“As we move away from paper-based patient data, lives will come to depend on the availability of our systems. That’s why HP’s business continuity solution is of central importance for Erasmus MC.”

Marcel Slingerland, system and network manager, Erasmus MC
Rotterdam-based Erasmus University Medical Centre (Erasmus MC) is the Netherlands’ largest university medical centre. Its hospital offers more than 1,200 patient beds, while the medical faculty focuses on education and research.

Like other healthcare organisations, Erasmus MC has recently witnessed a steep increase in data volumes, partly as a result of storing X-ray images in digital form. The increased dependence on electronic data formats brings about its own challenges as business continuity and availability become key issues. Until recently, Erasmus MC’s IT infrastructure used only direct attached storage causing several disadvantages to the storage environment, including inadequate availability and lack of protection against disaster, as well as high maintenance costs and poor flexibility. Recognising that this situation was no longer acceptable, the centre invited tenders for a comprehensive business continuity solution for the storage environment.

**Complete solution**

“We were looking for the best combination of technical capabilities, price, professional implementation resources, and high-quality proactive support. As well as offering us a complete solution from one source, HP excelled in all these areas,” commented Marcel Slingerland, system and network manager.

HP’s proposed solution combined business continuity, high availability and security. Having analysed the vulnerabilities of the current system, HP developed a plan for improving service levels. In implementing this plan, it not only enhanced Erasmus MC’s IT architecture, but also
applied its expertise in IT service management (ITSM) to re-engineer processes for business continuity. The most important element of the enhanced architecture is a storage area network (SAN) solution replicated across two locations.

At one location, two HP StorageWorks Enterprise Virtual Array (EVA) 5000 systems store data from Erasmus MC’s clinical database and X-ray images from the Philips Picture Archiving Communication System (PACS). At the other, a third system provides mirroring of most critical data and failover capabilities.

Central importance
According to Slingerland, the HP solution is producing several significant benefits. Most importantly, the right processes and technology are in place to ensure that patient data will still be available online even if disaster strikes the primary computer room. In terms of providing patients with the care they require, this is absolutely vital.

Also, through having a common storage platform, Erasmus MC makes large savings on maintenance. In fact, storage costs per gigabyte have fallen by more than 50 per cent. The SAN configuration also provides a significant boost to flexibility, which is very important because data storage needs are growing quickly and unpredictably.

“As we move away from paper-based patient data, lives will come to depend on the availability of our systems. That’s why HP’s business continuity solution is of central importance for Erasmus MC,” concluded Slingerland.

Customer at a glance:
Industry sector: Healthcare
Name: Erasmus Medisch Centrum (Erasmus MC)
Headquarters: Rotterdam, The Netherlands
Founded: 1950
Telephone: +31 (0)10 463 92 22
Number of employees: 10,000
URL: www.erasmusmc.nl
Challenge

• Accommodate a steep increase in data volumes.
• Support increased reliance on electronic patient data by ensuring business continuity and high availability.
• Implement a comprehensive business continuity solution.

Solution

• Engage HP to provide a solution that addresses disaster recovery, availability and security.
• Implement improved processes as well as an enhanced IT architecture.
• Install a disaster-tolerant storage area network (SAN) as a replacement for traditional server-attached storage.

Results

• Critical patient data will continue to be available online even if disaster strikes.
• Storage costs per gigabyte have fallen by more than 50 per cent.
• The enhanced architecture supports rapid, unpredictable growth in data storage requirements.

For more information on how working with HP can benefit you, please contact your local HP sales representative or reseller, or visit www.hp.com.

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