

What CIOs Need Today

Today's CIOs are working extremely hard to fulfill their marching orders of installing or replacing enterprise EMRs and other important transaction systems. In spite of this, they must turn their attention to data warehousing soon

Now we find ourselves in the 2010s. The healthcare drivers are accountable care organizations (ACOs) and other value-based purchasing initiatives, a need for cost and quality-control systems, and a broadening genomic influence on personal care. Our main IT driver is pervasive computing. We have microprocessors everywhere. We'll be seeing more and more of them — along with an accompanying proliferation of data. IT in the industry has broadly implemented EMRs and operational data systems, and these EMRs will ultimately have pervasive clinical decision support. Knowledge gained from analyzing an organization's data in search of performance improvement insights will complete the operational systems cycle by refining the rules essential for successful clinical decision support. These efforts are highly complementary.

To handle all of this data and achieve cost and quality benchmarks, CIOs must implement an enterprise analytics solution. In fact, I firmly believe a healthcare organization's primary expectations from IT will be:

- Supporting and enhancing reliable operational systems
- Offering comprehensive access to needed information via an agile data warehousing and analytics offering

Yes, transaction systems must be implemented and run reliably. But this will become, over time, more of a maintenance function than a strategic imperative. Information now drives strategic innovation in the health system — and actionable information comes from an effective data warehousing and analytics solution.

Today's CIOs are working extremely hard to fulfill their marching orders of installing or replacing enterprise EMRs and other important transaction systems. In spite of this, they must turn their attention to data warehousing soon, if not now. I feel confident in predicting that if analytics isn't on your CEO's mind now, it will be very soon. Organizational leadership can't ignore the many successes in performance improvement resulting from effective analytics applications.

In summary, for CIOs to retain their strategic value as chief information officers, they must be actively engaged in a strategy that results in the capture and analysis of comprehensive data. This enables the health system to become an organization that is constantly improving and learning.



About the Author

Mr. Grandia has served on Catalyst's board of directors since fall 2011. He is an accomplished CIO veteran of the healthcare IT industry with more than 40 years of business and technology leadership experience. Until his retirement in 2007, Mr. Grandia was executive vice president and chief technology officer of Premier, Inc. Before joining Premier in 2000, Mr. Grandia was president and chief executive officer of DAOU Systems, Inc. Prior to DAOU, Mr. Grandia led IT functions for Intermountain Healthcare, Inc. for more than two decades. In addition to his executive positions, Mr. Grandia has served on the boards of PatientSafe Solutions, DAOU Systems, Inc., IDX Corporation and on advisory boards for 3M Healthcare Information Systems and the Center for Clinical Integration. He served as a founding board member of the following organizations: Microsoft Healthcare User Group (MSHUG), the National Alliance for Healthcare Information Technology (NAHIT), and the College of Healthcare Information Management Executives (CHIME), of which he is a fellow. Grandia is also a fellow, life member, and past board member of the Healthcare Information & Management Systems Society (HIMSS), past president of Electronic Computing Health Oriented (ECHO), which served as IBM's healthcare users group, and a past member of the Healthcare Information Systems Executive Association (HISEA).

Resources

- Database vs Data Warehouse: A Comparative Review <http://www.healthcatalyst.com/database-vs-data-warehouse-a-comparative-review>

ABOUT HEALTH CATALYST®

Health Catalyst is a mission-driven data warehousing, analytics, and outcomes improvement company that helps healthcare organizations of all sizes perform the clinical, financial, and operational reporting and analysis needed for [population health](#) and [accountable care](#). Our proven enterprise data warehouse (EDW) and analytics platform helps improve quality, add efficiency and lower costs in support of more than 50 million patients for organizations ranging from the largest US health system to forward-thinking physician practices.

Visit www.healthcatalyst.com, and follow us on [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Google+](#) and [Facebook](#).