

THE EXECUTIVE GUIDE TO **IMAGING PLATFORM MODERNIZATION**

Understanding the Hidden Costs, Potential Risks and Missed Opportunities of Delaying Imaging Platform Upgrades



Canon

CANON MEDICAL HEALTHCARE IT

Contents

Executive Summary.....	3
Risk #1: Cybersecurity Exposure.....	4
Risk #2: Infrastructure Evolution.....	5
Risk #3: Costly Workflow Inefficiencies.....	6
Risk #4: Upgrade Delays = Innovation Delay.....	7
Risk #5: Waiting Does Not Make It Easier	8
Risk #6: Technology Lifecycle Management	9
Lessons from Recent Events	10
Executive Checklist.....	11
Complimentary Upgrade Value Report	12

Executive Summary

Every healthcare organization must balance competing priorities when planning software upgrades. Limited resources, competing initiatives, and budget constraints can push imaging platform upgrades further down the priority list.

However, delaying software modernization carries hidden costs, potential risks, and missed opportunities that extend far beyond postponing access to new features.

Like every mission-critical healthcare technology, advanced visualization platforms have a lifecycle. Maintaining a current, supported imaging platform is an important part of managing cybersecurity, infrastructure compatibility, operational performance, and long-term technology strategy. For many healthcare organizations, the question is no longer whether to modernize, but when, and what risks may accumulate while waiting.

As healthcare organizations modernize their IT environments and face increasing cybersecurity threats, running older software versions can introduce operational, financial, and strategic risks that become more difficult, and more expensive, to address over time. At the same time, organizations may delay unlocking the workflow efficiencies, automation, and expanded clinical capabilities their current platforms already provide.

This brief outlines six areas every imaging executive should evaluate when determining whether their imaging platform is keeping pace with organizational needs.

Risk #1

Cybersecurity Exposure Doesn't Stand Still

Healthcare remains the most targeted industry for cybercrime.

According to IBM's 2024 Cost of a Data Breach Report, healthcare organizations experience the highest average breach costs of any industry, approximately **\$9.77 million per incident**.

While no software vendor can eliminate cyber risk, maintaining supported software with current security updates, modern encryption standards, and validated infrastructure is a foundational element of a strong cybersecurity strategy.

Current software versions are designed to support evolving security practices through ongoing updates, modern encryption standards, validated infrastructure, and compatibility with current operating environments.

As software versions move beyond their supported lifecycle, they may no longer receive updates for newly identified security vulnerabilities or be validated against evolving technology standards. Although unsupported software does not inherently indicate increased risk, it can become more difficult to fully evaluate the risk once software goes beyond the supported lifecycle, making it exceedingly arduous to make informed business decisions.

Maintaining supported software can also simplify internal security reviews, infrastructure planning, and technology governance discussions.

Questions executives should ask:

- Is our imaging platform running a current, vendor-supported version?
- Are we current on critical software and security updates?
- Are we relying on outdated operating systems, databases, or infrastructure components that are approaching end of support?
- Do our critical clinical applications align with our organization's current cybersecurity practices?

KEY TAKEAWAY



Delaying software modernization increases technical debt and can complicate future security initiatives, which could lead to even higher costs down the line.

Risk #2

Infrastructure Continues to Evolve

Healthcare IT environments are changing rapidly.

Organizations are upgrading:

- Windows Server
- SQL Server
- Virtualization platforms
- GPU infrastructure
- Enterprise imaging architecture
- Cloud and hybrid infrastructure initiatives

As infrastructure modernizes, legacy clinical applications may become increasingly difficult to validate, integrate, support, and maintain within evolving IT environments.

Ongoing improvements to the Vitrea® platform include support for modern Windows Server and SQL Server environments, updated security libraries, certificate management improvements, architectural enhancements, and validated infrastructure support designed to help organizations keep pace with evolving IT environments.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Keeping your imaging platform current is designed to support compatibility with your organization's broader IT modernization strategy.



Risk #3

Small Workflow Inefficiencies Can Become Big Costs

Workflow inefficiencies rarely appear all at once. Instead, they accumulate gradually as technology evolves and organizations continue working around limitations that newer software has already addressed.

- Additional clicks
- Manual processing
- Older automation
- Longer case preparation
- Increased administrative effort

Across thousands — or even hundreds of thousands— of imaging studies each year, these seemingly minor inefficiencies may contribute to productivity impacts over time.

Recent Vitrea® releases include enhancements to automation scheduling, workflow management, Study List usability, Multi-Modality Viewer, Brain Perfusion, vessel workflows, and numerous productivity improvements.

Questions executives should ask:

- Are our teams working around software limitations?
- How much manual effort could be reduced through newer automation?



KEY TAKEAWAY

Workflow improvements are designed to help reduce manual effort, support capacity, and enable clinicians to spend more time on higher-value activities.

Risk #4

Delayed Upgrades Can Delay Innovation

Advanced visualization continues to evolve as new clinical applications, workflow automation, AI-enabled capabilities, and interoperability enhancements are introduced.

Organizations running older software versions may not have access to the latest innovations, automation capabilities, workflow enhancements, and partner integrations.

Current Vitrea® capabilities include:

- Open Rib
- CT Carotid Auto Vessel
- Auto MPR Brain

The Vitrea 7.16.4 release also introduces CT VScore+ and Export+, optional licensed applications available on the latest platform.

Maintaining a current, supported platform provides greater flexibility to evaluate and deploy new technologies as clinical and business priorities evolve. Current platform versions may also support eligibility for select evaluation programs, where available, and subject to applicable program terms, customer eligibility, and regulatory requirements.

Questions executives should ask:

- Could newer workflow capabilities improve efficiency for our clinicians today?
- Are we positioned to adopt new clinical applications without requiring a major platform upgrade?
- Does our current platform support our organization's future imaging strategy?



KEY TAKEAWAY

Modernization is more than gaining access to today's new features. It can help position your organization to adopt tomorrow's innovations.

Risk #5

Waiting Rarely Makes the Upgrade Easier

A common assumption is:

“We’ll upgrade next year.” For many organizations, “next year” can quickly become several years.

In reality, postponing upgrades often results in:

- More skipped software versions
- Greater infrastructure changes
- Larger testing efforts
- More change management
- Greater implementation complexity

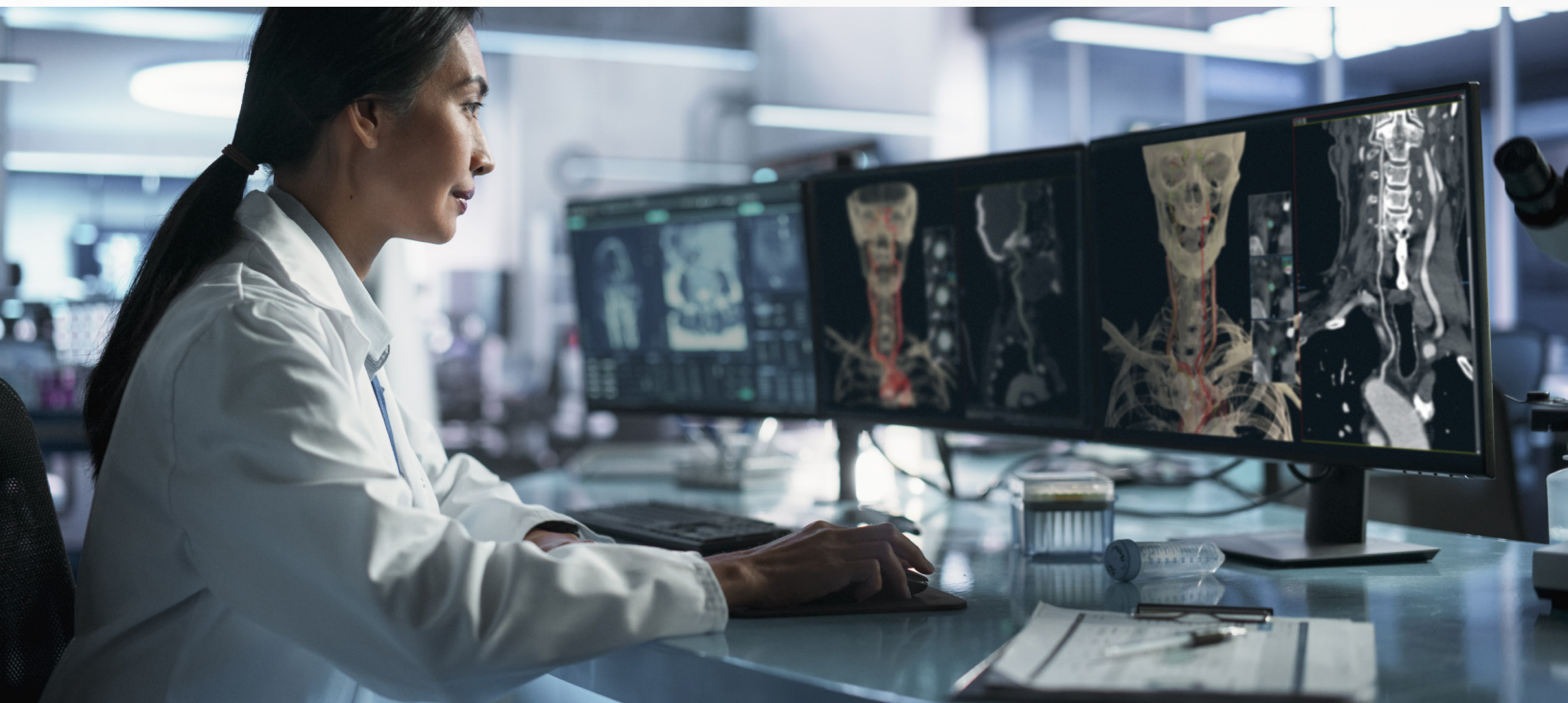
Incremental modernization is typically less disruptive than attempting a major version leap after several years.

Delaying modernization also increases technical debt, making future upgrades more complex as infrastructure, operating systems, and clinical workflows continue to evolve.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Keeping current is often easier than catching up.



Risk #6

Technology Lifecycle Management Matters

Like other enterprise healthcare technologies, imaging platforms can benefit from a defined lifecycle strategy.

Organizations that remain current may experience:

- Smaller, more predictable upgrades
- Ongoing access to vendor support
- Better alignment with IT modernization initiatives
- Faster access to workflow enhancements and new clinical capabilities

EXECUTIVE TAKEAWAY



Organizations that treat imaging platforms as part of an ongoing lifecycle strategy can be better positioned to reduce risk, simplify upgrades, and respond more quickly to future clinical and technology needs.

Why This Matters

Modernization is about more than software versions.

It can help organizations:

- Reduce operational risk
- Support evolving cybersecurity practices
- Improve clinician productivity
- Enable future innovation
- Maximize technology investments



Lessons from Recent Healthcare Cyber Events

Recent industry events demonstrate how technology disruptions can affect healthcare organizations across the country.

CommonSpirit Health (2022)¹

One of the largest nonprofit health systems in the U.S. suffered a ransomware attack affecting hospitals across multiple states. Public reporting indicated that the organization relied on a mix of modern and older infrastructure, requiring portions of the network to be taken offline.

Impact:

- More than 140 hospitals affected
- Surgical delays
- Appointment cancellations
- Medication administration disruptions
- Adverse financial impact of more than \$160 million

Blackbaud (2020)²

- Ransomware attack affecting thousands of healthcare and nonprofit organizations
- Multi-state investigations and a \$49.5 million settlement
- \$3 million SEC settlement related to misleading disclosures to investors

CareCloud (2026)³

- Cyberattack impacting healthcare technology systems
- The affected environment stored Electronic Health Records, patient demographic information, clinical records and other protected health information (PHI)

While each event involved different organizations and technologies, they reinforce a common lesson: **healthcare resilience depends on proactive technology governance, supported software, layered cybersecurity practices, and operational preparedness.**



IMPORTANT NOTE

Running the latest version of any software does not eliminate cyber risk. However, maintaining supported software is an important component of a comprehensive cybersecurity and technology governance strategy.

¹ CommonSpirit Health Issues Update Confirming 164 Facilities Affected by Ransomware Attack

² Blackbaud blasted for failing to prevent customer breaches | Computer Weekly

³ Healthcare Software Company Announces Breach of its Electronic Health Record Environment

Is Your Imaging Platform Keeping Pace?

Executive Checklist

Can you answer Yes to each question?

- ☐ Our imaging platform is running a current, fully supported version.
- ☐ Our platform aligns with our organization’s Windows and SQL roadmap.
- ☐ We are current on vendor security updates and supported configurations.
- ☐ Our clinicians have access to the latest workflow enhancements and automation.
- ☐ We can adopt new clinical applications as organizational needs evolve.
- ☐ We have a defined imaging platform modernization strategy.
- ☐ Our imaging platform remains within the vendor’s supported software lifecycle.
- ☐ We have a documented imaging platform modernization roadmap.



Complimentary Upgrade Value Report

Understanding where your organization stands today is the first step toward building a practical, long-term modernization strategy.

Canon Medical Informatics can provide a personalized **Vitreia Upgrade Value Report** that includes:

- Current version assessment
- Security and infrastructure enhancements introduced since your version
- Workflow, automation, and productivity improvements available since your current version
- New clinical capabilities
- Upgrade planning recommendations

Every year organizations delay modernization, they may also delay realizing workflow efficiencies, infrastructure improvements, and clinical innovations that are already available on supported software versions.

Request your **complimentary upgrade value report** today by visiting mi.medical.canon/upgrade.



CANON MEDICAL HEALTHCARE IT

Canon Medical Informatics develops Vitrea® Advanced Visualization, a powerful system of integrated software tools and technologies designed to automate image processing and workflows. Vitrea helps technologists, radiologists and physicians perform their jobs more quickly and efficiently to facilitate diagnostic and treatment decisions, while helping IT teams develop an infrastructure that achieves operational cost-savings, sustainability and growth.

Canon Medical Informatics | 5850 Opus Parkway, Suite 300 | Minnetonka, MN 55343 USA | mi.medical.canon