CASE STUDY

PYCUBE, INC.

Perimeter Fencing in Healthcare

Patients rely on hospitals to respond to their illnesses swiftly and promptly. In order to keep this trust, hospitals have to rely on both their staff and assets. Hospitals, however, can face difficulty trusting their assets as they are sometimes misplaced or stolen. This causes their staff to spend precious time looking for assets that may have already left their facilities, putting the staff behind schedule and making patients wait during time imperative moments.

Theft and asset loss are problems dealt with by hospitals everywhere at a huge cost – Santa Clara Valley Medical Center, in particular, noted a $11 million loss of assets within 5 years, and had no way to account for where their assets had gone. With a majority of hospital assets containing private health information, theft and asset loss can also hurt a hospitals reputation and trust with their patients.

13 ASSETS

Average number of assets per bed in a hospital(1)

4000 DOLLARS

Average cost of assets lost per bed in a hospital(1)

128 HOURS

Average time a year nurses waste looking for equipment (1)

On top of costing a hospital their reputation and trust, asset loss and theft are expensive for hospitals. Asset prices start around $2000 and only go up from there – meaning that even losing one device can already hurt a hospitals capital expenditure.

Poor asset management for hospitals, then, not only makes it difficult to find assets and properly utilize staffs time, it also makes it difficult for hospitals to properly account for what they have and what they need. They often find themselves dipping into emergency funding to buy assets that have been lost or stolen.

The easiest solution to this is one we see other industries already implementing – a perimeter fence around the facility. Preventing theft is the first step in asset management, and one hospitals need to take for the benefit of their patients.

THE CASE

A major 408-bed New York based hospital that values quality, collaboration, and foresight faces this problem. Being a level I Trauma Center, this hospital was facing issues keeping track of all their assets. In particular, they found difficulty with assets often leaving their facilities.

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OUR SOLUTION

Whether it be through patients or staff, assets are often accidentally walked out of the facility – through patients or staff not realizing they had an asset attached to them while they were leaving the hospital. Sometimes, these walkouts are intentional, with patients stealing items given to them during their stay, or doctors trying to hoard assets that may be difficult to find during their shifts.

Regardless, assets often leave a hospital's premise with difficulty on the staff's end to intervene and prevent this loss.

With a reported industry average 20-30% loss of assets, based on category, this New York hospital approached Pycube for a solution.

OUR SOLUTION

Pycube offered a simple, cost-effective radio frequency identification (RFID) perimeter fencing solution for this hospital. Pycube utilized RFID tags and readers to track when assets passed certain egress points. Pycube understood, though, that tracking these devices is not enough and location tracking alone does not necessarily prevent loss or theft. With this solution, anytime an asset is walked off the facility, a loud alarm rings, allowing staff to act immediately to prevent theft while also intimidating individuals.

This solution's strength lies in its flexibility. The hospital can have flexible options in how their information appears. Through ***aktivu***™, Pycube's asset management system, users can get alerts in a user-friendly way for the staff. As well, the solution's scalability allows the hospital to continue to build and expand on their current technology for a cost-effective price as they continue to notice loss or misplacement of assets within their hospital. The hospital was also able to recognize their return on investment (ROI) within 10-12 months of implementation.

Through implantation of this solution, the hospital is able to gain and utilize information learned through the alerts. The hospital can gain information about what egress points are most often having alerts go off, what categories of assets are being heavily affected, any staff or unit inefficiencies, if there is a certain time assets are being walked out with, and so on. Through this information, hospitals can better plan security resources and improve their processes based on the asset category.

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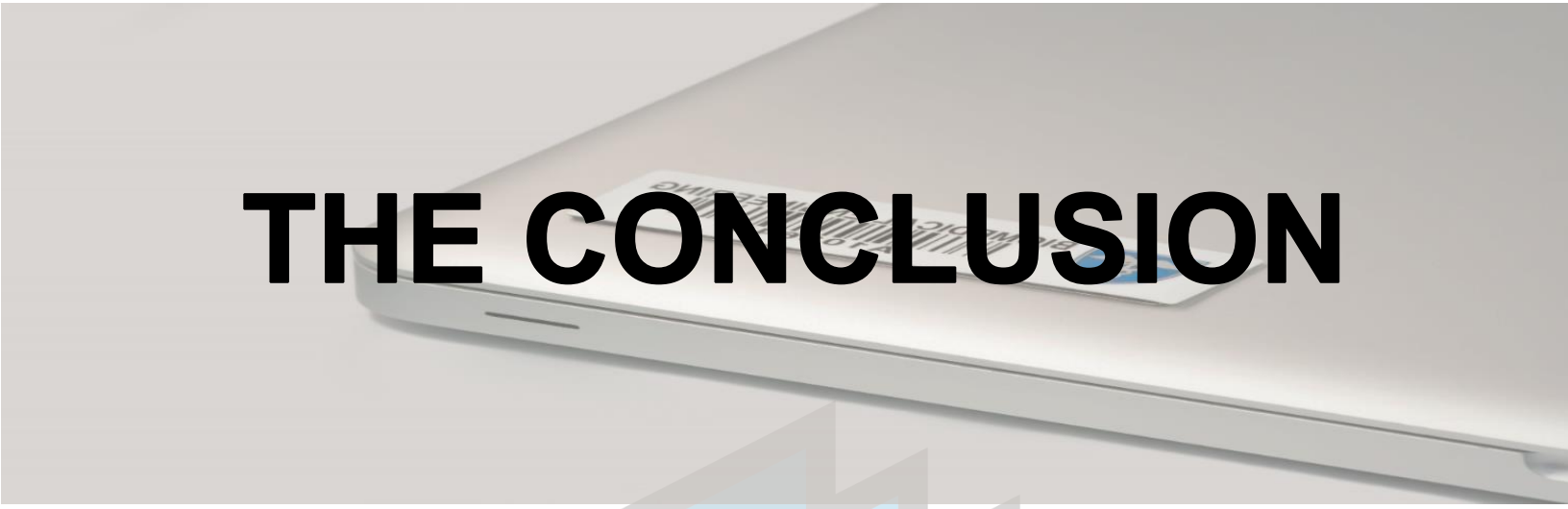

THE CONCLUSION

To summarize, this solution's main benefits for this hospital are:

- Reliable technology such as RFID's
- Flexibility in how alerts are presented to users
- Ability to utilize information gathered and prevent accidental theft
- Scalable technology that grows with the hospital's needs
- Recognized ROI within 10-12 months of implementation

CONCLUSION

Theft is not a problem unique to healthcare. With expensive, state-of-the-art equipment, that contains private patient healthcare information, though, theft in healthcare is unique in that it can hurt more than just the company's expenditures. Patients rely on hospitals to protect their information, and through a simple RFID fencing solution, hospitals can protect their patient's privacy without hurting their bank accounts.

REFERENCES

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