

# MEDITECH Community Bulletin Vol. 5 Issue 5

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Customer Spotlight

## Angel Medical Center Relieves Growing Pains with Storage Technology Refresh for MEDITECH EHR and Sectra PACS

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KOM Networks launched their Junk-A-Juke program earlier this year and its proving to be a major boon for medical facilities across North America. The company is replacing older storage equipment for free and using the old hardware (as well as other hardware looking to be discarded) and using the money to feed one million hungry kids. The idea is to keep this equipment out of landfills (85% end up there).

KOM Networks is the world leading provider of storage management solutions for secure archiving compliant data protection and retention. The Junk-A-Juke program will collect and recycle obsolete and legacy storage equipment and donate all the money generated from raw materials to Feed The Children ([www.feedthechildren.org](http://www.feedthechildren.org)). In exchange for the older equipment, KOM offers a new KOMpliance Archive, a fully compliant enterprise class server and archive solution free-of-charge with a three year maintenance agreement. KOM's goal is to collect and recycle enough hardware to feed one million children!

Meditech healthcare community member Angel Medical Center in Franklin, North Carolina was among the first to take advantage of the program. "We already had plans to upgrade our current system and were impressed with KOM's ability to help us easily migrate our data and meet our HIPAA compliance standards," said Gary Hanold, director of information systems at Angel Medical. "Being able to bring in this highly regarded solution without additional cost and guarantee that our end-of-life jukebox doesn't end up in a landfill is valuable. Feeding kids in a time when many families are struggling is invaluable."

KOMpliance is a plug-and-play archive solution that is platform and application agnostic to easily integrate into any existing infrastructure. More than 10,000 of the world's leading organizations use KOM solutions to protect, access and manage their data and meet their compliance standards. With this innovative program, not only is KOM making it effortless to responsibly discard obsolete hardware and help feed many of the twelve million American children who are today at risk of going hungry; but also lowering all financial barriers and

making it easy and affordable to upgrade old data archive and storage technology to get compliant.

“Gartner’s market research indicates a healthy demand for active archiving solutions, and file-based archiving solutions are a fast growing segment of this market,” said Sheila Childs, Research Director with Gartner. “While file archiving technologies enable better management of storage growth and cost, an organization’s requirement to retain information for long periods of time often necessitates continued replacement of inefficient, antiquated and obsolete hardware to preserve data in readable formats.”

Angel medical’s free KOMpliance upgrade is configured to create the secure repository for long term image and document storage. Images and associated documentation are captured and accessed by the users in exactly the same way they always did before, but in this case data is secured, always available and they can meet their compliance obligations on affordable storage.

Radiology is the largest contributor of in healthcare and is only one part of the electronic medical record (EMR). As resolution improves with technology, so do image sizes and study types contributing to ever increasing archive storage growth in medical imaging. The average size of medical imaging is approximately 30mg and that is expected to double over the next few years according to Health Informatics Online.

Many facilities have stand alone storage systems for different imaging applications (RIS, Cardiology PACS, LIS, OR, Ambulatory, Oncology). Imaging sharing and storage consolidation is vital to delivering quality patient care and reducing overall costs. Few PACS companies archive images using simple Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) standard. Many alter the process in some proprietary way.

In the US PACS are classified as Medical Devices, and hence if for sale are regulated by the USFDA. In general they are subject to Class 2 controls and hence require a 510(k), though individual PACS components may be subject to less stringent general controls. Some specific applications, such as the use for primary mammography interpretation, are additionally regulated within the scope of the Mammography Quality Standards Act. As well, HIPAA plays a significant role in the management, availability, security and access of patient information

A PACS archive lifecycle is typically 4 to 8 years. Retention periods vary by state but generally images for adults must be retained for 7 to 10 years and 21 years for children (until they have reached the age of maturity). In cases of medical research, historic medical information can be required by a healthcare organization or research laboratory to be retained indefinitely.

In the case of mammography, MQSA, requires that “records must be maintained until the next annual inspection that would verify compliance or until an individual test has been performed two additional times at the required frequency, whichever is longer.” However, facilities most times retain mammography images longer to assure good quality, review and comparison of

earlier studies in search for trends and noting areas of improvement. Oncology images are generally retained for 8 years after the completion of treatment

In most healthcare facilities, medical images are a part of the electronic health record (EHR) and while retention periods differ from state to state, and country to country, a patient's health information (inclusive of images), whether it is paper based or digital, can have retention requirements for 30+ year after discharge or last contact.

KOM Networks Junk-A-Juke has already put food in the mouths of over 100,000 children and helped with the Haitian earthquake relief effort. "A very creative program, original and very commendable - rarely do we see such a program that will benefit so many," commented Glenna Smith, special projects and events coordinator at Feed The Children. "KOM Networks has demonstrated a great deal of social caring and responsibility by giving back, utilizing the means that they have at their disposal. A program like this is an excellent example of how corporations can become part of the solution to the problems of child hunger and pollution around the world."