Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to provide a functionality comparison checklist for specimen tracking/positive patient identification software applications. The Assist Tracking application was created specifically for the purpose of tracking bar coded objects through an enterprise. It was not created as a add on feature to an existing software application such as a Laboratory Information System (LIS). It was not created to help with sales of hardware platforms (i.e., Cassette/Slide printer manufacturer or staining platform vendor). Because of this dedicated focus to being the best Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), Assist Tracking has the broadest and deepest feature set of any competing product in the marketplace.

Feature Comparison Grid:

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Grossing			
Component Matching – Up to 4 objects	☒	☒	Requisition, Bottle, Cassette, Vial (Molecular)
Point of Use or Batch Scanning	☒	☒	
Compatible with all known printers	☒	☐	
Reprint of blocks via Queue	☒	☐	
Gross notes capture (including dictation)	☒	☐	
Patient Verification Capture	☒	☐	
Communications Log	☒	☐	
Sketch Pad for diagrams	☒	☐	
Image capture for gross pictures	☒	☐	
Specimen Type Protocol defaults	☒	☒	
Clinical Research Project Tracking	☒	☐	
Lot Control tracking	☒	☐	
Checklists/QC Information Capture	☒	☐	
Safety Acknowledgements	☒	☐	
Document Management Integration	☒	☐	Display of imaged requisitions
Embedding			
Chain of Custody	☒	☒	
Checklists/QC Information Capture	☒	☐	
Grossing Information Visibility	☒	☐	
Tissue Pieces Visibility	☒	☐	
Case Components Visibility	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Communications Log	☒	☐	
Grossing Notes Visibility	☒	☐	
Processor Check In			
Scan Blocks In/Out	☒	☐	
Grossing Batch Release	☒	☐	
Track Equipment and Tissue Runs	☒	☐	
Equipment Downtime Tracking	☒	☐	
Equipment Utilization	☒	☐	
Dashboard Visibility	☒	☐	
Auto Case Holds for Extended Run	☒	☐	
Robotic/Bulk Scan Compatibility	☒	☐	Ex. Spot Imaging robotic scanner
Microtomy			
Point of Use or Batch Matching	☒	☒	
Compatible with all known printers	☒	☐	
No 3rd software for Windows printers	☒	☐	
Automated Specimen type protocols	☒	☒	
Split printing for IHC slides	☒	☐	
Ad hoc stain printing	☒	☒	
Doctor orders for add on stains/recuts, etc.	☒	☐	
Integrated block warehousing	☒	☐	
Checklists/QC Information Capture	☒	☐	
Communications Log	☒	☐	
Equipment Utilization Tracking	☒	☐	
Digital slide queues/worklists	☒	☐	
Tracks at unique slide number level	☒	☒	
Multiple Template views when printing	☒	☐	
Control batch assignment at scan	☒	☐	
Clinical Office			
Remote office and arrival tracking	☒	☐	
Choose destination lab	☒	☐	
Tracking Manifests – Online, cloud, paper	☒	☐	
Dashboard tracking for pending	☒	☐	
Bi-Directional communications client/lab	☒	☐	
Compatible with EMR (ex. EMA) bar codes	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Courier			
Track specimen pickup from offices	☒	☐	
Courier Route stop tracking	☒	☐	
Air tag support	☒	☐	
Courier Receipt/Confirmation at arrival	☒	☐	
Lock box proof of pickup scanning	☒	☐	
Client Signature pick up tracking	☒	☐	
Scoreboard			
Over 50 visual management dashboards	☒	☐	
Lab metrics, pending counts, etc.	☒	☐	
HL7 Interfacing			
Support for client and vendor systems	☒	☒	
Multiple LIS Format Support			
All screens can handle multiple bar code formats.	☒	☐	
Supports Technical Component Clients	☒	☐	
Allows for tracking in acquired labs	☒	☐	
Timeclock Interfaces			
Employee paid time for use in efficiency reports	☒	☐	
Clock time/LIMS time comparisons	☒	☐	
Web Based Maintenance and reporting			
Reports delivered via web site	☒	☒	Assist has over 450 reports
Maintenance screens delivered via web site	☒	☒	Assist has over 800 maintenance screens
Distribution			
Tracking of objects delivered from lab	☒	☐	
Distribution and Send outs tracked	☒	☐	
Return Expected vs. not expected	☒	☐	Tracks objects not returned but expected back
Automatic Distribution Artificial Intelligence	☒	☐	
Digital Distribution for digital slides	☒	☒	
Compatible with any bar-coded object	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Warehouse/Banking			
Storage of any objects (ex. Slides, Blocks)	☒	☐	Warehouse, Area, Location, Cabinet, Drawer, Side, Slot
7 levels of storage hierarchy	☒	☐	
Integrated pick lists and object pull requests	☒	☐	
Digital Dashboard to track digitizing	☒	☐	Image Management System functionality (IMS)
Overdue objects when not returned	☒	☐	
Wet tissue warehouse features	☒	☐	
Tracks offload to 3rd party/offsite storage	☒	☐	
Document imaging for paperwork	☒	☐	
Accessioning/Opening			
Ability to print Req/Bottle labels	☒	☐	
Demographic capture if no interface	☒	☐	
Shipping Document capture	☒	☐	Ex. FedEx/UPS bar code scanning
Drives batch block bar code printing	☒	☐	
Batch Tracking			
Allow assignment of batches of objects	☒	☐	
Can track batches through facility	☒	☐	Ex. Accession bins, molecular batches, slide boards
Preventative Maintenance			
Full tracking of any/all equipment	☒	☐	
Break/Fix Tracking	☒	☐	
Track Maintenance programs per unit	☒	☐	
Bio-Engineer work lists	☒	☐	
Ad hoc requests for maintenance support	☒	☐	Each module can request physical plant maintenance
Simple Print			
Printing for remote sites with no network	☒	☐	
Blocks/Slides with template formats	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Quality Module			
Separate quality view of specimens/objects	☒	☐	
Management signoff of exceptions	☒	☐	
Chain of custody visibility	☒	☐	
Stain Queue			
Interface to staining "platforms"	☒	☒	Ex. Ventana, Bond, Dako, etc.
HL7, XML, File drop compatibility	☒	☒	
Stain rules to route among platforms	☒	☒	
Mobile Tracking			
Support for mobile/remote capture	☒	☐	Ex. Frozen vans at remote hospitals
Inventory Module			
Full inventory item receipt/usage	☒	☐	
Lot control tracking of items	☒	☐	
Track employee issuance of items.	☒	☐	
Generate reorder reports with level alerts	☒	☐	
Vendor bar code scanning or generate	☒	☐	
Reagent manufacturing tracking	☒	☐	
Print Center			
Can print all needed bar codes	☒	☐	
No 3rd party bar code applications needed	☒	☐	
Customer Service			
Full customer service integrated features	☒	☐	
Integrated CTI "screen pop"	☒	☐	"Learns" customer phone numbers.
Complaint/Issue Tracking	☒	☐	
Special Handling Requests (ex. Rush)	☒	☐	
Courier Pickup Requests (Ad Hoc)	☒	☐	
Customer Supply Requests	☒	☐	Ex. Bottles, Requisitions, etc.
Special Instructions Capture	☒	☐	
Follow up/To Do lists	☒	☐	
Sample Testing			
Full reference lab functionality	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Tracks inbound objects to ensure return	☒	☐	
Handles routing tracking through lab	☒	☐	Ex. Workflow routing: Histology – PCR - Fish
Overdue tracking by "sub lab"	☒	☐	
Notifier Agent			
Ability to configure automated emails	☒	☐	
Supports custom rules and distribution lists	☒	☐	
Doctor Module			
Doctor Ordering (recuts, stains, etc.)	☒	☐	
Allows for scan tracking	☒	☐	
Ensures licensure eligibility of accessions	☒	☐	
Shows digital work queues	☒	☐	Slide viewer integration
Supports AI diagnosis visibility	☒	☐	
Peer review functionality	☒	☐	
Detailed Diagnosis/Reporting capability	☒	☐	
Supports multiple LIS environments	☒	☐	Doctors work in one application instead of each LIS
Warehouse requests for objects	☒	☐	
Visibility to Chain of custody/quality	☒	☐	
Doctor control approval tracking	☒	☐	
Doctor Closeout			
Lab visibility of doctor orders	☒	☐	
LIS integration and/or Doctor module orders	☒	☐	
Orders can be entered manually	☒	☐	
Order dashboard for lab	☒	☐	
Employee order assignment	☒	☐	Work queues for IHC, etc. to keep track of open/pending
Active Imager			
Full monitor view of scope images	☒	☐	
Doctor Module integration for reports	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Can show digital slides from digital queue	☒	☐	
Doctors can send images to each other	☒	☐	Electronic second opinions/review
Storage Tracking			
Ability to track specimens into equipment	☒	☐	Ex. Blocks into a freezer, Covid specimens in fridge
First in/First out alerts to ensure routing	☒	☐	Work oldest specimens first
Allows for "idle" time tracking of specimens	☒	☐	
Manufacturing Module			
Handles manufacturing task scanning	☒	☐	Useful to track tasks against a single object (specimen)
Hub Light LIS Features			
Provides for many LIS features	☒	☐	
Demographics Capture/Interfaces	☒	☐	
Assignment of specimens to labs	☒	☐	Can serve as a hub to multiple labs inside environment
Common Tracking/Efficiency Information			
All employee transactions tracked	☒	☐	
Detailed Employee access authorization	☒	☐	
Case Component/Work flow tracking	☒	☐	Shows all elapsed time for specimens to transit workflow
Support for disparate bar-codes	☒	☐	Can handle bar codes from other labs via parser
Slow Bandwidth Support	☒	☐	Store/Forward data for remote sites with slow network
SQL Backup Utility			
Allows for full SQL backup if no IT solution	☒	☐	
Can copy backup files to corporate server	☒	☐	
Supports multiple day support/overwrite	☒	☐	

Feature	Assist Tracking	Competitor	Comments
Heartbeat Monitor			
Shows status of multiple Assist databases	☒	☐	Ex. Uptime, size, RAM, etc.
Provides IT department with health status	☒	☐	