

Avoiding Technology Obsolescence—A Strategic Approach to Your X-ray Purchases

Radiologic technology is advancing at an extraordinary and ever-accelerating pace—with ongoing advances that empower radiology departments to continually increase their efficiency as well as their standard of care. At the same time, this rapid evolution poses a serious issue: it's not uncommon for equipment to become outdated well before it has reached the end of its useful life. This can force facilities that want to remain on the cutting edge to replace equipment on an all-too-frequent basis, incurring costs that no department in this age of tightening budgets can afford.

In light of this serious challenge, how can you run a facility with the best and latest technology... and at the same time avoid a financial breakdown? You need to choose technology and equipment that's **future proof**—technology that's designed to be scalable and grow along with your evolving needs. This can minimize worries about technology obsolescence, extend the life of your existing equipment, and continue to leverage your current investments.

This is what it means for your imaging solutions to be **Right for Today, Ready for Tomorrow**.

Getting Started

To move forward, the first step is to identify and incorporate growth scenarios into your long-term planning and design. As part of this, you should develop projections for your service and uptime requirements, based on your facility type, equipment utilization, and degree of equipment redundancy. You will also need to examine any shifting trends in the demographics and needs of your patient base. Finally, you should assess where you are now in the imaging continuum; that is, are you imaging on film; have you upgraded to Computed Radiography (CR); or, have you stepped all the way up to the benefits of full

Digital Radiography (DR)? Whatever your current technology and migration path, you'll need to establish a timeframe and budgetary parameters for progressing to the next level.

These can be tough challenges. But, you don't have to address them on your own; the right solutions provider can partner with you to evaluate your present needs and help lay out a plan for the future.

The Guidance You Need is Close at Hand

Carestream is just such a vendor—helping you to look beyond a single product at a specific point in time—and working with you to design a forward-thinking solution that will remain viable and evolve along with your changing requirements. The foundation of this strategy should be an initiative that emphasizes modular capital purchases and professional services to reduce risk and increase flexibility and adaptability to change.

Carestream's broad portfolio of X-ray solutions can provide the answer wherever your facility is on the imaging continuum and offer a bridge to the next level of X-ray technology and services when you are ready.



Carestream's broad portfolio provides an on-ramp wherever you are on the digital continuum and allows you to evolve without the worry of technology obsolescence.

White Paper | CARESTREAM X-ray Solutions

Modularity and Scalability

Carestream's imaging solutions are based on an exceptionally modular platform. The benefits of this are compelling. For example:

- If you're currently using film and plan to continue this for some time, you can look to Carestream for analog X-ray systems and X-ray film that represent the gold standard for the industry.
- When you're ready, Carestream can help you upgrade to CR image capture—without the need to purchase all-new components for your X-ray room. Because of modular capabilities, funds are only spent on the technologies needed instead of additional costs spent on hardware or software that is not needed, but cannot be dissociated from the original technology.
- In the future, you can move into DR imaging while still protecting your current X-ray investment. Carestream's DRX-1 System and DRX-Mobile Retrofit Kits allow you to convert **existing** CR mobile units or full rooms (regardless of the manufacturer or model) to DR with a state-of-the-art wireless, digital detector—which is fully compatible and sharable with the other DRX equipment across your entire facility.
- Moreover, you can then expand your DR systems on an ongoing basis, continually advancing your capabilities, while *still* leveraging your legacy technology. Because the components are modular, you can invest in just the right solution, one step at a time.
- Carestream's **Right for Today, Ready for Tomorrow** design philosophy is not limited to hardware. Both our CR

and DR solutions are driven by the same CARESTREAM DIRECTVIEW Software and feature the same user interface. A consistent platform that works across all products means there's no need for technologists to learn multiple user interfaces, which minimizes training time, and makes it easy to move from one piece of equipment to another.

- Carestream's worldwide services team works alongside your professionals to keep your imaging equipment running at its peak performance. There is a comprehensive range of service solutions offered that are tailor-made to meet any size facility's imaging needs, product utilization, and budget.

The Road Forward

As Radiology departments and imaging facilities navigate their future, the need to tap advancing technology while containing costs will continue to be a formidable challenge. While the cost control and agility ultimately helps the healthcare facility, the improved customer care experienced through modular solutions is noticeable and vital. With the improved efficiency created, healthcare providers are able to capture, collect, analyze and access information much faster without compromising the quality of care. To succeed, the smartest strategy is to invest in imaging solutions that will adapt to your needs as you progress along the imaging continuum. **Right for Today. Ready for Tomorrow.**

To explore Carestream products, visit [here](#).

