Subject: Re: DICOM Radiotherapy prescriptions
Posted by Robert Barnett on Sun, 21 Aug 2005 23:52:16 GMT

There are three levels of DICOM support provided by RSI:
1) A basic DICOM file parser which comes with the IDL distribution
2) An extended DICOM module for parsing, editing and creating DICOM files.
3) An extended DICOM module for sending and receiving files from DICOM nodes.

Try downloading the IDL 6.1 help files from ftp://ftp.rsinc.com and have a browse through the API looking at the 'IDLffDICOM' and 'IDLffDICOMex' objects. I would recommend trying the basic DICOM file parser first, which can be used in IDL's 7 minute demo mode.

If you need to get the prescriptions off the server using Query/Retrieve then you may need to buy the DICOM network services module. However, I have never had a problem spawning a shell to do the job for me. I would just use 'findscu' from the DCMTK project (http://www.dcmtk.org/). You could also run them as shared objects to avoid the overhead of a shell process. I have compiled them for Solaris and Linux if you want to pester me for them.

> O r would I need to parse the DICOM myself?
As far as I know, the DICOM parser is very generic and is not an easily accessible object structure. To put it simply, you are expected to know the tags which you want to extract.

I would be really keen to hear if the DICOM parser is able to read radiotherapy data.