

DHSS Delivers Trailboss Migration

On Time and On Budget

DHSS successfully migrated its entire executive infrastructure suite of applications to a new Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) Defense Enterprise Computing Center (DECC) in less than 12 months with minimal impact to its users and delivering improved loading and processing performance.

The multi-million dollar 12 month migration, entitled "Trailboss" began in September 2007 and involved relocating 10 applications and services onto stronger, bigger, and faster hardware.

The migration required the purchase of 22 new servers and relocating 13 servers, tape drives, and storage devices. More than 300 terabytes of data were loaded onto servers with the capacity to hold up to one petabyte of data. These new servers operate on a reduced physical and energy consumption footprint and deliver more than double the relative performance computing power and faster data loading and user queries.

Applications and Services Moved

The migration moved the following applications or services:

- Military Health System Data Repository (MDR)
- TRICARE Encounter Data (TED) Bench
- MHS Management Analysis and Reporting (M2)
- ESSENCE Medical Surveillance
- Data Ingest Scripts
- Feed Nodes
- Data Tracker
- Health Level 7 (HL7) Data
- Managed Care Forecasting and Analysis System (MCFAS)
- Federal Health Information Exchange (FHIE)

Users' Reactions

Initial results of the migration show significant improvements in data loading and processing times particularly for the MDR and M2. Users are reporting "stunningly faster" processing times.

One user reported, "I used three of the most difficult M2 files (all multi-query) many with user-defined objects...and the CPU time required was generally STUNNINGLY less, ranging among the different queries from 1/3rd the previous time to as fast as 1/75th of the previous. In fact, the hardest file I used in the test, which had typically required 13 minutes and 22 seconds of processing time now requires only just over one minute of processing time. As one of 1,500 grateful users, thank you!"

DHSS Program Manager Dr. Dan Magee praised the Trailboss team for their outstanding work in the successful migration. "This team accomplished in 12 months what would typically take 24 months to complete," he said. "And our users are benefitting from improved queries and faster processing times. Congratulations to our entire team."

For additional information or assistance with the DHSS products and services migrated in Trailboss, please contact the MHS Help Desk at 1-800-600-9332 or at eids@mhs-helpdesk.com.

Development Of the Clinical Data Mart (CDM)

Continues to Flourish

Development continues to flourish on the CDM with work starting on a new development contract. The main features of this effort are expanding access to users outside of AHLTA, offering additional data elements from the Clinical Data Repository to the CDM, adding provider panel views and revising the current data model. As part of this development effort, the CDM team met with the Madigan Army Medical Center's medical informatics staff on October 8, 2008, to discuss leveraging Madigan's data model into the new CDM data model redesign.

In other CDM news, the Clinical Proponency Steering Committee (CPSC), chaired by MHS Chief Medical Officer Dr. Joseph Kelley, voted unanimously on September 10, 2008, to endorse CDM as the clinical reporting tool for AHLTA.

CDM, which was deployed in February 2008, equips analysts and clinicians with patient-centric data to help them identify and evaluate trends to optimize clinical performance within the MHS. CDM allows analysts and clinicians to measure, analyze, and manage performance of direct patient care, wellness, prevention, and disease management. For additional information or a demonstration of CDM's capabilities, please contact DHSS Director of Clinical Informatics Lt Col Jean Meink at jean.meink@tma.osd.mil.

DHSS Recognized By Government Computer News

DHSS received an "Honorable Mention" Award from Government Computer News (GCN) on October 22, 2008 in Washington, DC for Outstanding Information Technology Achievement in Government. DHSS was recognized for its work in developing the CDM and cited DHSS for improving "the quality, safety and efficiency of healthcare for 9.2 million Military Health System beneficiaries by building the Clinical Data Mart, which dramatically improved data query and processing times." The award was accepted by DHSS Director of Clinical Informatics Lt Col Jean Meink, left, and CDM Project Controller Jennifer Zane.



Application Milestones Celebrated

DHSS Resources

In September 2008, DHSS released Expense Assignment System IV (EAS IV) version 4.0.0.0. The EAS IV repository was successfully converted from an aging Informix database to a modern and sustainable Oracle database. EAS IV is a cost allocation tool that provides standardized reporting of workload, expense, and manpower data and enhances healthcare resource management and decision making at all levels of the MHS.

The Prospective Payment System (PPS) version 1.01, which includes the Reconciliation Tool (RT) was deployed in October. For the first time, it allows users to query Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures. It also allows users to rapidly create more advanced and complex queries and access new reporting tables and fields. PPS directs a performance-based budgeting system for the MHS providing incentives and financial rewards for efficient management.

In recognition of these milestones, the DHSS Resources Division celebrated by presenting certificates of appreciation from DHSS Program Manager Dr. Dan Magee to the PPS and EAS IV teams on October 15, 2008.



From left: DHSS Director of Business Intelligence Jim Copeland, EASIV Program Manager Randy Killian, EASIV Support Anil Paneru, DHSS Deputy Program Manager for Resources Mike Smith, PPS Project Controller Joanne Young, DHSS Program Manager Dr. Dan Magee, PPS Engineer Phil Miller, EASIV Manager Tony Akeredolu, EASIV Engineer Nick Saund, and Lt Col Krzysztof Kras.

DHSS Radio Frequency Identification Pilot Featured in Government Executive Magazine

The DHSS Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) system is featured in an article published in Government Executive magazine describing how DHSS has launched a pilot RFID deployment to track medical supplies.

The article's focus is on how RFID is being deployed throughout Federal agencies to manage their assets. RFID technology uses readers that beam a radio signal to gather information from either active or passive data tags. The DHSS pilot uses passive RFID tags to improve the receiving and distribution of medical supplies.

The Military Health System pilot is being launched by DHSS Logistics Division at DeWitt Army Community Hospital at Fort Belvoir, Va., using handheld readers to transmit its data. Items such as dressings, gowns, and sutures have been tagged so a receiving clerk can scan a pallet or case to match its contents with the order data stored in the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support System (DMLSS) automated information system.

The article is available at http://www.govexec.com/story_page.cfm?filepath=/features/0908-01/0908-01admt.htm.

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