



Managing Pathology Storage in the Age of Digitization

Solution brief
Digitize pathology slides
Iron Mountain Digital Pathology On Demand

Challenge
Lab managers and pathologists are challenged to manage an ever-growing volume of slides and blocks while maintaining inventory integrity and on-demand physical access. Digital pathology can help solve some of these issues but comes with its own challenges, not least of which is an explosion of data that needs to be secured, stored, managed, and preserved in addition to the physical slides, which need to be stored for at least 10 years to meet FDA regulations.

Impact
Managing physical slides is a labor-intensive and time-consuming activity that slows time to retrieval and risks damage from shipping and sharing. Many labs store slides and blocks in suboptimal storage locations or in high-value real estate, placing slides and blocks at risk of degradation and unauthorized access and impeding pathologists' ability to find what they need, when it's needed.

With physical slides, sharing requires the person, microscope, and slide to be in the same place at the same time. However, procuring high-volume scanners to digitize data represents a capital investment of hundreds of thousands of dollars, and the scanners are slow and tedious to use.

Large pathology centers might need to produce around 1 million digital slides, resulting in 1PB of uncompressed data each year.¹ Lab managers would need to maintain data security and personal healthcare information (PHI) compliance requirements along with managing storage costs and complexity for this avalanche of data.

What if you could...
Digitize slides and entrust digital and physical storage to an experienced partner that can help you:

- Streamline lab workflows by providing rapid retrieval of images.
- Facilitate collaboration with the ability to view and mark up slide images in real time.
- Leverage a holistic service spanning the entire physical-to-digital pathology lifecycle.

Industry fact
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Download the solution brief to find out how you could streamline lab workflows, and facilitate collaboration with the ability to view and mark up slide images in real time.