In terms of hours, I’d say that the HL7 integration effort Datica put in saved our company more than 150 man hours.

— Derek Rockwell, Director of Engineering

CASE IN FACT
A Minneapolis-based health IT company wanted HIPAA compliant infrastructure that wouldn’t have to be rebuilt each time the company added another client. Likewise, once the company began integrating with provider EHRs, the engineering department wanted to make HL7 integrations as easy as possible.

CHALLENGE
When Jon Pearce founded Zipnosis™ in 2009, he had a vision to dramatically lower the cost of more than fifty percent of healthcare encounters. He felt the company’s technology could address an emerging need with the rise of mobile devices and structured clinical data. The company began providing a 24/7 online diagnosis and treatment service for common medical problems and knew it needed to find a technology partner that offered a HIPAA compliant infrastructure that would facilitate HL7 integration capability when needed. To achieve that goal the company sought a solution that would allow the technology team to scale up with each new customer.

TESTED AND PROVEN SOLUTION
For Zipnosis’ Derek Rockwell, Director of Engineering, finding a partner that shared the company’s vision for the next generation of healthcare integration became paramount. Zipnosis took an objective look at the Datica Compliant Cloud solution built on top of Amazon Web Services, comparing the performance to three different vendors. After the infrastructure had been solidly proven, Zipnosis pulled the vendors all under the Datica platform and began decommissioning the other vendors one at a time. At the end of the evaluation Zipnosis CEO Jon Pearce said Datica had produced a solution that was just what the company needed:

• Scalable
• Robust
• And, with more compliance around HIPAA than other vendors
Although the other hosting companies had similarity in the basic core hosting area, Pearce said Datica used a personalized approach that appealed to the company. Likewise, the tech team enjoyed working with Datica on the devops side. “We walked into this business endeavor with a good understanding about our potential risks, and we looked to Datica to minimize those risks,” explained Pearce. “Generally the risk is built upon service-oriented architecture (SOA), and certainly Datica has gone above and beyond in the exceptional requests that we’ve made, making it easy for us to feed the medical information to our customers.”

“We looked for a solution that could scale up, and Datica hit the bill again.”

NEXT STEP: HL7 INTEGRATIONS

Beyond infrastructure and hosting, Pearce and Rockwell also had their eyes on their company roadmap. “Looking at the future, what Datica could provide on HL7 and HIPAA is far superior.” Months later, that opportunity arrived. Rockwell shared that HL7 integration is a core business strategy for Zipnosis, so the team needed to integrate as easily as possible. “We looked for a solution that could scale up, and Datica hit the bill again,” he said. “They met our goals, and, along the way, we discovered that Datica shared our view about the next generation of healthcare integration.” Rockwell felt by working with Datica, they had a partner to come alongside as they grew.

OUTCOME

When the company made the architectural decision to set up a VPN connection to an EHR from a security perspective, Datica became an external verifier for Zipnosis. “Datica’s Chief Data Officer Mark Olschesky had expertise with Epic and HL7 and that was helpful to get the mapping set up quickly,” explained Rockwell, who said it would have been a larger task for Zipnosis to do internally or on their own via other cloud infrastructure providers.

“In terms of hours, I’d say that the effort Datica put in saved our company more than 150 man hours,” said Rockwell. “A lot of that work saves us overhead for future clients, so the benefit carries on when configuring VPN, and mapping our visit data into HL7 messages.”

Additionally, Zipnosis’ engineering team said they now worry less about the day-to-day maintenance, because the transmission of HL7 messages with the Datica Managed Integration solution gives their customers reliability, security and an added layer of expertise.

Datica has made scalable HL7 integration possible by leveraging the building blocks of AWS in a HIPAA compliant, HITRUST certified manner. By enabling AWS, Zipnosis gets the benefits of reliability, speed, scalability, and access to fundamental components like VPNs, while also getting the compliance reassurance provided by Datica.
ABOUT DATICA

Datica (formerly Catalyze) makes digital health in the cloud a reality by removing the risks that prevent its adoption. We turn HIPAA compliance on public infrastructure providers into a solved problem, and enable secure clinical data exchange between mission-critical digital health applications and EHR systems. Datica serves healthcare’s complete spectrum, from digital health startups and industry leaders to health systems across the nation. Hundreds of customers and partners trust Datica to ensure their clouds are HITRUST certified and data securely interoperable. For more information, visit datica.com.

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