



Migration to a Cloud-based Electronic Notebook

Customer Success Story:
Constellation Pharmaceuticals

The Challenge

Founded in 2008, Constellation Pharmaceuticals is advancing novel, small molecule treatments targeting epigenetic mechanisms in tumor and immune cells. The company, headquartered in Cambridge, Massachusetts, works with CROs around the world.

At the time of their engagement with Arxspan, internal scientific teams and CROs were using electronic lab notebooks (ELN) but the company's compound registration and inventory systems were not linked to the ELN. Constellation's first ELN was a client-server system that was difficult to maintain, expensive, and very problematic to upgrade. It required frequent coordination of updates from Microsoft Office, Adobe Acrobat and the chemistry plugin.

Performance of the client-server ELN was slow, especially during signing and witnessing experiments. These problems became more apparent when a lab in China came online. The ELN's high license costs and requirement for a local installation necessitated that there be only one user in China who was then tasked with adding all experimental information.

While the original ELN was the leading product of its time, its client-server monolithic design interfered with the changing needs of Constellation.



"Our original ELN was slow to load and very slow to upload supporting spectral data. Signing and countersignatures were also slow. The Arxspan web-based ELN is much faster [for the user]."

Glen Carll
Senior System Engineer
Constellation Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

While not actively looking to replace their existing ELN, the shortcomings of system led Constellation to consider alternatives without the constraints of a client-server installation. IT management also believed that cloud-based software solutions would soon become the industry-wide standard and offered numerous advantages including platform neutrality, reduced maintenance and upgrade costs and reduced (or eliminated) need for local data centers.

The Solution

Any time software replacement is considered, the change must meet the needs of IT, the research community and have the approval of corporate management. These goals must include maintaining or enhancing functionality available to researchers, while making the system more effective at lower costs for IT. Assuming those goals are satisfied, migration from existing to new software must occur so that there is no loss of data and essentially no downtime for users.

Constellation determined that the Arxspan notebook would both overcome the limitations of their existing client-server ELN and meet both current and future needs of the scientists. The Arxspan web-based ELN enabled straight-forward global access by all users and met the legal and regulatory requirements required for drug discovery.

The migration process went smoothly. Prior to the migration, Arxspan providing training for users and IT management worked out the logistics of the migration and ensured users signed and closed their notebook experiments before the old system was decommissioned. Once everyone closed and signed their notebooks, the actual migration took place over a weekend with essentially no user downtime.

The users and IT are satisfied with the experience and IT expenses are significantly reduced and there is no longer a backlog for desktop support. The 60-70 users have had very few "Help Desk" issues, most of which are handled by Arxspan, transparently to the users. While there were some initial adjustments needed for functionality such as chemistry grid calculations, these were rapidly addressed.