

## Components of Anaesthesia Information Systems

N. van Schagen

Department of Anesthesiology  
VU University Medical Center  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The department of anesthesiology of the VUmc has designed and constructed its own Anesthesia Information Management System (AIMS) that is deployed on all 16 OR's. The origin's date back to 1992. The base of the AIMS is formed by a full disclosure flightrecorder. The system is still being developed and extended.

A modern AIMS should in our opinion not only manage information but also be a platform to support new developments and to implement new ideas. Without any doubt it should be able to cope with the challenges of an ever changing clinical and technical environment. Some standard information techniques can help in building such a system.

Of a number of strategies we would like to put emphasis on principles that are most important in our view:

- 1) keep it simple (KIS)
- 2) build a modular system so one can use separate building blocks.

One of the other challenges is interfacing with the user in a coherent way.

Web technology is a very handy tool for a consistent look and feel while still being able to develop and alter what is 'behind the scenes'. Open standards and open source tools provide an excellent way of keeping the system flexible and up to date.

In the presentation we will show the modules involved and we will also give a live demonstration of the features and possibilities of the complete system.

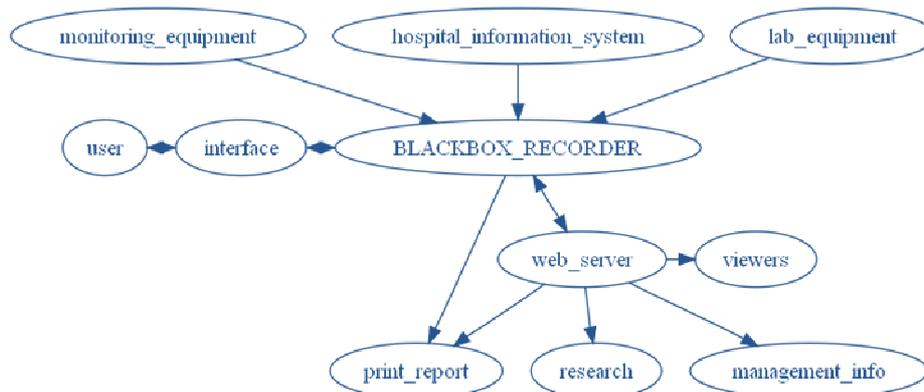


Figure 1. Overview of the VUmc AIS system showing the black box (or flight recorder) as central element.