Real World Applications

HealthSystem Minnesota
Park Nicollet Clinic

Providing health care through the deployment of advanced technologies requires a flexible, high caliber structured cabling system as a basis for support.

HealthSystem Minnesota, one of the region's leading health care poviders, has embarked upon a comprehensive project to insure that it is ideally positioned to embrace the benefits of current and future technologies. The key enabling factor in deploying new technologies has been, and continues to be the wiring for Local, Campus, and Wide Area Networks (LANs, CANs and WANs) which must be in place to allow for the increasing data transmission speeds required by today's advanced image-based applications. To meet its specific wiring requirements, HealthSystem Minnesota chose the IBDN end-to-end structured cabling system to be installed. In fact, HealthSystem Minnesota is so serious about this critical aspect of its network operations that it is one of the few health care organizations in the nation to maintain on staff, a high-level manager who holds the RCDD (Registered Communications Distribution Designer) accreditation, Mr. Donald Paquette.

Main Entrance, Park Nicollet Clinic
HealthSystem Minnesota

One of HealthSystem Minnesota's key requirements was to install a cabling system that would provide an assurance to support not only the applications of today, but also the future high speed applications that it plans to implement. The adoption of any future advanced technologies will emphasize a pressing need for the underlying infrastructure that will support them, the voice and data networks. For instance, one technology that HealthSystem Minnesota plans to implement, is known as "medical imaging". When installed, this technology will require a combination of computers, telecommunications links and specialized software to allow medical professionals to create, manage and interpret anatomical and biochemical images and statistics, electronically - often in real-time and at a distance. The ability to transmit this information over networks has become known as "telemedicine".

> **"This is a crucial success factor for us, so that we can be assured that the system will be able to meet our future needs as our network applications become more advanced."**

"We don't necessarily know what challenges will hit us next, but we do know that we must be prepared", said Paquette. "We may be installing a telephone at a nursing station today, but someday there may be an x-ray or an electronic lab report coming over that station. We've planned for that occurrence, today, by having implemented a flexible infrastructure that allows for such advancements in technology", added Paquette.

Paquette's conviction to "being prepared" is not only being supported, but driven by his immediate superior, Mr. Dennis Berkland, Manager of Information Technology at HealthSystem Minnesota.

Berkland is determined to meet future technological goals ahead of schedule and he conveys his objectives to key vendors like Teltronix Information Systems. Berkland states, "We are setting the standards and asking our suppliers to step-up to them as partners. The standards that we have set and the objectives we have outlined in our general infrastructure direction have relegated our suppliers to the 'cream-of-the-crop' in our region."

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"HealthSystem Minnesota was among our first customers in the region to begin purchasing its products directly from our distribution channel before we had local representation. Now HealthSystem Minnesota works directly with our local representative, Teltronix Information Systems, one of our Certified Systems Vendors. This is a tremendous reflection on our partner's ability to provide added value and an outstanding level of service. I'm very proud to have Teltronix Information Systems on our team", said Mr. Bruce Good, Vice President of Sales for NORDX/CDT.

HealthSystem Minnesota's strength lies in its impressive collection of personnel and facilities. Located in the Twin Cities suburb of St.Louis Park, Methodist Hospital is a 426-bed acute care facility with 2,700 employees and a medical staff of 1,100 physicians. Park Nicollet Clinic, one of the largest multi-specialty clinics in the United States, has approximately 2,700 employees, more than 400 physicans and 190 clinical professionals. Park Nicollet care providers offer patient care in 45 medical specialties and subspecialties at 19 neighborhood locations in Minneapolis and its suburbs.

HealthSystem Minnesota also includes Primary Physician Network physicians and independent primary care and specialty physicians - a network of more than 40 primary care physicians practicing at eleven locations in the Twin Cities' West metropolitan area. It also has built a Foundation that responds to health education, intervention and preventive care and an Institute for Research and Education with a 160-member staff working to continually improve patient care, population health and public accountability through research and education.

BIX wall mount cross-connect installation

HealthSystem Minnesota is in the middle of a phased roll-out of new and upgraded Unshielded Twisted Pair (UTP) and fiber optic cable that will eventually bring these facilities to a state-of-the-art technological status from an infrastructure perspective. The completion of the roll-out plan insures a uniformity of cable systems and related technologies across company locations. The structured cabling system approach is expected to bring about substantial savings in maintenance costs and labor requirements as well as reduce - if not eliminate - the potential for network down time. NORDX/CDT Regional Manager, Mr. Greg Eddy stated, "Now that our IBDN system is installed, HealthSystem Minnesota is able to find out where every piece of cable begins and ends and where it is routed in between. That's a tremendous benefit when you consider the amount of adds, moves, and changes that most organizations undergo in any given year."

Teltronix Information Systems President, Mr. Joe Jensen added, "When we do an install, we label all cable runs and connections under a comprehensive numbering scheme and deliver a complete copy of this detailed documentation to our customer so that together, we can more effectively manage the network."

A telecommunications closet within the Park Nicollet Clinic

The HealthSystem Minnesota cable infrastructure is completely certified by NORDX/CDT and Teltronix which means that it complies with EIA/TIA - 568A guidelines for "Category 5" data cable installations which sets forth strict procedures and practices for the installation process. These procedures are critical to insuring that the system will support high-speed data rates of up to 155 Megabits per second (Mbps) as the system has been designed. 155 Mbps is achievable through a network access method known as ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) which not only increases the speed of data transmission, but also lends itself to the support of synchronized audio and video over the network.

ATM has now been officially adopted as the strategic direction for the HealthSystem Minnesota network. "This is a crucial success factor for us. We can be assured that the system will be able to meet our future needs as our network applications become more and more advanced", said Berkland. "Our system will be able to support these high speeds throughout the projected life span of our buildings and NORDX/CDT's certification of the IBDN structured cabling system guarantees this. That's a great comfort to me since I'm directing the team that's responsible for keeping our networks up to date and running smoothly", added Berkland.

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