Review of ConnectR Interface Engine Transition Options

As a GE Centricity Group Management client, you are aware that as of July 15, 2015 GE is replacing the ConnectR interface engine that manages its Centricity Group Management interfaces. These interfaces, referred to as Data Connect, are remaining in place – however it is GE's intention to begin managing them through the Cloverleaf integration engine, rather than ConnectR. GE refers to the GE Centricity Group Management interfaces and Cloverleaf engine package as Centricity Clinical Gateway (CCG).

While migrating to CCG is certainly one option, EHR Integration Services recommends evaluating all engines before making any decision. We would like to make sure you are aware of the other viable options available to you in 2015. The options are outlined below, each with their respective pros and cons. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Jamie Steck 315-707-7843 ext. 111 or jamie.steck@ehr-integration.com.

Option 1 - Move to a 3rd Party Interface Engine - Qvera QIE

EHRis is a certified reseller of Qvera's QIE interface engine. This product is a good alternative for a long-term interface engine replacement. EHRis recommends this solution if you are looking to make an investment in a single solution that would support both GE Group Management systems and other EHR solutions, like Allscripts TouchWorks EHR.

Pros

1. EHRis training and support

2. Automated process to transferring interfaces is currently being developed

3. Long-term solution

4. Vendor neutrality

5. Learning curve - easier to learn vs Cloverleaf

6. Cost is by source systems only, not by total number of endpoints

7. Database neutrality - even a version that would run on AIX box

8. QIE and ConnectR can run together and the migration is performed in a phased solution

Cons

1. Retraining required

Costs

1. Cost for initial license and annual maintenance

2. Cost for EHRis migration and training service

3. EHRis Annual support costs

Timeframe

This option is a simple installation with an easy learning curve. It requires a long-term project, 6+ months or greater, but EHRis' automated process will significantly reduce the timefame.

Option 2 - Remain on your existing Data Connect/ConnectR solution

Although Microsoft will not be supporting Server 2003 and SQL 2005 after July 15, 2015, it does not mean that ConnectR will stop working after this date. Choosing this option means you can simply stay on your current hardware and software and have EHR Integration Services continue to support you with the existing configuration in place.

Pros

1. Nothing operationally changes - continue to maintain existing interfaces, as usual

2. EHRis can be engaged to pick up your support and maintenance agreements

3. This option buys you some time, if needed

4. No issues on July 15, 2015 - Server 2003 will still function with new support organization (EHRis)

Cons

1. Not a long-term solution

2. Aging equipment = increased cost and risks over time

Costs

1. No additional costs for new hardware and licensing

2. Support costs simply shift from GE to EHRis

Timeframe

This solution could extend your transition move for up to 2 years to allow for a more thoughtful decision

Option 3 - Move to CCG (Cloverleaf) Integration Engine through GE environment

GE is providing the opportunity to transition to CCG. If this option is chosen, GE will take the lead to service the transition.

Pros

1. Permanent solution

2. Consolidation of Hardware - CCG can run on the RIS box

3. EHRis will continue offer resources to assist clients, as needed

Cons

1. All support is transferred to GE

2. Higher cost option

3. Major operational disruption - Retraining staff; Significant implementation; Additional staffing

4. 2nd interface engine required to manage any Allscripts Touchworks EHR interfaces

5. Manual migration – time-consuming

Costs

1. Cost for initial Cloverleaf license

2. Cost for training

3. Cost for additional licenses that do not have GE endpoints

4. Cost for some kind of migration effort

Timeframe

Timing on this option depends on many factors, including the number of interfaces requiring manual migration to and from GE, and possibly adding a 2nd interface engine for the EHR (ie. Allscripts). The entire transition process could take 12+ months.

Option 4 - Move Data Connect/ConnectR to new Server environment

EHRis has the capability to install ConnectR on new server environments. We can install ConnectR on either a Physical or Virtual Server with Windows Server 2008 and SQL 2008.

Pros

1. This option will also provide you with additional time to make a long-term decision

2. This is a short-term low cost option

3. Opportunity to upgrade hardware

4. New hardware = improved performance

Cons

1. Software will operate, but there are known issues with Server 2008

2. Interim step - not a long-term solution

3. Software limitations - ConnectR will not work with Windows Server 12 or SQL 2012

Timeframe

1. Typical VM server spin up takes 30 days or less

2. The ConnectR setup and complexity will determine the transition period

Costs

1. Cost for Physical server (if required or chosen)

2. Microsoft software license fees

3. Cost for migration - approximately $6,000 to 9,000 per instance of ConnectR

4. Maintenance costs from EHRis