

## Portfolio is the cure for OHSU

# Pathology Department's image management pains

### OVERVIEW

Preparing for an autopsy conference may not be at the top of everyone's weekly to-do list, but residents at OHSU's Pathology Department at the School of Medicine prepare and attend one every Thursday morning. As a requirement of their Pathology rotation, residents must make a weekly presentation on an assigned case. Preparing for the presentation includes taking pictures at autopsies.

For the past 50 years, Pathology residents and faculty have produced hundreds of 35mm slides each month. Scanning 35mm slides proved to be impractical: it was time-consuming and costly, and stored images weren't archived or readily accessible. The department began looking for a solution that would provide efficient identification and cataloging of new photos and easy access to stored images.

### CHALLENGE

- ▶ A growing library of on- and off-line images, including thousands of 35mm slides
- ▶ Filing and sharing of huge libraries of photos
- ▶ Cost of photography and copying reached > \$10,000 per year
- ▶ Approximately 1,200 new images produced monthly
- ▶ New residents (new end users) rotated into the Pathology Department every 6-8 weeks
- ▶ Short timelines to create new presentations every week
- ▶ Previous technology issues led to resistance to seek a new DAM solution
- ▶ Any new technology had to account for HIPAA

" We needed a solution to efficiently access our ever-growing library of slides - Portfolio Server was it."

*Charles Fredman  
Systems/Applications Analyst,  
Dept. of Pathology, OHSU*

#### Company profile

Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), located in Portland, Oregon, is the state's only health and research university, and its fourth largest business employer. Each year, OHSU cares for over 188,000 patients, supports 3,200 research projects, educates over 3,500 students and subsidizes 200 public service programs.

#### Industry

Health Care and Education

#### Project goals

- Implement easy-to-use digital asset management tool
- Organize images for easy retrieval
- Streamline process of capturing, managing and producing images for presentations

#### Solution Implemented

- Portfolio Server and Clients

#### Result

- Improved image quality
- Quick and easy access of images by faculty members
- Saved time, materials and money
- Streamlined process of producing, naming, and storing images

## SOLUTION

Charles Fredman, Systems/Applications Analyst in the Pathology Department, had worked with the existing software, but felt Extensis Portfolio Server better fit their needs for a powerful DAM solution that was easy to use and deploy. He set up two imaging stations for the residents to use, and added two more within three months. Fredman set up a custom database so users could enter specific data regarding the items being photographed, including keywords. The entered data became metadata stored with each of the photographs in a particular set. Files are renamed by date and station used, a number sequence is assigned, and the images are stored on a central server.

“Residents now quickly access the stored images from any of twenty computers available,” explains Fredman. “By typing in the case number, Portfolio’s QuickFind feature takes them straight to the images they need for their presentation. Producing and finding the images they need has become a simple task.”

With images cataloged and easily retrievable, faculty members also use Portfolio Server to find images of specific cases and use them in their lectures. Fredman adds, “Since some lectures change with new advances in technique or treatment, our faculty members need to periodically update or make changes to their existing lectures. Our faculty now use one of our Portfolio stations to access the centralized database of images and quickly find exactly what they need to make their updates.”

“ With Portfolio, residents and faculty take pictures, then catalog them, and then find their desired images when they need them. They can do this by themselves, quickly and easily, saving hours of prep time.”

Charles Fredman,  
Systems/Applications Analyst,  
Dept. of Pathology, OHSU

- ▶ Immediate feedback from digital capture results in better quality photos
- ▶ Faculty now has easy access to images from the file server (one faculty member saves between three to four hours a week)
- ▶ Accessibility to images has improved significantly; images can easily be shared as well

Using Portfolio Server, Fredman was able to meet the specific objectives that the Pathology Department was looking for in implementing a DAM solution, as well as meet the broader goal of saving both time and money for department staff.

## RESULT

- ▶ Realized immediate cost savings by eliminating need to process film or scan images
- ▶ Meeting weekly presentation deadlines due to time saved finding images

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North America: 1.800.796.9798 | Europe: +44 (0) 1604 636 300

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