



Dell Solutions for HIPAA Compliance

Electronic data stored in hospitals and healthcare facilities is extremely valuable and vulnerable.

Regulatory overview

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was passed by Congress in 1996 to safeguard patient identities, medical records, health insurance activities and other protected health information (PHI). The regulation mandates that healthcare plans, clearinghouses and providers take steps to ensure the standardization of electronic patient data, assign unique health identifiers to patients and others, and implement security standards regarding the confidentiality and integrity of patient data.

More specifically, HIPAA Security Standard and Implementation Specifications require that access control rules and unique user identifiers must be addressed through a combination of encryption, port and application controls, backed by strong access controls.

The compliance challenge

A single hospital can have more data on an individual than almost any other organization. Data can include a patient's name, Social Security number, date of birth, healthcare records, insurance information, phone number and mailing address, as well as financially sensitive information such as credit card and checking account numbers.

Unfortunately, this highly sensitive data is accessed, generated and shared by doctors, technicians and other specialists who often use their own PCs, laptops and mobile devices to communicate across unsecured networks without encryption or other safeguards, exposing it to theft, loss, and ultimately a damaging data breach.

As a result, security has become a critical and growing issue in the healthcare industry. Over 1.5 million names were exposed in data breaches occurring in hospitals in 2006 and 2007, according to analysts. HIPAA mandates a number of ways to improve data security, but what is the best technology solution for demonstrating HIPAA compliance?

Solution statement

Dell Data Protection | Encryption solutions ensure that encryption and security mandates are consistently and efficiently enforced—regardless if where the data resides.

Dell solutions enable organizations to:

- Manage encryption and secure data—from PCs, Macs, and removable media to mobile devices and Cloud services like Dropbox and Box
- Create automatic audit trails that offer proof of end-to-end data security
- Provide a transparent end-user interface that supports user productivity while keeping data safe
- Implement a centrally managed, highly scalable and architecturally flexible approach to manage all data endpoints.

With Dell solutions, organizations can:

- Help ensure data security, reducing the risk of insider or external attack
- Simplify and reduce the workload of maintaining compliance
- Provide confidentiality, privacy and auditing of data residing on any endpoint
- Integrate and manage multiple encryption solutions into a single management tool set

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