

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We invite our readers to send their viewpoints to editor@ehrscope.com. We obviously do not guarantee publication, but would be happy to hear from you on subjects ranging from your experience in searching for and/or acquiring an EHR to your opinions on governmental influence on the subject.

Ideally, your letters will relate to an article or feature in the immediately previous publication, but this is not mandatory.

As we have no previous articles, I'll discuss my history in the medical software industry. In 1994 one of my medical billing staff said 'Dr. Fishman - you'll never believe what happened'. What followed was a story of her son becoming ill in Orlando, and the Pediatrician using a microphone to speak into his computer. It turns out that the physician was using Kurzweil AI's VoiceMed, and it turns out that I started using that program shortly thereafter. I liked it so much that I opened up a voice recognition software reseller company, and later a distributorship for the same. This led to a seven year process of trying to improve upon voice recognition, and we developed our own 'EMR' based on an Access database, and written in Visual Basic. While it was helpful to me in my practice and to the other small practices that used it, this technology has been overtaken many times in sophistication by many of the programs listed in this Compendium. However, during the hundreds of hours of sessions with the programmers, we discussed many of the issues and complexities inherent in the process, and I understand the challenges of 'getting a physician's thoughts onto paper', which paper may today be electronic.

In embarking upon EHR Scope, I initially envisioned it merely as a compendium utilizing the extensive data we have accumulated about EHR companies. Only later did I decide to include content, and I hope that you have enjoyed reading it.

Interestingly, however, as above, I thought that getting the EHR vendors to confirm the accuracy of their information would be a trivial undertaking and I remember walking into my office declaring that we'd be publishing the list 'next week'. Little did I know!

I'm 53 years old, and have had a variety of business interests, both medical and non-medical. With EMRConsultant.com I commonly speak with owners as well as executives and staff of many EHRs during the week. I have been extraordinarily impressed with their frenetic pace. In no other venture have I run across as many people who are extremely busy as I have in this industry. I think that this says something about the speed at which we will be rushing towards the future of a NHIN or national health information network.

Yours,
Eric Fishman, MD.

