

VistARad Patch 18 Highlights

Major VistARad enhancements planned for release in Patch 18 (MAG*3.0*18) are summarized below. For additional information, contact VHAVIWebContacts@va.gov.

Powerful and Flexible Image Display

VistARad's image handling capabilities have been rebuilt from the ground up. New operating concepts include the following:

- Viewports, which are the basic unit of image display space. Images in a viewport can be stacked or tiled as the user desires. Cineloops can be run in either stacked or tiled views. All standard image manipulation tools are available.
- The redesigned Viewer window, where hanging protocols (see below) are used to organize images into viewports automatically.
- The Browser window, which provides a flexible exam display and on-the-fly viewport generation for rapid access to images in large or complex exams.
- The Preview window, which displays representative (thumbnail) images for open exams.
- The Scrapbook window, which is used to display and work with user-designated key images.
- The Scout window, which provides another way to manage scouts for CT and MR exams.

Hanging Protocols

Users can define personalized hanging protocols, or use pre-defined hanging protocols to automate many tasks related to exam display. When used, a hanging protocol can automatically retrieve prior exams, organize an exam's images for display, and set display attributes for images. When an exam is opened, an appropriate hanging protocol is selected and applied automatically based on the exam's attributes. Users can also manually select a hanging protocol.

ReadList for Rapid Exam Display

A new ReadList feature uses exam preloading to greatly reduce or eliminate wait times while working through an exam list. For users reading remotely, the exam list is filtered automatically to show only exams that have been routed to that user. (This filter can be disabled at the user's option.)

Dictation Software Integration

For TalkStation and PowerScribe voice dictation systems, VistARad will send the exam ID to a running dictation session when an exam is opened.

User Preferences

VistARad now saves its Manager-related and Viewer-related settings as user-specific preferences. User preferences 'follow' users from workstation to workstation. User-specific hanging protocols and presets can be saved as well.

Mark Images & Save Key Images

Users can now mark images in an unread exam as key (clinically significant) images. Key images, along with the presentation (window/level, scale, etc.) set by the marking user, can be viewed independently of the parent exam.

Auto-save Annotations

Annotations added during interpretation are saved automatically. Annotated images can be retrieved by other users in future viewing sessions. Users viewing saved annotations in VistARad can elect to turn annotation display on or off.

Other Enhancements

A new Exam History list, which shows all the exams viewed during a user's reading session, has been added. This list can support resident reading workflow or can be used to track exams that have been completed through voice dictation in the current viewing session.

Multiframe images are supported.

A user-configurable Health Summary button that lets users designate a short pick-list of Health Summary reports, and lets users select a default Health Summary report which can then be opened with a single mouse click.

Handling of scout/localizer images has been improved, including creation of an optional window to display scout images, better support of the Referenced Image Sequence data (for better support of MRI 'scout' images), and improved management and display of scout lines.

The VistARad 'back end' software is backward compatible with the Patch 32 client software, allowing Patch 18 to be phased in gradually.