Who is BMI Healthcare?
BMI Healthcare is the acute private hospital division of General Healthcare Group and is the largest independent provider of private healthcare in the UK with 69 hospitals and healthcare facilities throughout the country. More than 6,000 consultants choose to practice at BMI hospitals, which collectively handle over 1.25 million patient visits each year.

Here is an overview of their IT Infrastructure:

- **IP ENABLED SYSTEMS:** 6500
- **NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES:** 10000
- **LOCATIONS:** 69

Business challenge at BMI
BMI Healthcare required a centralized management solution to manage its 6,500 IP enabled devices across the UK, to ensure visibility and understanding of the entire IT landscape. This meant that at any given time, the IT department required an ability to monitor devices like medical equipment across its estate, to administer the required software and security updates and enable users to continue operating within a secure environment with maximum availability of systems.

“We live in an age where technology and Internet enabled devices are now the norm. The global and local healthcare sectors have become more aware of their dependency on IT infrastructure, with medical equipment typically requiring a live IP connection to function. On top of this, staffs are using a combination of personal and corporate PCs, laptops, smartphones and tablets to access our central network and Wi-Fi.”

- Matt Rooney, IT Desktop Manager at BMI
Business Solution

System management tasks such as patch management, asset management and systems monitoring tied an engineer up for a considerable amount of time and often resulted in support calls being logged and contractors being hired to achieve the level of reporting detail BMI Healthcare required.

BMI Healthcare was using Symantec Altiris for their systems management but the maintenance had become cumbersome. Since, Altiris had a complicated back-end SQL database and required heavy maintenance that resulted in an output that was much less than what was expected. BMI was on the lookout for a solution that is flexible and easy to deploy. In the process, Desktop Central has become BMI’s favorite in overcoming Desktop Management challenges.

“We used Symantec’s Altiris that had a complicated back-end SQL database and required heavy upfront investment from a solution customization stand-point. It also meant that we had to ensure one of our engineers was fluent in SQL reporting as none of the out-of-the-box reports met our unique regulatory standard requirements. As a result, we had little visibility into the exact inventory of our Desktop estate, which presented a patch management headache. Especially when you consider the number of hospitals we maintain” says Matt.

Business Value

Desktop Central automated BMI Healthcare’s regular desktop management activities such as installation of periodical software updates, weekly patch management, delivery of service packs to any Windows-based device including medical equipment, standardizing desktop interfaces, administering company wide security policies and restricting the use of unsecured foreign devices, such as USB sticks and portable hard drives.

In addition, the IT department uses Desktop Central to audit its entire Windows estate and run the necessary reports to comply with healthcare industry regulatory standards.

Automating these important, yet traditionally manual IT functions has freed up the IT team to focus on other business critical IT disciplines and projects such as network monitoring and security event management.

“Effective desktop management is becoming more and more crucial to the entire healthcare industry. The fast-paced environment requires a carefully planned and articulated approach to technological advancements and the ever-evolving threat landscape. As the ramifications of a network security breach can be catastrophic in a hospital, compliance reporting plays a hugely important role in daily operations.

We need visibility of what version of anti-virus is installed on every device, which patches are yet to be deployed the overall volume of devices connecting to the network and who is logging onto a machine and at what time. With Desktop Central we can quickly go from monitoring and reporting to remediation action” adds Matt.

“Much of the medical equipment we use is Windows-based so it is imperative that it is protected against external threats by ensuring a carefully devised patching schedule is implemented, which Desktop Central has allowed us to facilitate. Our hospitals see a large number of patients in a day and if, for example, a modality was unavailable due to OS issues, it would have a direct impact on our ability to operate effectively,” concluded Matt Rooney.
A new Chapter
In addition to server and desktop management, BMI Healthcare is currently evaluating features such as smartphones and tablets to perform profile management, asset management, application management and security management in a trial roll-out.

About Desktop Central
Desktop Central is a web-based server, desktop management and mobile device management software that help in managing thousands of servers, desktops, and mobile devices from a central location. It automates the complete desktop management and mobile device management life cycle ranging from a simple system configuration to complex software deployment. With its network-neutral architecture, the administrator can easily manage desktops or servers in any windows networks like Active Directory, Workgroup or other directory services. For more details you can visit: http://bit.ly/9SEspM

About ManageEngine
ManageEngine serves more than 72,000 established and emerging enterprises - customers with IT infrastructures that are far more dynamic, flexible and elastic than ever before. ManageEngine is the fastest-growing alternative to traditional network management frameworks -- 3 out of every 5 Fortune 500 companies use our products. ManageEngine products enable IT managers to deliver an optimum end-user experience and harness IT to achieve business efficiencies in the face of increasing complexity. It provides a real-time, single-pane-of-glass approach to IT management and enables an IT organization to be proactive, empowered and better positioned to play a strategic role within the enterprise. For more information visit: http://www.manageengine.com/