

CASE STUDY

ENSURING COMPLIANCE: METADATA-SENSITIVE IMAGE DATA ANONYMIZATION

CLIENT'S PROFILE

Country: USA

Size: 1,000+ employees worldwide

Industry focus: Medical technologies company

PROJECT GOAL

The goal of the project was to anonymize 100 CT MRI scans, according to GDPR and HIPAA regulations but leave as is the data that is not considered as personal and can be used for research purposes.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The client's request was that the metadata, which is not personal, didn't have to be anonymized. Anonymized data means that the data does not include any "personal data" as defined in the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (the "GDPR").

Meaning that the following metadata are not "protected health information" or "personal data" under the GDPR and must not be deidentified:

(iii) PatientAge, PatientSex.

(iv) Manufacturer, ManufacturersModelName.

(v) SeriesDescription, StudyDescription.

(vi) Tags with technical specifications (specific to modality, for example SliceThickness, kVp, MagneticFieldStrength, SliceSpacing, SliceThickness, PixelSpacing, FOV, ImagePositionPatient, ImageOrientationPatient).

Anonymization was required only for the following metadata which is considered as "personal data":

(a) PatientID, PatientName.

(b) StudyInstanceUID, SeriesInstanceUID, SOPInstanceUID.

(c) AcquisitionDate, StudyDate, SeriesDate.

(d) AcquisitionTime, StudyTime, and SeriesTime.

(e) PatientBirthDate.

PROJECT WORKFLOW & TEAM ASSIGNED



THE WORKFLOW AND QUALITY ASSURANCE OF THE IMAGE ANONYMIZATION PROCESS AT MEDDARE LOOKED LIKE THE FOLLOWING:

On Data Manager's (DT) side:

- Anonymization of data, according to client's requirements
- Timely delivery of batches according to the project timelines.

On Quality Manager's (QM) side:

- Ensuring that all development tasks meet quality criteria through the test planning, test execution, quality assurance, and problem tracking;
- Providing training sessions for employees;
- Monitoring the quality of each team member.

On Operations Manager's (OM) side:

- Understanding customer needs and requirements in order to develop and maintain effective quality control process;
- Coordinate activities to meet the required standards of quality;
- Setting deadlines and managing tasks;
- Controlling the quality of all current projects;
- Communicating with clients to make sure that both parties have the same understanding of the quality standards and project workflow.

PROJECT'S OUTCOME

Thanks to the high-quality anonymized data, image data will be used to train AI algorithms properly, while using additional information for the benefits of the software. For example, leaving the tags Manufacturer and ManufacturersModelName, gives researchers more understanding of the equipment variety and whether the AI algorithm depends on the different manufacturers or not.



CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MEDDARE & HOW IT CAN TRANSFORM YOUR AI PROJECT

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