

TESTIMONIAL

# Northwest Alabama Cancer Center's Move to the Cloud Improves LIS Security & Reliability

The shift to **Orchard Cloud Services** allows  
more time to focus on patient care.

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Software 



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**Orchard Software Corporation**  
701 Congressional Blvd. • Suite 360 • Carmel, IN 46032  
Phone 800 856-1948 • [www.orchardsoft.com](http://www.orchardsoft.com)

Faced with impending costs to replace aging hardware and limited staff for IT support, Northwest Alabama Cancer Center, P.C. (NWACC) decided to invest in Orchard's cloud-based laboratory information system (LIS). This testimonial highlights their experience transitioning to the cloud as an example for other laboratories that may have a similar situation and are interested in the benefits that Orchard Cloud Services can provide.

### About Northwest Alabama Cancer Center & Its Laboratory

NWACC is a community-based, private oncology/hematology practice located in Florence, and Muscle Shoals, Alabama. The three-physician practice borders the Tennessee River and accommodates patients in practice sites on the north and south sides of the river.

Specialty expertise and compassion are the hallmarks of NWACC and a shared philosophy of physicians and laboratory professionals alike. With a small but busy staff of 2.5, their laboratory offers streamlined testing for approximately 50 patients daily at each of the two locations. NWACC has been an Orchard customer since 2011 when Orchard Harvest LIS was implemented.

### Focused on Cancer Patient Care, Minimal Time for IT

The laboratorians at NWACC appreciate Harvest's user-friendly, intuitive solution and want to keep their system running as efficiently, safely, and securely as possible to maintain patient confidentiality, comply with HIPAA regulations, secure their data, and optimize system reliability. With these goals in mind, NWACC is a great fit for a cloud-based LIS.

Prior to moving to a cloud-based LIS, without a dedicated IT employee, lab-related IT duties fell to the laboratory scientists, who had limited IT training and admittedly prefer their laboratory tasks over IT duties.

Having their system's security, disaster recovery, and maintenance handled by Orchard Cloud Services frees the lab staff to focus on their overarching goal of quality and compassionate patient care.



### Additional Reasons to Look to the Cloud

Ensuring compliance with current HIPAA requirements and keeping up to date with current security requirements were the main deciding factors that pushed NWACC's laboratory to investigate and invest in a cloud-based solution. As with many laboratories, a limited budget resulted in laboratory hardware that was nearly nine years old. Even after spending money to update their outdated laboratory workstations, they were still faced with a \$5,000 to \$6,000 spend for a new server. These cost considerations, along with limited IT knowledge and support, as well as the need for security and HIPAA compliance, led them to Orchard's cloud-based solution.

### Benefits of a Cloud-based LIS

Kristy McCabe, NWACC's Laboratory Manager, touts the multiple benefits of having a cloud-based LIS:

- Flexible, secure cloud computing environment
- Reduced burden on lab staff for IT-related tasks
- Security enhancements
- Automated updates
- Greater system reliability and speed
- Fixed costs
- Allows more time to focus on patient care



“We have a long-standing, trusted relationship with Orchard Software. I consider selecting Orchard Harvest one of the best decisions I have ever made for our practice. In my experience, when working with Orchard, we know we are in good hands. Less IT headaches are a welcome advantage of moving our LIS to Orchard's cloud services.”

*Kristy McCabe, Laboratory Manager*



### Orchard Understands Laboratory IT

Pairing 25-plus years of laboratory IT expertise with modern cloud technology and an understanding of the importance of protecting patient data, Orchard Cloud Services provide a flexible, cloud-based laboratory information system deployment to help address the specific challenges that laboratory IT faces.



*Improve system security and reliability  
(backed by 99.9% uptime guarantee)*



*Provide a prescribed disaster recovery plan that  
can help achieve business continuity goals*



*Help laboratories meet  
HIPAA requirements*



*Leverage modern tools to streamline  
installations, maintenance, and upgrades*



*Level laboratory spending*

Orchard Cloud Services ensure that information systems are accessible and secure, allowing organizations to focus on their core mission—providing the highest quality care possible to the populations they serve.

For more information, visit [www.orchardsoft.com](http://www.orchardsoft.com) or call us at (800) 856-1948.



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