

MB Foster Press Release – Legacy System Decommissioning – Success Story

Chesterville, Ontario. 1 November, 2011

The Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) is a local non-profit health care plan that offers health coverage and a provider network to San Mateo County's under served – indigent - population and servicing approximately 100,000 San Mateo County residents.

The HPSM established a long term partnership with MB Foster and for its UDALink software to access Image databases on an HP3000 model 996-600 production server and a 987-200 test and disaster recovery server, running the Amisys application from DST Health Solutions. It was through this relationship that Eben Yong - MIS Director at the HPSM, learnt of MB Foster's decommissioning services.

Earlier this year, Eben and his team of 15 went live with a new system and Healthcare application to meet HPSM's growing needs and requirements. During the application implementation phase Departmental Managers and Users asked Eben how long would the system be available for look ups of existing data in case they needed to see and compare what was brought over to the new healthcare application.

Shortly after the successful implementation of the new health care application, Jeff Buck – Manager of Operations, whose responsibility is the HP3000 hardware, began knocking on Eben's office door to determine when they could possibly shut down the HP3000 production server. It was at this point in time that Eben began formulating a plan to decommission the HP3000.

It was clear to both Jeff and Eben that the business did not need two servers to meet HPSM's long term data retention needs. They also determined that keeping the smaller less powerful system for the foreseeable future would provide a level of comfort to the entire organization.

Both Jeff and Eben realized that by decommissioning the production HP3000, the company would benefit in a variety of ways. The obvious value and benefits from unplugging the production system includes 1) a reduction in energy costs; 2) by eliminating it from the computer room, valuable physical space would be regained; and 3) ultimately they are also better positioned to simplify the architecture and infrastructure.

Eben's plan also included data retention requirements for the State of California and Federal Government and established guidelines for companies like HPSM who supply services to Medi-Cal and Medicare beneficiaries. The guideline varies from 7 to 10 years; for Eben it was an easy decision to subscribe to the stronger constraint of 10 years.

Eben was now well armed and had a strong plan, what he needed was a partner. Eben reached out to MB Foster to facilitate his legacy decommissioning requirements. He found that MB Foster's team was a pleasure to work with and its decommissioning services were reasonably priced; the process was straight forward and would produce accurate results. Eben and Jeff trusted MB Foster and we delivered on this trust, Eben goes on to say that he is a satisfied customer.

Eben fully expects HPSM auditors are going to be asking him how he can validate that the data pulled off the HP3000, had converted and stored in MS SQL Server is accurate. To address this question, Eben's plan included saving a listing of HP3000 databases and a listing of what was backed up to tape. These two items can be quickly compared to the listing MB Foster returned, following the conversion of data. He also identified and audited key metrics and found that they matched perfectly.

Today, the databases and data converted by MB Foster and returned to HPSM on an encrypted USB media device has been safely backed up for regulatory purposes and archived to a MS SQL Server environment and is available for anyone to look at it.

Eben said he appreciates MB Foster as a vendor and the services we provided, he also believes others would benefit from an engagement with MB Foster, specifically HP3000 users who have yet to think past the implementation timeline and may not have considered: "Maybe we should do something like this" – everyone should, he said, as the alternative is to keep your HP3000 around forever.

About MB Foster

MB Foster has the people who understand how to deliver technology solutions that match our customer's business needs. For more than thirty years we have been the trusted advisor to customers ranging from local government to Global 100 enterprises. Our personalized service has proven time and again that we listen to customers and find the right service strategy to provide solutions that solve their business and information technology challenges today and into the future.

Whether it is a software product, migration project, data services, or project management, we make it easy for customers to mitigate business risks and technical challenges. We work with our customers to streamline their IT business operations to reduce costs, and improve efficiencies. Learn more at www.mbfoster.com.

For more information on Decommissioning Legacy Application Data go to:

- http://www.mbfoster.com/services/decommissioning_legacy.cfm

To have a conversation about data access and delivery or decommissioning please contact MB Foster at info@mbfoster.com or call us at 1-800-ANSWERS (1-800-267-9377) ext 204.