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## Featured Whitepaper

### **Mobile Applications In Healthcare,**

#### *Reaching Out to Patients to Improve Care*

by Colin Konschak, MBA, FHIMSS and Ram Davaloor, MS, MBA



One in five mobile phone owners today owns a smartphone, a trend that is on the rise as consumers increasingly use these devices as handheld computers. Not surprisingly the number of consumer smartphone applications (apps) that were downloaded went from 300 million in 2009 to five billion in 2010. With mobile devices outnumbering personal computers, we are approaching the point where they will be the most common way to access data.

For healthcare, the explosion of the smartphone market is an unprecedented opportunity. More than 200 million mobile health (mHealth) applications are in use today, and that number is expected to increase threefold by 2012. [Read More](#)



## Project Spotlight

To meet the requirement of Stage 1 Meaningful Use, eligible hospitals must “Conduct or review a security risk analysis per 45 CFR 164.308(a)(1) of the certified EHR technology, and implement security updates and correct identified security deficiencies as part of its risk management process”. The attestation requirement states that a risk analysis and gaps are addressed as part of an eligible hospital’s or eligible provider’s risk management process; it does not state that any gaps must

be resolved prior to meaningful use compliance attestation. While vendors have specific HIPAA security requirements for certification, the rule goes well-beyond vendor compliance to address organizational policies, procedures and practices that ensure information security.

Last month DIVURGENT completed a HIPAA security risk assessment as part of our client's organizational efforts toward stage one Meaningful Use (MU) readiness activities. Our client, a county owned and operated, 200+ bed acute care teaching hospital, desired a timely and cost-effective approach that met their MU reporting timeline needs.

Over the course of 4 weeks, DIVURGENT conducted a HIPAA information security risk assessment and remediation plan project consisting of the following activities:

- Reviewed information security policies, procedures and processes, in addition to the compilation of an inventory of applications contained electronic protected health information (ePHI)
- Interviewed key organizational personnel responsible for application security, organizational privacy and human resources
- Conducted facility and data center walk through
- Prepared project deliverables including:
  - An information security matrix and report aligned with the HIPAA regulatory requirements showing alignment of information security documentation with the indicated regulatory requirement and identifying areas of non-compliance with recommended remediation plan
  - Information security remediation plan, indicating remediation priorities, plans and owners

For confidentiality reasons, we cannot go into detail of the findings or recommendations of this project, however encourage organizations to recognize the importance of ensuring policies, procedures and practices are in place to effectively protect ePHI, as Meaningful Use is driving the industry to leverage EHR technologies not only within the organization but also to the patient population, posing greater and greater need for information security risk management.

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## News & Events

### [Midwest HIMSS Fall Technology Conference](#)

November 13 - 15  
Indianapolis, IN

### [HIMSS 2012 Annual Conference](#)

February 20 - 24  
Las Vegas, NV



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**Here We Grow Again**



**Brad Boyette** joins DIVURGENT's Clinical Transformation team. Brad has practiced as a physician assistant for the last 10 years in general surgery and the emergency room departments, and provides physician support for Epic. In addition, he is currently working on completing his MBA at George Washington University.

**Debroah Tompkins** has over 25 years' experience in Healthcare IT, with 20 years working in a clinical technical environment. Having participated in ten system implementations and numerous upgrades, Debroah brings a wealth of information and experience to our Clinical Transformation team, including Epic Prodeduaral orders.

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