Advancing multi-site natural language processing: Web-launched NLP systems for secure local processing of clinical text

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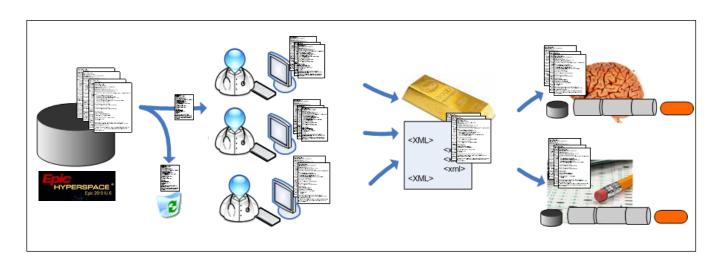


Opportunity

- Clinical text such as progress notes contains vast amounts of information for secondary use:
 - Research (including multi-site)
 - Quality assurance
 - Health care administration
- Natural language processing (NLP) can be used to:
 - Find patients with un-coded chronic conditions
 - Get colonoscopy quality metrics
 - Track depression scale scores
- >110,000,000 million clinical documents in Epic since 2000

Challenge

- Using NLP software requires special expertise
- Developing NLP systems requires special expertise



The NLP System Development Process

- HIPAA deters centralized processing outside local firewalls
- NLP solutions must:
 - Be used locally
 - Minimize need for local expertise

Solution

- NLP experts develop a task-specific NLP system
 - Ex: Carotid artery stenosis extractor
- NLP experts package the system as a self-installing Java application
- The Java application is shared:
 - As a self-installing file (JAR)
 - Over the Web (JAWS)
- The local user:
 - Manages local data/text
 - Reviews results for errors
 - Requests NLP refinements
- NLP experts implement requested refinements

