Introduction
As we've said before, a healthcare organization like yours can benefit greatly from investing in applications such as an Electronic Health Record (EHR), a digital imaging system or a Picture Archiving and Communications System (PACS). These applications can help reduce your overall cost of operation, increase patient safety, diminish physician errors and more. However, what you may not know is that without the right hardware, your organization might fail to see these results because your software won't be able to run properly. Even worse, neglecting to build the IT infrastructure to support your applications can sometimes lead to a complete outage in the case of a disaster.

The Infrastructure
To run an EHR, PACS or digital imaging system, you should have a network capable of efficiently transporting gigabyte-sized files throughout your organization. Equipment such as digital radiography is nice but without an efficient network for sending the images, your operation may be just as inefficient as one using a traditional X-ray system.

With many different models of blade servers, rack optimized servers and tower servers, Dell has the solutions for building your infrastructure. Whether you need an affordable entry-level server or a high-performance server for mission-critical applications, the range of Dell PowerEdge servers feature some of the latest technology and can meet your organization's needs.

The Team
While you may view infrastructure development and disaster planning as one more task for the IT department, these concerns are actually core business issues that need the financial and managerial attention of all senior executives and board members. Also required are formal protocols that are proven under real-world conditions and demonstrate how a hospital can take full advantage of new technologies without being paralyzed if a natural or man-made catastrophe takes you offline.

The Cost
Money is often a constraint for health care organizations that have not yet solidified and protected their network. When you think about building a solid IT infrastructure, you may associate it with huge commitments in time and money, and no one will argue that it will be cheap or easy. However, the cost you could be saving down the line can more than pay you back in the long run.

When you consider the amount of revenue you could lose in just one day of your system being down, not to mention the lives that could be put at risk, the front-end cost doesn't appear so great. There is a lot of front-end planning, but most organizations cannot afford downtime because of an infrastructure that is not equipped to support your applications or is not prepared for a disaster situation.

The Scalable Enterprise
Even when you can see the long-term cost-savings of building a solid infrastructure up front, it is still nice to be able to build as affordably and intelligently as possible. For this, Dell offers the scalable enterprise. As a standards-based, building-block approach to technology, the scalable enterprise methodology is aimed at decreasing the expense of owning and maintaining the enterprise. By using industry-standard enterprise hardware, your organization is able to grow your IT enterprise as demand dictates. The ability to add capacity as needed helps ensure a productive, scalable and compatible environment without having to over-invest in technology. Your institution can meet the predicted requirements and can also dynamically deploy resources in your infrastructure to meet peaks in demand via a common pool.

Cost-effective scaling can provide tremendous benefits such as:
Management of IT budgets and resources to provide optimum computing horsepower and capacity for current needs
• Addition of capacity quickly and seamlessly when needed for planned and prolonged requirements
• Dynamic utilization of existing resources based on policies and procedures that dictate how to handle seasonal or unplanned demands via new technologies for the datacenter

Get Started

Unfortunately, most CIOs don't think about building a solid infrastructure until they learn their lesson the hard way. It doesn't have to happen like that for your organization though. By planning up front, you can avoid many of the pitfalls of those who came before you. For more information on building a solid IT infrastructure and how Dell can help, visit the Healthcare Solutions Center or call our healthcare professionals at 1-800-822-8143.

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