



## Success Story

# Clarian Health Deploys a Metro Area E-LAN Solution to Support Patient Care

### About Clarian Health

Clarian Health Partners, comprised of Methodist Hospital, Indiana University Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children, is an Indiana-based, private, non-profit organization, offering a broad base of tertiary services, specialized pediatric care and a Level 1 Trauma Center. Clarian is Indiana's largest, most comprehensive health center and is one of the busiest hospital systems in the nation. Clarian Health's mission is to improve the health of patients and the community through innovation and excellence in care, education, research and service. To fulfill its mission, Clarian uses the combined resources of its sponsoring institutions and its continuing affiliation with Indiana University School of Medicine, one of the nation's leading medical education and research centers. Clarian Health Partners, Inc. operates the Methodist Hospital, Indiana University Hospital and Riley Hospital campuses as a single hospital under Indiana law.

### Customer's Situation

A key differentiator for Clarian has been its move to the CERNER Millennium™ platform, an electronic patient record solution that improves patient safety, clinician workflow and operational efficiency. Millennium enhances Clarian's ability to provide evidence-based medicine, which gives physicians access to the latest information and research outcomes. Clarian needed a reliable and secure network infrastructure with the bandwidth to support the evidence-based medicine that distinguished the hospital's clinical care.

### The Solution

AT&T's Multipoint VPN E-LAN Service provides high-speed bandwidth among Clarian's 12 locations in metropolitan Indianapolis. This Ethernet service gives Clarian flexible, any-to-any communications among its metro locations. Clarian services, including long distance, local, and IP services, are bundled into an integrated networking solution offering a single bill, contract and commitment across a comprehensive portfolio of services. Clarian manages its services online.

The Ethernet solution deployed was consistent with Clarian's business drivers, including the need to simplify network design, scale the network to accommodate future applications and reallocate human resources. This best-in-industry design emphasized networking strengths and focused on a total cost of ownership model. Clarian gets reliable, fully managed service from a vendor with whom it has a decade-long relationship of trust.

### The Perfect Prescription

Clarian Health Partners obtained the ideal Metropolitan Area Network to support their evidence-based medicine model. This approach seeks to integrate the best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values to arrive at the optimal course of treatment for each patient. It gives physicians and other health care providers access to up-to-date medical research and internally approved clinical care pathways in order to facilitate the most effective decision-making. The end goal here is to reduce the variance between the care that's offered to patients by different physicians given the same patient and presenting conditions.

The hospital's network gives providers access to critical clinical data to ensure that they follow best clinical care pathways. This fully managed local solution allows Clarian to deliver high bandwidth in a reduced cost environment. Clarian utilizes a fully bundled solution of voice, data and IP services, including DS1s that connect the healthcare system to other hospitals and insurance providers.

### A Self-Healing Network

Clarian utilized a parallel network during the deployment phase to ensure strong uptime. Because of the redundancy and the network's ability to self-heal, Clarian was more confident that fewer issues would arise. Clarian's ability to provide consistent 24/7 care is based on having strong and reliable vendors to ensure system reliability. While numerous providers can offer similar services, what Clarian saw within the AT&T platform was "a simple solution that was more cost efficient and allowed a greater level of reliability, redundancy, and scalability".

The E-LAN solution meant Clarian did not have to invest in new network equipment. Had Clarian elected another provider, that decision would have forced them to buy a significant amount of additional hardware. Overall, the platform reduced Clarian's capital based hardware procurement by about \$500,000. Additionally, the network architecture is strong, meeting Clarian's needs, allowing future growth and minimizing overall costs.

Clarian Health: <http://www.clarian.org>

AT&T: <http://www.att.com/business>

### **About the Metro Ethernet Forum**

The Metro Ethernet Forum (MEF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to accelerating the adoption of Ethernet as the technology of choice in metro networks worldwide.

The Forum is comprised of leading service providers, major incumbent local exchange carriers, top network equipment vendors and other prominent networking companies that share an interest in metro Ethernet. As of August 2004, the MEF had over 64 members.