Hello everyone. I hope that 2010 treated you well, that you had a nice holiday season, and that 2011 is even better than 2010. With that in mind, I would like to spend a few minutes talking about FAAMedXPress (MedXPress).

You may recall that we introduced MedXPress with announcements that it was only available to airmen on the West Coast. In truth, the system was available across the whole country. However, we were trying to limit the number of users so that we could wring out any problems that we might have missed in our beta tests. At that time, I was due my annual Class II examination, so I entered all of my information into the database, and I asked my AME to give it a try.

It took me a while to convince him that he could use the system because of our East Coast location, but I kept insisting that I knew what I was talking about, and he finally, begrudgingly, agreed to make the attempt.

The next year, when I called to schedule my appointment, his assistant told me that he would not see me for my FAA exam unless I used MedXPress.

From my perspective as an examinee, the process worked quite well, but over the next few weeks, he experienced several technical issues, and he was not bashful about calling me to let me know about them. I assured him I was grateful for the calls because we needed the feedback to help us fix the system.

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That was three years ago, and I now consistently get positive feedback from AMEs and pilots who use the system. Pilots can fill out the electronic 8500-8 in the privacy of their own home. Once a pilot has used the system, it populates his or her demographics in successive years, and we are considering changes that will “remember” the rest of the historical information as well.