

## Speeding Up Medmont Studio Loading and Patient Selection

When Studio starts, it will enter into a series of transactions with the patient database server to provide a list of all patients. As each patient is located it will match up his or her associated exams. This can make starting Studio a lengthy process when the remote patient server is a third party system and there are many hundreds of patients. Studio provides a simple to use filtering method to speed this up.

Click on **Filter->Patients** and have a look at the **Filter Patients** dialog box. Enter a name in the **Last Name** field then click the **Apply** button. The patient tree will contract to show just the patient or patients with that last name. If you are unsure of the spelling, you can use the wild card character \* in your search to find similar matches. The wild card character is achieved by pressing the < shift and 8 > key at the same time.

The screenshot shows the 'Filter Patients' dialog box. It has a title bar with the text 'Filter Patients' and a close button. Below the title bar, there is a checked checkbox labeled 'Show Patients'. The main area contains several input fields and buttons: 'Last Name' with the text 'p\*' and an 'All' button; 'First Name' with an empty field and an 'All' button; 'External ID' with an empty field; 'Birth Date' with 'From' and 'To' dropdown menus showing '01 Jan 1601' and '31 Dec 9999' respectively, and an 'All' button; 'Sex' with radio buttons for 'Female', 'Male', and 'Both' (selected); 'Procedure' with a dropdown menu; and 'Condition' with a dropdown menu. At the bottom are buttons for 'Clear', 'Apply', 'Cancel', and 'OK'.

In the above example p\* will show all patients with surnames beginning with P.

Examples on how to enter a filter include:

- smith Will show all patients with a surname of smith.
- s\* Will show all patients with surnames beginning with S
- sm\* Will show all patients with surnames beginning with Sm



You will notice the **All** button beside this field is now enabled. Click on this button. The name field will be cleared and now if you click the **Apply** button, all the patients will re-appear.

If you are using a third party patient management system such as Sunix, you can use their patient ID number as the only selection criterion, making for a very simple transition from reviewing the patient's details in Sunix to selecting that patient in Studio. This is also achieved in **Filter Patients** by entering the patient ID in the **External ID** field.

## Patient Filters

Selecting the **Clear** button and then the **Apply** button clears all patient filters. By default the patient filter is not saved when Studio is closed. To ensure it is, click on **Options -> Patient Management Options** and ensure the **Save/Restore Patient Filter** checkbox is ticked. Now, whenever you start Studio, it will only display the patient(s) last selected before it was shutdown.

Should you choose to make the **Filter Patients** dialog your primary patient selection mechanism, it is worthwhile adding a specific button to quickly launch the dialog from the button bar.

Click on **Options >Customize Toolbars** and select **Commands**. In the **Categories** box, scroll down and select **filter**. Under the available command, the **patient filter icon**  is displayed. To place on the tool bar, select it with your mouse and while holding down your left mouse button, drag the icon up to the other icons. You will notice an I shaped separator appear beside each button as you move the cursor along the toolbar. (Still holding the button down) If you release the mouse button the new toolbar button will be inserted immediately to the right of this I bar. Clicking on this button  now launches the **Filter Patients** dialog directly.

The white drop-down patient selection text box can only select from the currently selected set, and if you are using a patient filter this can typically be just a single patient. To prevent confusion it is probably worthwhile removing this drop-down box from the toolbar. Click on **Options > Customize Toolbars**. Click on the drop-down box and drag it to anywhere on the **Customize Toolbars** dialog, then release the mouse button. The drop-down box will be removed from the toolbar. It resides in the **File** category, and you can put it back at any time using the technique discussed above.

The *default* toolbar can always be restored by clicking on **Options -> Reset Toolbars**.