# Abstract

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# Introduction

The Digital Imaging and Communications (DICOM) standard creates a technical protocol for the storage and transmission of medical images and helps facilitate communication between multiple vendors and technologies in medicine. Modern treatment planning systems (TPS) often contain many features which exist to reduce potential confusion when working with medical images.

In radiotherapy clinics, there are often circumstances which require changing certain properties of the DICOM images. As a commonly seen case in stereotactic radiosurgery, all MRI images (T1, T2, FLAIR) acquired within the same study will have the same frame of reference, or ‘Frame of Reference Unique Identifier (UID)’. This is a feature based on the understanding that the images are acquired in the same location. Unfortunately, this also means that any motion which occurs between scans cannot be corrected, as both images share the same Frame of Reference UID. To ‘break’ this inherent registration, the DICOM value for Frame of Reference UID must be changed on each scan one wishes to register.

Changing any DICOM value often requires expert knowledge of the file structure and specialized software, and is prone to error. Attributes can be modified unintentionally, or files can be corrupted and hard to recover. Commonly used software can modify a subset of DICOM file attributes. For example MIM [ref] allows the user to anonymize DICOM and change certain values, but this also rewrites many other DICOM attributes, Raystation [ref] allows the used to assign to new frame of reference to an exam, but this is the only attribute that can be changed.

We have created the Unlink program which provides a commonly required DICOM modification which is not readily available in commercial software.. The simple interface offers the option to change three potential values: the Frame of Reference, Series Instance UID, and/or Study Instance UID. Users can specify which modality they would like to change and use the built-in unzip/unzip and run if files need to be extracted before being changed. This program, built in C#, is designed to run on any Windows based computer and is publicly available at [www.GitHub.com/BrianMAnderson/Unzip\_Unlink\_CSharp](http://www.GitHub.com/BrianMAnderson/Unzip_Unlink_CSharp).

# Materials and Methods

The program was written using C#[ref] and .NET framework 4.8, the current .NET standard at time of creation (2023). All DICOM manipulation was facilitated with the FellowOak DICOM package [ref] and SimpleITK[ref]. The main splash screen is shown in Figure 1.

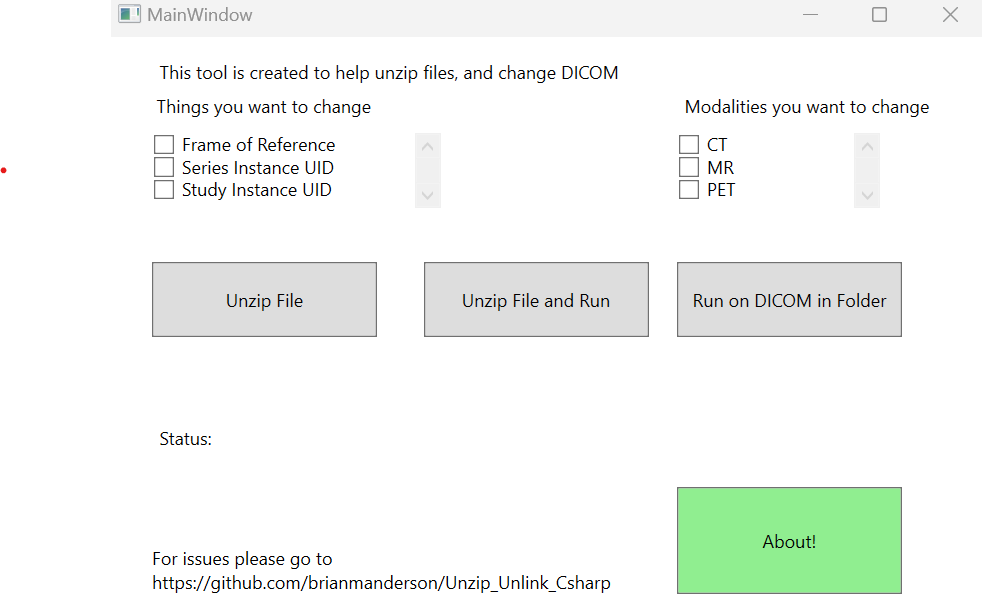


Figure : Main splash screen of the program. There are three check boxes of DICOM attributes that can be changed in the top left and three checkboxes for Modalities to change in the top right.

Users can select any or all the options in the upper left: Frame of Reference, Series Instance UID, and Study Instance UID, as well as specify which modalities they would like to change: CT, MR, and/or PET images.

## Changing Attributes

The program runs in two main steps. First, the program groups all files based on their unique Series Instance UIDs and modalities within the selected folder. Second, based on the attributes selected, the files associated with each Series Instance UID are changed and the DICOM files are overwritten.

A visual representation of the entire workflow can be seen in Figure 2.

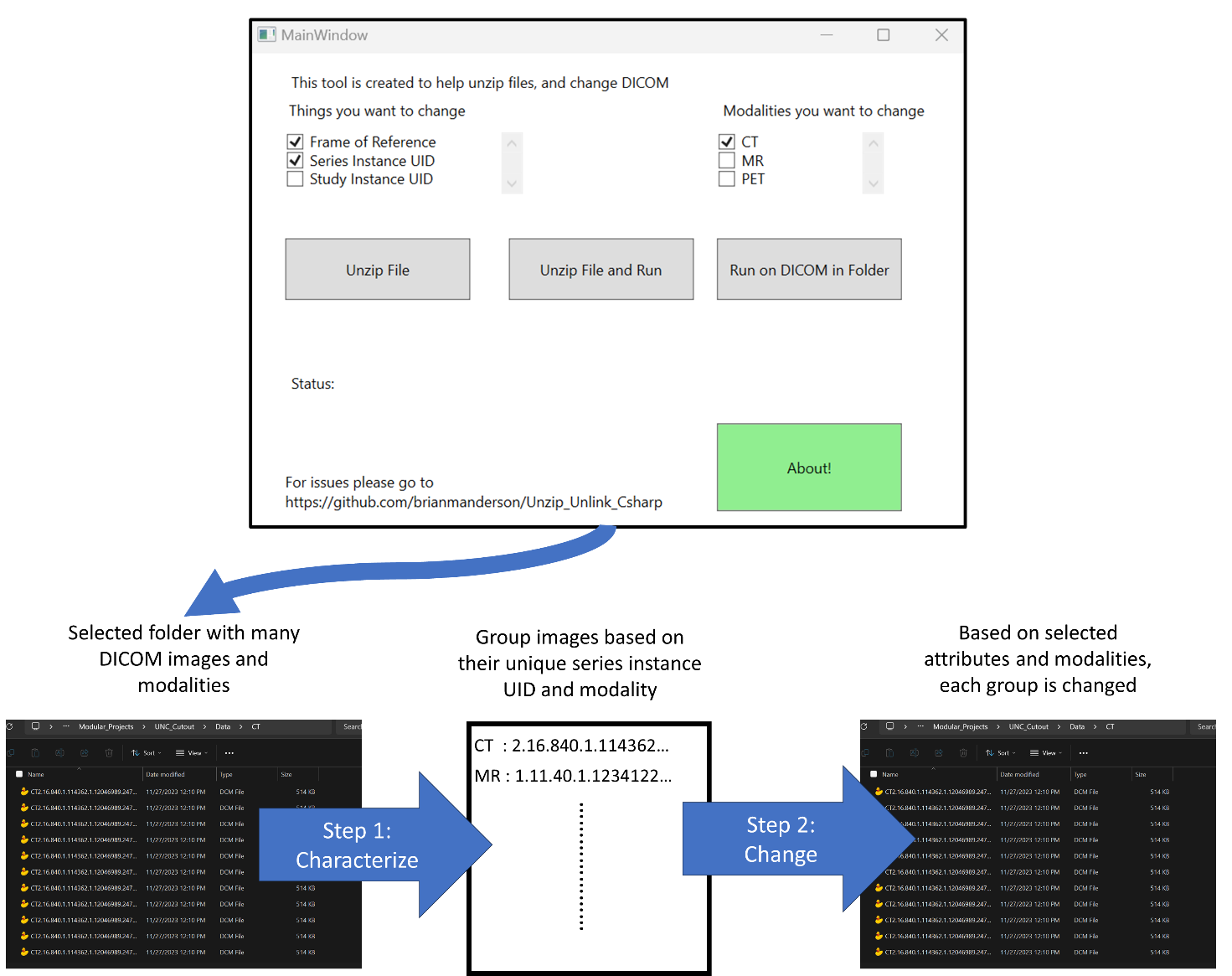


Figure : Graphical workflow of program

## Installation

The solution can be downloaded directly GitHub, or the pre-built executable can be downloaded and installed from [link to google drive].

# Discussion and Conclusion

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# Acknowledgements

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# References

Refs