TAYLORED
Advisor

IT FOR HEALTHCARE:
HIPPA COMPLIANCE MIGHT BE THE
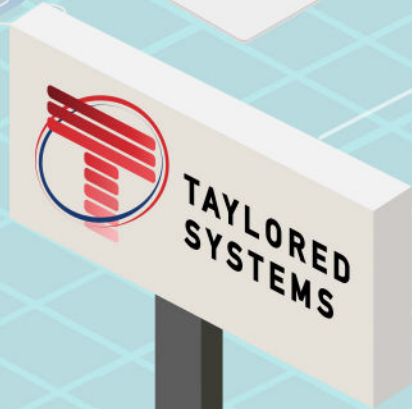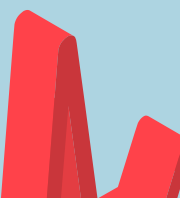## LEAST OF YOUR WORRIES

TAYLORED
SYSTEMS

TABLE of CONTENTS

THE GOAL OF ANY MODERN HEALTH CARE FACILITY is the same: to improve and personalize quality health care and services while protecting patients and their data. And yet while that goal remains the same, health care technology is evolving — which means hospitals and clinics need to keep up, too.

It's no secret that a secure digital environment has the potential to revolutionize modern-day hospitals and clinics. Not only does it make workflows more efficient, but it helps physicians provide better patient care, with access to the data and systems they need from any device or location, at any time. The reality, however, is that many health care facilities face a wide variety of IT challenges that stand in the way, including outdated networks, computers, software, phones, security and cabling.
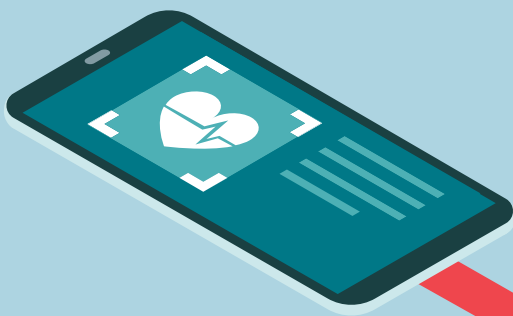
THE MOST COMMON IT CHALLENGES FACED BY HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

MANY HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE FACILITIES are unaware of the critical weaknesses of their IT infrastructure — especially when it comes to security — which can make them vulnerable to a whole host of data leaks and cyber attacks. Here are the most common challenges your organization faces in the current technological climate.

RANSOMWARE

From employees unknowingly downloading an infected file to a third party attacker hacking your network, ransomware is a top security threat for health organizations today. In fact, ransomware accounts for 85 percent of all malware attacks in the industry — and it has the potential to encrypt file servers or databases so that your electronic health records are inaccessible. Attackers prey on health care organizations for what they see as a soft target, since access to electronic health records (EHR) can be a matter of life or death.

DATA BREACHES

Each day, your network shares hundreds or thousands of records of highly confidential employee and patient information. Unfortunately, a network of such high-profile medical information is a goldmine for opportunistic data thieves. If your electronic health records aren't highly secure, your entire database is vulnerable to a security breach that can expose tons of private employee and patient data, resulting in damaging consequences for your hospital or clinic.

LEGACY SOFTWARE AND TOOLS

Many health care organizations still rely on the daily use of dated IT systems, unaware of how these aging technologies pose major operational and security risks. Because many of these applications were designed before the advent of sophisticated data breaches and ubiquitous network connectivity, they weren't built with security measures to reflect such an evolved technological landscape. Continuing to operate such outdated systems in a modern-day computing environment leads to an extremely high risk for both data security and connectivity.

COMPLIANCE

From protecting confidential patient data to complying with a whole host of mandated security standards, compliance is the most critical priority for a health care organization after patient care. But when you're busy caring for patients all day, it's easy to miss the critical weaknesses of your organization's security infrastructure. And if your health care organization experiences an electronic data breach, you risk noncompliance, with devastating consequences for your hospital or clinic.

NETWORK SECURITY

From wearable insulin pumps and implantable pacemakers to the mobile devices that let physicians give on-demand care to patients, the internet of things (IoT) has revolutionized the way hospitals and clinics manage their patient care. But these same innovative technologies also require a central connectedness that, when not highly secured, pose a critical risk to security, data privacy and compliance.

THE FUTURE OF
HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY

AS THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS AND CLINICS EVOLVE, the future of health care IT will require evolving technologies to handle these growing needs. Advancing the accessibility, performance and cost of care relies on the integration of stronger security and scalable data solutions such as the following.

CONFERENCES

From routine appointments and emergency services to acute and post-acute care, telehealth is set to revolutionize patient-provider relationships. Virtual care strategies can help physicians accelerate triage, educate patients and manage chronic disease states, all via face-to-face meetings. Connective solutions, such as video-enabled remote conferencing, offer a way for providers to reach beyond the hospital walls and visit with patients who can benefit from the comfort and convenience of their own homes. These real-time consultations create increased opportunity for early intervention, managing chronic conditions and increasing patient access with timely consultations in real time.

DATA INTEGRATION

When lives are on the line, there's no time to waste looking for important documents. That's why financial, insurance and health information should be integrated into one patient record for a seamless and comprehensive experience every time. Digitally streamlining EHR means care plans, labs, medical histories, insurance coverage and more are available to physicians within seconds. This immediate access means health care providers can make a clear diagnosis and develop the most effective care plan quicker than ever before.

EASY-TO-IMPLEMENT SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE IT

WHEN YOU'RE BUSY CARING FOR PATIENTS, health care IT needs can get put on the back burner. But securing your network doesn't have to be overwhelming. These simple steps will protect your data — even as security threats continue to grow — so you can focus on giving your patients the attention and care they deserve.

MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION

Data breaches are rife with negative consequences. Not only do they cause serious privacy concerns, security risks and potential noncompliance, but they're extremely costly, too. In fact, health care organizations experience the highest data breach resolution costs (even more than those of costs for financial services or the public sector), at an average of $408 per record, according to a recent IBM study.

Thankfully, multifactor authentication is an effective way to close gaps in security, bolstering your defenses and preventing breaches. It works by requiring at least two steps to prove identity and gain access to a computer or device — most commonly, a combination of username and password and a token code generated by the user's device, and sometimes biometrics tools such as fingerprint or retina scanners. Multifactor authentication methods greatly decrease the need for passwords, which is an easily hackable form of identification on its own.

DATA BACKUPS

From electronic health records and financial data to strategic planning documents and HR records, your hospital or clinic manages highly sensitive data that, if lost, stolen or leaked, could risk HIPAA compliance and other damaging consequences. But services like multiple storage locations, built-in encryption and redundant backups will keep your data secure, updated and immediately accessible.

NETWORK SECURITY MONITORING

Say hello to a safer IT network. Security monitoring solutions provide 24/7 protection to ensure that your network is operating at peak performance while also proactively looking for threats to eliminate network visibility blindspots. You'll get a real-time view of everything in your network — from IT and facility devices to health care IoT devices — to prevent data loss and reduce exposure to potential cyber threats. Total network visibility means mitigating risks before they become dangerous so that your network runs safely and smoothly around the clock, for a clean bill of health.

PATCHES AND SOFTWARE UPGRADES

These are some of the easiest precautions you can take for your health care IT. Routine patches and software upgrades — especially server management tools — safeguard your data against cyber attacks. After all, when you're busy caring for patients, security blindspots are easy to miss — yet that's when your data becomes most vulnerable to predatory hackers.

Many cloud computing services, such as AWS, help you to patch and update server applications easily and effectively. Cloud-based storage apps such as Google Drive will automatically upgrade to the latest versions of their software every time you log in, so you can stop worrying about exposing security loopholes and focus on your patients instead.

SYSTEMS AUDIT

For hospitals and clinics, top-notch security is essential to ensure patient privacy and HIPAA compliance. Unfortunately, many health care organizations are unaware of the holes in their network security systems that leave their data vulnerable to theft or attack. Mitigating security risks and ensuring your IT systems are secure is as simple as conducting an IT audit, which identifies those gaps and exposes security weaknesses so that you can get to them before a cybercriminal does.

# HOW A MANAGED SERVICE PROVIDER CAN HELP IMPROVE YOUR HEALTHCARE IT

With the new era of IoT-connected health care on the horizon, providers can revolutionize the way they care for patients and manage their hospitals and clinics. With increased connectivity and stronger security solutions, providers like you can improve the accessibility, effectiveness and cost of care, keeping patients and data safer than ever before — and it all starts with your IT infrastructure. But with technology comes inherent change, which means you'll be forced to keep up with an evolving landscape of IT needs. That's when partnering with a team of IT experts comes in handy.

Here at Taylored, we team up with your health care facility to discover and manage your IT needs. In fact, we've been helping health care providers harness the power of digital technology since 1986. We consider ourselves client partners, not merely vendors, which means that your success is our success. When you team up with us, we'll create a strategic and personalized plan to ensure your physicians have everything they need at their fingertips, so that they can provide the highest quality of care.

The future of health care IT is here. Join us in the digital revolution, so that your hospital or clinic can transform the way it delivers patient care.

We hope you found this information useful and will be able to implement changes in your company. If you would like a consultation to assist you, please feel free to reach out!
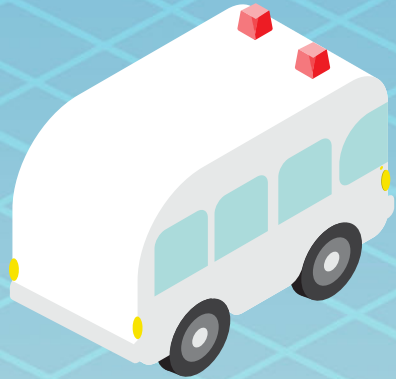
ABOUT US

Taylored Systems is a leader in technology. Our dedicated employees provide clients with innovative voice, data and security solutions. Our solutions are designed with managed services and supported by superior customer service. We measure success by the continued satisfaction of our clients — "our partners" in communication.

TAYLORED SYSTEMS, INC.
14701 CUMBERLAND RD, SUITE 100
NOBLESVILLE IN 46060

INFO@TAYLORED.COM   **PHONE: 317-793-2247**   **FAX: 317-776-4004**

TAYLORED SYSTEMS