

# Quick Guide

# Metafer

## 4.4

Scanning and Imaging Software

This Quick Guide contains important information on your Metafer software. Please familiarize yourself with its content prior to using Metafer.



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## Change History

Rev. no.	Reason for change	valid from
1.0	New document – for release of Metafer 4.4 software release according to IVDR	2026-02-10

## 1. Symbols Used

Symbol	Remarks
Symbols According to ISO 15223-1:2021/Amd 1:2025	
	<p><i>Caution</i></p> <p>Text boxes marked with the standardized <i>Caution</i> symbol followed by the term <b>CAUTION!</b> indicate a potentially hazardous situation that, if not avoided, may interfere with the integrity of the software installation itself or data generated with the medical device.</p> <p>Text boxes marked with the standardized <i>Caution</i> symbol followed by the term <b>ATTENTION!</b> and should be read with great care to prevent any problem with software or connected standard hardware.</p>
	<i>Consult Instructions for Use / Consult electronic Instructions for Use</i>
	<p><i>Country of Manufacture and Date of Manufacture of the Medical Device</i></p> <p><i>Country of Manufacture – Germany (two-letter country code according to ISO 3166-1), followed by the Date of Manufacture, which is given as Year (YYYY) – Month (MM)</i></p>
	<i>In Vitro Diagnostic Medical Device</i>
	<i>Manufacturer</i>
	<i>Translation</i> – This symbol is accompanied by the name and address of the entity that is responsible for the translation activity.



*Unique Device Identifier*

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Symbol according to the Regulation 2017/746/EU (IVDR)



*'CE-mark'* – The CE-mark indicates conformity with the *European Union In Vitro Diagnostics Regulation*.

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Additional Symbol



Text boxes marked with this information sign contain important technical information or hints on new or revised software features or settings.

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## 2. General

### Instructions for Use (IFU)

Instructions for Use for Metafer 4.4 comprise of two types of documents:

IFU	Definition
Quick Guide	Concise Instructions for Use (IFU): product descriptions including Intended Purpose, safety instructions, notes on setup and operation, and basic instructions for use, and troubleshooting. This Quick Guide is also available as a downloadable PDF file (visit: <a href="https://metasystems-international.com - Support - Downloads - Certificates and Documents - Quick Guides">https://metasystems-international.com - Support - Downloads - Certificates and Documents - Quick Guides</a> ).
Help Files	Comprehensive Instructions for Use (IFU): product Descriptions including Intended Purpose, safety instructions, and extensive instructions for use and parameterization. Help Files are provided as <i>eWriter</i> files, which can be opened directly from within the software or viewed with the free separate <i>eWriter Viewer</i> software. <i>eWriter Viewer</i> is installed on your computer during MetaSystems software installation. The <i>eWriter Viewer</i> software can also be downloaded from here ( <a href="https://www.helpandmanual.com/ewriter/">https://www.helpandmanual.com/ewriter/</a> ) and from the Microsoft Store ( <a href="https://apps.microsoft.com">https://apps.microsoft.com</a> ). The help file is also available as a hardcopy printout on request.

### Assumptions on Previous Knowledge

The IFU assumes you have:

- Basic computer literacy, including a general understanding of data storage, file transfers, and copying and pasting.
- Sufficient knowledge of applicable laboratory techniques to interpret images generated by MetaSystems Metafer software.

## How to Obtain More Information and Support

### MetaSystems Representatives

MetaSystems is an international company with offices in Germany (headquarters), in Argentina (Buenos Aires), in Hong Kong, in India (Bangalore), in Italy (Milano) and in the U.S.A. (Boston). Additionally, MetaSystems is proud to have a global network of partners, which covers the local business in almost all regions of the world. Please refer to the front page of this Quick Guide for contact details of your local MetaSystems representative or visit [www.metasystems-international.com](http://www.metasystems-international.com).

### Errors and Suggestions

You may submit electronic comments and suggestions on the IFU at any time for company consideration to MetaSystems (see below). Comments may not be acted upon by MetaSystems until the document is next revised or updated.

### Reporting Serious Incidents

If any serious incident occurs in relation to Metafer 4.4, the incident shall be reported to MetaSystems and the competent authority of your country.

## 3. Product Description

### Intended Purpose

Metafer is a software intended to control microscope and accessory hardware, to acquire digital images, and to assist the operator in the detection, classification, and counting of cells of human or other origin and other objects in microscopic specimen.

Metafer is intended for use in in vitro diagnostic procedures by clinical and non-clinical laboratories in accordance with their established procedures. Slide scanning and analysis conditions can be adapted to a variety of specimens, including, but not limited to, cultured and stained cells in their interphase or metaphase state. The analytical and clinical performance has not been established.

Additional information: Every Metafer license comes with a Neon software license. Neon by MetaSystems is an accessory to Ikaros and Metafer.

### Legal Classification in the EU



Metafer 4.4 software carries a self-declared CE mark according to the EU Regulation 2017/746 on in vitro diagnostic medical devices (IVDR).



Metafer 4.4 is classified as a 'Class A' IVD product according to the IVDR (2017/746).

### Legal Classification outside the EU

MetaSystems products are used in many countries worldwide. Depending on the regulations of the respective country or region, some products may not be used for clinical diagnostic use. Please ask our local contact for further information about the regulatory status in your country. Please visit [www.metasystems-international.com](http://www.metasystems-international.com) for information on local MetaSystems representatives.

Metafer comes in different commercially available variants offering various sets of program features. All Metafer license variants are executed by the same program file Metafer.exe but are enabled or disabled by respective license keys.

## License Protection and Software Feature Control by Hardware Token

MetaSystems software requires the presence of hardware copy protection modules, also known as 'dongles', to be started and executed. Failure to plug in the dongle will result in the software not running. A MetaSystems' dongle does not only work as a security key, but also as a physical license key, which enables particular features in the MetaSystems software.

- Each dongle has an individual serial number.
- Only features enabled by the license key are available in the respective software. All other software features are disabled but can be enabled after purchasing the respective license and reprogramming the dongle.
- The software periodically performs checks for a valid dongle and license key.
- The required **Update Expiry Date** for Metafer 4.4 is *December 2024 (1224)*.

## 4. Safety Information

### General Precautions

For professional laboratory use only.

*Table: General Precautions*



**CAUTION: Risk of electrical injuries!** The computer running Metafer 4.4 shall be connected only to properly grounded electrical outlets. Consult also the safety instruction in the product information supplied with all electric instruments and components.

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**CAUTION: Operation by qualified personnel only!** The software must be operated only by qualified and trained laboratory personnel.

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**CAUTION: Motorized focus drive!** Risk of Personal Injury and System Damage! On microscopes with a motorized focus drive do not place your hand or any object between microscope stage and objectives, while the stage is moving upwards. The same care should be taken when the stage is moving downward. You may be injured and/or damage the microscope in both instances. Please consult the safety and operating instructions of the microscope manufacturer.

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**CAUTION: Risk of ineffective safety measures!** If it is determined that protective measures are no longer effective, the device must be taken out of service and secured against inadvertent operation, to avoid the risk of injury. Contact MetaSystems or its representative to have the device repaired.

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**ATTENTION!** If a search is terminated due to a hardware error, please follow the instructions in the displayed error message and check the identity and plausibility of all slide names which are part of the current aborted scan job.

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**ATTENTION! Consult laboratory safety guidelines and instructions for use for all installed hardware components!** Before using Metafer it is essential to familiarize yourself with all applicable laboratory safety guidelines and regulations

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in their latest versions, and the instructions for use (IFUs) of all installed hardware components. Please study the IFUs supplied with the components.

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## Protection of Personal Data

MetaSystems guarantees confidentiality of all medical or patient related data and herewith confirms to fulfil the requirements according to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 *On the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data* (General Data Protection Regulation) as follows:

Personal data will be:

- Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to the data subject.
- Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes.
- Adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- Kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data are processed.
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data, including protection against unauthorized or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organizational measures.

If you have any questions concerning the MetaSystems' Privacy Policy statement, please contact MetaSystems.

## Cybersecurity

### Supported Operating System



**ATTENTION!** Metafer 4.4 has been developed and tested exclusively for use with the Windows™ 11/64-bit operating system (OS).

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Microsoft™ has discontinued the support for all operating system versions prior to

Windows™ 11. These versions do not receive updates and security patches any longer and bear a high level of vulnerability against cybersecurity threats. We explicitly recommend running our software only on computers with Windows™ 11/64-bit.

Although our software may technically be able to run on older operating systems (for example Windows™ 10), this will be entirely at your own risk. MetaSystems does not take any responsibility for errors arising due to the use of non-approved operating systems.

## **User Access**

MetaSystems offers different levels of user login modes. Depending on the security policies of the institution where Metafer is installed, user access modes can be selected from low to high security. For details on the login modes, please refer to the product help or manual.

## **Local Mode**

If network resources hosting the case data or shared configuration folder are (temporarily) not accessible, Metafer 4.4 can be operated in a 'local emergency mode'. This mode allows you to continue to work with data stored on the local computer. After the normal operation mode has been restored, data can be manually transferred to the preferred data storage location.

## Hardware

### Hardware Requirements

Table: Minimal Hardware Requirements for Computer Running Metafer 4.4

Hardware Components	Description
PC	A scanning PC should meet these specifications: Intel Core i7 (8 cores) 16 GB DDR4 SDRAM, 512 GB SSD, 550 W power supply. Demanding applications, e.g. virtual slide scanning, may require advanced hardware specification. Please inquire, MetaSystems will assist you in finding the optimal configuration depending on the actual Metafer software license(s).
Monitor	Minimum resolution: Full HD (1920 x 1080)
Mouse	3-button mouse (or equivalent ergonomic input device)

### Supported Standard Hardware Components

The Metafer software can control selected standard hardware components.

The typical Metafer workstation configurations differ in their hardware setup:

Hardware Components	Metafer Slide Scanning	Metafer Analysis
Powerful PC and monitor	☑	–
Microscope	☑	–
High-resolution digital camera	☑	–
Märzhäuser scanning stage	☑	–
Trackball for manual stage movements	☑	–

Hardware Components	Metafer Slide Scanning	Metafer Analysis
3-button mouse	☑	☑
Copy Protection & License Management Device (Dongle)	☑	☑
<u>Optional</u>		
SlideFeeder	(☑)	-
External, configurable keyboard	(☑)	(☑)
Graphics board for deep neural network calculations	(☑)	(☑)

## Supported Microscope Models

Microscopes are not part of MetaSystems systems. The camera and microscope must be connected by a C-mount adapter for CCD cameras (not included). Please contact your microscope representative for details. MetaSystems software supports a number of motorized microscopes. Suitable control cables are available from the microscope manufacturers (not included).

Metafer supports several microscope models. The Zeiss Axio Imager Z2 is the recommended choice due to its high-precision focus drive with 'heavy duty' support for motorized slide scanning stages.

Supported Microscope Models		
Axio Imager Z2	Axio Imager M2	Axioplan2 Imaging E
Axio Imager Z1	Axio Imager M1	Axioplan2 Imaging
AxioVert 200	Axioplan2 MOT	
Evident/Olympus BX 63	Evident/Olympus BX 61	

## Supported Camera Models

Metafer supports several camera models. Cameras are not included in the Metafer software package and must be ordered separately.

### Current Camera Models

CoolCube 1	CoolCube 1m / CoolCube 1c*
CoolCube 1P	CoolCube 1Pm / CoolCube 1Pc*
CoolCube 4 (TEC) /4P	CoolCube 4m (TEC) / CoolCube 4c (TEC) and CoolCube 4Pm / CoolCube 4Pc* (Available with passive (standard) or thermo-electric (TEC) cooling)

\* m: monochrome version / c: color version (w/ Bayer RGB filter mask).

Metafer also supports some legacy analog and digital camera models. Please refer to the Metafer Help / Manual for details.

## Supported Other Hardware Components

### Hardware Components

Tango Controller	Stepping motor controller for 1, 2, or 3 axes, e.g. for motorized stages. Available as internal (PCIe card) or external unit; 1.25A; RS232.
Slide Feeder	SlideFeeder 80 (SF 80). The original slide feeder model has a capacity of up to 80 slides (10 frames with 8 slides each).  SlideFeeder x80 (SF x80). The advanced successor model of the slide feeder. Various configurations: capacity: 80 - 480 slides, barcode reader, passive oil reservoir or active AutoOiler (immersion oil).
FastWheel	External filter wheel for microscopes. Different product variants are available which differ in filter diameter (25/32mm) and number of filters receptables (8/10), USB2.0 interface (USB2COM adapter in connector); mounting adapters (flanges) available for major microscope brands.

## Hardware Components

AutoOiler

Software-controlled pump for immersion oil

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For further details and addresses of hardware component manufacturers, please refer to the Metafer 4.4 Help.

## 5. Pre-Installation Requirements

### Workspace Requirements

- **Prepare the Workspaces** – Ensure that the installation site is clean and empty and that all objects that are not required for setting up the MetaSystems devices are removed.
- **Provide Power Supply** – Only connect the power cords for electrical components to the designated 100V-240V, 50-60 Hz outlets.
- **Make Sure There is Enough Space** – The recommendation for just a computer workstation is a workspace of 90 x 70 cm (w x d). If the workstation is combined with a microscope, the available workspace should not be smaller than 130 x 80 cm (w x d). Please observe also the applicable national regulations for visual data workstations and EN ISO 9241-1.
- **Inform Us about Your Existing Microscope(s)** – If an existing microscope shall be used with Metafer, please provide some details prior to the installation: (i) the brand and the model of the microscope, (ii) the illumination devices, (iii) the objective lenses, (iv) the camera adapter, and (v) if applicable, the fluorescence filters available.
- **IT Infrastructure Requirements** – You will generate some image and case data with Metafer. Please make sure that there is enough storage space available on your data server. We recommend estimating your weekly/monthly workload and the requirement for storage space on the server. Please involve your IT department.
- **Data Management** – Data is indexed automatically with the help of a software called NeonServer which runs as a Windows service.  
For all installations, except for a stand-alone computer, NeonServer should be installed on a separate PC with at least 4 cores, 16 GB RAM, and 100 GB disk space. Dedicated server hardware is not required but recommended. The computer network should allow fast data transfer (1 Gb/low latency).  
For more detailed information, please refer to these documents: *MetaSystems Pre-installation Requirements* and *Supported Operating System for MetaSystems Devices* in their current version. Please contact MetaSystems.

## 6. Installation

- **Appoint ,Super-Users'** – Determine one or two persons among the users who are responsible for the systems and are available as our contact persons. These persons should be allowed to coordinate and communicate the requests and wishes of the users and to make short-term decisions regarding the system configuration.
- **Provide IT Support** – Ensure that IT staff are available for the duration of the installation to respond quickly to any issues related to the IT infrastructure.
- **Provide Temporary Administrator Account** – During the installation phase, our employees require temporary administrator access. This access can be deactivated after the installation and is used to carry out the necessary installations and to test the interoperability of the systems.
- **Installation and Training by MetaSystems Personnel** – We offer installation and training of laboratory staff as a service.  
We are aware that installation and training may interfere with your daily laboratory routine in one way or the other. Therefore, we suggest making appropriate arrangements which will allow your personnel to attend the training sessions. Together we can draw up a training plan to address the general and particular training requirements for every operator of the Metafer software.
- **Provide Suitable Samples** – Ideally, we use your own samples to create training cases as close as possible to your routine work. This will also allow to customize parameters within the software to achieve good results.
- **Training Scope Metafer** – In brief, the training covers:
  - **Start and end Metafer / user login.**
  - **Settings** – Data folders, paths, security settings, user groups, reporting.
  - **Navigation** – Create case, case data import.
  - **Cases** – View, search, filter, sort, and group cases.
  - **Cases** – Rename, delete to 'trash', and restore from 'trash'
  - **Case datasheet** – Enter data, customize data sheet
  - **Case structure** – Hierarchical levels: case, scans, cells, culture, slide, region; data on each hierarchical level
  - **Case History** – Log of changes to a case
  - **Cells** – Cell List, Cell Gallery, and Combined Karyogram

- **Workflows** – Manual / automatic (triggered/conditional) workflow progression
  - **Reporting** – Printing reports, different report types, customizing reports
  - **Problems** – solve problems and report unsolvable problems (XReports)
  - **Get Help** – Look-up shortcuts, open / navigate / search Help file
  - **Insert Slides** – Load slides into frames. How to initialize and move motorized stage and slide feeder robot (if applicable).
  - **Slide Setup** – Enter slide Name, select search Classifier, and configure parameters in Advanced Setup.
  - **Initialize Search** – Start Search, focus reference object, adjust live image, check autofocus mode for proper operation, run scan, stop / cancel search (if error occurs).
  - **On-screen Analysis** – Functions categorizing objects in the Gallery (highlight, mark, reject, delete objects), use of diagrams and specialized tools.
- **Installation and Training Are Documented** – For your and our reference we will ask you to sign an Installation / Service Report after training is completed to document the trained software features (*System Installation / Service Report*). The same report is also used to document any service / maintenance work, if necessary.
- **Software Installations Backups** – MetaSystems software comes with built-in routines to create backups of the current software installation. Backups are stored (a) locally on the computer running Metafer, (b) on a network resource chosen by the customer, and (c) at MetaSystems. The latter backup copy helps us to look up configuration details, even if remote support is not feasible. Software installation can be restored from backups.
- **Using Metafer** – Please refer to the:
- Metafer 4.4 Help for in-depth coverage of the Metafer program functions for slide scanning and imaging.
  - Neon 2.0 Help for a detailed description of case management, data management, and reporting options.

## 7. Post-Installation

- **Allow Us to Support You Remotely** – For fast and professional online support, we offer a remote support software tool TeamViewer (branded as 'MetaSystemsQS'). Please note that remote support by MetaSystems requires a signed *Remote Support Agreement* form, which is available on request.

*TeamViewer is a highly secure remote maintenance solution using fully encrypted data channels. In its latest version, it includes encryption based on 2048 RSA private/public key exchange and AES (256-bit) session encryption. This technology is based on the same standards as https/SSL and meets today's standards for security. The key exchange also guarantees full client-to-client data protection. Access from outside requires a session token which is generated on startup of the QuickSupport module. This token is only valid during one single session; it is not possible to access the device from outside without it. Do not start the remote access module unless asked by a MetaSystems staff member to do so.*

*You can download the tool from the MetaSystems website:*

1. Scroll down to Support and click on Online Support Tool; the download will start automatically.
2. Double-click the TeamViewerQS.exe to install. Follow the on-screen instructions.

- **Make sure that your device(s) is/are protected against malware and viruses** – Likewise, we support the installation and maintenance of anti-virus software through your IT department. You should also take all necessary measures to protect the device and your network from harmful influences (e.g., by a network firewall). Please note that the above measures are part of on-site network maintenance, and that MetaSystems assumes no responsibility for damage or data loss caused by inadequate protective measures.

- **Software Updates Fixing Software Errors – Despite our thorough testing regime, certain software errors may remain undetected until after the initial release of a software version** – We are committed to fixing known software errors.

For this purpose, we will release minor software updates, indicated by the third part of the version number (e.g., 4.4.0 -> 4.4.1).

Major issues compromising the proper operation of Metafer must be reported to the Notified Body and to the Authorities having jurisdiction together with a plan for corrective actions. In this instance, you will be informed

- **Pay attention to regular updates of security relevant drivers and software** – We strongly recommend updating computers regularly and to keep the drivers and operating system (OS) up to date. If we become aware of any OS patches that may compromise the intended operation of our software, we will inform you and recommend corrective actions.

- **Service and Maintenance Plans** – Metafer 4.4 does not require maintenance at fixed intervals.

MetaSystems and its distribution partners are offering service and maintenance service plans, which include installation of minor software updates and/or preventive maintenance of supported standard hardware components (cameras, microscopes, etc.). Please inquire.

## 8. Troubleshooting

Problem	Potential Cause	Action
<i>Associated Standard Hardware Components</i>		
Computer does not work.	Interrupted power. System is not turned on.	Please check that all power cords are connected correctly and that all system components are switched on.
Computer works, but MetaSystems application trigger error messages.	Drivers for connected standard hardware components are not (properly) installed.	Open Device Manager, check for problems indicated (yellow question/exclamation marks).
	The hard disk(s) in the local computer or on network resources are almost full.	Open My Computer, open Properties of hard drives and check for available free disk space (> 10% of total disk space) and for any problems indicated.
	Shared network resources are not available.	Open Network and sharing center in task bar and check for indicated problems.
Monitor does not display an image.	Monitor is turned off.	Please check that power and monitor cables are plugged in correctly and that the monitor is switched on.
	The cable connecting the monitor to the PC is not plugged in correctly.	
	Monitor has been damaged.	Check monitor for damages.
	Monitor settings have been altered.	Check Control panel / Display for correct settings
No live image is displayed when 'Capture' is selected.	Microscope illumination was turned off. Light path to the camera is closed.	Check whether the microscope is switched off.
		Please check that the required microscope lamp is on and that the light path to the camera is open.
		For fluorescence applications please verify that the correct filter is positioned in the light path.
Camera gets 'lost': camera has been working correctly, but suddenly is not recognized anymore	Energy-saving scheme sends USB port to 'power save' mode.	Go to the Windows Device Manager and deactivate all energy-saving options for USB connections (require admin rights).
Live camera image is displayed, but there seems to be 'dirt' in the light path	Dust particles can settle on different surfaces in the microscope or in the camera.	Clean readily accessible glass surfaces as described by the microscope manufacturer.
		While the software is in the live image mode: Switch among objectives: is dust stationary (regardless of the different magnifications)? If so, this would exclude the objectives. To check whether the dust particles are in the camera, please do this: (i) defocus slightly, (ii) move the slide carefully. Is the dust stationary? If so, this would indicate that the dust is inside

Problem	Potential Cause	Action
		the camera. In this instance, please contact MetaSystems for camera cleaning.
Live image in brightfield illumination is lacking resolution and contrast	Microscope is not adjusted correctly	Please consult the microscope manual for instructions on <i>Koehler</i> illumination. Check whether all optical components are correctly mounted and fastened.
<b>Software</b>		
Software cannot connect to NeonServer	Computer running NeonServer is not on and/or not connected to the network. NeonServer is not properly installed 'as a service'. NeonServer service is not started.	Start computer running NeonServer with correct user account.
		Check, whether NeonServer is listed as 'Service' under Windows. If not, re-install NeonServer (require admin rights). Start NeonServer service.
Software starts, but data folders are not accessible	Computer hosting data is not on and/or not connected to the network.  Your Windows user account does not have read/write access to the respective network resources.	Ask your IT dept. to check whether this computer is properly connected to the network domain and folders are shared correctly.  Ask your IT dept. to upgrade your user rights on the network accordingly.
Software indicated problems		Open Diagnostics (press [F10]) and check details on Problems. Check dongle for available licenses.
Software apparently does not function as expected.	Software bug.  Wrong configuration.	Create Exception Report (XReport) and forward it to MetaSystems (automatic transfer, if configured accordingly).  Open Diagnostics (press [F10]) and check details on Problems. Restart Metafer. Restart computer. Rerun Neon installer package. Check program settings.
Cases seem to be missing in the Case List	Case List has been filtered.  Data are not fully indexed.	Check whether filter conditions are active for the Case List. Refresh Case List. Check physical data folder for presence of case subfolder. Reindex data.
Scans / cells seem to be missing in a case	Case has been filtered.  Data are not fully indexed.	Check whether filter conditions are active for cells. Reindex case.



If your problem is not listed here, please consult the Help files and manuals accompanying hardware components before contacting your local MetaSystems distribution partner.

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