

What is a LIS?

A LIS is the Laboratory Information System which is normally abbreviated LIS. The LIS is composed of the software that is running on a Server, a large centrally located computer that houses the software, which individual users and all system devices connect to. So, the LIS is basically a large computer, collection of devices; instruments, printers, workstations etc., where the users (you and all other Tech's) interact with the LIS.

The LIS is normally maintained at your facility by a person known as the LIS Administrator (LIS Admin). This person will, with the software vendor's assistance 'build' the component test codes and reports that are used by the software. This person will also maintain and modify as needed any of the test codes and reports as needed.

Communication between the various parts of the system, for example, between a user at a workstation who is entering an order for tests to be ran for a patient, is done over the local network (see the document 'What is a Network'). If there are network problems, then this will cause a situation where the user is unable to complete any work at their workstation.

Instruments, printers, workstations and other devices depend on network communication. This is why the environment you are working in is called a LIS (Laboratory Information System). All these parts are what make up the 'System.'

Generally speaking, any issue with a particular workstation, printer or instrument will not affect the operation of other devices. If, however, there is a basic system issue one or more of the devices may be affected. If the Server itself has a problem the entire system can be affected up to a point of a total down situation which would then make it necessary to use some other method such as going to paper testing requests and reports.

