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Subject: Re: DICOM Radiotherapy prescriptions

Posted by [Robert Barnett](#) on Sun, 21 Aug 2005 23:52:16 GMT

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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.dcmkt.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.

> Or 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.

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