

# Insights from thought leaders: the future of software in the laboratory

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## “Cherry-picking” the pieces



The future means flexibility, which can be seen as two-pronged. One aspect is that clinical labs will be freed up from major, monolithic software deployments; instead, software will be more modular and flexible, which enables labs to cherry-pick the pieces of software they need. For example, for lab quality management, they might need only the modules related to equipment management or document control, versus a whole QMS package.

Another aspect to this flexible future is that lab software will be hosted in the cloud, which again frees the labs from old-fashioned, huge installations like LIS systems. It gives the lab almost instant and untethered software access, which enables management of the lab from any workstation or laptop at any location. Because cloud-based hosting makes for an easy and quick deployment, the lab can leapfrog over old-fashioned server and network requirements.

To sum up, when it comes to clinical lab quality management and document control software, the features and functionality have reached maturity, and have high rate of uptake. But what’s new is how labs can access them and purchase them, using cloud-based technologies and cherry-picking exactly what they need—giving them maximum flexibility.

— Craig Madison, Senior Partner

SoftTech Health

Developer of the SoftTech Health LabQMS system