

# The 8 Critical Display Challenges in Radiology

(and how to manage them)

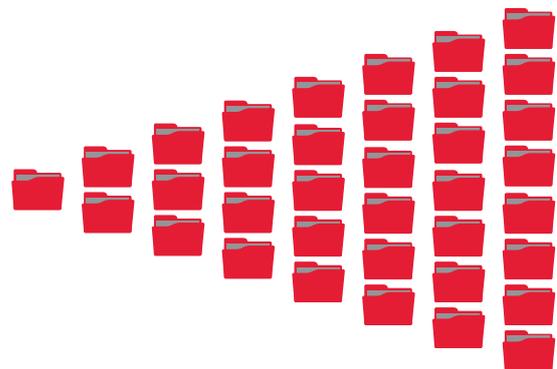
## Cost containment and industry pressures challenge healthcare IT

Cost containment pressures impact every part of the hospital, challenging you to stretch your healthcare IT budget to optimize diagnostic and clinical display performance across the enterprise. Compounding this problem is the fact that radiology reimbursement rates have been reduced drastically across the globe. For example, in the U.S. this has occurred 12 times since 2006, with more cuts on the horizon specified in the Affordable Care Act, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). And, with new coding adjustments underway, radiology practices could see up to an additional 45 percent drop in reimbursements as soon as next year.<sup>1</sup>



## Imaging volume is expected to increase significantly

Adding to the challenges of these reductions, imaging volumes are expected to increase significantly due to an increased demand on radiology services from across the hospital and local healthcare enterprise. Modern radiology is no longer about static X-rays. New approaches involve 3D image acquisition and long sequences of multiple images. This “perfect storm” of influences demands that radiology PACS and IT managers find cost-effective ways to meet the challenges and fulfill the growing needs of the PACS workstation enterprise.



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.diagnosticimaging.com/healthcare-reform/reimbursement-under-aca-hefty-cuts-horizon#sthash.ZAVSBLUP.dpuf>

## There are eight critical questions to ask regarding your near-term display setup and operations:

# 1

### Have you upgraded from Microsoft Windows XP?

Microsoft's official support for XP will end in April of 2014. It is imperative to remain current with PACS applications in this environment because PACS providers will end support for Windows XP installations. In addition, users on Windows XP will no longer receive software updates from Microsoft, including critical security updates to guard against malware that can be used to breach Protected Health Information (PHI).



# 2

### Are you already using LED backlight technology?

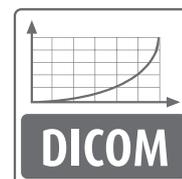
LED backlight technology is already replacing CCFL (cold cathode fluorescent lamps); and the benefits of LED technology over CCFL are well-known, such as higher brightness, longer useful life, lower power consumption, and the lack of mercury. For these reasons, LEDs have become the de facto technology of preference in many industries, including healthcare.



# 3

### Are you already using an automated process for DICOM QA?

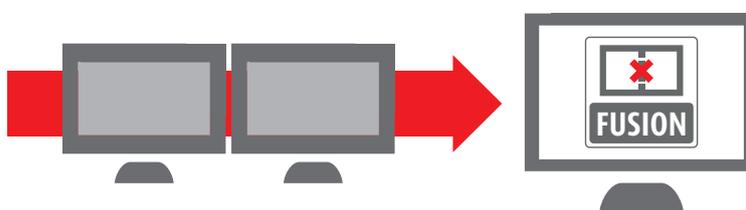
Manual calibration and asset management results in severe inefficiencies. The benefits of automated DICOM QA are numerous, including streamlined central management, intervention-free calibration, and more effortless compliance to international standards.



# 4

### Do your radiologists prefer a dual-head display or a Fusion single display viewing format?

Physician preference now favors Fusion displays systems over the traditional dual-head option. In a recent study of the Corionis Fusion 6MP display system compared to 3MP dual-head displays, the average time per computed radiography (CR) case was 19 percent less on the Corionis Fusion 6MP display system, compared to the 3MP models, indicating a statistically significant productivity gain.<sup>2</sup> Since many providers run a variety of viewing formats, it is preferable that your operations support both formats in a single system for unified QA.



<sup>2</sup> <http://www.auntminnie.com/index.aspx?sec=sup&sub=pac&pag=dis&itemID=101911>

# 5

## Are you still predominantly using grayscale technology?

Color content in modalities and applications has greatly increased, resulting in a heightened demand for color over grayscale technology.



# 6

## Are you compliant with the updated ACR-AAPM-SIIM-DIN technical standards?

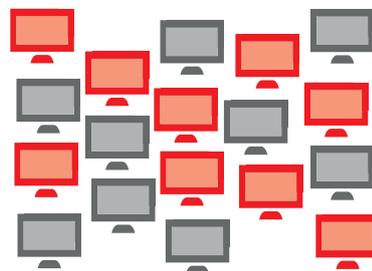
The ACR-AAPM-SIIM technical standards for electronic practice in medical imaging were updated in 2012, and changed to reflect recent technology trends as well as the increased sophistication of radiology regarding digital imaging technology and techniques. In the DACH region (Germany, Austria and Switzerland), the DIN standard will be updated in 2014.



# 7

## Due to budget limitations, are you facing a partial workstation fleet upgrade?

Partial PACS display replacement can add significant burden for IT teams as new technology adds multiple platforms that need to be supported and types of hardware configurations increase within the enterprise. This requires extensive backward compatibility understanding and training on new components.



# 8

## Are you still viewing tomography images outside your PACS?

BTO (Breast Tomosynthesis Object) is now the DICOM standard for improved sharing and storing of tomography images. And with the availability of standardized data sets of tomography images, PACS companies are rapidly adding support for viewing and diagnosis of these images within their PACS applications. Further information indicates that in the near future there will be numerous PACS companies that will incorporate tomography modules within their PACS software, indicating continued support for this trend.



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\* This option is only available in selected regions and countries. Contact your local Barco sales rep to identify if this option is available in your area.