SIOPEN-R-NET

IT Newsletter

#1, April 2003

… making medical images fly around Europe

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Dear SIOPEN-R-NET partners,

We are glad being able to send you the first issue of the SIOPEN-R-NET IT Newsletter. This newsletter will be sent out whenever it is time to inform the SIOPEN-R-NET partners and users about what's going on the issue of building the IT infrastructure which serves as an essential neural structure for the research network (not the brain but possibly something like the spine).

Actually a lot of things currently happen, among others: ongoing IT survey, website development, design of the central database, etc. However, we would like to focus on image management (IM) this time.

As you now, the SIOPEN-R-NET has a substantial need to exchange image data, e.g. for review, quality control and to develop standard operating procedures. Our vision has been and still is:

… to facilitate Europe-wide transfer of images between a number of clinics with a variety of equipments, imaging modalities and image formats.

Achieving this goal is not an easy task, however, given the fact that today most attempts to transfer medical images still stop at the department borders.

On the occasion of the SIOPEN-R-NET Image Meeting, which took place on March 31st in Vienna, the following path to IM has been agreed on:

IM will be provided by the IT Partner ARC Seibersdorf research GmbH in cooperation with icoserve information technologies GmbH (icoserve), an Innsbruck based software company being specialized in IM solutions for hospitals (www.icoserve.com – so far German only). The money specifically budgeted at the various subcommittees (SC) for IM issues will be given to icoserve to allow them to customise their system to the specific needs of the SIOPEN-R-NET. This shall happen by means of subcontracts between icoserve and the respective SCs. In turn, Icoserve will provide their IM server technology and ongoing support free of charge to the SIOPEN-R-NET.

Basically, there will be two different levels of IM:

1. **Basic Image Management (BIM)**:

   This means the ability to up- and download images from the local machine to the central image management server and to view the images in various formats like DICOM, JPG, INTERFILE, etc.

2. **Advanced Image Management (AIM)**:

   In addition to BIM, AIM offers DICOM communication with local DICOM-enabled modalities as well as unattended up- and download of data in batch mode (asynchronous transfer) to/from the central image management server.

The Figure on the front page of the newsletter gives an overview to the proposed solution.

According to the preliminary outcome of the ongoing IT survey it can be expected that with this approach to IM about 70% of the users will be able to use BIM immediately (without the need to consult their IT department). AIM, on the other hand, will require some additional installation and configuration which - according to the present IT survey results - will be easily possible in more than half of the sites.

The next steps will be that icoserve will send out quotations regarding specific components to each involved SC. Subsequently, the SCs will order the respective packages. After all contractual issues have been set we will start to work on establishing IM for the SIOPEN-R-NET.

We are confident that the proposed solution will be a large step towards our vision!

We keep you informed and best regards,

Günter Schreier
(ARC Seibersdorf research GmbH, IT Partner)

PS: A presentation on the SIOPEN-R-NET cooperative image management approach (as presented by the IT Partner at the Image Management Meeting in Vienna) is available upon request. Just give us a short note to it@siopen-r-net.org)