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1. Before you start

1.1. About this manual

The documentation for your software consists of two parts: the online help and this manual.

Where do you find which information?

In the manual, you will find both an introduction to the product and an explanation of the user interface. By using the extensive step-by-step instructions you can quickly learn the most important procedures for using this software.

In the online help, you will find detailed help for your software.

Writing convention used in the documentation

In this documentation, the term "your software" will be used for *labSens*.

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1.2. What is labSens?

labSens is a software used for microscopy in laboratory environments and in a pathological routine environment. It supports various kinds of hardware such as digital cameras and motorized microscopes and stages.

Main features of your software

The main functions of *labSens* ensure quick and handy workflows for the following tasks:

- Controlling digital cameras
- Acquiring images
- Annotating images
- Measuring images

Additional functionality

There are additional software solutions available for *labSens* offering enhanced functionality.

- **NetCam**
NetCam enables the user to transmit/stream a live image via a web server to browser based clients.
- **Patho**
The *Patho* solution extends the workflow and enables the case wizard. This package contains a dedicated database system. The *Patho* solution guides the users through image acquisition and allows them to save all acquired images by case and slide in dedicated folders in the database.

labSens tool window

The *labSens* tool window guides users during image acquisition and helps to store all acquired images by case and slide.

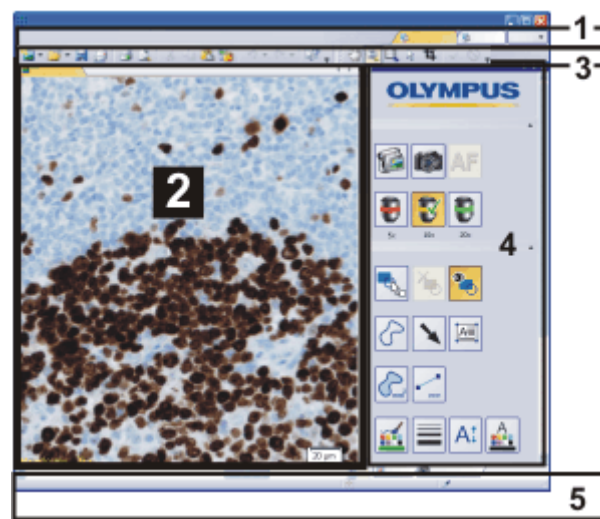
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2. Working with labSens

2.1. User interface

The graphical user interface determines your software's appearance. It specifies which menus there are, how the individual functions can be called up, how and where data, e.g. images, is displayed, and much more. Here, the basic elements of the user interface are described.

Appearance of the user interface



The illustration shows the schematic user interface with its basic elements.

- (1) *Menu bar* You can call up many commands by using the corresponding menu. Your software's menu bar can be configured to suit your requirements. Use the [Tools > Customization > Start Customize Mode...](#) command to add menus, modify, or delete them.
- Further information is available in the online help.
- (2) *Document group* The document group contains all loaded images. When you start your software, the document group is empty. While you use your software, it gets filled - e.g., when you load or acquire images, or perform various image processing operations to change the source image and create a new one.
- (3) *Toolbars* Commands you use frequently are linked to a button providing you with quick and easy access to these functions. Please note that there are many functions which are only accessible via a toolbar, e.g., the drawing functions required for annotating an image. Use the [Tools > Customization > Start Customize Mode...](#) command to modify a toolbar's appearance to suit your requirements.
- (4) *Tool windows* Tool windows combine functions into groups. These may be very different functions. For example, in the [Properties](#) tool window you will find all the information available on the active document.
- In contrast to dialog boxes, tool windows remain visible on the user interface as long as they are switched on. That gives you access to the settings in the tool windows at any time.

(5) *Status bar* The status bar shows a lot of information, e.g., a brief description of each function. Simply move the mouse pointer over the command or button for this information.

Further information is available in the online help.

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2.2. Layout

Overview - Layouts

To switch backwards and forwards between different layouts, click the name of the layout you want in the menu bar, or use the *View > Layout* command.

Please note: There is usually only one layout available in your software version. A description of this layout can be found in the online help. If only one layout is available, the name of the layout is not displayed in the menu bar.

If you received the "Patho" solution with your software, the following layouts are available:

- Acquire images ("Acquisition" layout)
- Manage records and measurements ("Review" layout)

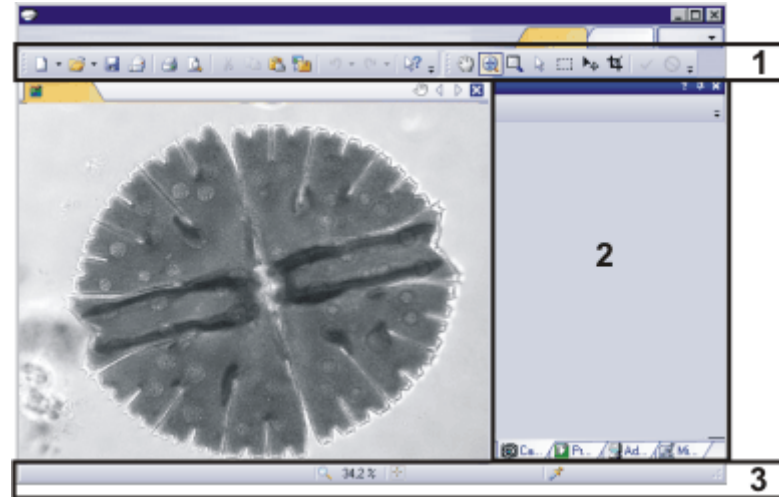
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What is a layout?

The user interface is configurable, so that you can easily adapt it to meet the requirements of individual users or tasks. You can choose a so-called "layout" that is suitable for the task on hand. A "layout" is an arrangement of the control elements on your monitor that is optimal for the task at hand. In any layout, only the software functions that are important in respect to this layout will be available.

Please note: There is usually only one layout available in your software version.

Which elements of the user interface belong to the layout?



The illustration shows you the elements of the user interface that belong to the layout.

- (1) Toolbars
- (2) Tool windows
- (3) Status bar

Activating a layout

Please note: There is usually only one layout available in your software version. For this reason, you can't activate any other layouts and no other layouts are displayed in your menu bar.

There are several ways in which you can activate a layout.

1. Use the *View > Layout* command to open a menu containing all of the available layouts. Select the layout you want from this menu.
2. You will find a tab for each layout at the top right corner of the user interface. Click the name of the desired layout (1).



3. For each layout, you will find the *Layout* (2) button next to the tabs located to the right side of the menu bar. Click this button to open a menu with all of the available layouts. Select the layout you want from this menu.

Editing layouts

You can change a layout at any time. Use the commands in the *View* menu to have the user interface's individual elements shown or hidden.

You have not only the possibilities of hiding or showing the user interface's elements and changing their size and position. As well as that, you can also change existing toolbars, or even set up your own. These changes will not be saved in the layout, but instead, in the configuration. They will remain available to you, even when you return the layout to its standard form.

Saving and resetting layouts

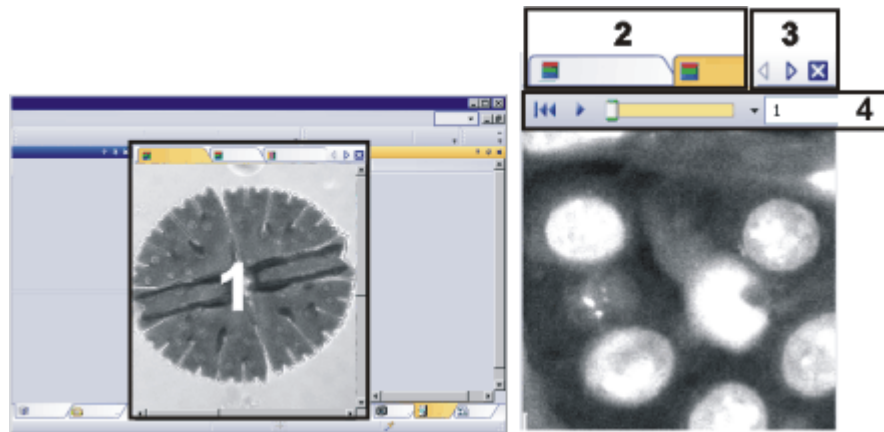
Changes made in layouts will be automatically saved. Use the *View > Layout > Reset Current Layout* command to reset the layouts to their default configuration.

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2.3. Document group

The document group contains all loaded documents.

Appearance of the user interface



On the left, the illustration shows a schematic representation of a user interface. On the right, the document group is shown enlarged.

(1) Document group in the user interface

You will find the document group in the middle of the user interface. In it you will find all of the documents that have been loaded or acquired. Also the live-image and the images resulting from, e.g., any image processing function, will be displayed there.

(2) Document bar in the document group

The document bar is the document group's header.



For every loaded document, an individual field will be set up in the document group. Click the name of a document in the document bar to have this document displayed in the document group. The name of the active document will be shown in color. Each type of document is identified by its own icon.

(3) Buttons in the document bar

At the top right of the document bar you will see several buttons.



Button with a hand

Click the button with a hand on it to extract the document group from the user interface. In this way you will create a document window that you can freely position or change in size.

If you would like to merge two document groups, click the button with the hand in one of the two document groups. While pressing the left mouse button, drag the document group with all the files loaded in it, onto an existing one.

You can only position document groups as you wish when you are in expert mode. In standard mode the button with the hand is not available.

Arrow button The arrow buttons located at the top right of the document group are, to begin with, inactive when you start your software. The arrow buttons will only become active when you have loaded so many documents that all of their names can no longer be displayed in the document group. Then you can click one of the two arrows to make the fields with the document names scroll to the left or the right. That will enable you to see the documents that were previously not shown.

Button with a cross Click the button with a cross to close the active document. If it has not yet been saved, the *Unsaved Documents* dialog box will open. You can then decide whether or not you still need the data.

(4) Navigation bar in the image window

Some images have their own navigation bar directly in the image window. Use this navigation bar, e.g., to specify how a Z-stack is to be displayed on your monitor, or to change this.

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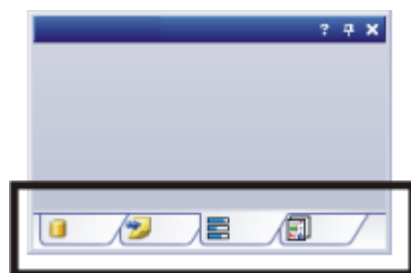
2.4. Tool Windows

Tool windows combine functions into groups. These may be very different functions. For example, in the *Properties* tool window you will find all the information available on the active document.

Position of the tool windows

The user interface is to a large degree configurable. For this reason, tool windows can be docked, freely positioned, or integrated in document groups.

Docked tool windows Tool windows can be docked to the left or right of the document window, or below it. To save space, several tool windows may lie on top of each other. They are then arranged as tabs. In this case, activate the required tool window by clicking the title of the corresponding tab below the window.



Freely positioned tool windows

You can only position tool windows as you wish when you are in expert mode.

You can set a tool window to float at any time. The tool window then behaves exactly the way a dialog box does. To release a tool window from its docked position, click on its header with your left mouse button. Then while pressing the left mouse button, drag the tool window to wherever you want it.

Buttons in the header

In the header of every tool window, you will find the three buttons *Help*, *Auto Hide* and *Close*.



Click the *Help* button to open the online help for the tool window.
 Click the *Auto Hide* button to minimize the tool window.
 Click the *Close* button to hide the tool window. You can make it reappear at any time, by using the *View > Tool Windows* command.

Context menu of the header

To open a context menu, rightclick a tool window's header. The context menu can contain the *Auto Hide* and *Transparency* commands. Which commands will be shown, depends on the tool window.

Additionally, the context menu contains a list of all of the tool windows that are available. Every tool window is identified by its own icon. The icons of the currently displayed tool windows will appear clicked. You can recognize this status by the icon's background color.

Use this list to make tool windows appear.

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2.5. Working with documents

You can choose from a number of possibilities when you want to open, save, or close documents.

Please note: Your software version supports only documents belonging to the document type "Image". Thus, the term "Documents" means "Images" in this manual.

Saving documents

You can recognize documents that have not been saved by the star icon after the document's name.

There are a number of ways to save documents.


1. Save your documents in a database. That enables you to store all manner of data that belongs together in one location. Search and filter functions make it quick and easy to locate saved documents. Detailed information on inserting documents into a database can be found in the online help.
 A database is only available if you have the "Patho" solution for your software.
2. To save a single document, activate the document in the document group and use the *File > Save As...* command.
3. Use the *Gallery* tool window.
 Select the desired document and use the *Save* command in the context menu. For the selection of documents, the standard MS-Windows conventions for multiple selection are valid.

Autosave and close

1. If you have purchased the "Patho" solution with your software, you have a database available to you.
 In the *labSens* tool window, the workflow is then organized as a series of cases for you to work on. First, click the *Start Case* button and perform all of the image acquisitions, annotations and measurements necessary for this case. The images are automatically saved in the database.

2. When you exit the software, all of the data that has not yet been saved will be listed in the *Unsaved Documents* dialog box. This gives you the chance to decide which documents you still want to save.
3. With some acquisition processes, the acquired images will be automatically saved after the acquisition has finished. You will find an overview of the acquisition processes that are supported in the online help.
4. You can also configure your software in such a way that all images are saved automatically after image acquisition. To do so, use the *Acquisition Settings > Saving* dialog box.

Closing documents There are a number of ways to close documents.

1. To close a single document, activate the document in the document group and use the *File > Close* command. Alternatively, you can click the button with the cross . You will find this button on the top right in the document group.
2. Use the *Gallery* tool window. Select the desired document and use the *Close* command in the context menu. For the selection of documents, the standard MS-Windows conventions for multiple selection are valid.

Opening documents There are a number of ways to open or load documents.

1. Use the *File > Open...* command.
2. Use the *File Explorer* tool window.
3. Drag the document you want directly out of the MS-Windows Explorer, onto your software's document group.
4. To load documents out of a database into the document group, use the *Load Documents* command.

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