Elekta Cloud Webinar (8-12-2020)

Axis is a managed cloud service for MOSAIQ, delivered as a thin client via Citrix. Benefits include the following:

* The environment is designed and optimized for MOSAIQ and only MOSAIQ. This means that Axis is generally faster than a local MOSAIQ installation.
* Because Axis is a cloud solution, it is great for remote work. You also don’t need to worry about client specs, like video card and sufficient RAM.

The cost of Axis is determined by (a) the number of concurrent users, and (b) the amount of storage currently being used. An increase in the number of users brings a fixed and predictable cost increase. All cost for storage is based on the storage requirements *when Axis is purchased/deployed*. Typically, customers sign up for a five-year term with Axis.

Axis has a 99.95 percent uptime guarantee. If Elekta fails to perform the promised updates/maintenance during scheduled downtime, the extra time used will be credited back to you. Since its debut in 2015, Axis has only had 74 minutes of downtime. Such uptime is due to a lot of redundancy and high availability.

Elekta provides a spreadsheet that calculates total cost of ownership. You can enter your current costs for MOSAIQ license, SQL server, Citrix server, etc., and compare their total to the quote from Elekta. With Axis, Elekta manages all of those other things.

Axis’s bandwidth requirements really depend on the number of linacs, especially since MOSAIQ is run as a thin client. Axis allows 5 Mbps for each linac, both up and down. For tasks besides transferring data between linacs and MOSAIQ, Axis provides faster speeds than a local install because it is optimized for MOSAIQ and MOSAIQ (as the sales rep pointed out several times).

Here's how deployment works. Elekta sends the customer an encrypted device to which to transfer the database, images, and documents. Elekta uses this data as a baseline and periodically syncs it to the customer’s future Axis instance until the Axis instance goes live. This interim period allows the customer to validate that everything in Axis is working correctly. The system is eventually switched over, typically over a weekend, at which point Axis essentially has a mirror of the data on the cutomer’s local install.

Nick Callea addressed some of the issues that Hernando identified during his visit to CRMC. Our goal is to speed up the physician’s offline review of 3D images (e.g., scrolling through images, moving images around). Axis often does speed up this process because, again, Axis is optimized for MOSAIQ and MOSAIQ only, so no compromises to accommodate other software are involved, as they are on a local MOSAIQ install. Additionally, Axis has a huge pool of resources.

Hernando also mentioned the maintenance of XVI and the WQE queue: when there are too many stored images, performance suffers. Axis includes proactive system monitoring of pretty much everything, including the WQE queue. The problem that we experienced with WQE’s not

Another webinar attendee asked about a “test” Axis environment for customers to evaluate before committing to purchase Axis. The attendee was concerned that Axis may not perform well because Citrix is nkind of hit or miss: sometimes it works, sometimes it doesn’t. Such a “test” environment does not exist because each customer’s Axis experience depends on their unique clinic setup. The interim period between Elekta’s receipt of the encrypted device, and the launch date of the customer’s Axis instance, provides such a “test” environment, but of course this only works for paying customers. In lieu of a “test” environment, we can talk with other Axis customers, see a demo Axis environment, and read documentation on Citrix.

That same attendee believed that the slowness of his local install has similar causes as ours and that these causes are fairly easily fixed without Axis. Axis is just one option for solving the problems.