

Growing the ETC, Part One

Because of the completion of the ETC Migration and Enhancement Project, ETC is now able to communicate with various counties' legacy systems. But what is in the future for those counties that do not have legacy systems? The next series of articles explore the management capacities of the core technology (BizTalk) of ETC and how it will provide additional value to counties above HIPAA compliance.

One of my favorite cable shows is on the Food Network and features Chef Emeril Lagasse. During the show, he'll grab a spice and say, "BAM!! Let's kick it up a notch!" as he throws special spices on his dish. As with Emeril, in the fall of 2007, we are planning on adding a "BAM" to ETC as we upgraded from BizTalk 2002 to BizTalk 2006 R2.

The "BAM" in this case stands for: Business Activity Monitoring. In short, BAM will allow us to report on any information that flows through or into the ETC. For example, if we work with the State of Iowa to move the State Billings into the ETC, then we would in turn be able to not only process (reject, accept or modify) the billings, but turn around and produce reports or export files back to the State of Iowa from the counties.

The challenge for us then will be identify the information needed to produce certain reports and then develop the methods to get the information into ETC for further processing and/or reporting. Next month I will show how we could generate reports or information as a result of what we do versus having reports and information be part of what we are doing. So please stay tuned.

Joining the ETC

As the vision above reflects, the old ETC "ain't what she used to be". The original vision (and still somewhat true today), was that ETC was to provide a member county HIPAA compliance insurance. Going forward the HIPAA compliance will remain, but the new ETC will have added robustness and functionally to process and report on additional information outside HIPAA.

If you are currently not a member (and we do KNOW who you are!) and wish to join, the ISAC Board has approved joiner fees that give incentives to non-member counties to join prior to July 31st, 2007. The procedures and specific fees for your county are posted on the ISAC web site.