

CASE STUDY

Lincoln Surgical Hospital Streamlines EHR and RIS/PACS Integration Using Summit Scripting Toolkit

Lincoln Surgical

Lincoln Surgical Hospital improved clinical modality integration with MEDITECH's EHR platform using Summit Scripting Toolkit. The system delivered immediate cost savings and a 3-month ROI.

Profile

Lincoln Surgical Hospital is an innovative healthcare leader in providing exceptional surgical services for our patients, based in Lincoln, Nebraska. Its dedicated physicians and staff strive to achieve optimal surgical outcomes in a patient focused atmosphere.

To advance its EHR project, Lincoln Surgical Hospital recognized the need to interface feeds from clinical modalities into MEDITECH. This is typically expensive, time consuming and requires hospitals like Lincoln to rely on a third party vendor to create each integration point. It can take months for a single feed to be up and running – a time frame that is unacceptable in the fast-paced and increasingly competitive world of modern healthcare.

Challenge

Most vendors charge \$15,000 or more for a single integration point, and the required file name string is far too complex for human interaction. If a vendor does offer scripting tools these are typically complex and require expertise that some healthcare IT team members lack. And if a hospital's internal IT/IS staff does have the requisite experience to script a custom interface, they often don't have the time.

Jonathan Lenners, IT Analyst, looked for a better, faster, more cost effective way to meet Lincoln's integration. After carefully evaluating several options, he chose the Summit Scripting Toolkit (SST).

"We needed a solution that would enable us to create interfaces between multiple modalities and MEDITECH, without us having to pay for each distinct integration point," Lenners said. "Summit Scripting Toolkit checked this box, allows us to take ownership and enabled us to get started right away instead of waiting on a vendor."

From the simplest script to the most complex interface; SST eliminates the need for expensive custom interfaces and provides you with a cost effective solution that enables you to extract data from any system, input data to any system, create real time or batch interfaces, and automate routine data entry tasks. SST can connect to virtually any system, including complex and proprietary Windows or Web applications.



Client

Lincoln Surgical Hospital

Lincoln, Nebraska

Challenge

Getting clinical data from modalities into MEDITECH requires a costly, time-consuming process and many vendors charge \$15,000 or more per integration point. Each interface can take months.

Solution

Summit Scripting Toolkit enabled Lincoln to script its own interfaces in hours, and to easily extend the solution to other feeds. This automation provides material and time savings, and enhances the MEDITECH EHR.

Results

Lincoln successfully integrated multiple modality feeds with MEDITECH's EHR, easily expanded the solution to one of the hospital's clinics and achieved a three month return on investment.

Contact Us

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CASE STUDY

Lincoln Surgical Hospital Summit Scripting Toolkit

"We estimate that we're saving \$25,000 per quarter by using Summit Healthcare's solution, and avoided having to pay another vendor \$15,000 for a one-off interface."

Solution

Previously, getting clinical data into MEDITECH involved a multi-step, error-prone manual process. First, an HIM staff member would print the electronic file and generate labels from MEDITECH. They'd then affix the labels to the document and scan it through the MEDITECH scanning and achieving interface. Finally, they'd index the document to ensure it went into the correct chart.

This complex, time-draining process is now a thing of the past. Using SST, Lenner created a script that takes a simple file name string and expands it into the required complex name string. It then sends the file to the ECM Filer to be processed by MEDITECH.

"With Summit Scripting Toolkit it took me less than eight hours to create the script, test it and put it into full production," Lenner said.

The new process takes just 10 to 20 seconds of human interaction per file, while the average processing time for the script is three seconds per file. Once the data is in the MEDITECH queue, it takes about 30 seconds to show up on the chart. This means that the entire process is completed in less than a minute – a far cry from the lengthy, manual workflow that Lincoln used to rely on.

As Lenner was able to get up and running immediately and use SST out of the box, the impact of the solution was immediate. The first script was deployed in just eight hours, and Lenner has since extended it to multiple modality feeds at the hospital. This early success led to Lincoln extending Summit Healthcare's versatile application to one of its clinics.

Lincoln's medical records department was projecting to add 1.5 FTEs (full time employees) for FY 2015 but the decreased time it takes to process records with this new workflow enabled by SST allowed them to keep current staffing levels. This has further enhanced the cost savings from the solution and contributed to a rapid return on investment (ROI) that exceeded Lincoln's expectations.

"We achieved full return on investment in three months due to time savings, reducing material costs and not hiring one and a half FTEs," Lenner said. "We estimate that we're saving \$25,000 per quarter by using Summit Healthcare's solution, and avoided having to pay another vendor \$15,000 for a one-off interface."

About Summit Healthcare

Summit Healthcare is the choice of hospitals who want to take full control of their healthcare system integration, automation and business continuity needs. Since 1999, we have worked to provide the industry with the most flexible integration and automation technology with complimentary tailored services and solutions.

About The Summit Scripting Toolkit

From the simplest script to the most complex interface, the Summit Scripting Toolkit (SST) provides a cost-effective solution that enables you to extract or input data from any system, create real-time or batch interfaces and automate routine data entry tasks. SST provides a full-featured, proven scripting environment complete with all the advanced scripting tools necessary to build, test and deploy scripts from a single desktop application.