



IMAGING SYSTEM RELEASE NOTES

Version 3.0

March 2002

Department of Veterans Affairs
System Design and Development
VISTA Imaging

Preface

This document describes new features and enhancements to existing functionality of the **VISTA** Imaging System, V. 3.0. This document is part of the **VISTA** Imaging software documentation set, which includes:

- Release Notes
- Installation Guides
- Security Guide
- Technical Manual
- User Manuals

Preface

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Section 1 Introduction

VistA Imaging version 3.0 incorporates the new functionality provided by all released patches (1, 3, 4, 5, 8) to version 2.5. In addition, VistARad, the diagnostic radiology workstation software, has been added. A number of DICOM Gateway modifications have also been included in this new version.

Note: VistA Imaging software is subject to FDA regulation, and the VistA Imaging group must be able to track and document the distribution of this software. Sites will need to file or update their release agreements before receiving this software. Please contact [REDACTED](#) for more information.

For information about resolved defects in this release, refer to the NPM (National Patch Module), or to the patch descriptions available at [REDACTED](#)

Section 2 New Features

2.1 Data Integrity Checking

Vista Imaging 3.0 incorporates data integrity checking tools that will detect and report the following types of inconsistencies:

- Image and associated report are associated with different patients.
- Image is associated with a report that is not associated with this image (or with any image).
- Report is associated with an image that is not associated with this report (or with any report).
- The group's image information and the image's group information do not agree.
- An image in a group belongs to a different patient from the patient associated with that group.
- The associated report for an image does not exist.

2.1.1 VistA Imaging Server Changes

Created the Database Scanning Utility. When run, this utility checks for discrepancies in the VistA database IMAGING file (2005) and related parent report data files (such as the Radiology Report file).

Two types of reports can be generated using this utility: a report that lists problems produced by the DSM Global/Volume Set Repacking procedure; and a report that lists all data for images where an inconsistency has been detected. When a report is generated, a copy of the report is emailed automatically to the VistA Imaging Team for analysis.

2.1.2 Clinical Display Workstation Changes

Added the capacity to alert users if images fail internal integrity checks. If an inconsistency is detected, the user is alerted and cannot open the suspect image or its associated report. User alerts include information that describes the discrepancy detected.

2.1.3 Clinical Capture Workstation Changes

Added data integrity checking to the final step of the capture process. If a discrepancy is detected between selected patient and report, the images will be captured, but no association will be made to the report, and the user will be informed that there are consistency problems.

2.1.4 Background Processor Changes

Added data integrity checking to the Verifier. In addition to performing the checks described on the preceding page, the Verifier can optionally scan all text (.txt) files within the VistA Imaging Network for matching patient IDs. The range of entries to scan can be defined by selecting a date range (forwards or backwards) or by selecting a range of internal entry numbers of the Image file. The user may also indicate whether the associated image text files should be scanned.

2.1.5 DICOM Gateway Changes

Added the capability to check the integrity of the VistA database IMAGING file (2005) and related parent report data files, and to detect the possibility of database rollbacks. If a discrepancy is found, the acquisition process is halted and user intervention is required to continue. The user should investigate the cause of the discrepancy. If a database rollback has occurred, processing should not be restarted until the rollback problem is resolved.

2.2 Scanning Administrative Documents and Automatic Means Test Transmission

2.2.1 Administrative Document Scanning

An image and scanned document index has been added to distinguish Administrative Chart documents/images from Clinical Chart documents/images. Traditionally, there have been two patient charts: the clinical chart and the administrative chart.

- The clinical chart is traditionally located on the ward or clinic when the patient is being seen. It is used for patient care, and clinicians write notes, place orders and review patient records in the clinical chart.
- The administrative chart generally houses administrative documents related to the patient. These include patient correspondence, eligibility documents, financial worksheets, inventory of patient property, request for information, reports of contact and patient rights and responsibilities forms.

These two major chart categories – Administrative and Clinical – are now the top level index for scanned documents. A new security key is required for viewing administrative documents.

The document type forms the second level index. When Administrative documents are scanned, the user now selects the document type from a standard, defined list of twenty-three types.

2.2.2 Automatic Means Test Transmission

Added the capacity to automatically copy scanned Means Test images to a network location provided by the Health Eligibility Center (HEC). When a scanned document is indexed as a Means Test document, the image is automatically flagged for transmission to the HEC. After transmission, the associated patient's record is updated to reflect that the Means Test form has been transmitted.

2.3 Other Enhancements

2.3.1 Clinical Display Enhancements

The capability to display full resolution images has been added to the Radiology viewer. Full resolution images, when available, can be displayed by clicking the “Full Res” option in the Radiology Viewer’s menu bar.

2.3.2 DICOM Gateway Enhancements

DICOM Gateway Enhancements include...

- Improved image acquisition from modalities that have embedded image icons, color overlays, and floating point VR (value representation).
- Improved the error reporting used when initiating new or updated dictionary files.
- Added an option to display the MSM license expiration date on the MUMPS Utilities sub-menu (part of the System Maintenance menu option).
- Corrected the handling of DICOM Unlimited Text (UT) value representation.
- The DICOM Viewer can now display the text file associated with DICOM images that have been captured. Images can also be browsed using a directory window.

2.3.3 Background Processor Enhancements

Improved the interface used to define network locations.

Section 2 – New Features

Section 3 VistARad Diagnostic Radiology Workstation Software

3.1 Overview

The new VistARad diagnostic radiology reading software is used to retrieve and display full-resolution images and reports for radiology exams. VistARad is integrated with the *VISTA* Hospital Information System and with the Radiology Package in particular.

VistARad is run on a dedicated Windows NT-based workstation that incorporates one, two, or four high-resolution monitors. A properly configured VistARad workstation is suitable for primary diagnostic interpretation of radiology exams.

From the VistARad workstation, a radiologist can use a variety of exam lists to select the images to be displayed. Exam lists are based on information from the Radiology package and the *VISTA* patient database, and are used to divide the pool of available exams into useful categories. Core exam lists include the UnRead list, All Active (exams) list, and patient name-based lists.

For any exam selected, both the images and the text report associated with the exam may be displayed. A radiologist can also view other parts of a patient's medical record, such as laboratory and pathology information, using the *VISTA* Health Summary reporting capability.

VistARad provides a full range of image display and manipulation features, including: window/level adjustment, scale, sharpen, rotate/flip, etc. It can display multiple exams concurrently, allowing for comparisons with prior studies.

Once a user has finished reviewing images, they can use the Close/Update Exams window to close exams and if appropriate, update the Exam Status from EXAMINED to INTERPRETED (specific values may vary from site to site).

3.2 How VistARad Works

VistARad is composed of three interrelated components: the Manager, the Layout Viewer, and the Stack Viewer.

- The Manager is used to locate and select image and text data for display. It also serves as the link between VistARad and the *VISTA* patient database, updating the database when exams are locked or exam status is updated.
- The Layout Viewer is used for image display. Images belonging to each study are displayed side-by-side. It provides the tools used to manipulate and analyze images.
- The Stack Viewer can be used, at the user's preference, to display CT, MR and XA (x-angiographic) exams. In addition to duplicating the standard tools incorporated by the Layout Viewer, the Stack Viewer provides specialized tools for creating image cines, series comparison, and navigation.

The Manager, the Layout Viewer, and the Stack Viewer are described in more detail below.

3.2.1 The Manager

In the Manager, five standard exam lists can be used to select images or reports for display. Additional custom lists can be defined on a site-by-site basis. Each type of list is described below.

Exam List	Criteria	Initial Sort	Description
UnRead	Exam status of EXAMINED	Priority, then Exam Date/Time	Contains exams ready to be interpreted.
Recent	Exam status of INTERPRETED or TRANSCRIBED	Exam Date/Time	Does not include unread exams.
All Active	Exam status of EXAMINED, INTERPRETED, or TRANSCRIBED.	Exam Date/Time	Combines the Recent and UnRead lists.
Patient Exams	An abbreviated list of exams for a selected patient. Patient name selected from another exam list, or by using patient lookup.	Exam Date/Time	The list description may include a note that indicates if there are additional older exams for that patient. Additional exams can be opened from the All Patient Exams list.
All Patient Exams	Lists all exams for a selected patient.	Exam Date/Time	Lists all exams for a selected patient.
Custom lists	Site-defined	Site-defined	Typically, a site-defined subset of the UnRead list.

The Manager uses exam locks to prevent multiple radiologists from simultaneously reading the same exam. An exam that has not yet been interpreted is locked when the exam has been opened by a radiologist. When an exam is locked, the reviewing radiologist's initials are shown in the list entry for that exam, and any other users attempting to open the exam are notified that the exam is locked. Locked exams can be displayed, but only the user who "holds" the exam lock can update the exam's status. A lock is removed if an un-interpreted exam is closed without updating its status.

Whenever images or reports are displayed, the Manager checks the Radiology and Imaging database to confirm that the patient ID used in the patient record and the images match. If a mismatch is detected, the user is notified and given a description of the problem, and the display of images or reports is blocked. A special security key can be used by designated users to review "problem" images and reports.

3.2.2 The Layout Viewer

The following image interpretation tools are available in the Layout Viewer.

Image Manipulation Tools

Name	Description
Window/Level	User can change window/level using mouse drag or controls in a floating dialog box.
Scale	User can control image size by specifying an absolute percentage value, or by making the scale dependent on the current layout. Changes can be made using mouse drag or a floating dialog box.
Sharpen/Smooth	User can select one of multiple algorithms to enhance edges or to reduce image noise. Changes can be made using mouse drag or a floating dialog box.
Invert Grayscale	User can invert (create a negative) image.
Pan	If image is larger than the space allotted to it by current layout settings, user can reveal hidden portions of the image using mouse drag or controls in a floating dialog box.
Reorient	User can rotate or flip images by 90° or 180° increments.
ROI (magnifying glass)	User can define a movable, rectangular or elliptical area that can be manipulated independently from the rest of the image. May also be used as the basis of a mask, where areas outside the ROI are blacked out.

Image Measurement Tools

Name	Description
Angle tool	User can create two lines (lines do not have to be connected) to calculate acute or obtuse angles.
Hounsfield Area tool	User can designate a rectangular area within a CT image to view Hounsfield unit average, range, and standard deviation.
Measure Line/Area tool	User can display measurement length or area for line or rectangle defined by dragging the mouse.
Pixel Data tool	User can display grayscale, X-Y coordinate and Hounsfield values (CT images only) for pixel currently "under" mouse pointer.

Image Annotation Tools

Image annotation tools are available for Radiologists during reading, but are presently not saved. This functionality will be added in a future patch.

Name	Description
Text tool	User can create a text box and label image features.
Auto Number tool	User can drag to create boxes that are automatically numbered using numbering style of user's choice. Available styles include, numeric, alphabetic, and spinal (cervical, thoracic, and lumbar).
Line/Arrow tool	User can draw straight lines, single-headed pointers, or double-headed pointers.

Name	Description
Ellipse tool	User can draw a circle or ellipse—diameter and proportions are controlled by dragging the mouse.
Rectangle tool	User can draw a rectangle—height and width are controlled by dragging the mouse.

Case and Image Presets

Case and image presets allow adjustments to be made to all images in an exam in a single step. They can control window/level, inversion, and sharpness. Case presets can also control scale, layout, and image-by-image or modality-based window/level settings. Case and image presets can be created, changed, and applied on demand. Additionally, case presets can be associated with a modality type, and then applied automatically when images acquired by a particular modality are displayed.

3.2.3 The Stack Viewer

A stack is a collection of cross-section images comprising part or all of an exam. The Stack Viewer window uses a grid format to display multiple exams at once. Each exam is displayed on a single row of the grid. Each scout image or series (stack) is displayed in a single cell of that row. Within a stack, only a single image is displayed at one time. A number of tools are available in the Stack Viewer Window to assist in interpreting studies.

Stack Manipulation Tools

Name	Description
Cine	Creates a “flipbook” by displaying each image in a stack within a single cell. User can turn the function on or off, set direction, and define a subset of images within a series to view in this manner.
Navigate through series (in addition to cine)	User can use a variety of methods to display a particular image within a stack and determine that image’s relative position within a stack.
Link/Synchronize	Creates a link between two or more displayed stacks. After creating the link, cine or image manipulation functions applied to any one of the linked stacks will be applied to all linked stacks. User can choose which properties are linked and which are not.
Copy Image Attribute	Allows user to propagate window/level, scale, sharpen/smooth, relative position (pan), or orientation from one stack to another.
Move Scout / Series	Allows user to reposition stacks or scout images by dragging.
Split Stack	Allows user to divide an existing stack into two new stacks. Associations between the new stacks and the related scout image are retained. Intended for use when series info is not available for displayed exam.
Change Layout	User can change layout by dragging.
Image Presets	Image presets, which are defined in the Layout Viewer, can be applied to stacks. Image presets can control window/level, inversion, and sharpness.

Image Manipulation Tools

Name	Description
Window/Level	User can change window/level by dragging mouse.
Scale	User can control image scale by dragging mouse.
Sharpen/Smooth	User can enhance edges or to reduce image noise by dragging mouse.
Invert Grayscale	User can invert (create a negative) image.
Pan	If image is larger than the space allotted to it by current layout settings, user can reveal hidden portions of the image by dragging mouse.
Reorient	User can rotate or flip images by 90° or 180° increments.
ROI (magnifying glass)	User can define a rectangular or elliptical, area that can be manipulated independently from the rest of the image. May also be used as the basis of a mask, where areas outside the ROI are blacked out.

Image Measurement Tools

Name	Description
Angle tool	User can create two lines (lines do not have to be connected) to calculate acute or obtuse angles.
Hounsfield Area tool	User can designate a rectangular area within a CT image to view Hounsfield unit average, range, and standard deviation. Dimensions are measured as well.
Measure Line tool	User can display measurement length for lines defined by dragging the mouse.

3.3 VistA HIS Menu Options for VistARad

The following menu options have been added to VistA Imaging to support VistARad. These options are used for configuration and maintenance, and are described in the VistA Imaging 3.0 Installation Guide.

MAGJ MAIN
MAGJ E/E VISTARAD LISTS
MAGJ VISTARAD WINDOWS
MAGJ LIST INQUIRY
MAGJ VISTARAD SITE PARAMETERS
MAGJ E/E PREFETCH LOGIC
MAGJ PREFETCH PRINT
MAGJ INQUIRE PREFETCH LOGIC
MAGJ SCHED RECENT LIST COMPILE