

ADA Wrap-Up

by Buddy Kurz

We had lots of activity at our booth at the ADA Meeting in San Francisco last month. It is always great to get a chance to visit with everyone in person. We get to show off our latest stuff and we also have an opportunity to hear about where you would like to see us go with our future development efforts. There were many questions about expanding the use of iPads in the office and about the paperless office. We showed our latest treatment planning and charting software and shared some of our visions for the future. As always, there were suggestions for changes and some have already been implemented and released. Others were already available and people were just unaware. Is it possible that everyone doesn't read this newsletter?

We have been at this for thirty years now and we have heard many buzz-words come and go as technology has evolved. The big thing this year seems to be "Cloud Computing". For many years now, Datacon has been implemented using a client-server architecture. We keep all of the data and software on a server and the workstations use our client software (pcLink) to display information and communicate with the server. A commonly used alternative is peer-to-peer computing where the software is installed separately on each workstation and the data is shared between workstations. With "Cloud Computing" there has been a return to the client-server architecture with the servers located remotely and accessed via the internet. Workstations use browsers to display information and communicate with the server. That leads us to think we had the right idea in the first place.

Special thanks to those of you who brought by colleagues who are shopping for software. Much of our new business comes from referrals and we appreciate your enthusiasm for what we have to offer.



Windows 8

Whenever Microsoft releases a new operating system we get questions about whether or not someone should update. Like most major businesses we advise taking caution. In the past, major new Windows releases have new drivers for printers and sensors and have often required updates from third party software vendors such as Dexis, XDR, and Schick. Before making any changes, be sure to check with your software vendors about compatibility. You cannot upgrade to Windows 8 from Windows XP or Vista without reinstalling all other software. There are also hardware requirements to be considered and your favorite IT firm should be able to provide some advice about this.

For our part, pcLink is our "Window into Windows" and we have been playing with the pre-release versions of Windows 8 to see how it works. While there are some minor display issues, pcLink appears to perform as expected. We are working on a major update to pcLink for Windows to take advantage of the improved graphics environment found on Windows 7 and 8 and expect this to be available in the coming weeks.



Datacon Mobile

We were pleased to hear from a number of doctors at the show who have been using our new mobile connectivity capabilities to access their patient data from home or while traveling using their iPads, iPhones, and other devices. Some had suggestions for additional information they would like to see and there is already an update available with some of these implemented.

New Features

The patient detail page now includes the patient gender and age. We have also added referral information to the patient page. This will show both the patient's referral source and any specialist the patient may have been referred to. The home page now includes an option to review recent referral sources. This page puts the most recent source at the top of a list and shows how many patients were referred and summarizes the dates of recent referrals. You can also search for a referral source by name. When a source is chosen you can see any available contact information and even send a text message or email or dial one of their phone numbers. There is a list of patients referred by or to that person where you can select a patient to access more detailed information. This was requested by a couple of our periodontal specialists and we expect it to be a popular addition.

Customization

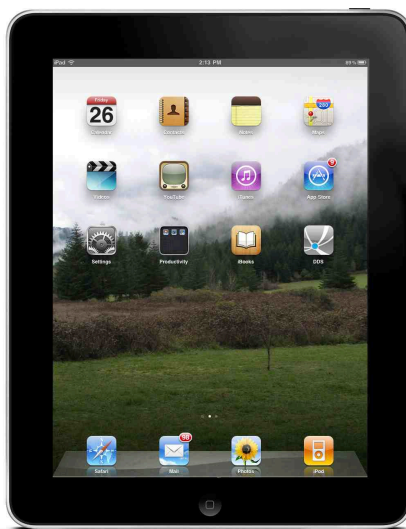
If you are using Datacon Mobile you should know that like the rest of the software, the content in the note areas on any page can be easily customized to include any related information you like. It is also quite simple to create custom menus for Datacon Mobile and assign them to individual users. This might be used to allow an assistant or hygienist access for confirming appointments without providing access to reports or financial information or allow an associate access to scheduled patients. Speaking of reports, any report or group of reports



that can be scripted may be setup as a menu option on Datacon Mobile and downloaded as a PDF. You can even send a tiny copy of tomorrow's schedule to your iPhone.

Getting Started

Datacon Mobile is included with your software and only requires that you be using a Mac server running the Snow Leopard or later version of the Mac operating system. There is a nominal charge for setup and unlike the competition, there are no monthly charges for its use. If you are interested in using this popular new feature, contact our customer support department for assistance in getting this set up.



Classes and Events

Classes

New User Training *
Scheduling *
Recall *
Paperless Training
Power User Training *
Doctor's Only Training

* Qualifies for CE Credits

Call today to schedule
your training!

Schedule

Thursday, 11/22
Thanksgiving Day
Office Closed

Friday, 11/23
Office Closed



Visit our Website for Commonly Requested Documentation

This time of year we receive a number of calls from offices for those year end tasks that are done so infrequently. Please visit www.datacondental.com for instructions on:

- Creating a List of Patients with Remaining Benefits
- How to Build a Holiday List
- Year End Procedures