



Webinars !

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(265-2434) to register



Technology Explained – Virtualization 101

The English language has witnessed a major expansion as a result of the need for new terms related to technology. Interestingly, because of globalization, these new words have been adopted by the rest of the world. Bits, bytes, memory stack, optical drive, memory chip, silicon wafer, silicon doping, large scale integration, are examples of new terms that needed to be introduced to explain new technology.

One of the hottest trends over the past two years has been Virtualization. You have most likely encountered this term. Technologist, just like physicians, like to use terms unique to the profession. They often fail to explain in plain terms what they mean.

The idea of virtualization is not new. Its wider acceptance is. Virtualization has become more of a reality with the introduction of multicore processors, 64 bit computing and 64 bit operating systems for the PC, allowing the use of more system memory (a few more technical buzzwords). Virtualization is nothing more than allowing one computer behave as if it was 2,3,4 or more. These “computers” within a computer are then called virtual machines. This is achieved is by using special virtualizing software. Technology and market leaders in this area are VMWare, Citrix, and now Microsoft. There are obvious advantages to virtualization, but just like any other innovation, there are disadvantages. Here they are:

Advantages of Virtualization

- * Less hardware
- * Hardware savings
- * Space and energy savings
- * Easier maintenance
- * Built in disaster recovery features (typically extra cost for this feature, Microsoft I behind with this)
- * Better standardization
- * In some settings faster processing

Disadvantages of Virtualization

- * Occasionally when something fails, all fails
- * Tendency to overuse resulting in system degradation (decline in the speed of processing)



- * Inherent loss of processing speed as the result of sharing resources such as storage devices (hard disks)
- * Does add some extra complexity and the need to manage that
- * Savings may not be as much as hoped for

Virtualization is a welcome development, and it is here to stay and expand its role. The near future will see variously configured computer systems sold already virtualized out of the box. This will make this technology more readily available, deployable and more cost effective.

Amkai News Letters

The Amkai Technical Team

For recent issues visit
www.amkai.com

It is not too late to take advantage of the “Amkai Stimulus Program”

The program was launched at the yearly ASCA show in Nashville, at the end of April. It is a revolutionary new way to acquire the most comprehensive and advanced IT solutions for your organization without up front capital outlay or difficult and expensive leasing plans. You may have received the following announcement:

For additional details, or to start on the road to IT Recovery contact us at: 866.265.2434

New CMS rules begin on May 18th

New rules regarding disclosure of certain information to patients and on what scheduled were reviewed at the ASC Association Meeting. Effective May 18 all CMS certified surgery centers must provide the following at least 24 hours before surgery :

1. Physician Ownership Disclosure
2. Advanced Directives Disclosure
3. Patients’ Rights Disclosure

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The requirement to provide this information includes all patients, not just Medicare Patients. There are efforts being made to modify this guideline but at this time no change has been announced.

However, ASC Association was able to have the rule modified though substantial efforts at the last minute. The change, which allows for some flexibility can be viewed in more detail at www.ASCAssociation.Org, is as follows as quoted from the ASC Association Website:

“It is not acceptable for the ASC to provide the required notice for the first time to a patient on the day that the surgical procedure is scheduled to occur, un-

less:

- * the referral to the ASC for surgery is made on that same date; and
- * the referring physician indicates, in writing, that it is medically necessary for the patient to have the surgery on the same day, and that surgery in an ASC setting is suitable for that patient.

In such situations the ASC must provide the required notice prior to obtaining the patient's informed consent. Cases of surgery occurring on the same day it is scheduled are expected to be rare, since ASCs typically perform elective procedures. Frequent occurrence of such cases may represent noncompliance with the advance notice requirement."

AmkaiOffice and AmkaiCharts have features that will automate this process for you to ensure compliance. Please contact Client Services for assistance.

ASC Association Meeting a great success for Amkai.

The Amkai team at the ASC Association Meeting in Nashville wishes to thank all the clients and prospects that stopped at our booth. "The response to the new release of AmkaiOffice™ that included Scan Manager and Revenue Cycle Manager along with many other enhancements was a real hit," said Peter Sereny, Amkai's CEO. "I know next year we will need to have a larger staff with more demonstration stations so that people do not have to wait in line to see a presentation," added Craig Veach, Senior Vice President, Operations. If you did not get a chance to review these new features at the convention, please call and we will be happy to arrange a demonstration.

AmkaiCharts™ provided extra attraction by showing live demonstrations of the recording of EKG readings directly into a patient's chart and performing instant diagnosis of the results. The EKG device was a MidMark™ portable EKG machine. Another new feature allowed for recording patient vitals directly from a Datascope™ Passport 2 Patient Monitor—no need to waste time entering the data manually. These exciting new features may have been why two prospects actually signed agreements to implement AmkaiEnterprise at the meeting said Steve Noxon, Vice President of Sales. In general, interest in the EMR was strong on the show floor, reflecting anticipated investment incentives from the governments healthcare information technology stimulus program and emphasis.

The "Meet the Users" session was repeated this year and was just as well received as it was at its debut in San Antonio last year. The session allows for prospects to meet and ask questions of current Amkai clients. Many prospects even set up meetings with Amkai's Users for when they return home. Our special thanks to Sandra Halstead, Facility Administrator, The Surgery Center of Cranberry; Linda Newton Director of Nursing, The Surgery Center of Cranberry; David Ogimachi Administrator, Monterey Peninsula Surgery Center; Stacey Ferguson Clinical Nurse Manager, Tri-State Surgery Center.

Amkai's Hospitality Room was well attended and a nice time was had by all. The Hospitality Room was just what was needed after a long day in sessions or in the Exhibit Hall. The room was filled with surgery center personnel along with vendors and others. Based on the success Amkai will most likely offer a little relaxation in Orlando next year, said Don Fallati, Senior Vice President, Marketing.

As always, our thanks to the ASC Association and Chris Schriever's team for putting together a great meeting. The traffic in the Exhibit Hall was great and the overall coordination of the events went very smoothly.

Note: Amkai has its own ASC Stimulus Plan, featured prominently at the Convention, that enables centers to gain the benefits of our AmkaiOffice and AmkaiCharts software for a very modest up front cost and a comfortable annual subscription rate. Please inquire for details as this attractive program ends in June!

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