



## The College of Veterinary Medicine at North Carolina State University is on the Move with Axiant 4GL

**One of the top five colleges of veterinary medicine in the U.S. is using Axiant 4GL™ 2.0 from Cognos to reach out to its faculty members and students working in the field.**



The Veterinary Teaching Hospital at North Carolina State University, in Raleigh, NC, has designed the first medical records system of its kind in the veterinary world using Axiant.

“Choosing Axiant to build the medical records system was the best and the easiest decision we made. Having already used PowerHouse® to create a billing system, moving to Axiant was a natural progression for us,” says Hava Silverstein, Programmer/Analyst at the college.

The medical records system allows hundreds of users to tap into valuable patient information from their PCs. With its mobile capabilities, Axiant not only allows the user to access information from their laptop when they're out working at a particular site, but enter any new information 'live' into the system.

“It's really a user driven and designed system. We've adopted the philosophy that all data will be entered in the system by the originator at the time of encounter,” says Silverstein.

The medical records system spans over approximately 1,500 screens and hundreds of tables. It captures all the history of a patient, including physical exams, tests, and any medication given to the patient. It's also being used as a teaching aid to the students, an effective communication tool between the different

areas and users of the hospital, and a rich resource of data for research and teaching.

The Teaching Hospital, established in 1983, is comprised of three separate clinical operations. The Small Animal Clinic provides care for domestic pets including dogs, cats, and birds. The Large Animal Clinic provides care for horses, cattle, sheep, and goats. The Ambulatory Clinic provides mobile service for large animal patients.

In 1985, the hospital purchased PowerHouse to build an accounts receivable application. “We were most impressed with the ease of programming with PowerHouse. Our main objective was productivity and PowerHouse gave us the speed we needed to complete our task,” says Silverstein.

The accounts receivable application was written solely in PowerHouse and implemented in two months. Over the years, the application grew and expanded, and the entire billing system at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital became computerized. Two years ago, they migrated to a UNIX server and are now running the system over TCP/IP. The billing system data is stored in CISAM files and runs in character mode screens.



Four years ago, Silverstein and her team began building the medical records system. "We decided to go to client/server, using a relational database and Windows. PowerHouse allowed us to make that transition without having to rewrite our current application. The billing system's screens were converted to Windows forms, yet the data continues to be stored in CISAM files. The medical records data is stored in a relational database and is linked to the existing information," adds Silverstein.

Silverstein was impressed by three things in programming with Axiant, "It enhanced

what was already in place, it's a much more powerful development environment, and it's a dynamic environment that 'thinks' in Windows," says Silverstein.

Now that the programming is complete, the college is in the midst of testing the system and training its users. "We believe we have saved years of work by sticking to PowerHouse and not having to rewrite the existing system. We plan to take full advantage of Axiant for mobility," concludes Silverstein. The Teaching Hospital hopes to have the new medical records system fully operational within the next year.

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