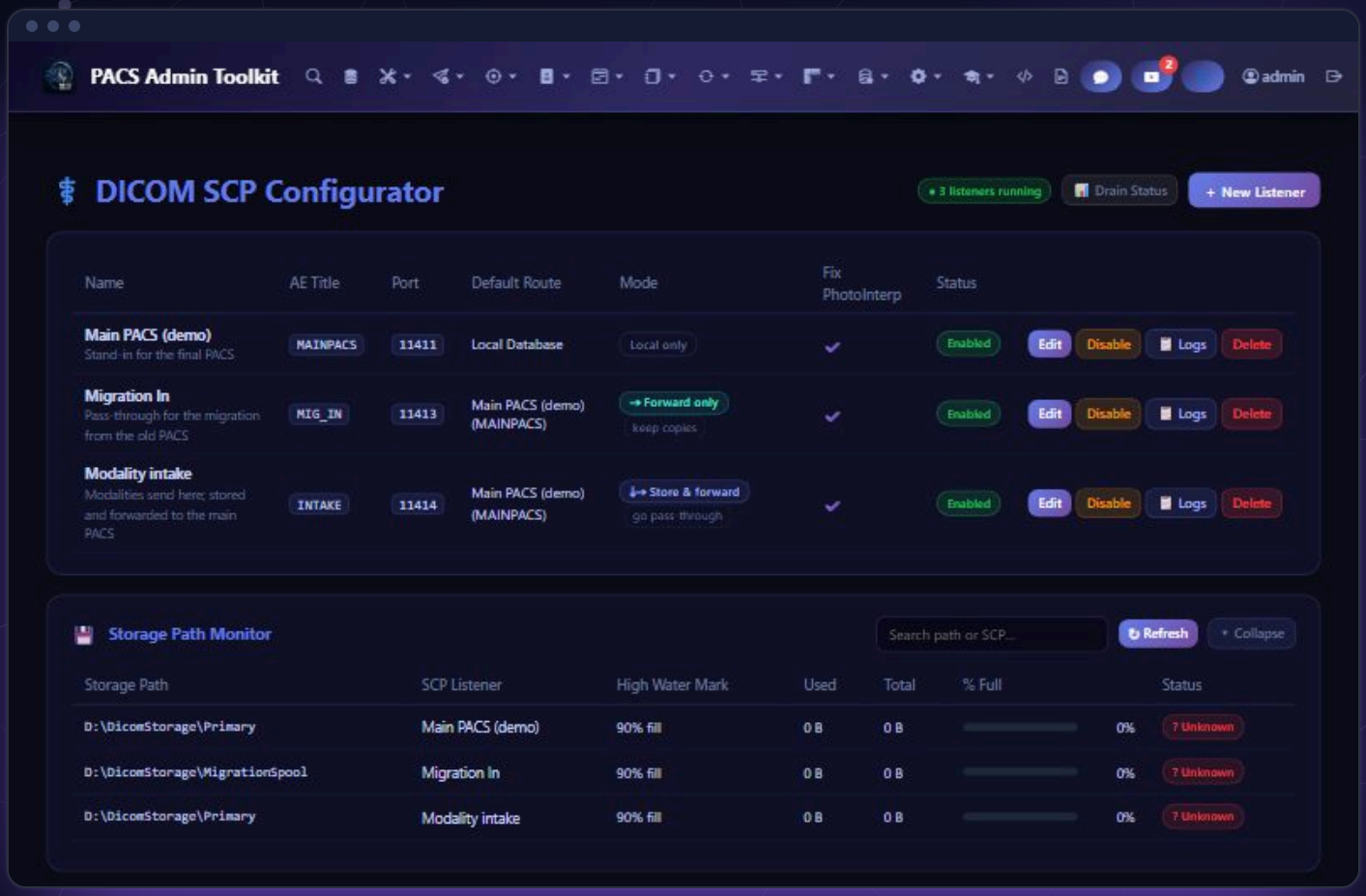
Imaging & Routing | Leads with Transform

Auto Forward Rules

Send each study to the right reader at the right time, without a second router.



Give every destination of a DICOM listener its own rules: weekday hours, after hours and weekends, holidays, an institution, an issuer, a patient ID or accession prefix. Images that do not qualify are skipped, or held and sent the moment the rules allow.

27
ready-made templates to start from

1
rule set per destination, so routes never interfere

0
images sent while testing a rule

Replaces: **Schedule-based routing scripts and a second router per reading group**

License module `AUTO_FORWARD`

THE CHALLENGE

Why it matters

Day and night reading rarely go to the same place. Weekday studies belong to the in-house radiologists, evenings and weekends to a teleradiology group, and holidays follow the night pattern. A second site's studies belong to its own archive, and patients with one ID prefix belong to one partner.

Most routers can only send everything a listener receives to the same list of places. Sites end up with a second router per reading group, a scheduled script that switches destinations at 17:00, or someone who changes the configuration by hand every Friday evening and forgets on a bank holiday.

IN SHORT

Give every destination of a DICOM listener its own rules: weekday hours, after hours and weekends, holidays, an institution, an issuer, a patient ID or accession prefix. Images that do not qualify are skipped, or held and sent the moment the rules allow.

CAPABILITIES

What it does

- **Rules per destination**
  Each destination of a listener gets its own rule set; a destination with no rules always sends, as before.
- **Days, hours and holidays**
  Within or outside a window such as Monday to Friday 08:00 to 17:00, windows that run past midnight, and lists of holiday dates.
- **Any DICOM tag**
  Institution, issuer of patient ID, modality, station, study description or any other tag, picked by name, with equals, contains, starts with, patterns, lists and comparisons.
- **Prefixes and parts of values**
  Compare only some characters, for example the first three characters of the patient ID or accession number.
- **Sender conditions**
  The calling AE, the called AE and the sender's IP address can be tested too.
- **AND, OR and NOT**
  Groups of conditions that need all, any or none to be met, combined with all or any group, all in a visual builder with no syntax to learn.
- **Skip or hold**
  An image that does not qualify is skipped for that destination, or held in the queue and sent automatically when the rules next allow it.
- **Templates and scenarios**
  27 templates (day and time, tags, sender, combined) and one-step set-ups for a day and night split, holidays, a split by site and a split by prefix.

See it before it happens

Try a time and tag values, and read a seven-day chart of which destination receives images when, with a warning for any time no destination does.

Worth a look, and a draft tried on last week

Findings from live traffic point out rule sets that skip a sender they never expected or never send at all; Recent traffic replays the last 7 days through an unsaved rule set and shows which senders would be handled differently, and one click turns a finding into an alert.

Logged like every send

Skipped and held images appear in the forward log with the reason.

WORKFLOW

How it works

1 Image arrives
The listener receives it and applies its tag fixes.

2 Routes chosen
The default destinations, or the routing rule that matched, pick the destinations.

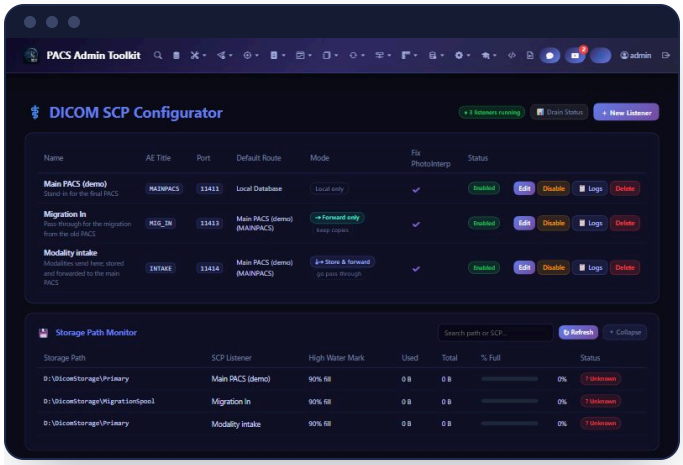
3 Rules checked
Each destination's rules are checked against the time received, the tags and the sender.

4 Sent, held or skipped
Qualifying images are sent; others are held in the queue until allowed, or skipped for that destination only.

5 Recorded
The forward log records every result and why.

IN THE PRODUCT

See it in action



Each listener's routes, with their rules in plain words and a seven-day view of who gets images when

USE CASES

Where it pays off

Day and night reading

CHALLENGE	In-house radiologists read weekdays 08:00 to 17:00; a teleradiology group covers evenings, nights, weekends and holidays.
WITH PATK	One listener, three destinations: the archive always, the day group on weekday hours, the night group outside them or on holidays, set up in one step.
OUTCOME	**Every study reaches the right readers at the right time, including bank holidays, with no Friday-evening switch-over.**

Shared listener for two sites

CHALLENGE	Two hospitals send to the same listener, but each site's studies must also reach its own archive.
WITH PATK	Each site's archive gets an institution rule; the central archive keeps no rules.
OUTCOME	**One address for every modality, and each archive receives only its own studies.**

Partner studies by prefix

CHALLENGE	Studies for a partner's patients are recognised by an accession prefix and must go to the partner's PACS.
WITH PATK	The partner destination gets a rule on the first three characters of the accession number.
OUTCOME	**Partner studies are delivered automatically, and nobody else's studies leave the network.**

Deliver during staffed hours

CHALLENGE	A remote clinic's system should only receive studies while staff are there to reconcile them.
WITH PATK	The clinic destination holds images outside its hours and releases them when it opens.
OUTCOME	**Nothing is lost overnight and nothing arrives to an empty department.**

3T

Trust · Truth · Transform

Trust

A destination without rules always sends; a condition that cannot be checked never sends by accident; a forward-only listener refuses an image no destination takes rather than drop it; held images wait in the restart-proof queue.

Truth

The seven-day chart, the tester and the forward log show who receives what and when, and why an image was skipped or held.

Transform

Reading schedules, site splits and partner routing become a few clicks in a browser instead of scripts, extra routers and manual switch-overs.

VALUE MODEL

What it can be worth

An example department that splits day and night reading and serves one partner, replacing manual switch-overs and a second router.

Second router or scheduling script avoided per year	$12,000
Manual destination switch-overs per year (two per working week)	100
Time per switch-over and check	15 minutes
Misrouted studies a year found and re-sent by hand	120
Time to find and re-send one misrouted study	20 minutes
Blended PACS staff cost per hour	$55

$15,600

Estimated yearly value

Illustrative example. Your volumes, staffing and costs will differ; we will build this model with your own numbers.

DIFFERENTIATORS

Why it stands out

- **Per destination, not per router**
  Each destination has its own rules, so adding a reading group never means another router or another listener.
- **No scripts**
  Days, hours, holidays, tags and prefixes are built visually from templates, where scheduling scripts need someone who can maintain them.
- **Hold, not just skip**
  Images can wait in the queue and send automatically when allowed, which simple schedule switches cannot do.
- **Visible coverage**
  A seven-day chart shows gaps where no destination receives images before they happen.

SPECIFICATIONS

At a glance

Works with	DICOM listeners in store and forward or forward-only mode, default destinations and routing rules
Conditions	Days and hours (within / outside, past midnight), dates, any DICOM tag, part of a value, calling / called AE, sender IP
Logic	Groups with all, any or none; rule sets needing all or any group
When not met	Skip for that destination, or hold in the queue until allowed (up to 8 days)
Set-up	27 templates, 4 multi-destination scenarios, time zone per rule set
Checking	Tester, seven-day coverage chart, forward log entries for skipped and held images

See Auto Forward Rules with your own data

Ask for a guided demo or a trial license. PACS Admin Toolkit installs on your own Windows server in under an hour, and every module comes with step-by-step guides and in-app guided tours.

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