

SWS Software FAQs

SonoSite Workflow Solutions (SWS™ software) streamlines the management of ultrasound examinations performed with the SonoSite M-Turbo®, S Series™, NanoMaxx™, and MicroMaxx® ultrasound systems. SWS software enables clinicians to easily store, access, review, and manage their ultrasound examination data files from any PC or Mac® connected to the network. The latest SWS enhancements provide for even greater ease in managing and retrieving data.

1. How many ultrasound systems can be connected to SWS?

Any number of ultrasound systems can be configured to communicate with SWS. Only five ultrasound systems can download data to SWS concurrently. If a sixth machine attempts to send exam data, that transfer request is queued until one of the five slots is available.

2. How many SWS client computers can be connected to SWS?

Any number client computers (PC or Mac) can be connected to SWS. Only five active user sessions are accepted at any time. If additional users attempt to log on to the system, an error message is displayed.

3. What operating systems are supported by SWS?

SWS server and client software will run on:

- Mac – OS 10.5.6 or later
- PC – Windows XP with Service Pack 3
 - Windows Vista Business
 - Windows Server 2008

4. How do my images/studies get from my ultrasound machines to SWS?

Studies and images can be transferred to SWS via USB memory stick or Ethernet. When connected by Ethernet, images and studies are automatically transferred at the end of each exam.

5. Will SWS work with ultrasound systems from other vendors?

SWS has an optional feature to enable ultrasound studies to be imported from any ultrasound system that supports DICOM® archive (C-Store).

6. How can I find my studies or images on SWS?

Users can search the SWS database. Searches can be as simple or complex as needed. The SWS search function allows users to select using any combination of 12 criteria.

7. Is SWS wireless?

SWS can be used in a wireless network. The requirements are as follows:

- The ultrasound system must be capable of wireless communications.
- The hospital environment must support wireless communications.

8. How is SWS data backed up?

SonoSite provides data backup and restore software with SWS.

9. Does SWS communicate with PACS

SWS can't transfer studies directly to PACS. SWS does have an archive function. Archive will store selected studies and associated images in a DICOMDIR directory on the SWS server. This DICOMDIR can then be imported into most PACS.

10. Does SWS support “virtual” installation?

SWS can be installed on a virtual server as long as the virtual server meets the OS requirements in the SWS installation guide or in this memo.

11. Can SWS support departments with multiple locations?

SWS is intended to provide a departmental or local solution for image archiving. If a hospital has multiple locations that share a common data network, SWS will work. SWS does not know about physical separation, only network connectivity.

12. Does SWS time out after a period of inactivity?

After 20 minutes of inactivity, SWS will save all user data and terminate the current user session.

13. How many users can access SWS?

SWS will support up to 100 user accounts. Only five active user sessions are allowed at any time. If additional users attempt to log on to the system, an error message is displayed.

14. Does SWS generate reports?

SWS has a built-in report-generation tool. Reports contain distinct data sections:

- Patient information
- Indications
- Procedural details
- Conclusions
- Comments

SWS provides the ability to include up to 10 images within the report. All reports are in .pdf format to allow simple viewing, e-mailing, or printing.

15. What exam types are supported by SWS worksheet and report functions?

SWS supports a selection of Emmed and MSK worksheets and reports. Up to six semi-customized worksheets and reports are also available.

16. How does SWS track QA/Credentialing status?

SWS provides QA/Credentialing tools to users with appropriate privileges. QA/Credentialing statistics can be generated by exporting data to Microsoft Excel.

17. Does SWS support post processing of images?

SWS provides tools for adjusting image contrast and brightness to compensate for variances in monitors when viewing images.

18. Does SWS print images?

SWS provides a one-button print function to allow any image to be printed on the printer configured for use with the client PC.

19. Does SWS store video clips as well as images?

SWS stores and plays video clips. When in review mode, all video clips are distinguished by the film icon in the bottom right of the thumbnail images. Clips are automatically played when selected for review.

20. Does SWS support HL7?

Yes, SWS supports HL7.

21. Does SWS communicate with EMR/EMR systems?

SWS version 1.1 provides an HL7 interface for use with EMR/EHR systems. When configured for HL7, SWS provides a one-button interface to send reports directly to the EMR/EHR.

22. Can SWS be accessed remotely?

SWS has no limitations to prevent remote access. If your hospital allows VPN or other remote access tools, SWS can be accessed from nearly any location with a broadband Internet connection.

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DICOM is the registered trademark of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association for its standards publications relating to digital communications of medical information.