

# ASSIST TRACKING®



Assist Tracking  
Newsletter

April 2015

## WHY GAMBLE WITH PATIENT SAFETY?

### Featured New Item: Specimen Type Specifications/Protocols

The concept of Specimen types have existed in Assist, but this data was provided more for informational purposes rather than having any logical purpose within the system. That has now changed, and a connection has been placed between Specimen Types and protocols. That means that the specification of the type of specimen that has been encountered can now drive the combination of slides that are printed and also drives multiple reports.

**Accessioning Screen**

**Grossing Specimen Override**

**Specimen Type at Embedding**

**Slide Queue by Specimen Type**

The specimen type can be assigned at any data collection point inside the Assist application. Typically the type is assigned at Accessioning, Grossing, or Embedding. It provides the most advantage the earlier the type can be specified within the workflow of the lab. If the type can be specified at Accessioning, then the specimen type can be created with the cassette and slide protocols. The assignment of the specimen type can allow for the printing of specific combinations of cassette magazines and quantities along with text specific entries to mark the cassettes appropriately.

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### Completed Updates

Specimen Type Specifications  
Protocols

### Future Updates

Badge-less Assist  
Chemical Storage Tracking  
Preventative Maintenance

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Once specified, the type can be shown on the various screens as the specimen is scanned. The type can be color coded when set up so that the font color on the screens can be customized to provide an extra visual cue to the type of specimen being processed. Typically, the ability to override the specimen type is provided to grossers. A button is shown, that when clicked displays a drop down of types to allow for the override. Once overridden, the new assignment goes forward on all of the various screens.

At embedding, microtomy, distribution, etc. the type is then shown to allow for the various technicians that work with the specimen an opportunity to confirm the accuracy of the assignment. The slide queue has also been extended to include the specimen type in the selection criteria. This allows the technician printing slides to pull only specimens of that specific type if special setups of magazines and colors need to be set in order to handle the printing needs for specific type.

In the Assist administrative web site, there are multiple new reports that provide information on the specimen types that have been specified along with the quantities. These new reports allow for better management of the laboratory by supplying information on how often the various types of specimens are encountered. Visibility is also provided to how often an original assignment has been overridden so that additional training can be provided as necessary.

## Completed Updates: Check out the latest features added to Assist Tracking

- **Admin Web Site – Specimen Type Maintenance** – Modified this screen to include the ability to associate slide protocols with a specimen type.
- **Main Scanner** – Modified the write to print queue from embedding feature to look at the specimen type (if it is being tracked) and write the protocol number into the slide queue when the record is written.
- **Main Scanner** – Modified the specimen type logic. If a specimen type override is performed, this now takes place inside the main scanner engine instead of via the accessioning module.
- **Print Center** – Modified the label logic routines to include the bar code type for batch printing operations that use Print Center to print both linear and 2D bar codes.
- **Admin Web Site – Distribution Location Maintenance** – Modified to include a “Remote Site” flag so that distribution locations can be flagged as remote to allow for filtering when using the “remote Assist” module.
- **Remote Assist** – Created a new module of Assist that was designed specifically for remote specimen processing. This module allows for the capture of elapsed time at a location, will print specimen labels which can be subsequently scanned, and will also capture elapsed time per specimen processed.
- **Admin Web Site – Warehouse Drawer Transfer** – Created a new utility screen that allows for a drawer of slides/blocks to be moved to a different drawer and the original drawer is then flushed to allow for re-use. This is useful for labs where metal filing cabinets are used and individual specimens are moved to cardboard boxes for transfer to an offsite storage vendor.
- **Admin Web Site – Remote Site Time Report** – Created this report to show the elapsed time spent at a site. This works in conjunction with the “Remote Assist” module outlined above.

- **Admin Web Site – Batch Tracking Summary Report** – Fixed an issue that was causing a runtime error when the “active batches only” checkbox was used.
- **Admin Web Site – Queue Loader Settings Maintenance** – When a queue record was created without a user id, which is a valid setting, they would not pull up for a change in the screen. Corrected so that this works.
- **Admin Web Site – Remote Site Scanning Report** – Created this report to show the detail data associated with the remote Assist module. This is the lowest level detail report that shows exactly what cases were scanned while using the remote module.
- **Admin Web Site – Transaction Log Additional Objects Report** – Created this report to allow for the reporting on additional pieces of data captured for the transaction log. The current implementation of this data would be for the molecular module of Assist where a vial is scanned in addition to the traditional pieces of data shown for Assist. For sites not using this functionality, this report would return no data.
- **Print Center** – Created a new Cytology Slide label that fits a small label and includes a site name, prefix, accession number and linear bar code.
- **Print Center** – Modified the label queue screen to allow for dual printers. This supports a scenario where on demand labels are being printed in response to a scan transaction. One computer is serving two scanning screens and printers. This single instance of the screen can support double printing.
- **Scoreboard** – Added the ability, on generic pie and column charts to have a second generic SQL statement pull data that can be displayed in the header of the graph and also provided the ability to append the totals reflected in the graph in the header.
- **Admin Web Site – Scoreboard Generic Details Maintenance** – Extended this maintenance screen to include all of the fields outlined above in the maintenance. This supports the addition of totals to the graph header.
- **Scoreboard** – Added the ability to specify the font size in the configuration for the “canned” graphs for the header. Previously, this was hard coded with the ability to customize it provide to only generic graphs.
- **Thermo Microtomy POU** – Added Multi-Pieces display. Added QC notes display. Provided improved logic handling for LIS interface data.
- **Scanner Engine** – Added an additional button to the toolbar to allow the scanner head to be disconnected and re-connected if needed. This can be configured to be visible or not. It allows for the use of multiple COM port modules on one screen if needed (ex. Grossing and processor check in).
- **Batch Tracker** – Created new functionality to write records to a new BatchTrackingAssignment table so that more detailed analysis of assignments of batch records can be performed.

- **Admin Web Site – Transaction Errors Report** – Created this new report to show at a summary level the errors being made by users of Assist. Also provided an “include date” flag to allow for a detail level of errors include the date/time when the error was made to be displayed.

## Future Updates: Check out the new features coming soon

There are many significant changes and enhancements to the various Assist modules currently underway. Some of the featured modifications currently in progress include the following:

- **Badge-less Assist** – A new enhanced “main” scanner screen is under development. While a large change, this feature will provide more functionality and remove the need for a badge. Buttons are to be placed in a ribbon at the bottom of the screen to provide all of the functionality previously performed by badges.
- **Chemical Storage Tracking** – Additional functionality is being added to allow for the tracking and specification of detailed information regarding the chemicals that are stored in the laboratory. To begin with, this will show what chemicals are resident in the facility, but will be expanded over the coming months to include the tracking of inventory levels, MSDS paperwork, etc.
- **Preventative Maintenance** – The preventative maintenance module will be extended in the future to handle additional needs of laboratories.



If you have any questions or would like to schedule upgrades, please contact your Assist Tracking support team at [Support@AssistTracking.com](mailto:Support@AssistTracking.com).

As always, please submit any questions or comments to the above mailbox and we will address your items as quickly as possible.