



Hardware Upgrade



Is your office idle while you run reports, process insurance billing, and print statements? Are you having to wait while one job finishes before you can begin another? Is your dot-matrix printer slowing down your productivity and polluting your office with noise? Are you taking advantage of the versatility of a PC for performing non-Avanta functions, connecting to the Internet, all while having a fast color workstation?

Technology has and continues to advance at an amazing rate, while the relative cost continues to decrease. It was only 20 years ago that physicians who wanted a computerized practice management system paid up to \$100,000 for something less powerful and far less reliable than today's palm pilot. Hardware today offers amazing advances in performance, reliability, size, and features.

The three most significant hardware devices related to your Avanta Practice Management System is the server or main CPU, the printer, and the individual terminals or workstations. Each of these three pieces of hardware have benefited from substantial advances in technology in the last five years.

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Server Upgrade: A new server offers the speed and reliability of an Intel[®] Pentium 1Ghz + class processor along with more memory, a Network Interface Card, (continued on the right)

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and larger hard drives. All new servers also include RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Drives) which is where an extra disk drive is installed in your system so it can continue operating on one disk if the other disk has failed. Both drives contain complete and duplicate copies of all the information in your practice, completely eliminating down time in the event of a drive failure. New servers are in general at least several times faster than your existing server, meaning that the time it takes to process your insurance billing, patient statements, run practice maintenance, build groups, etc. will be significantly reduced.

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Laser Printer Upgrade: If you still use a noisy dot-matrix printer or want to upgrade your old laser printer, take a look at the 4100's new features. Every 4100 ships with a hefty 600-sheet tray, and an optional 500-sheet tray may be added, allowing you to use multiple paper types without changing trays. A duplexing unit may be added to the 4100, saving paper and money by allowing you to print on both sides of a page and yet another option is the 75-capacity envelope feeder. Faster processing allows the 4100 to print up to 25 pages per minute, outperforming your existing printers, while the new 10,000-page toner cartridge reduces your costs. With faster performance, versatile paper handling, superior print quality, and greater expandability, the HP LaserJet 4100 offers features that no other printer can match.

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The PC Advantage: If you are still using monochrome terminals with your Avanta system, you are missing out on the speed, versatility, and color display offered by a PC workstation. A color monitor makes it far easier to differentiate fields and screens in the Avanta system, (continued on the back)

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making it nicer to read and easier on the eyes. Another advantage of replacing your old terminals with PCs is the ability to connect to the Internet. Connecting to the Internet through a high-speed DSL (digital subscriber line) modem has never been easier or more cost-effective. Another PC advantage is their speed and versatility. Networked PC terminals are significantly faster than most other terminals and can support multiple Avanta sessions at one time.

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But don't just take our word for it, read a reaction from one of our clients who recently upgraded their Avanta server and printer.

OB-Gyn client in Valencia: This client upgraded their server and printer and had the following things to say: *"Insurance runs and statement runs used to be 1/2 day ordeals each, (and the noise from the dot matrix printer just about sent us through the roof!) now they are done in 10 minutes start to finish, max!"* Weekly maintenance time dropped from 1 hour and 40 minutes to 4 minutes. Report that would take 10-50 minutes are now done in 30 seconds to 4 minutes. *"What a tremendous difference!"*

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Please call Chip at Avanta if you have any questions regarding upgrading your Avanta system, so that you can also enjoy the benefits of these latest technologies.

updates are coming

The next Avanta update tape is set to be released in August and will include among other things the new and improved demographic screens. Patient Data and Insurance Data screens will include new data fields and a more user-friendly format. New fields include patient cell phone, fax number, email address, ethnicity, and

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marital status. The screens have been reorganized to use space more efficiently, while employing color for improved clarity and ease-of-use.

While Dan is updating he will also assist you in filling out the HIPAA one-year extension. The deadline for compliance (for the Uniform Electronic Transaction Standards, which contains guidelines for simple, uniform electronic health care data submission formats,) was originally set for October 16, 2002. However, anticipating implementation problems on the part of the Medicare Administration, Congress has allowed for a one-year compliance extension to October 16, 2003. To receive this extension, your practice must file for an extension by October 15, 2002, which Dan will assist you in doing when he visits your office to perform a system update.

FREE Seminar



Are you taking advantage of all features on the Avanta Ledger? How do the fields on the ledger relate to and affect statements, insurance billing, and other parts of the Avanta system ?

Our next free seminar, *Understanding the Avanta Ledger*, will address the above questions by outlining and reviewing the reference view ledger, editing and deleting ledger items, reviewing the reference view statement, and troubleshooting ledger and statement discrepancies.

This free seminar is to be presented on July 23rd, 24th, and 25th. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered on each day, (there will be no morning seminar on Tuesday) from 9am - 12pm and 2pm - 5pm, respectively. Make sure to RSVP with Melissa for this seminar, as spots fill up quickly.

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