



Presentation manager

BY NOEL MORLEY

The Presentation Manager has been on our drawing boards for over two years. The need to develop a new program came mainly as a response to user requests. In previous Oasis versions, dentists have used Microsoft Word to generate professional treatment plans or have relied on our standard printed reports to show treatment data. MS Word is a great and flexible program and most practice management systems use it. It does, however, require a fair degree of expertise and time in setting up mail merging and custom macros. Most practices simply don't have the time or knowledge to develop professional MS Word-based documents. As more dentists were wanting to improve treatment presentations, we had to find a simpler alternative. Our initial response was to look around for a replacement to MS Word, however whilst many of the third party tools we looked at had excellent graphics capabilities, they lacked the ability to easily integrate patient merge data. So that's when we started designing the Presentation Manager module.

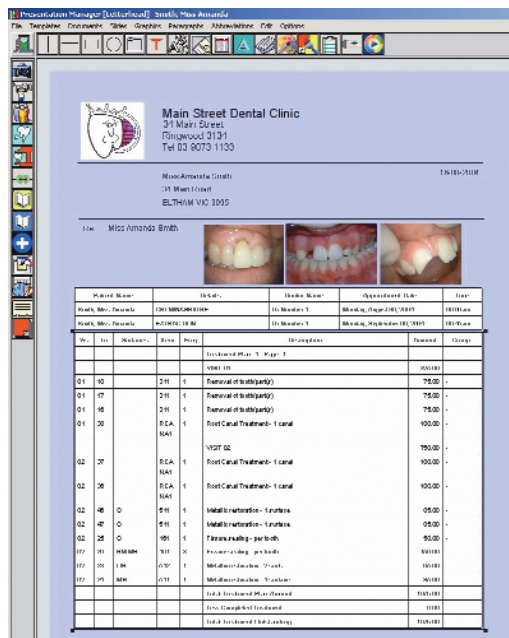
We've designed the new program around a graphical screen form - something that looks a cross between a Word Processor and a Paintbrush type program. Oasis uses a drag and drop interface: you select an icon object representing an item of information and then drag and drop the object at the position on the screen where it's to be displayed. Just like a paint type program, objects can be moved or resized to suit.

Typically, the practice creates a template form including such things as the practice letterhead, patient's details and the like. To create a new presentation is then a simple process. You load up the template and then add any other special patient-related objects. To make this easy, we've included all the normal graphics

drawing tools plus objects to link graphical files, x-rays and intraoral images, scanners and digital cameras. This means you can import images from most third party systems. Of course, because the Presentation Manager is inbuilt within Oasis, this means it was not difficult to incorporate other objects for selecting any Oasis patient data including Treatment Plans, Images, Charts, Plans and the like. We developed a toolbar incorporating all

only to patient record data but also to any patient related information - if you create a template form that displays a patient's dental chart, you want the right patient's chart to be shown when you load the template for a different patient. You also want to store the correct chart when you save the presentation. You want to be sure that when you review the presentation in two years time, it shows the correct chart at that time and not what's changed since.

Solving these issues is the reason the module has taken two years to develop. Having said that, it's certainly been well



Oasis patient linked data and so its simply a matter of dragging and dropping the familiar menu icons onto the form.

The challenge in developing the new system was to provide a means for dynamic patient mail merging. Let's say you want to print the patient's name, address and contract details on the form. It's easy to show these details but you have to handle two other additional problems - firstly you want the details to change each time you change patient. Secondly, you want the details to stay fixed when you save the presentation so that it's an accurate reflection of data at the time the presentation was created. This applies not

“Presentation Manager is going to revolutionise the way Treatment Plans are created...”

worth it. It typically takes around 2-3 minutes to create a professional graphical-based presentation. The completed presentation can then be printed, discussed with the patient and then stored in the patient's document library for future retrieval. We believe our Presentation Manager is going to revolutionise the way Treatment Plans are created. We also see it being useful for other functions such as Patient Literature, Contracts, Mail Merge Forms, Data Entry Forms and the like. We are only starting to realise the power of the product and who knows where it will take us in the future.

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