

Internet Adds to ERP System Benefits

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(May 20, 2003) Web-based enterprise resource planning applications offer so many benefits for health care organizations that they have caused resurgence in industry interest in the software, says John Osberg, principal at Atlanta-based Informed Partners.

"Web-enabled ERP applications can further streamline efficiencies," he says. "Vendors easily can deliver enhancements or new releases to these applications over the Internet. So the Web has enabled best-of-breed ERP packages to become even better. It's really changed the industry."

Besides quicker upgrade and maintenance time, there are other benefits to Web-enabling an ERP system, says Ricky Arredondo, vice president at Superior Consultant Company, Southfield, Mich.

A human resources application in a Web-enabled ERP system can enable health care organizations to integrate recruiting efforts with their payroll software, he says. For example, if an organization permits Internet-based submission of job applications, ERP systems can track applicants throughout the hiring process.

Further, current employees can use a Web-based ERP human resources application that is integrated with payroll data to access information about their pay, schedules or time off. Also, a Web-enabled ERP system can offer additional efficiencies in supply chain management, Arredondo says. Such a system not only enables health care organizations to standardize departmental purchasing but also to buy all supplies over the Internet, he adds. For more information on enterprise resource planning systems, see the ERP feature story in the June 2003 issue of *Health Data Management* magazine.