# Fundamentals of Data Synchronization

Installations of DDMS can share data with each other using the data synchronization feature. No connection to the Internet or other network is required. Data is exchanged by the sharing of data files between installations. These data files can be distributed on a compact disk, a flash drive, or any other kind of data media. Each installation can produce a data file that contains all records that were created or updated on that installation. Any other installation that imports this data file will then contain these same records.

Each installation of DDMS tracks all of its transactions, which can then be sent to other installations using the synchronization feature. Examples of tracked transactions include data entry through the web interface, excel imports, and synchronization data imported from other installations. Each transaction record is a self-contained unit, containing all information required to duplicate itself on other computers. Since records are created locally when importing transaction data from other installation, multiple updates can be easily combined into a single export file. For example, if computer A exports data to computer B, and computer B then exports its data to computer C, C will get the data of both A and B.

For example: A village exists within a district, which exists within a province, which exists within a country. The village installation exports its data to the district installation. The district installation contains its data plus the data from the village. The district then exports its data to the province installation. The province installation now contains its data plus the data from the district and the village, even thought the province did not import the data file from the village. The data from the village was contained within the export file from the district. Likewise when the province installation exports its data to the country installation, the country installation will contain all of the data from the province, district, and village. Any installation that the country installation exports its data to will also contain the data from the village, district, and province. Eventually, data from each installation will migrate to every other installation in the country.

**Master and Slave Installations**  
All DDMS installations fall into one of two categories: master or slave. In order to avoid unrecoverable synchronization conflicts, certain actions, such as modification of the Geo Hierarchy, are permitted only on master installations. Additionally, data cannot be shared between two master installations, so it is critical that each deployment contains only one master. No more than one master installation may exist within any given country. Otherwise, non-recoverable errors can occur during the synchronization process. Such errors will permanently prevent an installation from participating in synchronization again.

**Export Sequence Numbers**

A transaction is an atomic set of creates, updates, and deletes on one or more objects that collectively implement an action in DDMS. Data is exported in segments of transactions. When a transaction is exported it is assigned an export sequence number. This number is used to ensure that data is imported in the correct order and complete. That is to say, the import node has all of the required data from the export node for import data to not be corrupt. When a node is importing data it cannot have any gaps in the export sequence number. If there is a gap in the sequence number then the import node must contact the export node and retrieve the transactions for its missing sequence numbers.

Looking at the previous example where a village exists within a district, which exists within a province, which exists within a country. The village installation exports its data to the district installation. This data contains the transactions one through three. Later the district installation gets another import from the village. However, this new import contains the transactions five through seven. The district installation will not be able to import the village's second export until the district gets the village's export data for transaction four.

Site Masters

During the install process each install is provided a unique identifier. This identifier is used to associate all data with the install which was responsible for creating it. It is extremely important that duplicates of the install identifier do not exist. If duplicates exist then the DDMS will treat data coming from the duplicate nodes as if it was produced by the same node. In such a situation synchronization of data will behave incorrectly and likely become impossible. Additionally, in order to prevent a large number of data conflicts DDMS restricts modification of data to its original install. For example, a spray team created at the village install cannot be modified by the district install, it can only be edited at the village install. However, the synchronization resolver allows the user to by pass this restriction. As such, in a worst case scenario using the synchronization resolver the village install would be able to modify the district install Note that when an install modifies data from a different install it can cause a divergence of data when the data is propagated to other installs.

**Data Export**

**Data Import**

**Synch Resolving Control Flow**

Modify any Type of object what so ever – describe ramifications.

# Basic CRUD operations

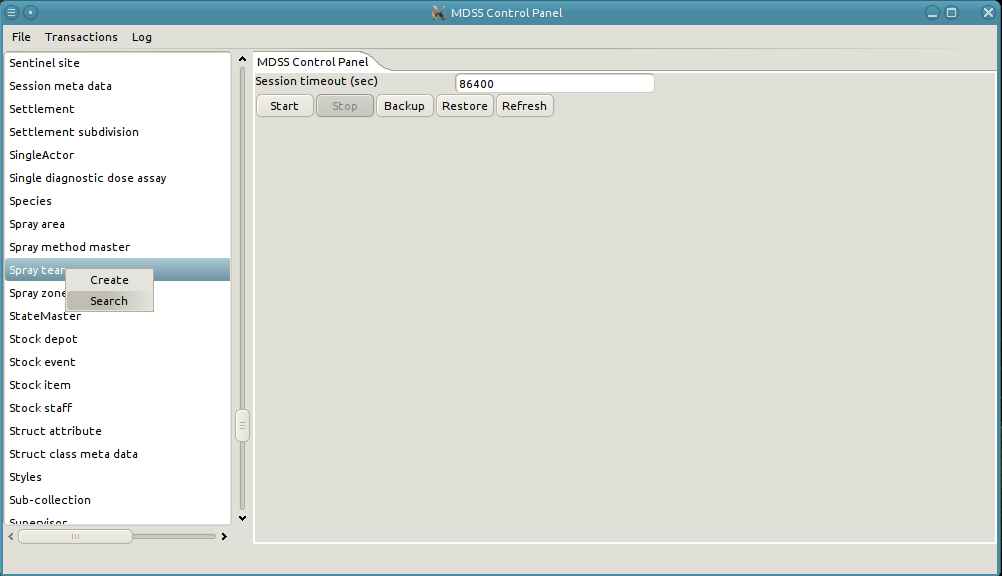
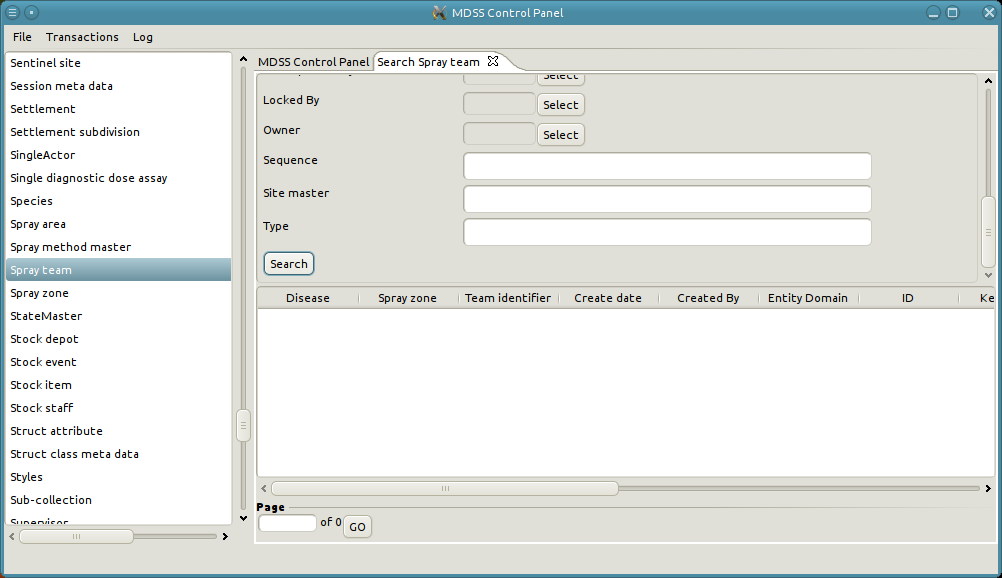
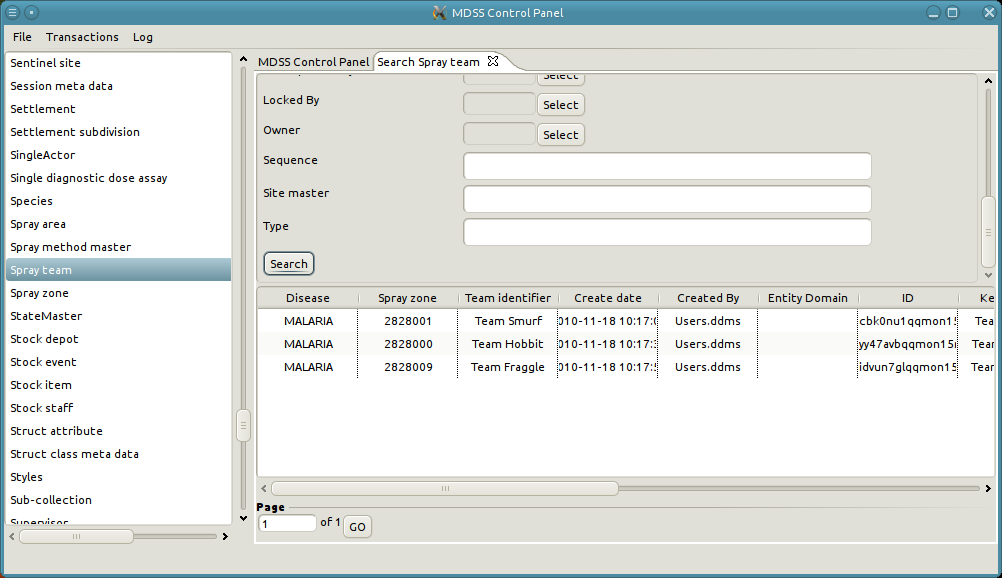
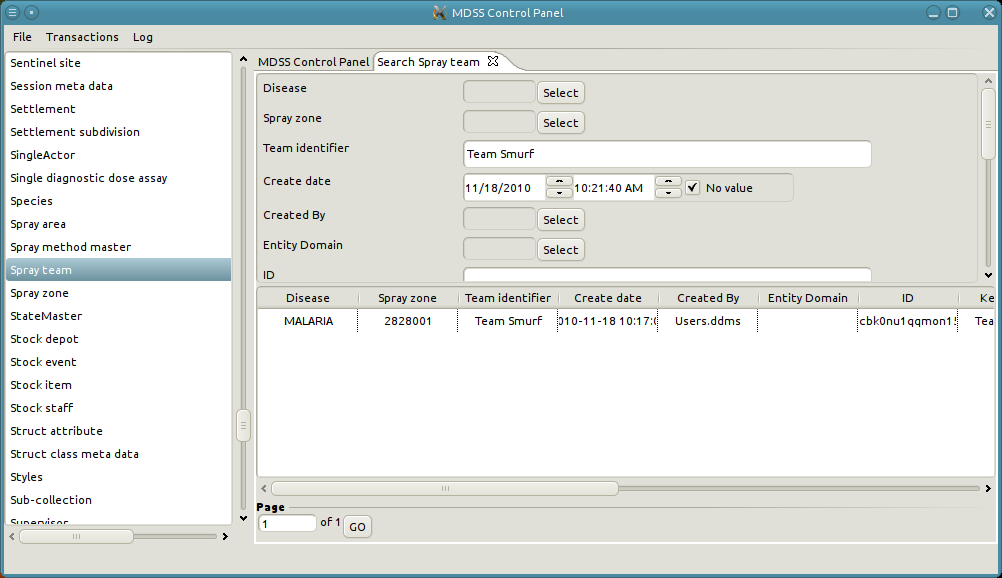
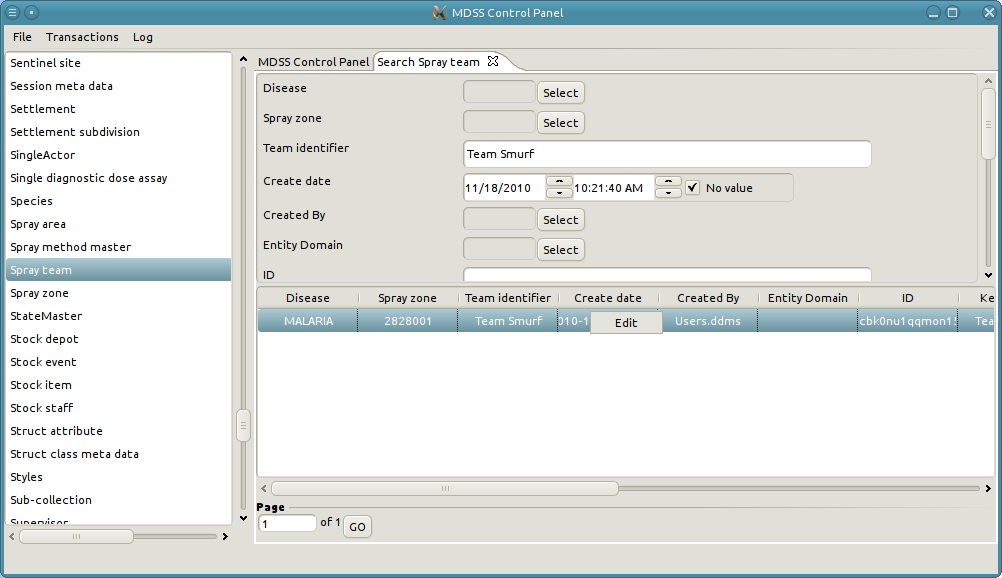
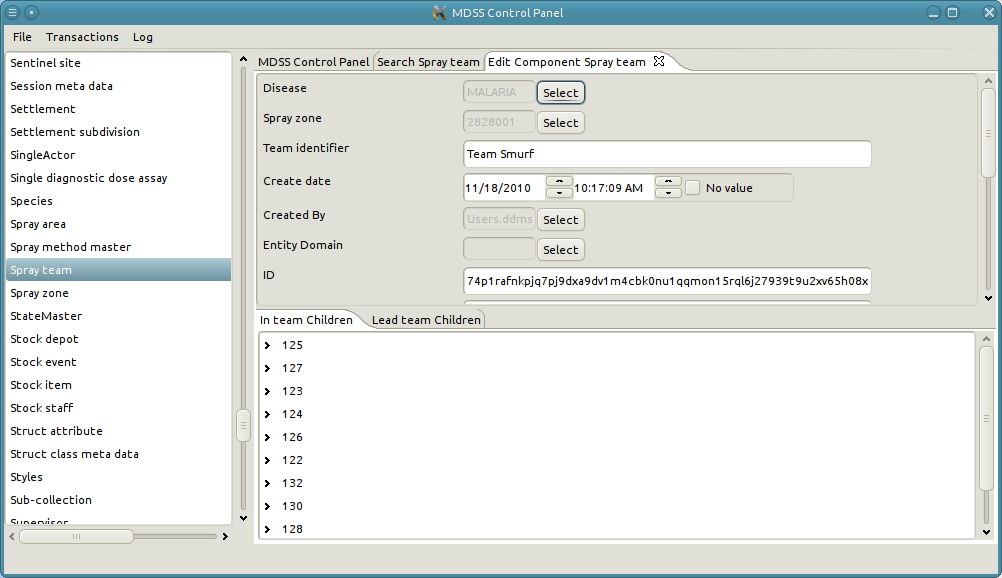
The synchronization resolver allows the user to view, create, and delete data in the system. These three operations enable the resolution of any conflicts raised during synchronization. However, since the synchronization resolver directly modifies objects in the database, it presents views of the database model, which differ from views seen through the web interface. As such, the resolver requires users with a high degree of technical proficiency and familiarity with DDMS.

## View existing data

The basic use case for viewing data in the system is as follows:

* The left panel lists all data types in the system
* Double click the data type to search for records of that type
* A new tab opens with a search form for the selected type
* Fill in search criteria as needed
* Click "Search" at the bottom of the form
* Search results appear in the paginated table below the form
* [Optional] Access additional pages of search results with the input field below the results table
* Double click a row of the result table to view the object

## Example of searching for and viewing a spray team:

1. Select Spray Team from the list of types to search. 
2. A new tab is opened with the search form for spray teams.
3. Click on search to see all of the spray teams in the system.
4. We can restrict the results by adding additional criteria to the search form. For instance, restricting the Team identifier to "Team Smurf"
5. We can view the details of "Team Smurf" by right-clicking on its row and select edit or by double-clicking on its row.
6. This will bring up a new tab with the details of the spray team.

## Viewing relationships

A relationship is an associate between two pieces of data. For instance, a Spray team has many Spray operators. In an abstract sense, all relationships have a direction associated with them. As such the ends of a relationship can be thought of as source and sink nodes, or parent and child nodes. In the example where a Spray team has many Spray operators, the source/parent node would be the Spray team and the sink/child node would be the spray operator. When looking at the details of an object the relationships that the object participates in are displayed. The use model for viewing the relationships is as follows:

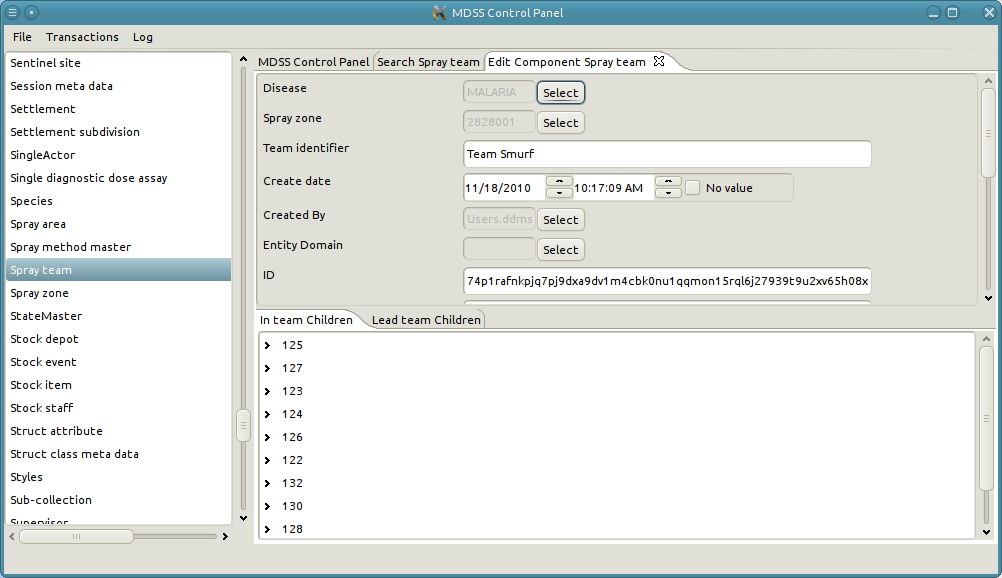
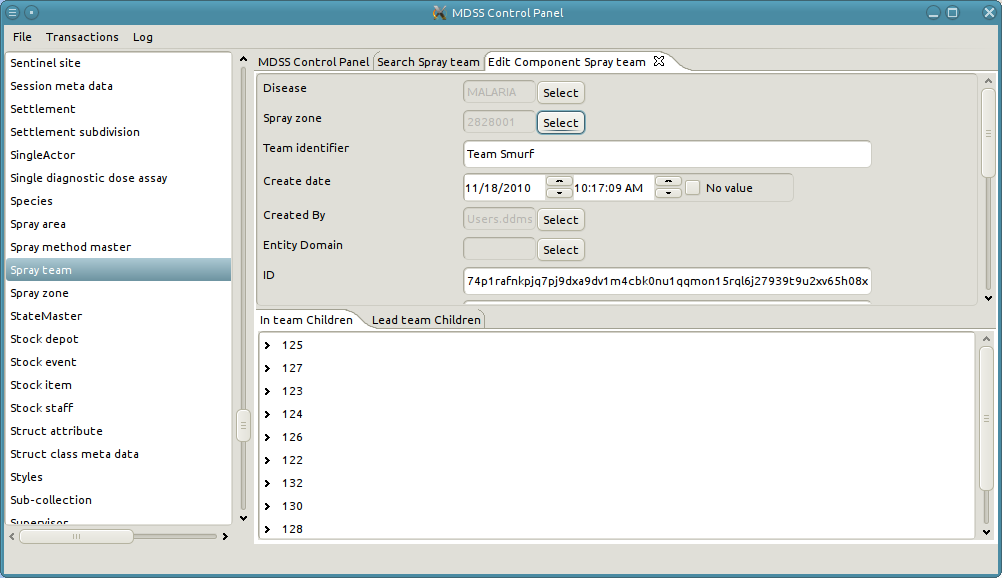
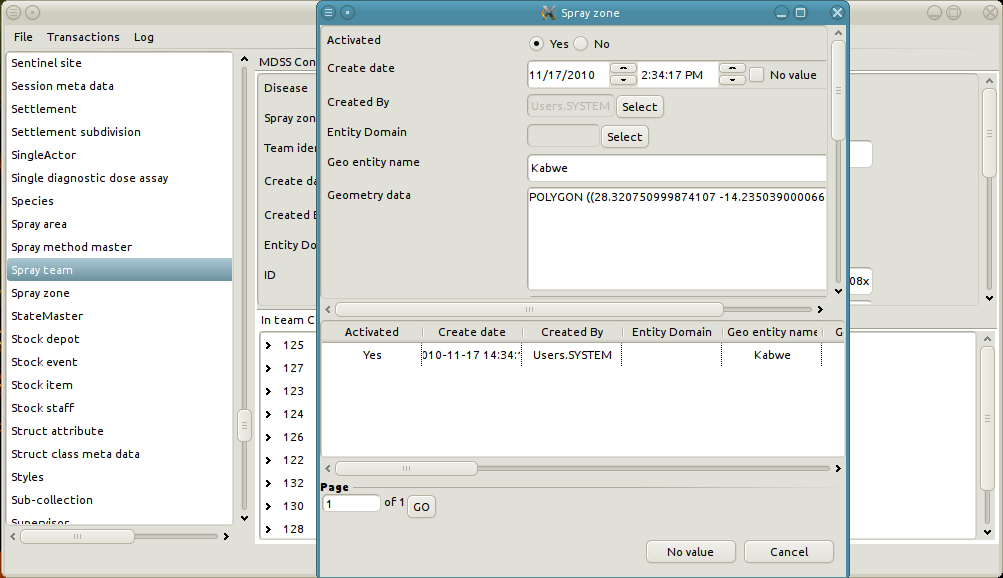
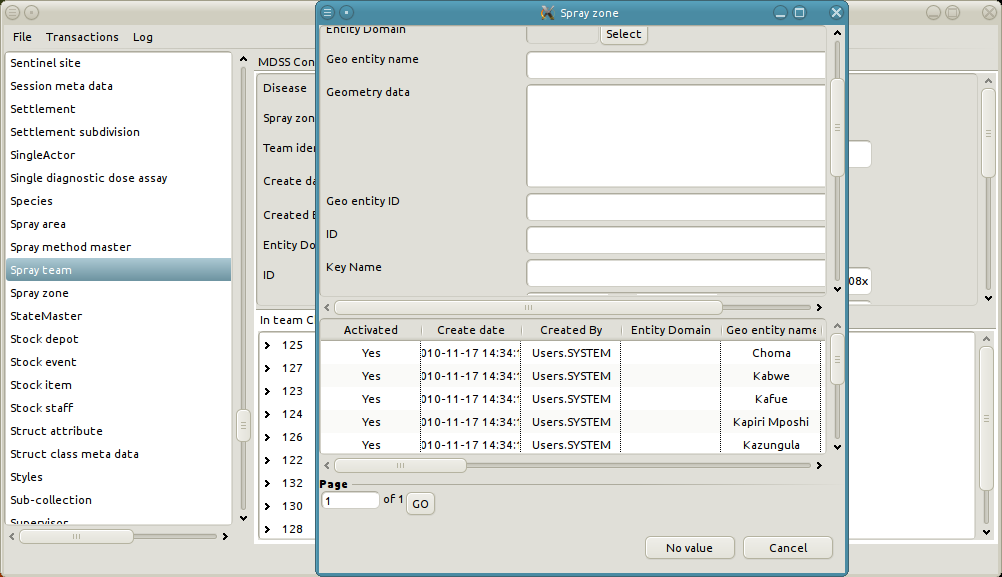
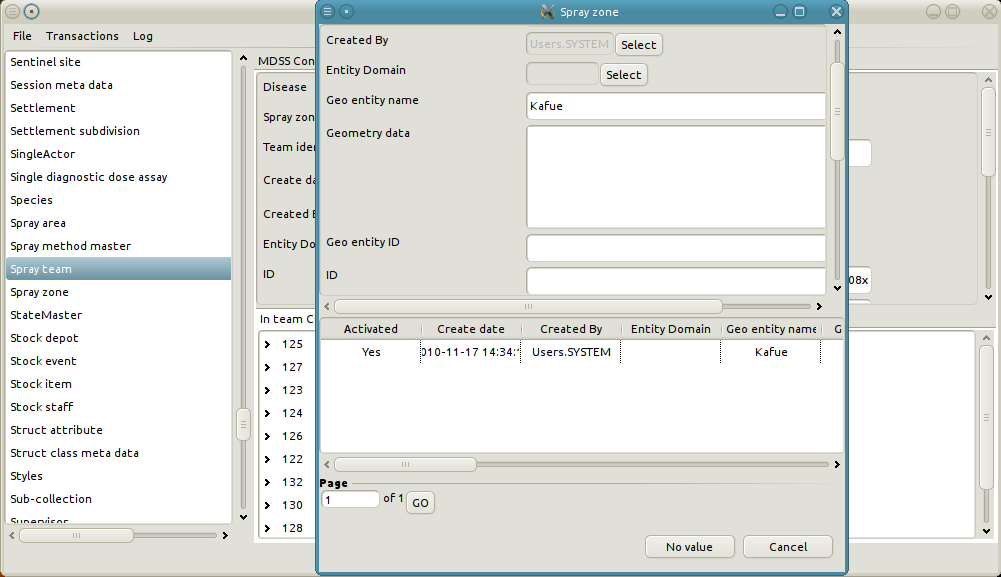
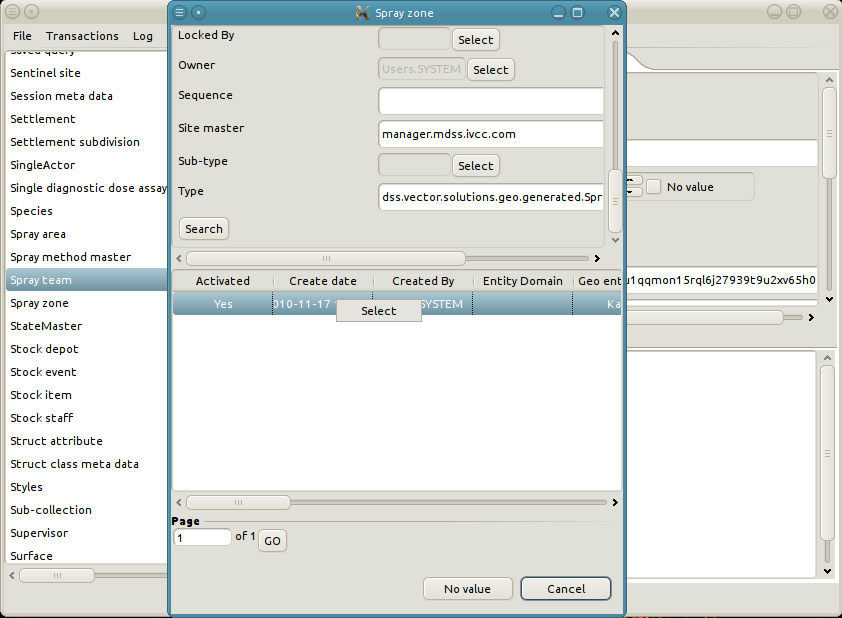
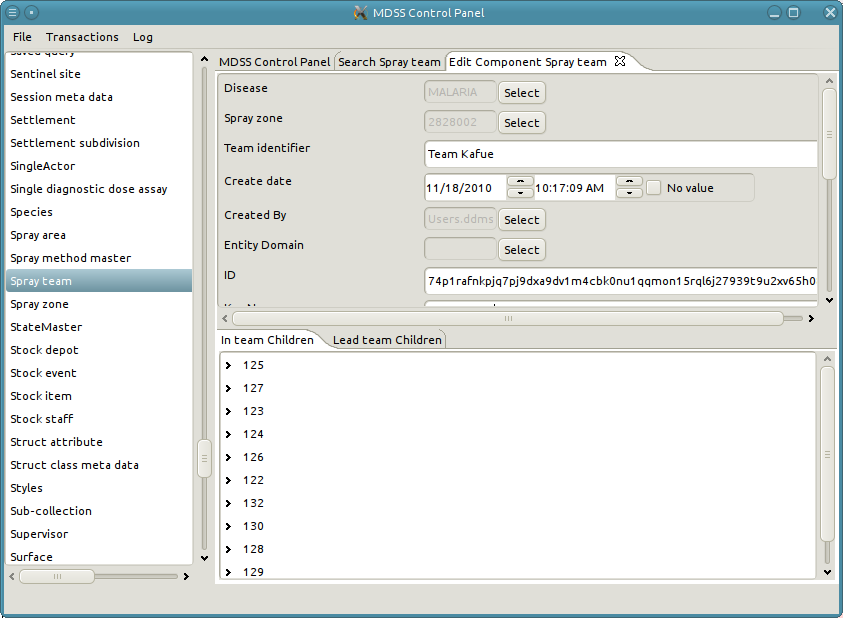
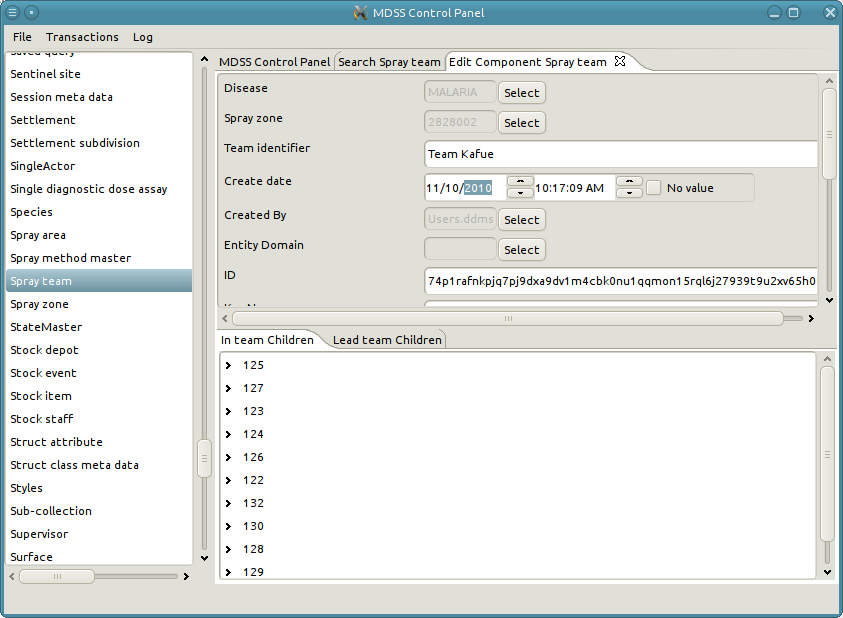
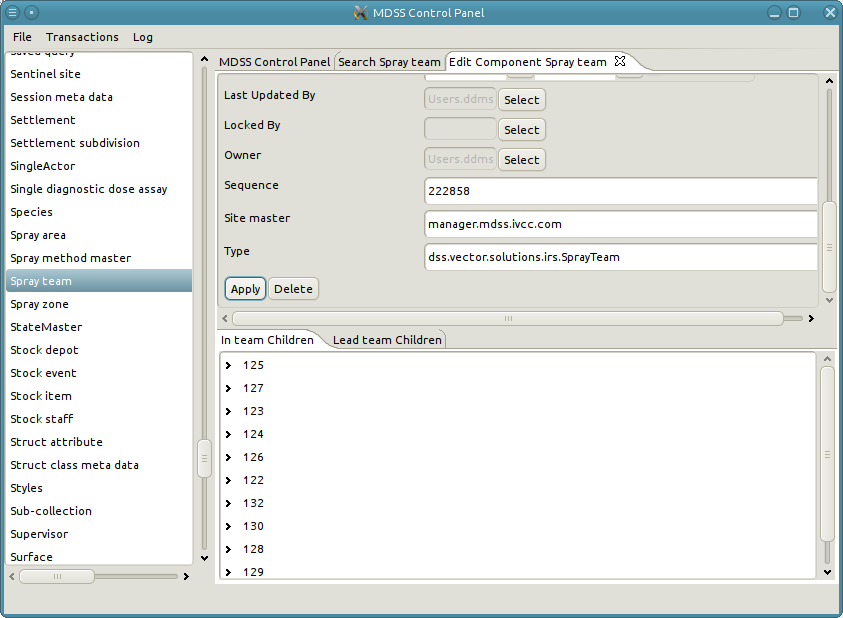
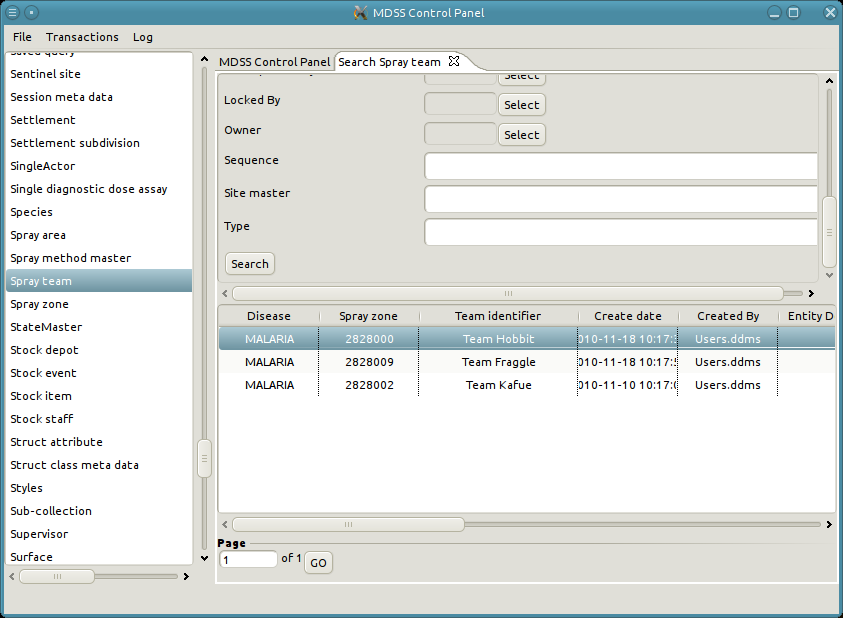
* Search for the object in the relationship [See “View existing data”]
* The bottom panel contains tabs for each type of relationship the object participates in. The tab also indicates the direction (parent or child) of the relationship.
* Select the tab with the correction relationship and direction
* The panel contains a tree structure representing the objects on the other end of the relationship. Each object is represented by their key.
* If a relationship is cyclical such that the parent and child are of the same type you can expand a node to see any objects the node is related to. Repeat as desired.

## In the previous example the Spray team "Team Smurf" has many Spray operators. This is modeled through the "In team" relationship. Notice under the "In team Children" tab is a list of numbers. These number are actually the key for the Spray operator objects. We can examine the participating object by right-clicking on its node and selecting "Edit"

## Edit existing data

* From the data viewing screen it is possible to edit the existing data.
* The user modifies the data on the form as needed and then clicks on "Apply" to persist the changes to the database.

## Example of modifying existing data

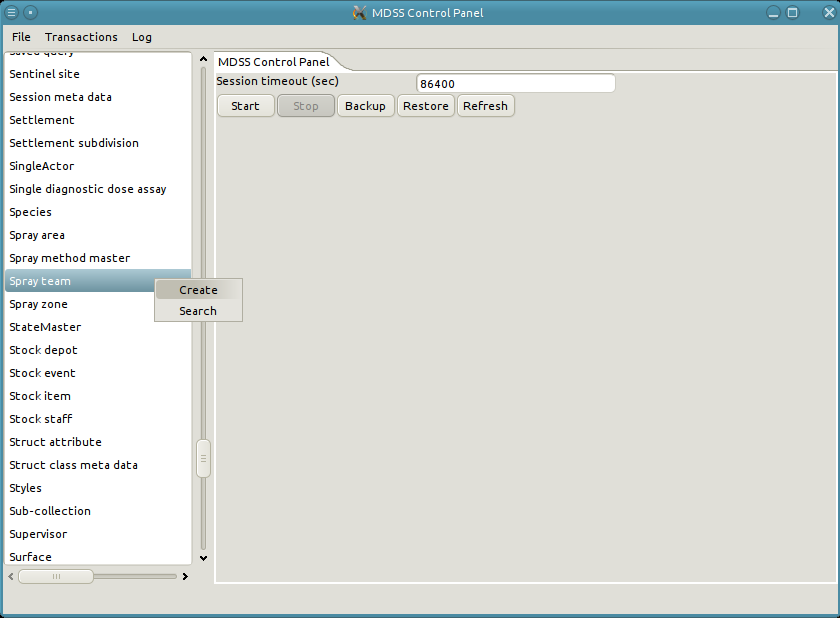
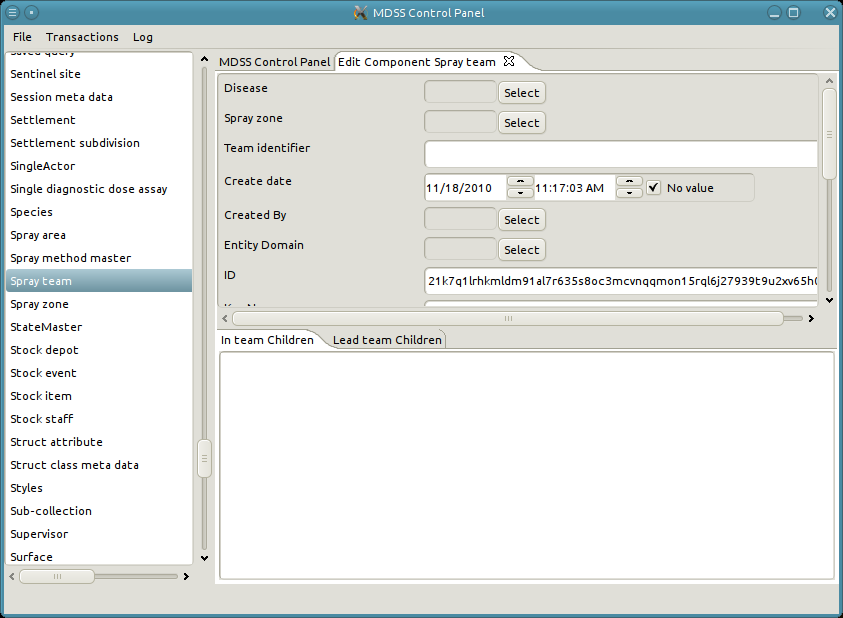
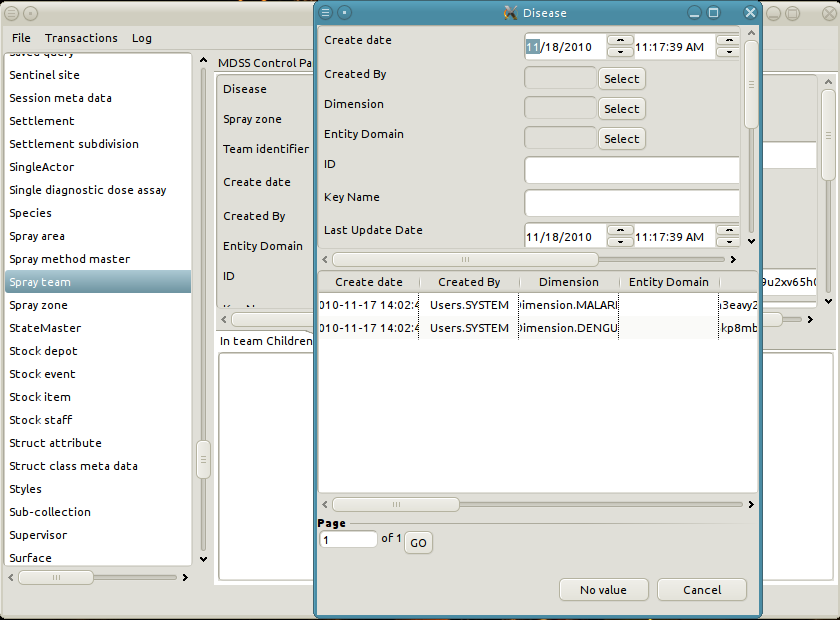
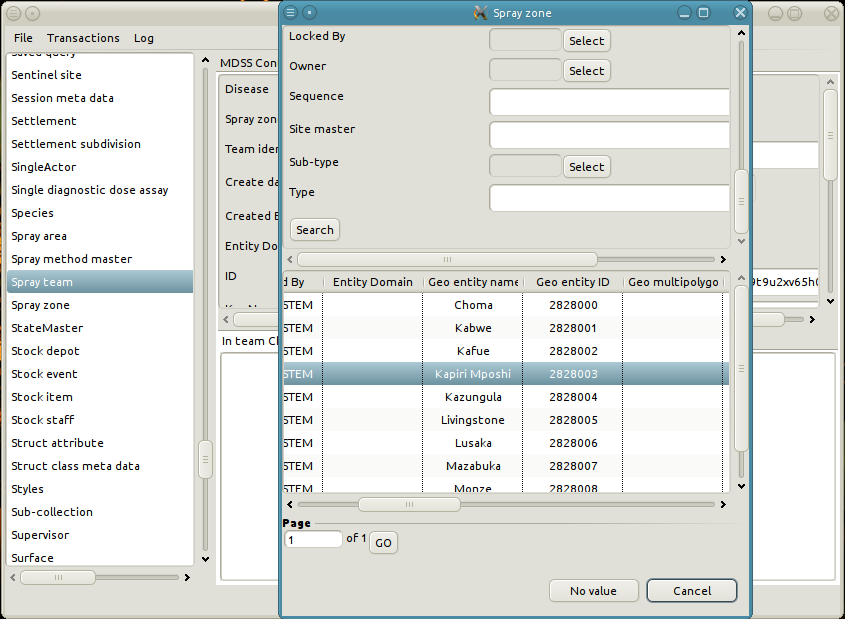
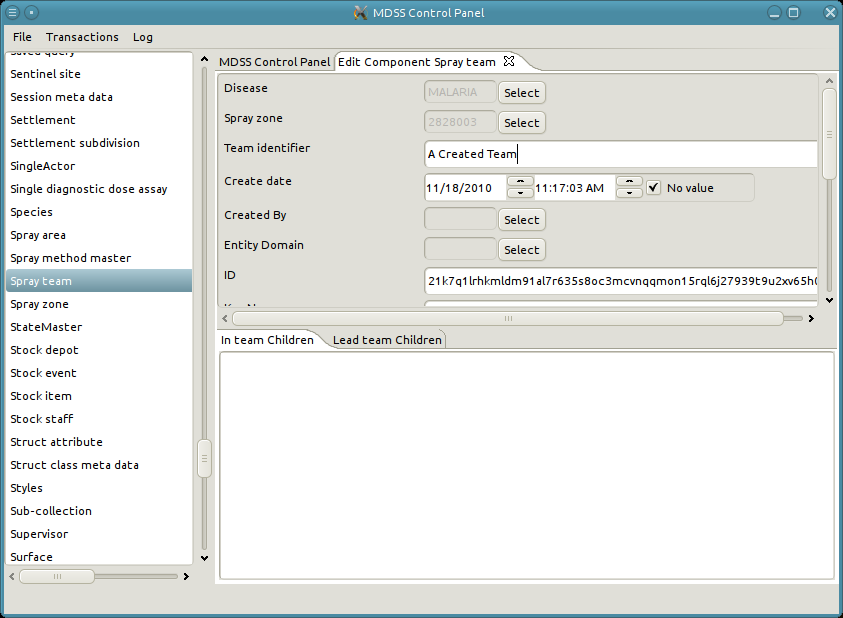
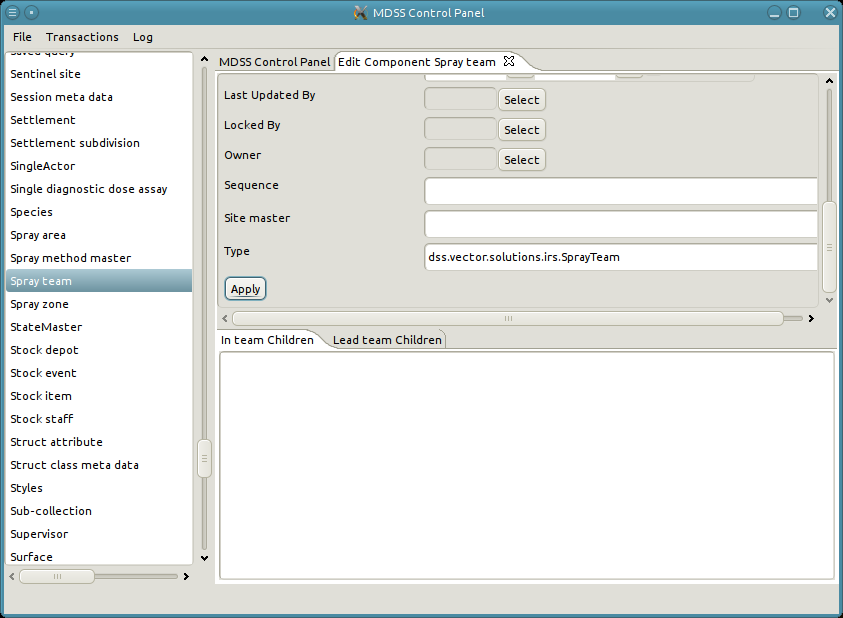
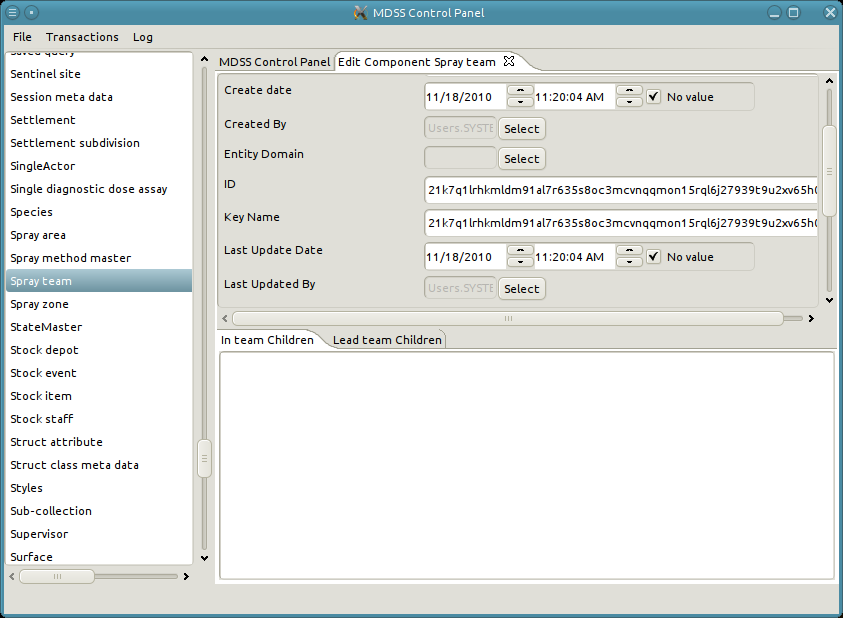
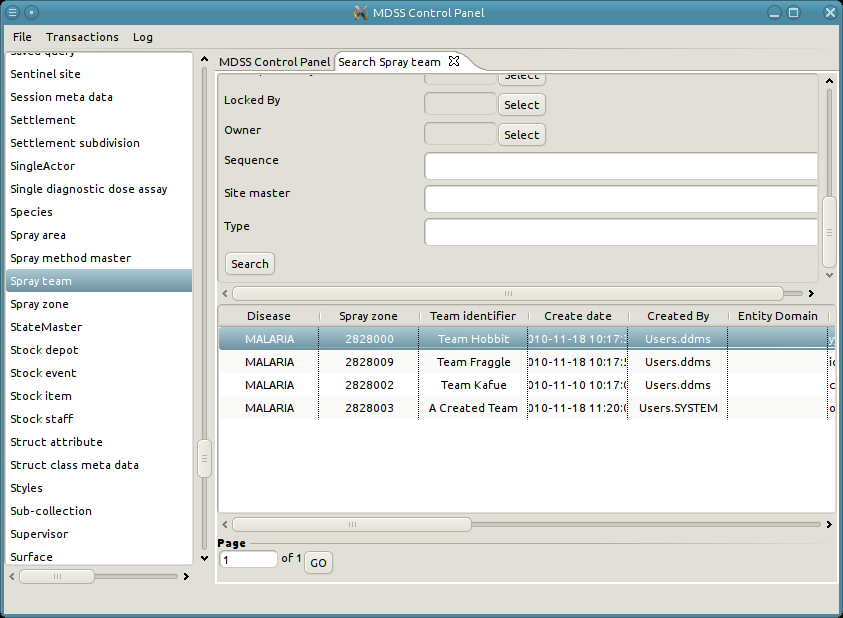
1. Continuing from the previous example of viewing the spray team "Team Smurf"
2. Lets modify the spray zone of the spray team. To start we click on the "Select" button next to the Spray zone input field. 
3. This will bring up a pop-up in which the user can search for and select a spray zone. If the Spray zone field already has a value then the pop-up will initially appear with data from the selected spray zone. Note that the user can decide to not change the value by selecting "Cancel" or the user can decided to remove the current value by selecting "No value".
4. Remove some of the criteria in the form to get a broader result set. This can also be accomplished by selecting "No Value" and then hitting the Spray zone "Select" button again.
5. Similar to a search tab we can refine the list of possible spray zones by adding criteria to the form. For instance, we want to restrict the spray zones to ones which have a geo entity name of "Kafue".
6. To select the "Kafue" spray zone we can right click on the row and hit "Select" or simply double click the row.
7. The Spray zone of the Spray team has now been changed to the "Kafue" spray zone. Similarly, let's change the Team identifier of the Spray Team. In order to change the Team identifier simply type in the desired value in the Team identifier text field. 
8. Finally, lets modify the Create date of the Spray Team to 11/10/2010. 
9. Now that we have finished modifying all of our desired values we simply click on apply to persist the changes to the database. 
10. If we search all of the spray teams we can see the new changes to "Team Smurf"

## Create new data

It is doubtful that the user will even need to create new data through the manager. However, the option has been included as a last resort. The basic use case for creating data is as follows:

* The left panel lists all data types in the system
* Right-click the desired type from the list and select "Create"
* A new tab opens with the create form for the selected data type
* Fill in the form
* Click “Apply”

An Example of creating a new Spray team.

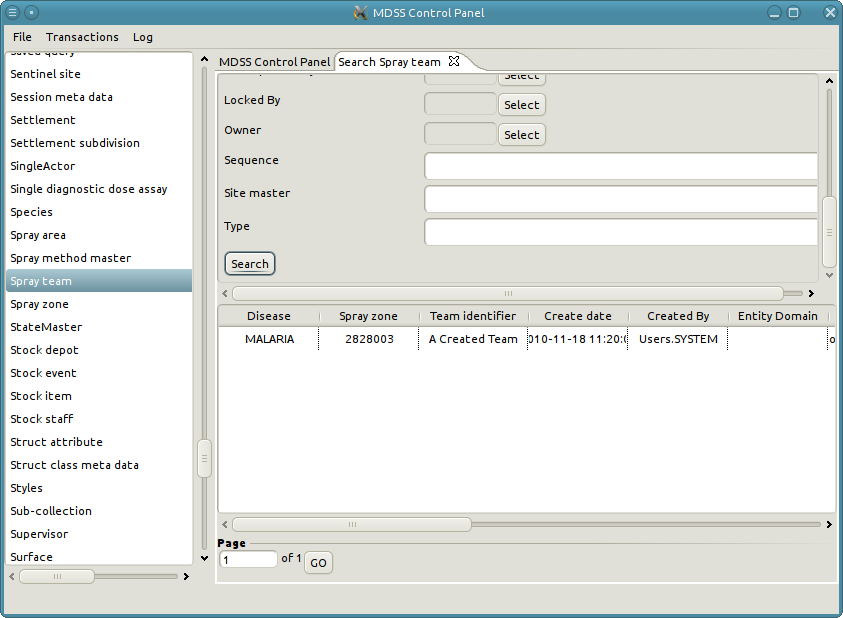
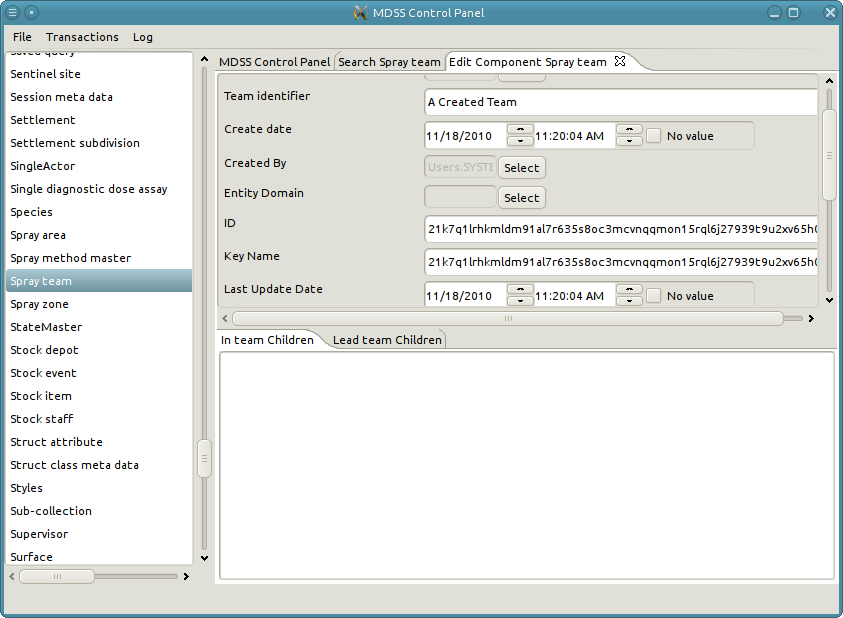
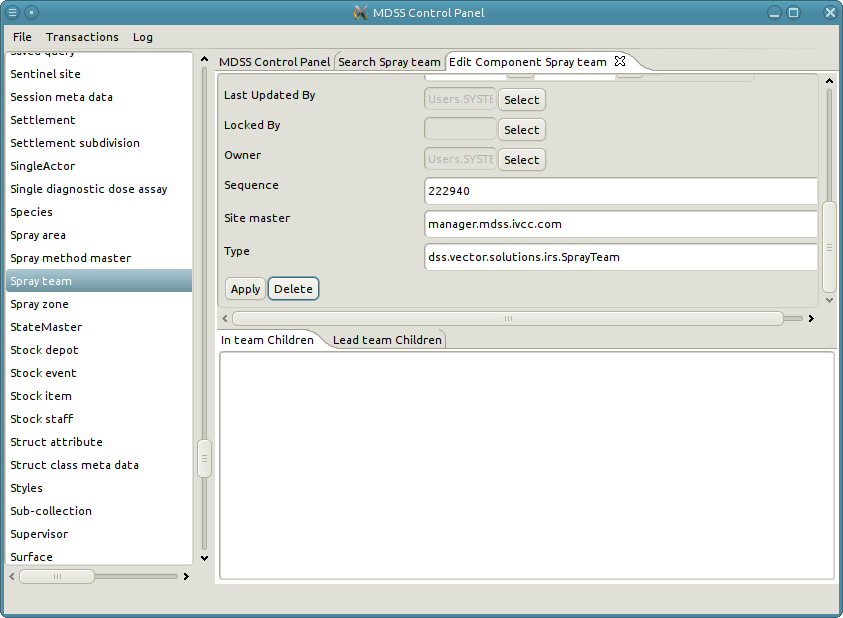
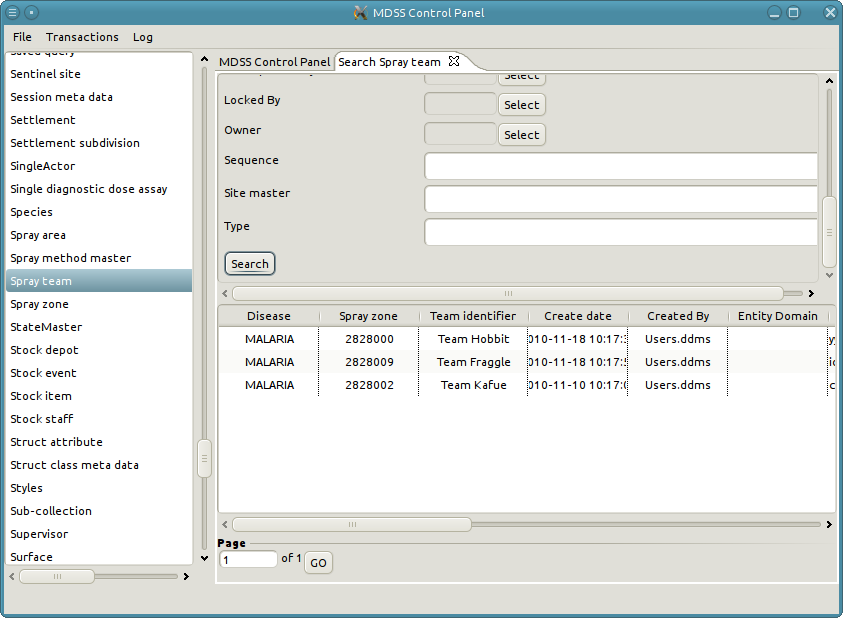
1. Right click on Spray team in the left panel and select "Create".
2. A new tab will open up with the form to create the new Spray team.
3. In order to create a Spray team we need to fill out the Disease, Spray zone, and Team identifier fields. First, lets set the Disease to malaria. 
4. Second, we will set the Spray zone to "Kapiri Mposhi".
5. Lastly, we will set the Team identifier to "A Created Team".
6. Finally we can persist the new Spray team to the database.
7. Notice that some of the system attributes were automatically updated once the Spray team was applied. These attributes are used by the system for book keeping and to ensure data integrity. 
8. Once again if we search for all of the Spray teams in the system then we will see the newly created Spray team.

## Delete existing object

It is doubtful that the user will even need to delete existing data through the manager. However, the option has been included as a last resort. The basic use case for creating data is as follows:

* The left panel lists all data types in the system
* Double click the data type to search for records of that type
* A new tab opens with a search form for the selected type
* Fill in search criteria as needed
* Click "Search" at the bottom of the form
* Search results appear in the paginated table below the form
* [Optional] Access additional pages of search results with the input field below the results table
* Double click a row of the result table to view the object. The user can also right-click and select "Edit".
* Click on the "Delete" button next to "Apply" to delete the object.

Example of deleting a Spray team "A Created Team".

1. Search the Spray teams for "A Created Team".
2. Double click on the row to open up a new tab with the details of the Spray team. 
3. To delete the Spray team click on the "Delete" button.
4. Note when deleting the tab of the deleted Spray team automatically closes. Finally, if we search all of the Spray teams in the system the "A Created Team" will be gone.

**Edit a Reference Attribute**

* Click “Search” next to the reference attribute
* A search dialog pops up
* Fill in criteria and click “Search.” Results appear in the bottom panel.
* Double-click the desired row or Right-click and click “Select”
* The pop-up closes, and the reference field contains the key of the selected object.

### Add a new relationship

* Select the participating data type and desired relationship tab [See “View a relationship tree”]
* Right-click the relationship tab and click “Add”
* A pop-up window opens to select the target object [See “Edit a reference attribute” for similar behavior]
* A new tab opens in the top panel containing the create form.
* Fill in the form and click “Apply”

### View the participating object

* Navigate to the desired object in the relationship tree [See “View a Relationship tree”]
* Double-click the desired row or Right-click and select "Edit"

### Edit an existing relationship

* Select the participating data type and desired relationship tab [See “View a relationship tree”]
* Right-click the relationship tab and click “Edit Relationship”
* Make modifications as needed
* Click “Apply”

# Transactions

The synchronization manager primarily facilitates data transfer among multiple installations through use of the view, import, and export transaction functions.

## View Transaction Records

* Open the "Transaction" menu and click "View Transaction Records"
* The main panel opens a paginated table listing all transactions in the system
* Double click a row to open the details of the transaction record in a new tab
* The bottom panel of the transaction record tab contains a list of transaction items in the record
* Double click a transaction item to open its view in a new tab

## Export Transaction

* Ensure that the web server is shut down
* Open the "Transaction" menu and click "Export Transaction"
* A pop-up opens with three options: All, Range, and Not Exported
  + All: Exports all transactions from the node regardless of the fact that they might have already been exported
  + Range: Exports transactions between the specified start and end sequence numbers
  + Not Exported: Exports all transactions which have not been previously exported
* Click “Choose File” and select a destination for the export file
* Click “OK” to being the export
* A pop-up appears with status information concerning the export. The pop-up closes when then the export completes.

## Import Transaction

* Ensure that the web server is shut down
* Open the "Transaction" menu and click "Import Transaction"
* A file selection dialog opens
* Select the import zip file and click "Import"
* A pop-up appears with status information concerning the import. The pop-up closes when the import completes.
* Conflicts can arise during the import process. These must be resolved manually.

**Resolving a Conflict**

* The import pauses on conflicts
* A message box displays the error causing the conflict
* A new tab opens viewing the conflicting object
* Resolve the conflict with the techniques described in the “Basic CRUD Operations” section. The specific steps necessary for resolution differ on a case-by-case basis, and may involve modifying several objects or relationships.
* Once resolved, click "Resume transaction" to continue the import

## Modify Log Level

DDMS features a logging system with customizable levels of detail. The logs provide information useful for debugging and troubleshooting problems. Adjust the amount of information logged to accommodate different needs and circumstances.

* Open the “Log” menu item
* Mouse over “Set Log Level”
* Click on the desired log level
* Restart the server