# Veterinary Clinic – Network Folder Ingest Spec

Specifies how imaging and lab output files from clinic devices will be automatically ingested into the clinic management system and linked to the correct patient visits.

## 1) Purpose

- Automatically pull files (X-ray, USG, lab reports, etc.) from a shared network folder.  
- Attach them to the correct patient visit based on filename patterns.  
- Reduce manual uploads and errors.

## 2) Assumptions

- Imaging/lab devices can export files to a shared SMB/FTP/SFTP folder.  
- Files named with a known pattern containing Unique ID and date.  
- Clinic PCs/VPS can access the shared folder.  
- cPanel hosting alone cannot directly poll SMB shares — requires either:  
 1. Local poller app/script on clinic PC or VPS.  
 2. Device pushes files to webapp via FTP/SFTP staging folder.

## 3) Recommended Flow

Option A — Local Poller → API:  
1. Install poller script on clinic PC that can see the network folder.  
2. Every X minutes:  
 • Scan for new files matching pattern.  
 • Extract Unique ID, date, type from filename.  
 • Call webapp API to upload to patient storage.  
 • Move ingested files to archive.  
3. Webapp finds/creates visit and tags file type.  
  
Option B — Device Pushes to Web Staging Folder:  
1. Device or clinic PC uploads to FTP/SFTP staging directory.  
2. Webapp cron job reads staging folder and processes new files.  
3. Same filename parsing and visit association as Option A.

## 4) Filename Parsing Rules

Format: {uniqueid}-{YYYYMMDD}-{type}{counter}.{ext}  
Example: 250001-20250810-xray1.jpg, 250001-20250810-usg.pdf  
Type options: xray, usg, lab, doc  
Counter: Allows multiple files per type/day.

## 5) Visit Association

- If date matches today → attach to today’s visit.  
- If date matches past visit → attach there.  
- If no visit exists → create backdated visit (status=closed).  
- If Unique ID not found → unmatched queue in admin.

## 6) Error Handling

- Bad filename → quarantine folder.  
- File too large → skip + log.  
- No Unique ID → unmatched list for manual match.

## 7) Admin UI

- Network Ingest Log:  
 • Filename, parsed details, matched patient/visit.  
 • Status: success, unmatched, quarantined.  
 • Manual match button for unmatched.

## 8) Pros & Cons

Option A (Local Poller):  
 ✅ Real-time ingestion  
 ✅ No FTP credential exposure  
 ❌ Requires local software  
  
Option B (FTP/SFTP Staging):  
 ✅ Works from hosting  
 ❌ Devices must support FTP push  
 ❌ Slight delay due to cron