PAF Insight – Improvements in Record Matching

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This presentation will demonstrate some advances in record matching. The Match/Merge functionality found in Personal Ancestral File version 5.2.18 will be compared with the record matching in PAF Insight. PAF Insight finds a higher number of correct matches and fewer incorrect matches. The method of presenting matches was also improved, allowing users to focus on the most likely matches first. We will briefly demonstrate the application of these improvements to merging records within a database, combining records from two databases, and searching the International Genealogical Index.

We will then discuss how the improvements were accomplished. The techniques used to improve record matching include phonetic analysis, a nickname list, date extrapolation, weighted scoring, and situational rules. We will discuss briefly how each of these techniques was used and then discuss the fine tuning process. The role of human perception in guiding the tuning of the weighted scoring and situational rules will be discussed.