FDA

Captricity Speeds Data Extraction and Decreases Paper Backlogs for FDA

The Challenge

Taha Kass-Hout, M.D., M.S., joined the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as its first Chief Health Informatics Officer (CHIO). Fresh off a successful career at the CDC as an IT and informatics change maker, Taha arrived at the FDA ready to help usher the organization into the era of cloud-based enterprise services. In fact, Kass-Hout launched the first cloud program at the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) while still at CDC, and has significant experience bringing new approaches to government technology.

When Kass-Hout arrived at the FDA, one of the first things he became aware of was a backlog in an important database. This one database receives about 900,000 submissions every year, 10 percent of which are submitted manually. A backlog of these forms had developed. Backlogs are typically handled by adding more manual data entry clerks, but Kass-Hout was interested in finding a more flexible, timelier, cost-efficeint and scalable solution with high-quality results.

"After trying out different approaches, we identified a SaaS solution, Captricity, to help us address the paper jam with handwritten and typed reports," Kass-Hout said. "Captricity allows us to upload scans of reports received via mail, fax or .pdf and get back structured, machine-readable data that is remarkably accurate, even for free-form handwriting."

The Solution

A partnership with the Federal government requires compliance with stringent security protocols in addition to the need for accuracy and speed. Captricity worked with the FDA to pass the security clearances needed to work with regulatory government data in record time, achieving an authorization to operate within FDA for the initial backlog work.

Captricity's processing of these initial forms for FDA resulted in over 99+ percent accuracy at a price point eight times below manual data entry. Even better, Captricity was able to process large volumes of documents in a day and can scale almost infinitely.

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"For the paperjam we experienced, it was originally estimated to take a very long time to overcome the backlog using the current approach of manual data entry. Captricity was part of a solution that was timelier, and we were able to achieve very high-quality data at a fraction of the cost," said Kass-Hout.

Why Captricity

In the context of government data, privacy is a critical concern. Captricity is designed to manage confidential information, and is built with state-of-the-art security fully integrated into every step of the data digitization process. Our unique approach to privacy ensures the protection of sensitive data. Captricity's ability to securely capture data from static documents of all types— including handwriting—at a 99+ percent accuracy rate makes it ideal for government organizations.

Fast. Secure. Simple. 99%+ Accurate.

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