

Electronic Transfer of Data from Remote Database to KIT Service

Introduction

As data stored electronically becomes the norm, the problem of duplicate data housed in several locations is becoming not only an issue for entering the same data into multiple databases, but also brings into question the reliability of the data.

Unfortunately, the computer industry is just beginning to address this problem by creating standards of allowing computers from different domains to reliably and securely share information.

Until a standard of sharing data is universally accepted, exporting and importing remains the most reliable method of transferring data from one database to another without having to re-key the information.

Overview of how Data Electronic Transfer is used with KIT Service

It is the experience of KIT Solutions that the transfer of data between KIT Service's database servers and other database systems occurs between two types of organizations. The first is sharing data between departments or agencies of the State and the second is between organizations doing prevention services.

Transferring Data from Departments or Agencies of the State has been the most successful data transfer. The transfer of data is done on a regularly scheduled basis and staffs working on both ends of the transfer are trained MIS personnel and understand the scope of the work needed to make the synchronization of the data successful. In addition, the department's or agency's staff understands that data collection is not static and what is collected will evolve over time. As the evolution is occurring, the data collection in all databases will need to be updated as well as modifying the import/export routines and support documentation. The applications collecting the data are usually collecting data for multiple service organizations and are well supported.

Transferring Data from Provider Organizations has been less successful. There are several reasons for this. The first is that the programs used to collect the data locally are not the same. The systems can be off-the-shelf software for hospitals and treatment



centers that has been modified to collect prevention data to locally developed Access or Excel applications. The second reason is that the support of these applications varies widely and it has been difficult to obtain good data when exporting the information. Lastly, the local provider organizations have dramatically underestimated the amount of resources needed to develop the export routine, as well as, continue to modify the application and export routines as the prevention data collection needs change.

Technology Overview

What is Electronic Data Transfer?

Electronic Data Transfer is exporting data from a data collection system outside the KIT Solutions' firewalls and securely transferring it to the KIT Service Database.

How Does It Work?

There are three steps to transfer the data form a remote system to the KIT Prevention Database:

1. The data must be extracted in a fixed width format that is published in the Data Transfer Manual on the KIT Service user support site. Extracting the data in the proper format is the responsibility of the local MIS support group and not KIT Solutions'.
2. Uploading the data to a validation "scrubber" validates the data for the existent required fields and correct field format. A file that has errors is rejected by the scrubber and will need to be corrected and resubmitted. The data is submitted via a secured website.
3. The imported data is stored in a temporary holding table on KIT Solutions' servers and then parsed and imported to the correct tables in the KIT Service database on regular scheduled intervals.

The Bottom Line

The success of transferring data from a remote database to the KIT Service database is directly related to the skill of the staff supporting the local system. The time and resources needed to implement a synchronization method between two databases, as well as modifying the local system and export routines as the prevention field evolves, can be significant.

