Go Live
- Identification of support personnel
- End user training
- System support requirements
- Validation of functionality, reporting, workflows

POST IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

- System documentation
- Post end user workflows
- Distribute & file operating procedures
- Maintenance & support
- Project documentation



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