
TACTIC End User

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Introduction to TACTIC

What is TACTIC?

TACTIC is an extensible, web-based data and file management system. TACTIC centralizes the following aspects of digital project workflow:

- Production data management
- Scheduling
- File (Asset) Management
- Communication
- Reporting
- and more

How does TACTIC work?

TACTIC manages two aspects of Digital Content Management: Project data and Files. TACTIC maintains both of these components in one unified source.

Project Data	Project data is stored in the Database	Project Data is the information and lists that are traditionally tracked in spreadsheets. TACTIC has the ability to list all files you manage along with task assignments, status', and scheduling data, which can be viewed in simple table formats or complex custom reports. TACTIC eliminates lost email threads, missing documents, and the need to update complex spreadsheets. The "database" is the base location for all data. i.e. notes, reports, schedules etc. What a database provides is a central location for this information.
Content/ Files	Files stored in the File System	Content refers to the actual files. When managing assets/files the directory and file naming, along with proper version control is what makes TACTIC unique. Files in TACTIC are managed externally in a file system. i.e. hard drive. The file server typically has a root 'assets' directory. From this location, TACTIC handles the filenames and directories for that file system.

What can I do with TACTIC?

End-Users have various roles within a project or organization. The TACTIC interface can be moulded to provide each group (department) with the ideal interface.

The TACTIC security architecture is a rules-based system where each End-User is provided with a login. The End-User is assigned to groups determined by the project leader or administrator. These rules determine what the End-User has access to within TACTIC.

Communication between groups and departments can be tracked in real-time by using the TACTIC Notes functionality. This method eliminates lost email threads and misplaced documents.

TACTIC can manage limitless amount of tasks, the status of those tasks and the location of all files being managed. TACTIC gives the End-User an accurate real-time understanding of how a project is progressing.

The table below illustrates how various End-Users may interact with TACTIC in a single organization.

Content Creator	The Content Creator often requires a view of all tasks assigned. The user can update a status, check in and check out files, log work hours and communicate with Supervisors using the Notes widget.
Supervisor/Manager	The Manager/Supervisor is often required to schedule tasks, manage content and resources. The project schedule can be adjusted in the User Schedule or Project Tasks view. The TACTIC interface provides high level planning, communication and reporting tools. The Supervisor often has access to all views which provides the ability to plan and adjust the overall needs of a project quickly and easily.
Client	Clients often need to review project material (documents, videos, images etc) and managing this continuous feed of content is often a hurdle. TACTIC's built in web technology allows Clients to deliver files and provide real-time feedback without FTP or Email. TACTIC can provide Clients with only the specific views and permissions needed for each project.
Executive	Executives require a high level view of the project. This often involves building views or "reports" that correlate data from all aspects of the project. TACTIC is able to provide cost reporting, completion, efficiency and location of bottlenecks.

What can I do in TACTIC?

TACTIC is a transaction system allowing users to search, interact, update and report on project data and files. These interactions are carried out using a few main operations:

- **Search** - Search query results are often displayed in a list where you can interact with your project data.
- **Insert** - Additions or "Insert" new data is often done at the start of a new project. This is done through various interface tools like forms, multi inserts, CSV import and more.
- **Update** - Updating existing data is sometimes required. For example; updating a status, adding keywords, or changing an assigned user. Specific views and tools also allow for selecting multiple items to edit at one time.
- **Check-in** - Part of TACTIC's power is the ability to check in and manage your files/assets. When you do a check-in, TACTIC versions and names the directories and files in your file server. Files remain organized and will never become lost.
- **Check-out** - When you need to work on some files that are already checked into TACTIC, you can check them out. This process either points you to the where the files are located, or downloads them to your computer.
- **Undo/Redo** - Every action carried out within TACTIC can be undone. If a mistake has been made, simply undo the transaction.

How do I access the TACTIC interface?

TACTIC is delivered as a web site. This web based solution is extremely powerful because it allows for full interaction with TACTIC and also direct integration with supported software packages.

Accessing TACTIC is as simple as visiting your server's address (URL) in your web browser. For example:

<http://yourcompany.southpawtech.com>

Lets Get Started!

The following End-User documentation provides general usage of the TACTIC feature set. Additional information, tutorials, forums and documentation is available on our TACTIC Community site:

<http://community.southpawtech.com>

TACTIC Start up

Setting Up Your Web Browser

Web Browser

To access the TACTIC interface, a supported version a web browser is required.

To connect to the TACTIC server, type a URL in your web browser similar to the example below (the IP address will vary depending on the network setup of your organization). An example is shown below:

<http://192.168.14.198/>

When you are connected to the server, you are presented with the TACTIC login screen:



Note

If you cannot see this TACTIC login, please contact your TACTIC Administrator.

Java Support

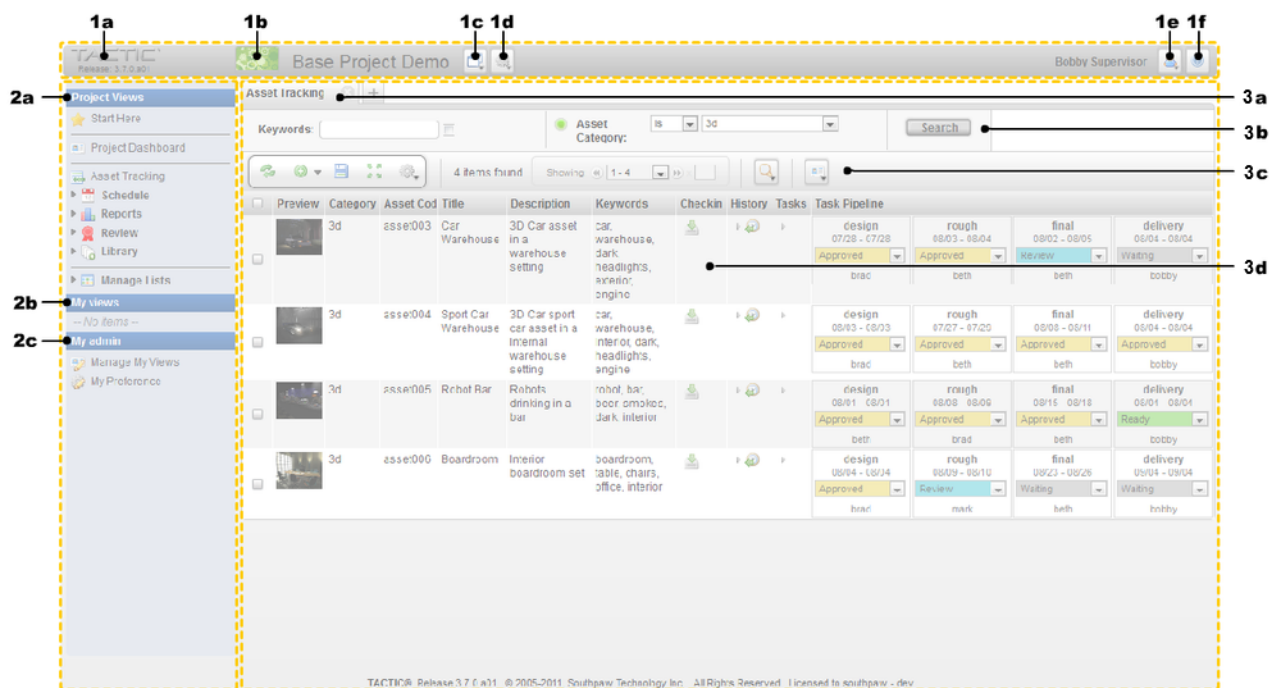
For certain transactions to occur between TACTIC and the client computer, Java will need to be installed. Currently TACTIC supports: Java JRE 1.6.0+

To download the Java Runtime application, please visit:

<http://www.java.com>

Interface Map

When you log in to TACTIC from your browser, you will see a window similar to the following image. This section describes some of the important parts of this window.



1 - Header

1a	Project Homepage Link	The project bar shows the TACTIC logo and release. This link will also direct you back to the project selection page.
1b	Project Thumbnail	This area shows the name of the project and thumbnail.
1c	Project Selection Menu	A drop down list to switch between projects.
1d	Main Action Menu	Main TACTIC Actions menu.
1e	User Menu	Allows for editing of basic user settings
1f	Main Help Link	Loads the Built in TACTIC Help (documentation, links etc)

2 - Sidebar

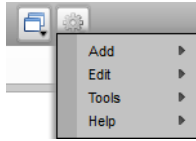
2a	Project Views	Project Views contains links to different views with information about the project as well as workflow.
2b	My Views	My views is a collection of views that are custom created by the login user for personal use.
2c	My Admin	My Admin displays the Tactic system, as well as the project and administration schema. Access to this part of the sidebar is generally reserved for admin level users.

3 - Main View Panel

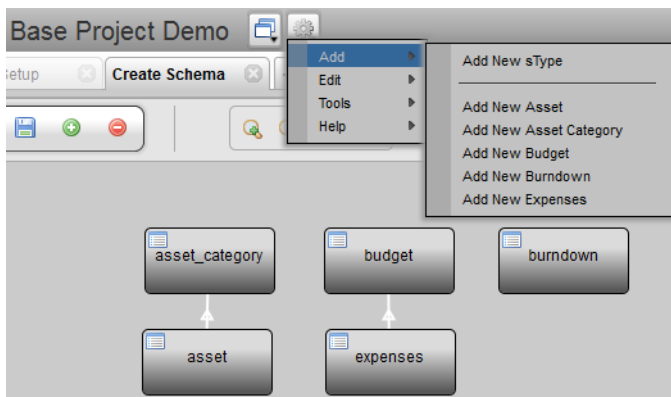
3a	Tabs	Tactic supports loading multiple tabs, similar to how web browsers handle tabs. Views can be loaded into tabs either automatically or through right-clicking on a link.
3b	Simple Search	In some views, a simple search will be included. The Simple Search option provides a quick and easy way to search specifically within the current view in use.
3c	View Toolbar	In some views, there will be tools which are specific to the view. For example, the "Table" view provides an array of tools for interaction with that table.
3d	Main Panel	The Main Panel is where the actual results of the view are displayed. This can be a table, tile tayout, dashboard etc.

TACTIC Gear Menus

Top Gear Menu



Add



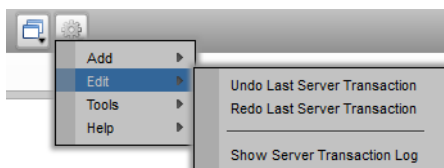
Add New sType

Add a new sType to the schema.

Add New <...existing sType from schema...>

Open a new tab and pop-up a window to insert a new item of the existing sType from the schema.

Edit



Undo Last Server Transaction

Undo the last transaction.

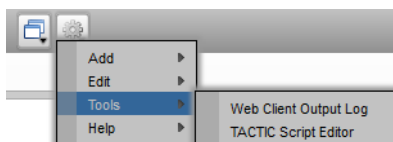
Redo Last Server Transaction

Redo the last transaction.

Show Server Transaction Log

Display the Transaction Log in a pop-up. The log holds all the transactions since the creation of the project.

Tools

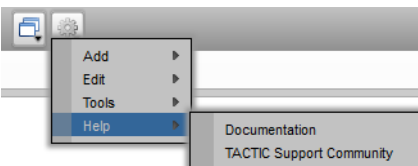


Web Client Output Log

Load the Web Client Output Log. This log details TACTIC output as well output from statements in scripts.

TACTIC Script Editor

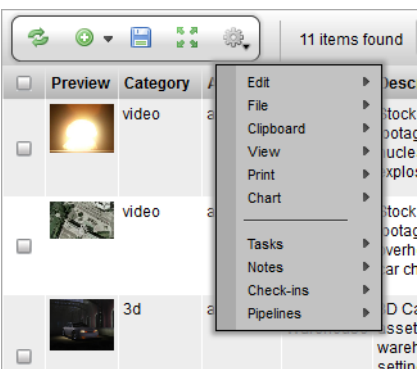
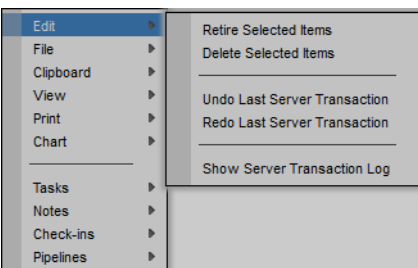
Load the TACTIC Script Editor pop-up.

Help**Documentation**

Open a new page to TACTIC's Documentation.

TACTIC Support Community

Open a new page to TACTIC's Support Site.

Gear Menu for the View**Edit****Retire Selected Items**

Retire the selected items. Retired items are hidden from the view, but not removed from the database.

Delete Selected Items

Delete the selected items. Deleted items are removed from the database and are no longer available.

Undo Last Server Transaction

Undo the last transaction

Redo Last Server Transaction

Redo the last transaction

Show Server Transaction Log

Load the TACTIC Transaction Log. The Transaction Log holds all the transactions since creation of project.

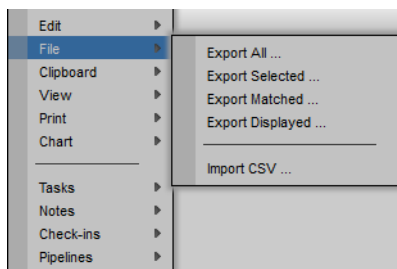
Add Tasks to Selected

Add tasks to the selected items.

Add Tasks to Matched

Add tasks to the matched items.

File

**Export All ...**

Export all of the item in the view.

Export Selected ...

Export all of the selected items in the view.

Export Matched ...

Export all of the Matched items in the view.

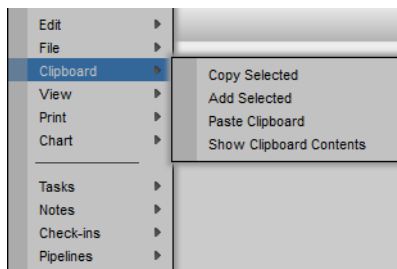
Export Displayed ...

Export all of the displayed items in the view.

Import CSV ...

Import a CSV file.

Clipboard

**Copy Selected**

Copy the item that is selected in the view (indicated with a check mark) to the clipboard.

Add Selected

Add the item that is selected in the view to the list of items already on the clipboard.

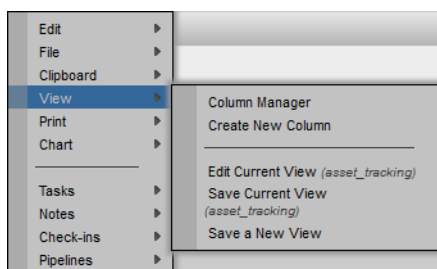
Paste Clipboard

Paste the items from the clipboard to the current view.

Show Clipboard Contents

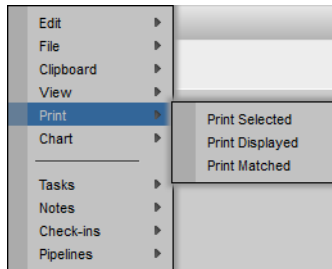
Display the contents of the clipboard in a pop-up window.

View



Column Manager	Pop-open the Column Manager.
Create New Column	Pop-open the Create New Column Window
Edit Current View	Edit the current view.
Save Current View	Save over the existing view with the current configuration.
Save a New View	Save the current view as a new view in the sidebar.

Print



Print Selected	Print all the selected items in the view.
Print Displayed	Print all the displayed items in the view.
Print Matched	Print all the matched items from the search criteria.

Chart

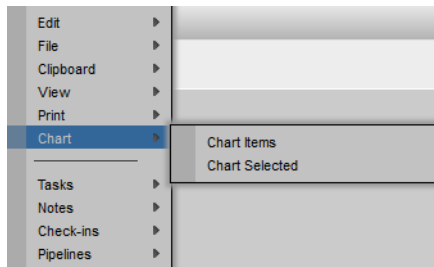
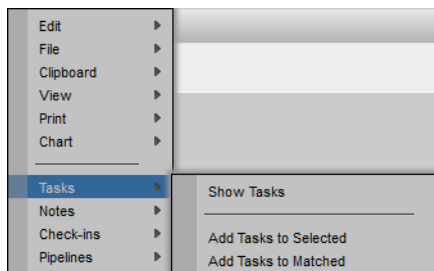


Chart Items	Create a chart of displayed view.
Chart Selected	Create a chart of the selected items.

Tasks



Show Tasks	Add the Task Edit column to the view.
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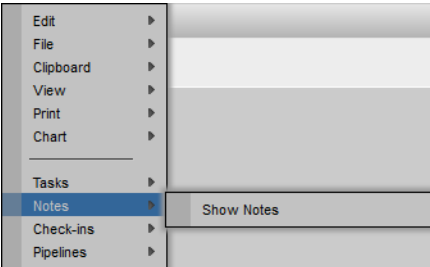
Add Tasks to Selected

For the items that are currently selected in the view, add tasks to them.

Add Tasks to Matched

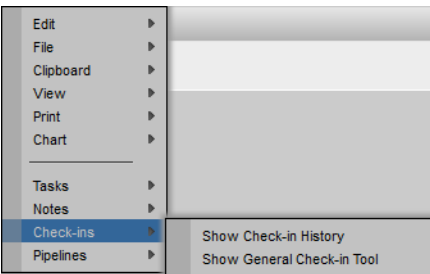
For all the items returned by the search, add tasks to them.

Notes

**Show Notes**

Add the Notes column to the view.

Check-ins

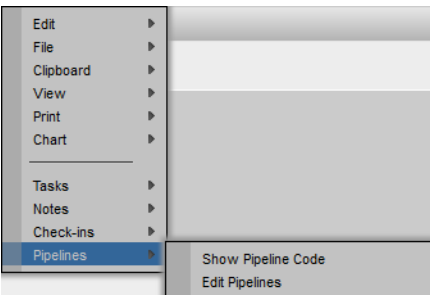
**Show Check-in History**

Add the Checkin History column to the view.

Show General Check-in Tool

Add the General Check-in Tool as a column to the view.

Pipelines

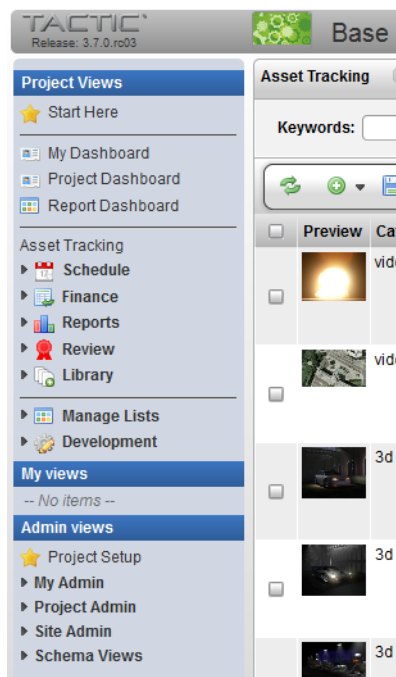
**Show Pipeline Code**

Add the Pipeline Code column to the view.

Edit Pipelines

Open the Workflow Editor in a new tab.

Sidebar



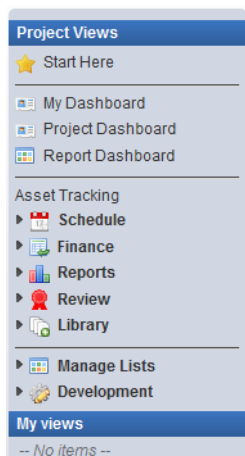
Description

The TACTIC sidebar is the main menu system for navigating through the views in the TACTIC Project. The access rules applied to a specific account determine the contents of the sidebar as well as which views are displayed when a user is logged in.

The items in the sidebar provide links to existing views within a project. These views are built by your organization's production manager based on a selection of columns (properties), layouts (order and column width) and a search. If a search view is available, it provides a dynamic report based on the definition of the search.

The sidebar is divided into three different categories, "Project Views", "My Views" and "Admin Views".

Project Views and My Views



The Project Views provides a way to save project wide views that everyone across the entire project would want to see. It also has a manageable list of custom user views.

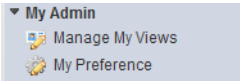
The Project Views can be defined by the person in the role of the project manager. Views can also be hidden from specific user groups.

My View contains a list of links to views that were created by the login user themselves. These usually are created by the user to cater to their own personal work flow.

Admin Views

Admin Views displays the project schema and the TACTIC system and administration schemas. Access to the Admin Views section of the sidebar is generally reserved for admin level users.

My Admin - My Admin holds views that will allow the users to manage My Views and My Preferences.

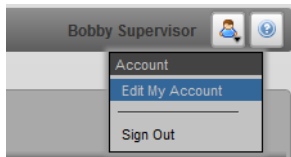


Manage My Views	Edits the views saved in the "My Views" section.
My Preference	Preferences include: Debug, Web Client Logging Level, Color Palette, Language, Quick Text for Note Sheet Thumbnail Size

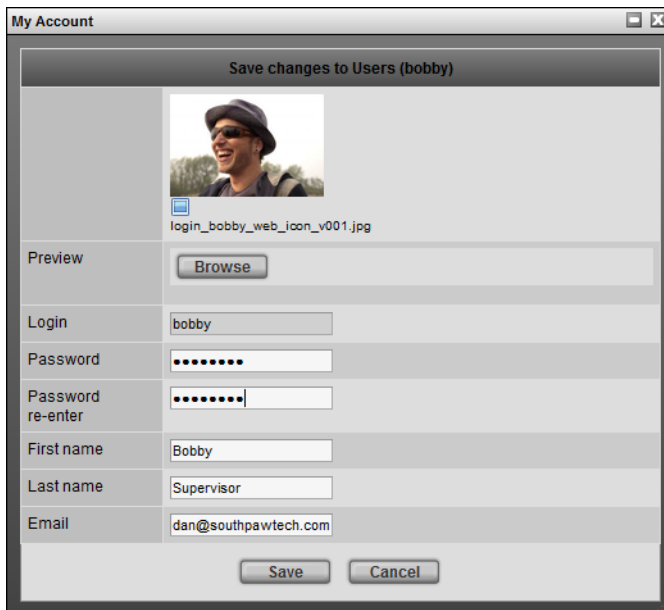
Preferences

How to Change Your Password

1. Log in and go to the top right hand corner of the screen. The name of the current user logged into TACTIC session is displayed here. Click on the button labelled "My Account". From the context menu, select "Edit My Account".



2. Type in the new password and re-confirm it in the following field.

A screenshot of the 'My Account' form. The window title is 'My Account'. Inside, there's a header 'Save changes to Users (bobby)'. Below this is a preview section showing a user profile picture (a man in a hat) and a 'Browse' button. The main form contains several input fields: 'Login' (bobby), 'Password' (masked with dots), 'Password re-enter' (masked with dots), 'First name' (Bobby), 'Last name' (Supervisor), and 'Email' (dan@southpawtech.com). At the bottom are 'Save' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Modify any other account information that needs to be updated and hit **Save**.

Interface Usage

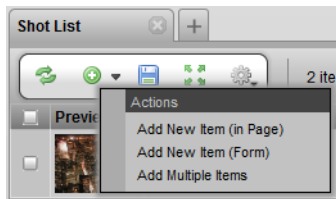
Insert

Introduction

TACTIC provides many ways to insert new items. For the beginner, insertion of a new item can be done through a form that guides you through each input field. For the more advanced user, insertion of an item can be done directly inline in the view. The various methods to insert items are described below.

The Insert Menu Options

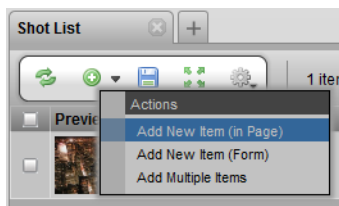
The insert button is on the tool shelf. It is the button with the green circle, with a white plus sign inscribed. Clicking on the button brings up a form to guide you through each input field. The down arrow triangle next to the button allows you to do the insert in different ways.



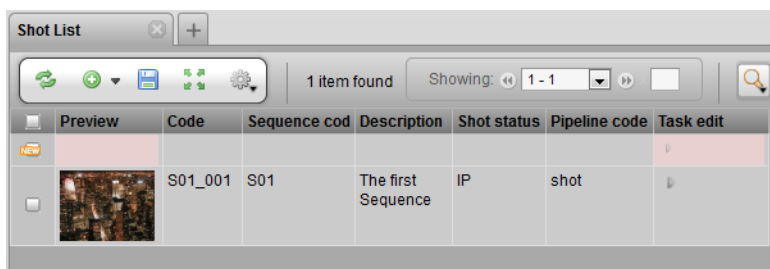
Each option of the Insert menu is described in detail below.

Add New Item (in Page)

This insert menu option adds a new row directly into the page that you are viewing. The advanced user would be more comfortable using this method.

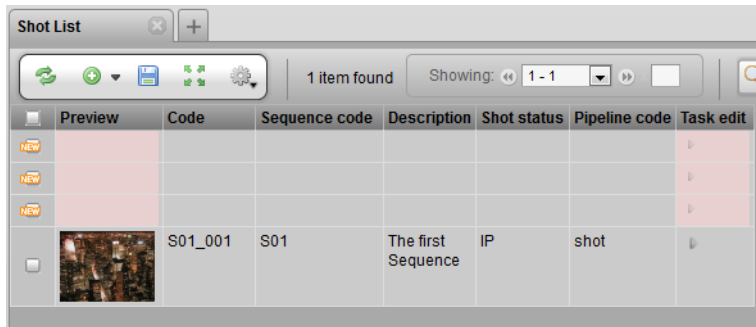


Once in this insert mode, refer to the column headers as a guideline as to the type of data to enter into the input field.



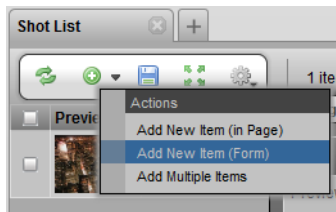
All input fields are optional. If no data is entered into an input field where one would be required, such as Code, an appropriate default will be automatically generated.

note: Hitting the green plus sign will insert multiple rows into the view. This facilitates inputting data for multiple new items quickly.



Add New Item (Form)

This menu option opens a window which guides you through the data to enter for each input field. This method of inserting an item is a good place to start for the beginner.

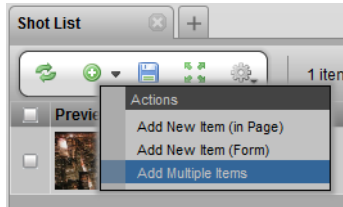


Once the insertion form pops up, the description on the left hand side can be used as a guide as to the type of data to enter into the input field.

All input fields are optional. If no data is entered into an input field where one would be required, such as Code, an appropriate default will be automatically generated.

Add Multiple Items

This menu option opens Multi-Insert the pop window.



The Multi-Insert pop-up window, allows you to add the same item multiple times.

A screenshot of the 'Multi-Insert' dialog box. The dialog has a title bar with a close button. The main area is titled 'Add new item to Shot'. Below the title, it says 'Specify the number of items that will be added with this form:'. There is a text input field labeled '# of new items to add:'. Below this is a 'Preview' section with a 'Browse' button. There are several other input fields: 'Code (optional)' with a text box and a help icon, 'Sequence code' with a dropdown menu showing '- Select -', 'Description' with a large text area, 'Shot status' with a text box, and 'Pipeline code' with a dropdown menu showing '-- Default --'. At the bottom, there are 'Insert' and 'Cancel' buttons.

The most important value that must be entered is one for the Multiplier field.

The number entered into the Multiplier box determines how many items that will be created.

Sequence code will determine which sequence the items will be placed under.

The Code value will be incremented by the value that is entered into the Multiplier.

**Note - The value for Code must start with a letter.*

All the other values are optional.

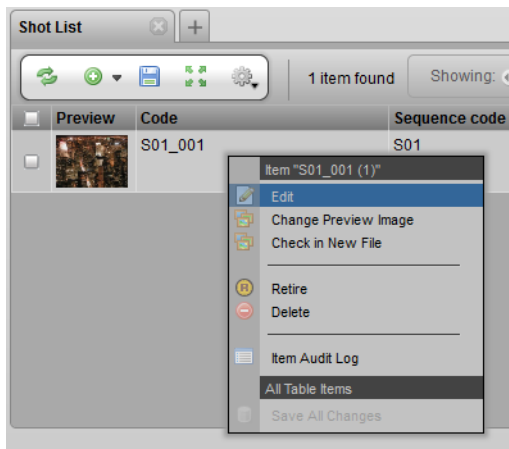
Edit

Introduction

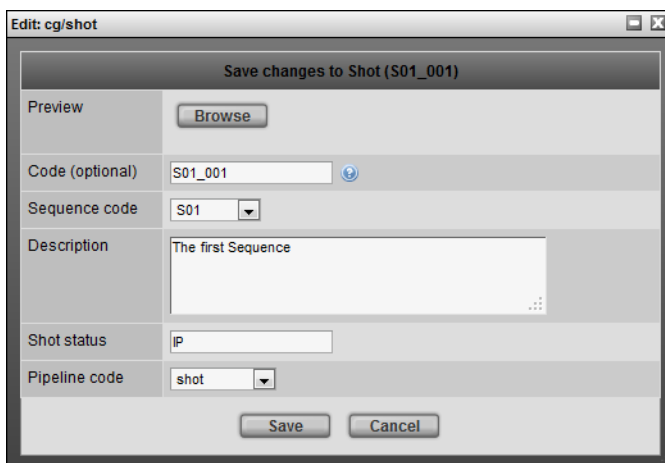
The following describes how to edit the data in various views of TACTIC.

Editing Using a Form

To edit a row of data, right click anywhere on the row and select "Edit" from the context menu.



A form pop-up to edit the data will appear. The description on the left side indicates what data to enter into the input fields.

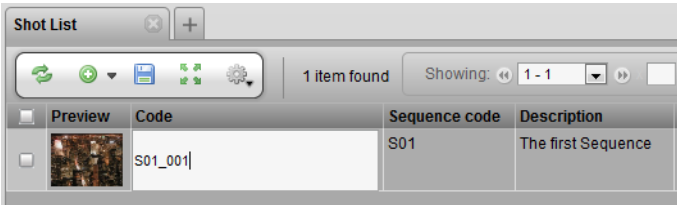


Editing Inline

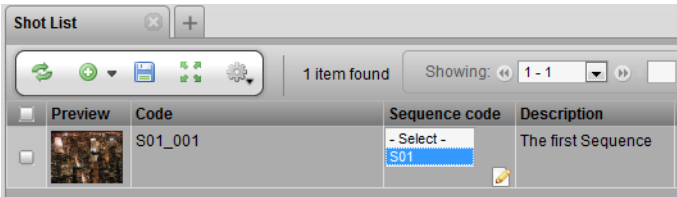
Clicking on a field within the row allows editability only if edit mode for that column is enabled.

Below is a few examples of edit modes for the various widgets:

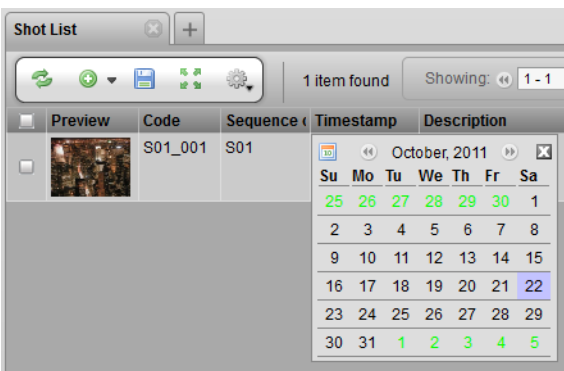
The edit mode for the Text Widget is most common. This widget allows keyboard entries into editable fields.



The edit mode for the Selection Widget is displayed below. The widget restricts your input choices to the options in the drop down selection menu.

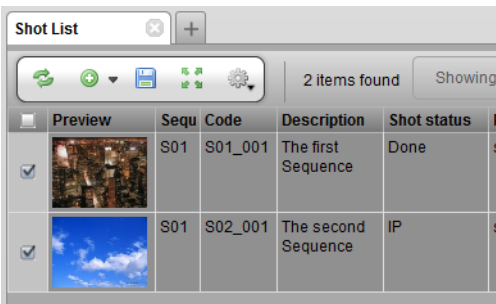


The edit mode for the Calendar Widget is displayed below. The Calendar widget pops-up a monthly calendar for convenient date selection.

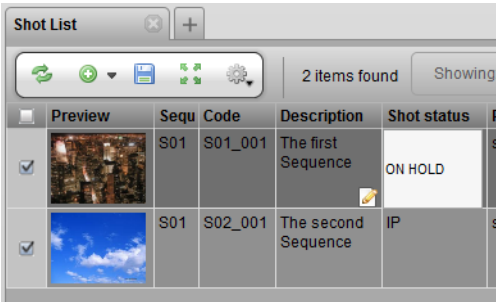


Multi-Edit

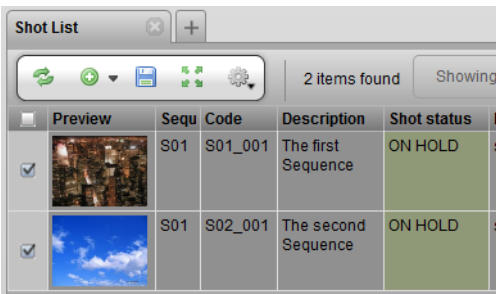
To modify the more than row so that they all have the same data, first check mark the rows to be edited.



Left click on a cell in the column to be edited. The row will go into edit mode.



Once the text is entered, click off the cell. All cells selected will have the same data.



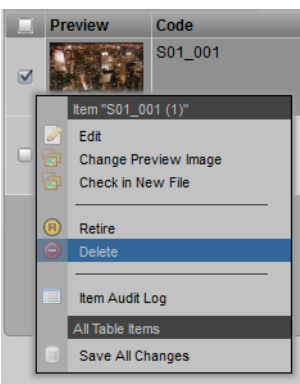
Delete and Retire

Introduction

TACTIC provides many ways to delete and retire items directly from the view. Retiring is TACTIC's way of marking an item so that it does not appear in any searches, but allows the user to bring it back if necessary. The methods to delete and retire an item are described below.

Deleting from the Context Menu

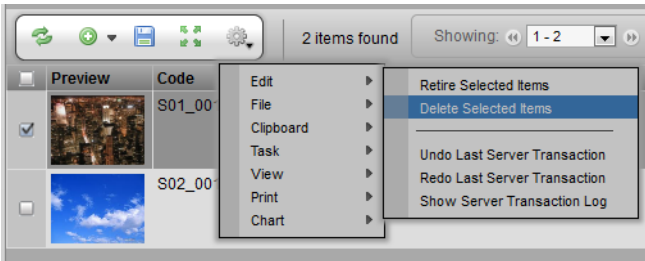
To delete an item from the view, first put a check mark in the box next to the item you want deleted. Then, right click anywhere on the row to bring up the context menu. Selecting the "Delete" option will delete the object from the view and from the database.



Deleting from the Gear Menu

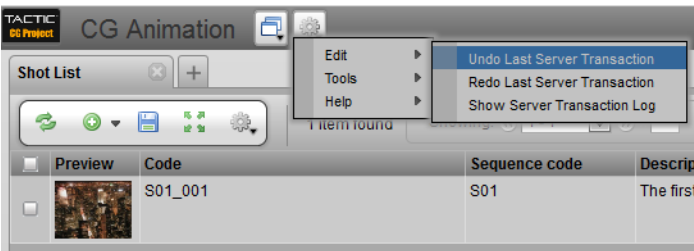
Alternatively, the gear menu can be used to delete an item from a view.

1. Put a check mark in the box next to the item.
2. In the tool shelf and click on the gear to bring up the gear menu.
3. Selecting the "Delete" option will delete the object from the view and from the database.



Note

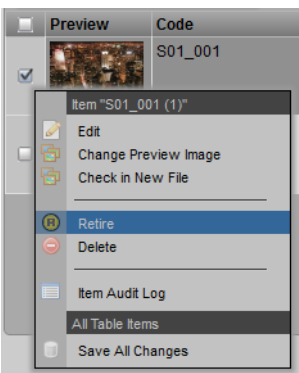
If an item is deleted by mistake, to undo this action, go to the top gear menu, select Edit -> Undo Last Server Transaction.



Retiring from the Context Menu

To mark an item as "Retired", first put a check mark in the box next to the item. Then, right click anywhere on the row to bring up the context menu. Selecting the "Retire" option will mark the object as retired and filter it out from the view.

note: Items will still exist and can be brought back. The next section will shows how to view items that have been marked as "Retired".



Retiring from the Gear Menu

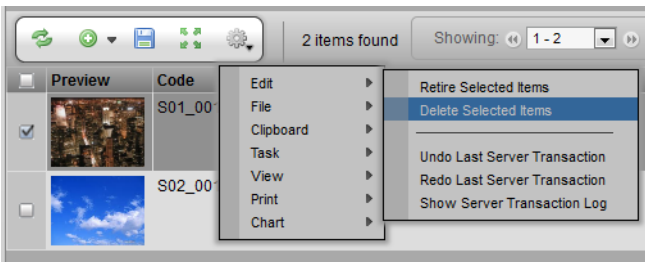
To retire an item from the view using the gear menu:

1. Put a check mark in the box next to the item.
2. In the tool shelf and click on the gear to bring up the gear menu.
3. Selecting the "Retire" option will mark the object as retired and filter it out from the view



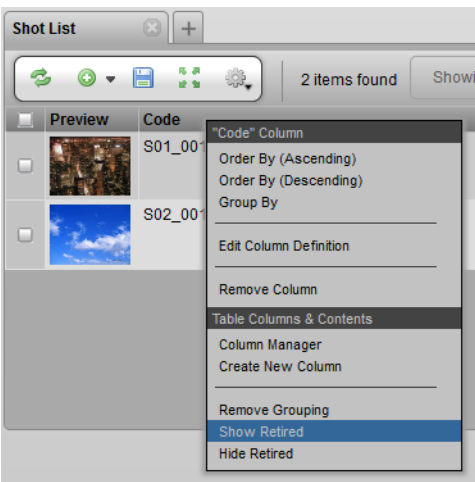
Note

The item will still exist and can be brought back. The next section will shows how to view items that have been marked as "Retired".



Showing Retired Items

When an item is "retired", it has simply been marked as "retired" in the database. The item still exists in the database and can be brought back. To show items that have been retired in a view, go to any column header and right click. This will bring up a context menu. Select "Show Retired".

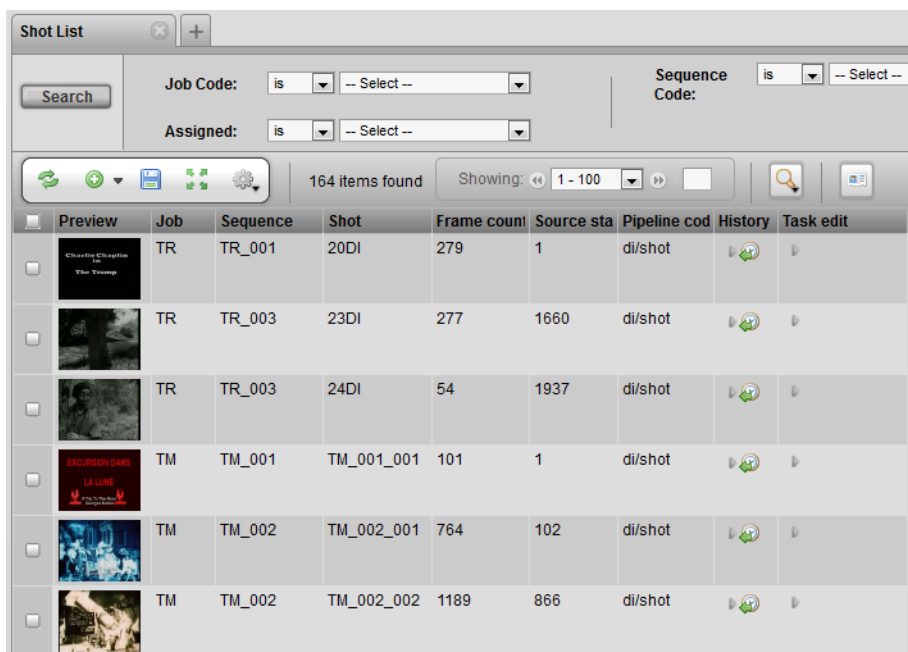


Note

The items marked as "retired" appear highlighted in red.

	Preview	Code	Sequence code
<input type="checkbox"/>		S01_001	S01
<input type="checkbox"/>		S02_001	S01

Creating and Editing Views



TACTIC provides the following configuration display options when creating or editing a view:

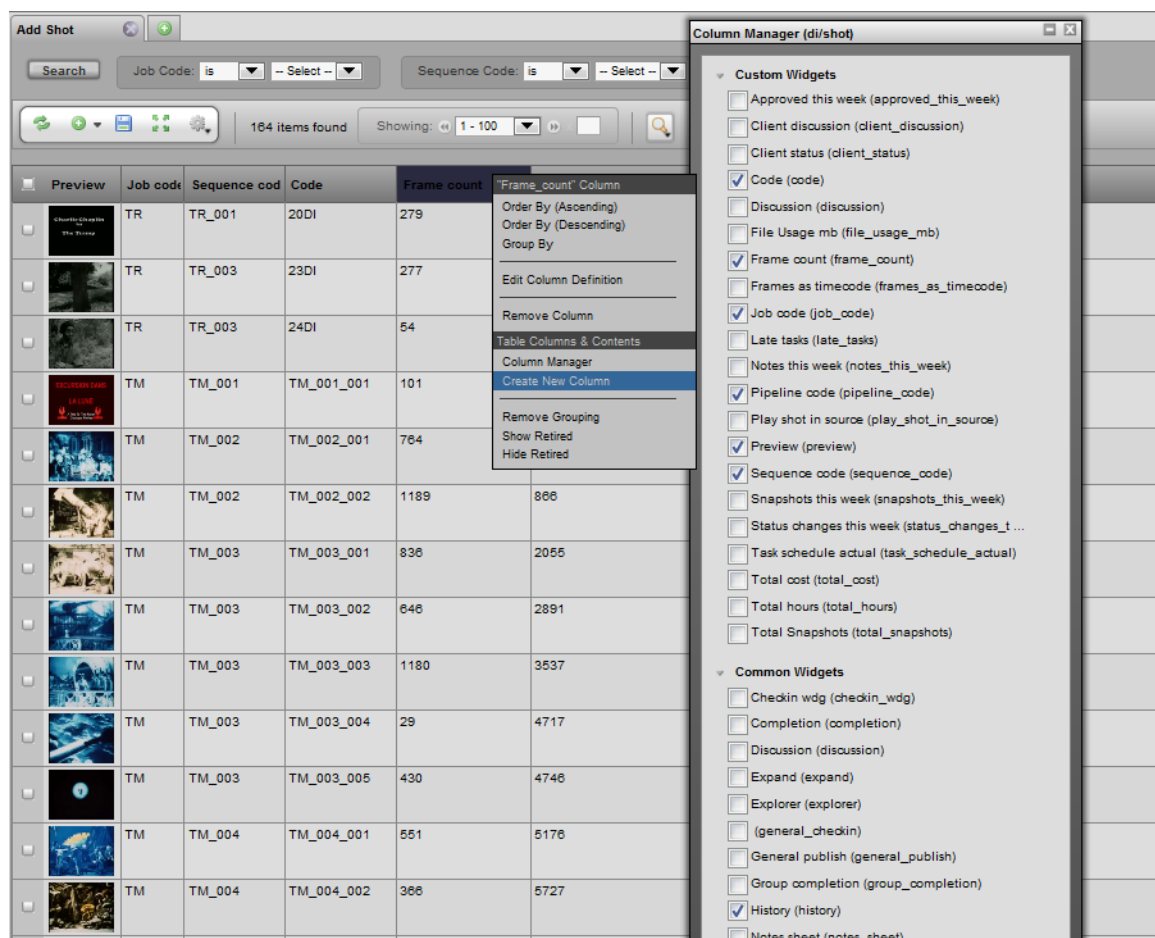
- Which columns are part of the view
- The order of the columns
- The width of each column
- The Grouping of the items
- The Search which has been applied to the view

In TACTIC, there are 2 main distinctions between the types of views **Project Views** and **My Views**. These are presented in 2 sections within the main sidebar.

- **Project Views** - Project views are presented to all users in the production and/or can be hidden based on group access rules. Project views are also generally only created by the project manager and the ability to save and modify them can also be blocked with group access rules.
- **My Views** - My views are views saved per user. It allows for saving of personal views outside of the project views. These will only be available to the user who created them.

Adding Columns

To add a column, right-click on any column header in the view.



Select the Column Manager

In the column manager, selecting columns will add them to them current view. The sections in the column manager are as follows:

- **Custom Widgets** - These are the custom widgets which have been defined for the current type. These represent both changes to information (i.e.. switching a code) as well as tools which represent certain actions for that type (i.e.. a button which loads the asset into an application)
- **Common Widgets** - These widgets are similar to the ones above but, are common to all types in TACTIC. They are tools which are generally universal.
- **Raw Database Columns** - These are the raw data (property) columns which exist for the type. Generally, each is represented by a Property Column but, this allows adding of the data in its raw format. For example, a task has 'start_date' and 'end_date' database columns but, there may be a 'schedule' column which displays the start_date and end_date together in a calendar widget.

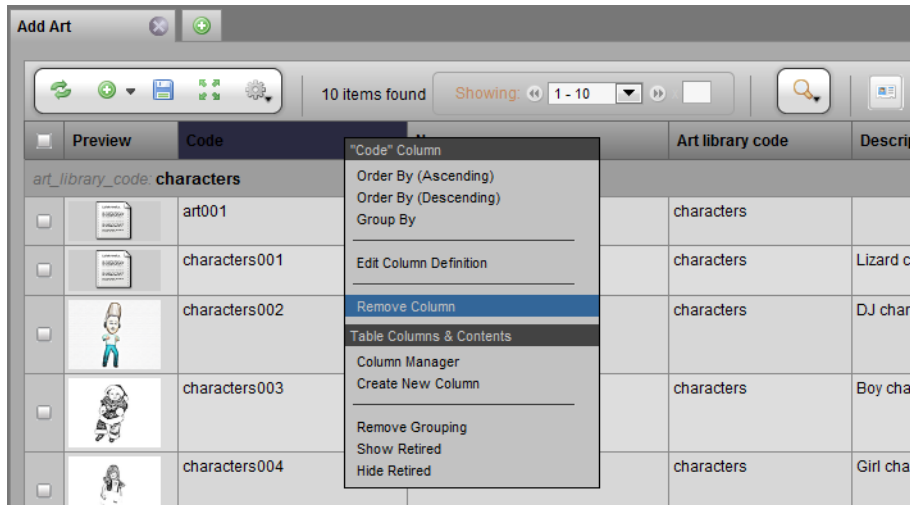


Note

Certain widgets require Java to be started up so, it can take a few seconds for the selected column to actually appear in the view. When finished, click the close button.

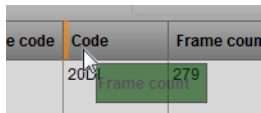
Removing Columns

To remove a column from the current view, left click in the column header for the column to be removed and choose **Remove Column**. Columns can also be removed through deselecting them in the column manager.



Ordering Columns

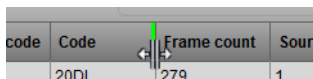
To re-order columns, click and drag a column in the header to the desired location in the view. As the column header is dragged to the left or the right, an orange bar will appear between the columns indicating where the column appear if the mouse button is released.



Resize Columns

To resize a column width, hover the pointer over the divider between the column headers and the mouse pointer will change to a width adjuster.

Left click and drag the width adjuster to change the width of the column.



Grouping

Some columns in TACTIC contain categorical data. Some examples include 'status', 'parent', 'assigned user' columns. These columns can be grouped.

For example, grouping by the Assigned User column displays the items in groups by each user.

Parent	Process	Status	Assigned	Prior	Notes art	Snapshots art	Work Hours	2011
assigned: brad								
vehicles002	colour	approved	brad					Dec 22 Dec 26
characters001	colour	approved	brad					Jan 28 Jan 31
environments002	colour	assigned	brad					Dec 20 Dec 26
assigned: jimmy								
vehicles001	delivery	Review	jimmy					Feb 01 Feb 01
vehicles002	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Feb 01 Feb 01
characters001	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Mar 05 Mar 05
characters002	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Mar 05 Mar 05
characters003	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Mar 05 Mar 05
characters004	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Mar 05 Mar 05
environments001	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Jan 22 Jan 22
environments002	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Jan 22 Jan 22
art001	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Mar 07 Mar 07
env003	delivery	assigned	jimmy					Jan 22 Jan 22
assigned: mark								
vehicles001	colour	approved	mark					Dec 17 Dec 20
vehicles001	rough	approved	mark					Dec 13 Dec 15
vehicles002	rough	approved	mark					Dec 21 Dec 22
characters001	rough	approved	mark					Jan 24 Jan 24

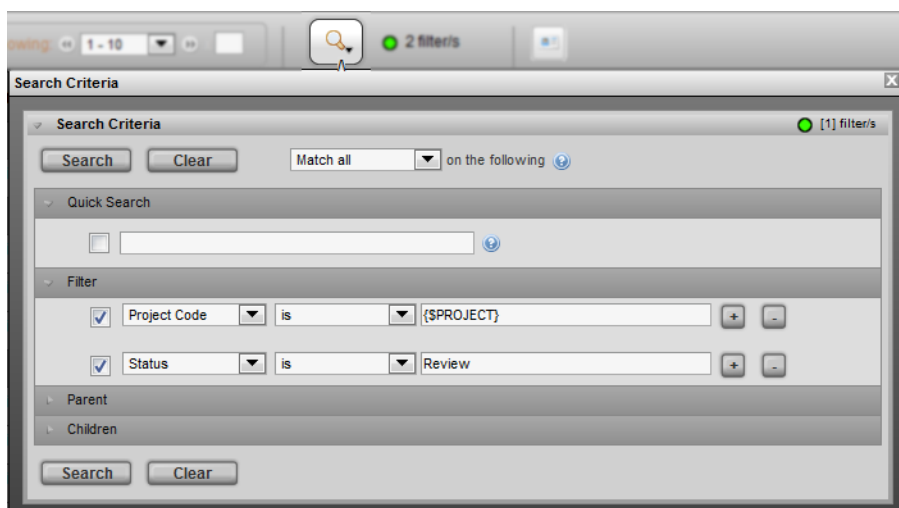
To apply grouping to a view, left click on the column header to be grouped and choose **Group By**

Parent	Process	Status	Assigned	Prior	Notes art	Snapshots art	Work Hours
vehicles001	rough	approved	mark				
vehicles001	colour	approved	mark				
vehicles001	delivery	Review	jimmy				
vehicles002	rough	approved	mark				
vehicles002	colour	approved	brad				
vehicles002	delivery	assigned	jimmy				
characters001	rough	approved	mark				
characters001	colour	approved	brad				
characters001	delivery	assigned	jimmy				
characters002	rough	approved	mark				

Search

The Search Tool is used as a filter to only display items which match a certain criteria. This allows the results in the view to be narrowed down. When a view is saved, the search criteria is saved with the view which causes the view to become a live report as each time the view is loaded the search filter will be applied to the live data.

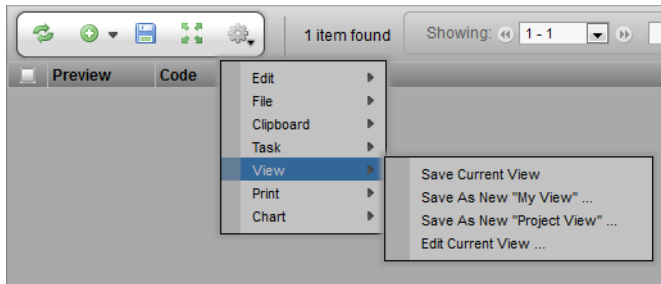
For example, if a search filter is created which shows only items which have a child task with the status "Review", the view will provide a report of all items which need to be reviewed. When the status of these tasks are changed, the items will be filtered out and no longer appear in the view.



10 items found Showing 1 - 10 2 filter/s									
Parent	Process	Status	Assigned	Prior	Notes art	Snapshots art	Work Hours	2011	
assigned: brad									Dec: 41Wk 43Wk 54Wk 5 1Wk 53Wk 6 1Wk 03Wk 03Wk 04Wk 05Wk 06Wk 03Wk 05Wk 16Wk 1 1Wk 13Wk 14Wk
characters001	colour	Review	brad					Jan 28	Jan 31
assigned: jimmy									
vehicles001	delivery	Review	jimmy					Feb 01	Feb 01
characters001	delivery	Review	jimmy						Mar 05 Mar 05
environments002	delivery	Review	jimmy					Jan 22	Jan 22
assigned: mark									
vehicles001	colour	Review	mark					Dec 17	Dec 20
characters001	rough	Review	mark					Jan 24	Jan 24
characters004	rough	Review	mark	3				Jan 28	Jan 28
environments002	rough	Review	mark					Dec 28	Dec 31
art001	colour	Review	mark	5					Feb 28 Mar 01
env003	rough	Review	mark	5				Dec 28	Jan 18

Saving the View

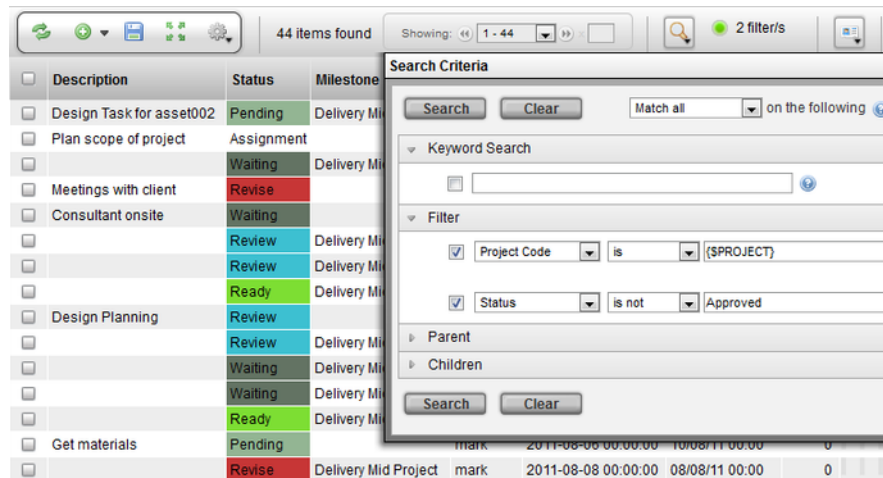
After the display of the view have been configured, to save the view, go to the **gear menu** under **View**. The options are described below.



- **Save Current View** - Saves over the existing view. (Available only to users with access to save project views. Otherwise, it will save a new My View)
- **Save As New "My View"** - Saves the view to the user's personal My Views. (Available only to users who can create views)
- **Save As New "Project View"** - Save a new project view which will be available to all users. (Available only to users with the appropriate access.)
- **Edit Current View** - Opens up a pop-up window to edit the table and the columns.

Searching

Search Interface

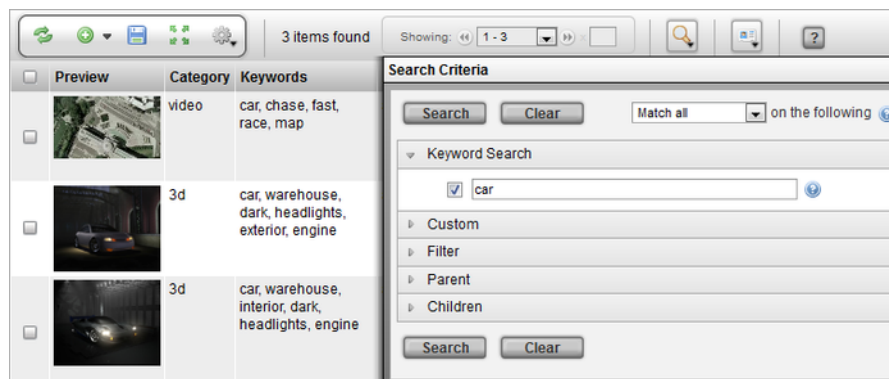


Description

The TACTIC Search Box is used to build filters to refine the results in the view. A variety of search filters can be constructed, ranging from simple column searches to large complex compound searches. The creation of search filters closely resembles that of creating mail filters in a mail application. Each search filter plays a role in the outcome of the final results. The Search Box is flexible enough to handle any kind of search.

Keyword Search

Open the Search Criteria by clicking the  1 filter/s button on the tool shelf.



The keyword search section allows for creation of a search filter to search on the words found in the column named **keywords**. These keywords must be manually inputted and updated.

Filter

The Filter section allows for the creation and activation of search filters. Each search filter operates on one attribute on that sType. These searches use standard text search logic and supports TACTIC's expression language.

The **Clear** button clears out all the data in all the search filters: resets the drop down selection boxes and clears out the input search criteria box.

Parent Search

Preview	Category	Title
	video	Nuclear Explosion
	video	Car Chase
NO PREVIEW	video	Scene 22

The screenshot shows the 'Search Criteria' dialog box. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, and a dropdown menu set to 'Match all' with a plus icon. Below this, there are expandable sections: 'Keyword Search', 'Custom', 'Filter', and 'Parent'. The 'Parent' section is expanded, showing a search criterion: a checked checkbox, a dropdown menu with 'asset_category', a minus sign, a dropdown menu with 'Code', the word 'is', another dropdown menu with 'video', and a text input field containing 'video'. Below the 'Parent' section is the 'Children' section, which is currently collapsed. At the bottom of the dialog are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.

A search can be based on any property of a parent search type. For example, if `asset_category` is the parent type then a search can be made based on the properties of the parent. For example, a filter can be created on the parent (`asset_category`) where the code is "video".

Children Search

The screenshot shows the 'Search Criteria' dialog box. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, and a dropdown menu set to 'Match all' with a plus icon. Below this, there are expandable sections: 'Keyword Search', 'Filter', 'Parent', and 'Children'. The 'Children' section is expanded, showing a search criterion: a checked checkbox, a dropdown menu with 'task', a minus sign, a dropdown menu with 'Priority', the text 'is greater than', a dropdown menu with '3', and a text input field containing '3'. To the right of the input field are '+' and '-' buttons. Below the 'Children' section is the 'Parent' section, which is currently collapsed. At the bottom of the dialog are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.

The Children search filter allows refining based on data in columns in the children. For example, a filter can be created to find all tasks where the priority is greater than 3.

Matching and Compound Searches

Click the [+] icon beside a search parameter to add additional search definitions.

The screenshot shows the 'Search Criteria' dialog box. At the top, there are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons, and a dropdown menu set to 'Match all' with a plus icon. Below this, there are expandable sections: 'Keyword Search', 'Filter', 'Parent', and 'Children'. The 'Filter' section is expanded, showing three search criteria:

- Checked checkbox, dropdown menu with 'Project Code', 'is', dropdown menu with '{ \$PROJECT }', and a text input field.
- Checked checkbox, dropdown menu with '-- Attribute --', 'is', dropdown menu with an empty field, and a text input field.
- Checked checkbox, dropdown menu with '-- Attribute --', 'is', dropdown menu with an empty field, and a text input field.

 To the right of each criterion are '+' and '-' buttons. Below the 'Filter' section is the 'Parent' section, which is collapsed and has an 'Add Filter' button next to it. Below the 'Parent' section is the 'Children' section, which is also collapsed. At the bottom of the dialog are 'Search' and 'Clear' buttons.

The drop down selection box at the top of the search box can be used to set up the search to be match open (matching **any** of the definitions) or match specific (matching **all** of the definitions). The default match option is "Match all".

Search Criteria

Search Clear Compound search on the following

Keyword Search

Filter

☒ Process is Lighting + -

and

☒ Process is Compositing + -

Click to switch between 'and'/'or'. Shift-Click to switch between logical levels

Parent

Children

Search Clear

Compound Search gives the capability to set an **AND** or an **OR** option for filters. The default compound search option is "AND".

To switch the compound search option, select "Compound Search" from the drop down selection box at the top, add a new search filter, click on the word "and" that appears between the search filters to toggle it to "or".

Search Criteria

Search Clear Compound search on the following

Keyword Search

Filter

☒ Process is Lighting + -

and

☒ Process is Compositing + -

Click to switch between 'and'/'or'. Shift-Click to switch between logical levels

Parent

Children

Search Clear

Operators

Search Criteria

Search Clear Compound search on the following

Keyword Search

Filter

☒ Process is Compositing + -

is

- is
- is not
- contains
- does not contain
- is empty
- is not empty
- starts with
- ends with
- in
- not in
- is distinct

Parent

Children

Search Clear

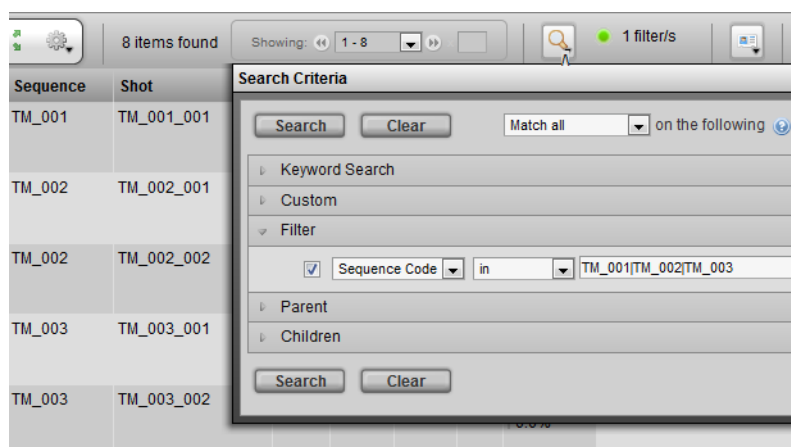
is	Finds an exact match. eg. Process "is" Compositing
is not	Finds all the results that do not match exactly. eg. Process "is not" Compositing
contains	Does a partial match. eg. Process "contains" ompost

does not contain	Finds all the results that do not match a partial match.
is empty	Match the empty field.
starts with	Match on the beginning part of the string. eg. Process "starts with" Comp
ends with	Match the ending part of the string. eg. Process "ends with" ing
in	Match any of the strings delimited by " ". eg Process "in" Compositing Lighting
not in	Find all the results that do not match the strings delimited by " ".
is distinct	Skip duplicates. eg. Sequence "is distinct".

The "In" Operator

It is possible to search for items in a list using a simple text string with a "|" operator. For example, search for either "TM_001" or "TM_002" or "TM_003":

```
Sequence code [in] "TM_001|TM_002|TM_003"
```



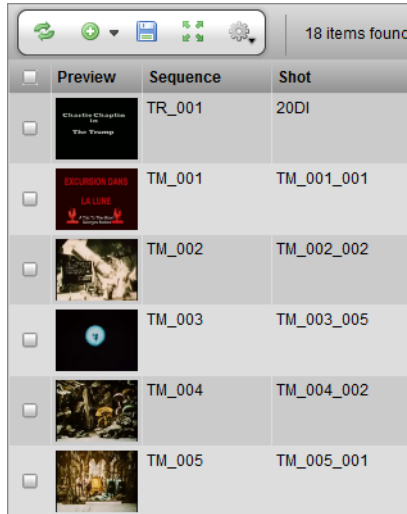
The vertical bar (a logical "or") is a delimiter that specifies that the search should look for any item with the code "TM_001" or "TM_002" or "TM_003".

To switch the compound search option, select "Compound Search" from the drop down selection box at the top, add a new search filter, click on the word "and" that appears between the search filters to toggle it to "or".

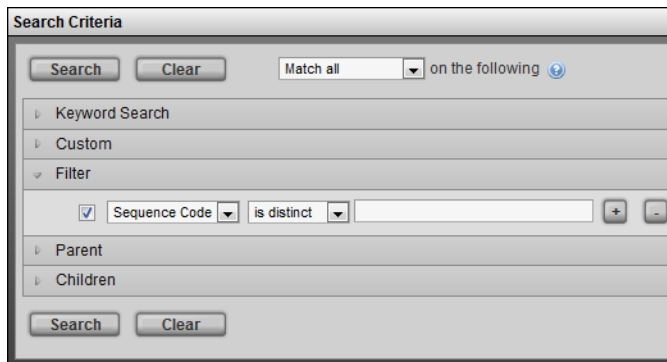
The "Is Distinct" Operator

This operator filters out items with the same column value. ie. The results will only contain items that have a distinct entry in that column.

```
Sequence code [is distinct]
```



Preview	Sequence	Shot
	TR_001	20DI
	TM_001	TM_001_001
	TM_002	TM_002_002
	TM_003	TM_003_005
	TM_004	TM_004_002
	TM_005	TM_005_001



Search Criteria

Search Clear Match all on the following

Keyword Search

Custom

Filter

☒ Sequence Code is distinct

Parent

Children

Search Clear

note: there is no need to put any criteria in the box when using the operator **is distinct**

Saving Searches

When saving a view as either "Project View" or "My View", the search filters are also saved with the view. Once the view is saved, the next time the view is opened, the search filters will be applied. This makes saving a view essentially like generating a report with a predefined set of criteria.

Compound Searching

For some searches, the search filters need to be grouped and evaluated in a specific order, in order to achieve the desired expression. Although not always necessary, this type of "compound" search is useful when complex filtering is required. Generally, compound searches involve the ability to evaluate a search expression similar to the following example:

```
[A or B] and [C or D or E]
```

Here is an example of a compound search on tasks:

```
[project, is, "{$PROJECT}"]
and
[assigned is, "{$LOGIN}"]
and
[status, is "Approved"]
or
[status, is "Review"]
```

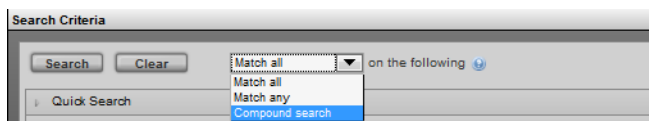
This search can be phrased as: "Find all tasks from the current project, assigned to the current user with a status of Approved or Review".



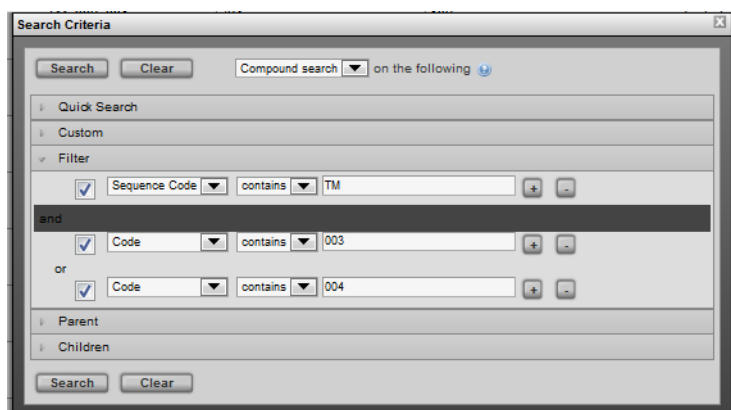
Note

\$PROJECT and \$LOGIN are used as variables in the search that are dynamic based on the environment.

To do this type of search in TACTIC, in the Search Box, set the "Match" option to **Compound Search**:



In this search mode, the choice of filters are all "**and**" or all "**or**". Groups of searches can be created by SHIFT-clicking on a particular "**and**" or "**or**" between the search filters.



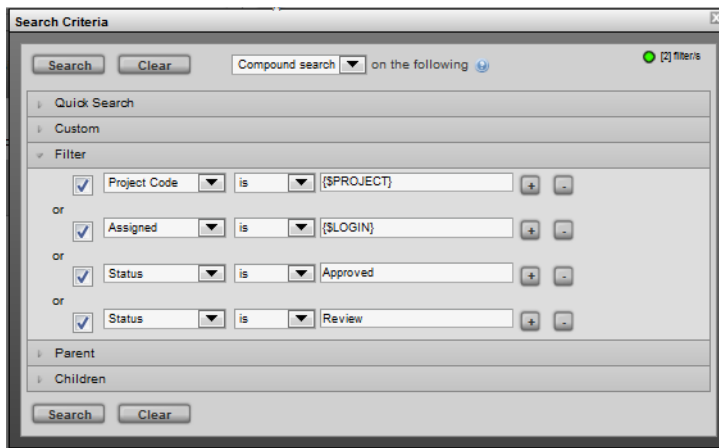
Example

To create the example above:

1. Load a view of tasks and set the search match setting to "Compound Search"

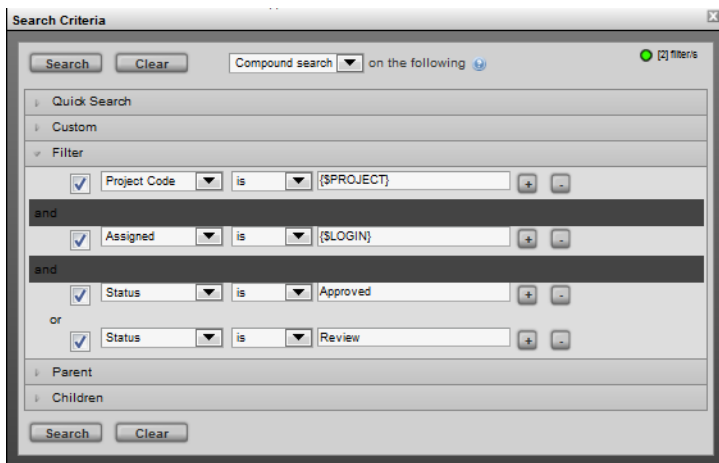
2. Add the following Filters

- project_code, is, "\${PROJECT}"
- assigned, is, "\${LOGIN}"
- status, is, "Approved"
- status, is, "Review"



3. Now click the and/or to toggle all to "and"

4. next SHIFT-Click on the "and" after the first and second filters.



5. In the new group, click the and/or to toggle to "or"

6. Run the search.

Expression Searching

Expression values

The search criteria input for search filters can be TACTIC expressions. To signify to TACTIC that a search criteria is an expression, wrap the expression in curly braces {}. This signifies to the search engine to evaluate the value as an expression before sending it to the search.

Having the search criteria be a TACTIC expression allows for many uses of predefined variables in the expression language.

For example, the following will search for all tasks for this week based on a Sunday to Sunday work week.

```
timestamp "is after" "{ $PREV_SUNDAY }"  
timestamp "is before" "{ $NEXT_SUNDAY }"
```

Here is the TACTIC expression to find all of the checkins that have occurred this month:

```
timestamp "is after" "{ $THIS_MONTH }"
```

Here is the TACTIC expression to find all the tasks for the current project:

```
project_code "is" "{ $PROJECT }"
```

Note: the curly braces {} around these predefined variables are not needed in the expression mode described below.

Full Expression searches

Full expressions searches are an advanced way of searching for results. For each column, there is an "***expression" option. This option provides the ability to use the full power of the expression language within a search that are beyond the capabilities of the search user interface.

The full expression executes an evaluation on this expression then relates the results to the main search. Careful consideration must be take to refine an expressions so that is as efficient as possible.

For example, search for all of the assets that have model tasks:

```
@SUBJECT(sthpw/task['context','model'])
```

This search will first execute a search of all of the tasks that have model. Note that this does a search on all of the modelling tasks. With a large number of tasks, this operation can be heavy. Care must be taken to minimize the results of the expression. One way to make the search more efficient is limit the search to just that of the current project:

```
@SUBJECT(sthpw/task['project_code',$PROJECT]['context','model'])
```

The expressions can be combined with other filters in any combination so that very complex searches can be achieved.

For example, another more complex search is to find all items with a modelling task assigned to someone in the "toronto" location (assuming there is a custom property on the login table), we can use:

```
@SUBJECT(sthpw/login['location','toronto'].sthpw/task['project_code',$PROJECT]  
['context','model'])
```

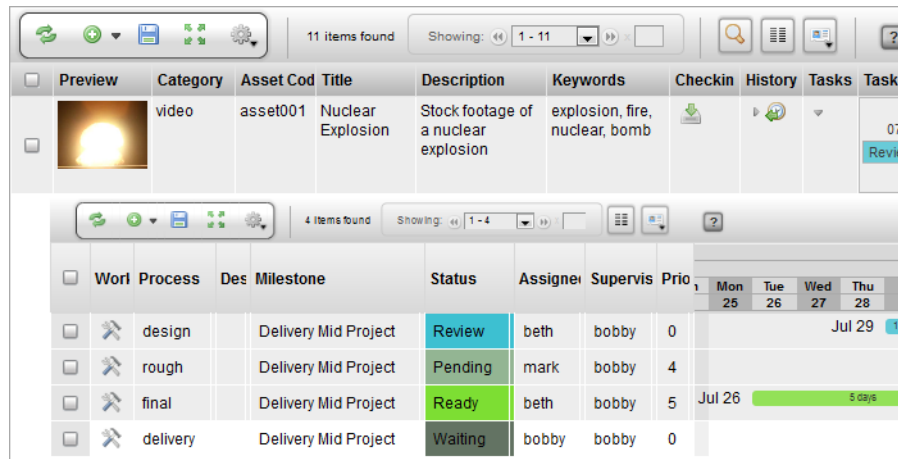
This works because tasks (sthpw/task) and logins (sthpw/login) are connected through each other through the "assigned" column in the task table and "login" column in the login table.

There are 4 modes available to the expression search: "have", "do not have", "match", "do not match". These four searches can be applied to the Shot List page.

1. Results "have" "@OBJECT(sthpw/task)" will show all items that have tasks in them. This mode must return items in the expression.
2. Results "do not have" "@OBJECT(sthpw/task['context','model'])" will show all items that do not have modelling tasks. This mode must return items in the expression.
3. Results "match" "@COUNT(sthpw/snapshot['context','model']) > 3" will show all items that have more than 3 snapshots. This mode must return True or False in the expression.
4. Results "do not match" "@COUNT(sthpw/snapshot['context','model']) == 0" will show all items that do not match the condition where model snapshot count is 0. In other words, it means there is at least 1 or more model check-in for the shot. This mode must return True or False in the expression.

Tasks and Schedules

Creating Tasks

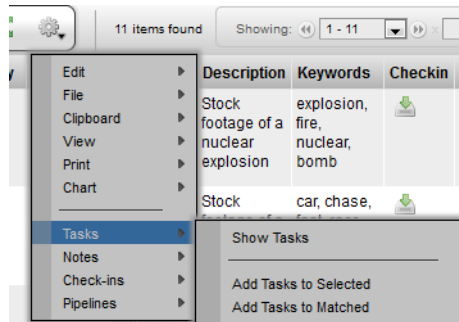


Insert/Edit Tasks

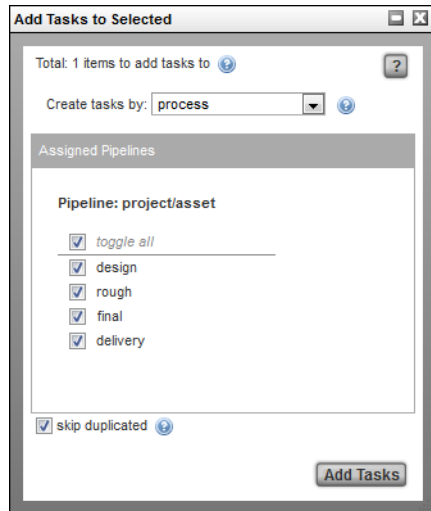
There is more than one way to create new tasks. The following describes explains each way.

Task Menu

Select the item to add tasks to. Then, go to the Gear menu for the view and select **Tasks -> Add Tasks To Selected**.



Check mark the processes to add the task to and then hit **Add Tasks**.

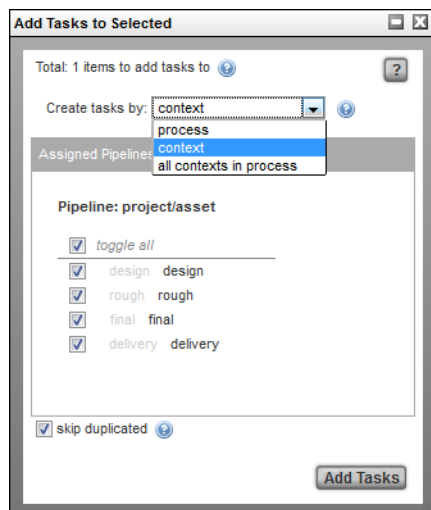


The **skip duplicated** option skips adding a task that has already been created for that process e.g. if only a task for design has already been created.

Notice the new tasks added to the Task Pipeline column:

Task Pipeline			
design 07/29 - 07/29 Review beth	rough 08/01 - 08/02 Waiting mark	final 07/26 - 07/30 Waiting beth	delivery 08/04 - 08/04 Waiting bobby
design 07/18 - 07/23 Pending beth	rough 08/01 - 08/02 Approved brad	final 08/10 - 08/13 Approved brad	delivery 08/04 - 08/04 Approved bobby
design 07/28 - 07/28 Review brad	rough 08/03 - 08/04 Approved beth	final 08/02 - 08/05 Review beth	delivery 08/04 - 08/04 Waiting bobby

Another way to create a task is to create a task by **context**. This is provided in the drop down selection menu.



Create task by: Process

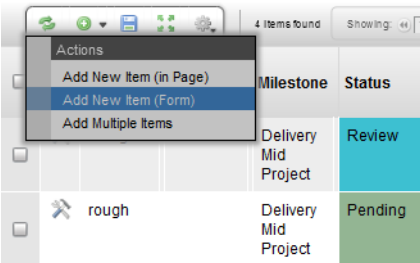
Displays all the processes to select from, to create a task for.

Create task by: Context Displays all the contexts to select from, to create a task for.

Create task by: All Contexts in Process Creates all the contexts defined in the pipeline, but only displays the processes to select from.

Task Edit Column

The Task edit column can be used to insert tasks one at a time for a particular item.



Task Status Column

Once an item is created which has a pipeline, the widget will show a green insert button (+). This will load the task creation GUI to create tasks for the item.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Preview	Task	Code	Asset Type	Referenced	Completion	Task Pipeline
<input type="checkbox"/>	NO PREVIEW		ASSET00007	character		No tasks	No tasks. Click to Add
<input type="checkbox"/>			test_char_001	character		34.3%	<div>bid 01/11 - 01/26 review jimmy</div> <div>concept 01/11 - 01/11 review brad</div>

Task Properties

Add Single Item

Add new item to User Tasks

Created for
asset001

Process
rough

Description
Car Chase

Milestone
Project Start

Assigned
brad

Supervisor
cindy

Bid start date
2012-01-24

Bid end date
2012-01-26

Bid duration
2

Priority
4 - Very Important

Pipeline code
project/status_default

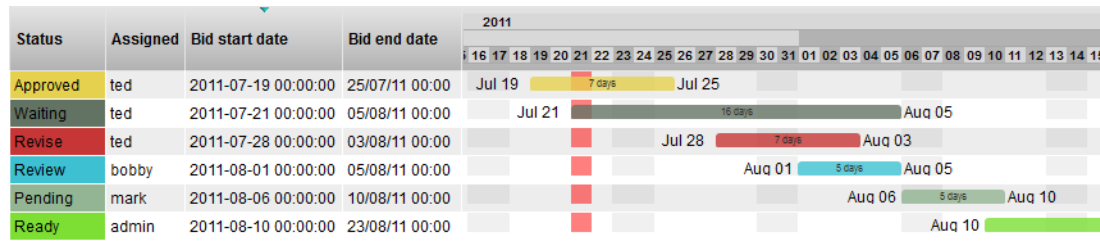
Status
Assignment

Add Cancel

Each Task can have the following attributes.

Process	The currently selected process. Use the menu to select a different process to perform on the current parent as
Description	A description to identify the task.
Milestone	Assignment to a milestone item that represents a specific milestone in the project.
Status	The status of the currently selected task pipeline.
Assigned	The user assigned to complete the task.
Supervisor	The user assigned to supervise the task.
Priority	The priority level of the task.
Bid start date	Proposed date to start the assigned task. Drag the date in the calendar to set.
Bid end date	Proposed date to complete the assigned task. Drag the date in the calendar to set
Bid Duration	Proposed amount of hours to complete the assigned task.

Gantt Widget



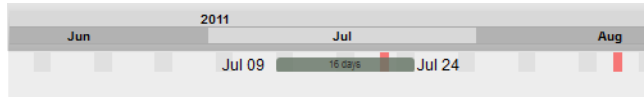
Description

The Gantt Widget displays a horizontal bar graph representing the item's start date, end date and duration. The bar graph can be clicked on and dragged to manipulate schedules for projects and task schedules. The widget has 2 view modes: weeks and months view.

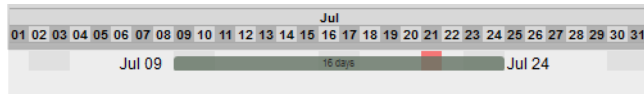
Usage

View modes: Toggle the Gantt Widget between the 2 viewing modes by double clicking on the column header.

view mode: **months**



view mode: **days**

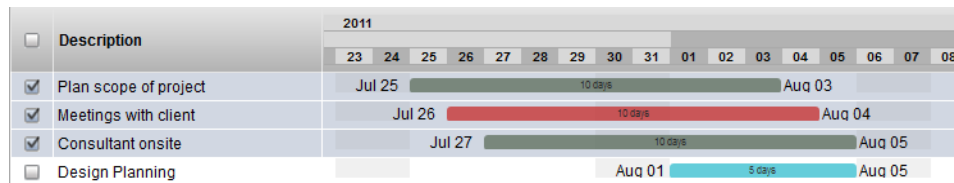


Start/End Date: Modify the start and end dates by left clicking and dragging them.

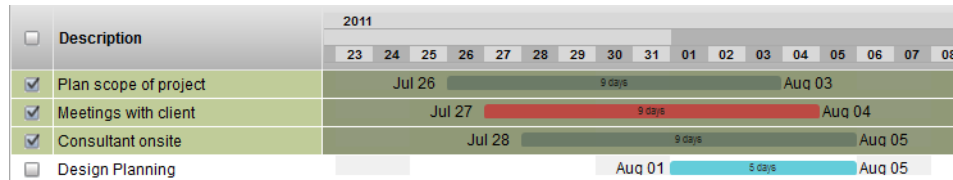
Hover Pop-up: Hover the cursor over the horizontal bars to pop-up a window that displays the dates of the schedule.

Shifting the bar: Click dragging the bar shifts the start and end dates bar while maintaining the duration.

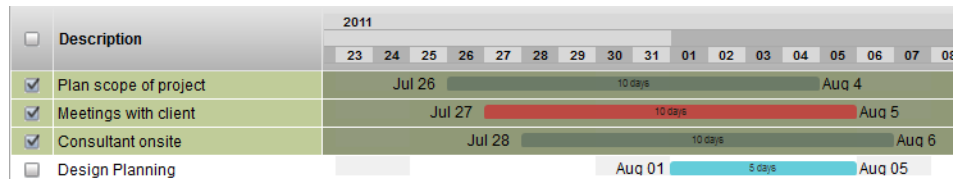
Multi-selection Edit: First, check mark the items to be modified.



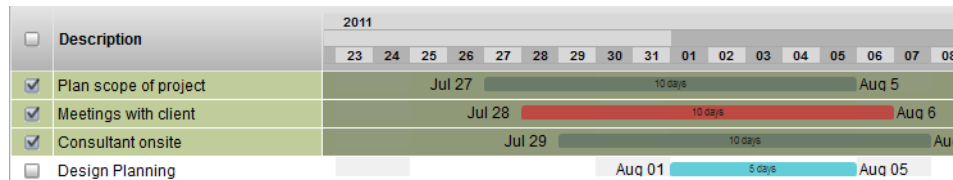
Adjust multiple start dates: With multiple items selected, click drag on one of the start dates to adjust all the start dates simultaneously.



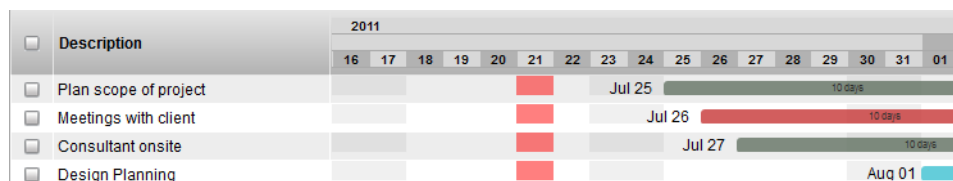
Adjust multiple end dates: With multiple items selected, click drag on one of the end dates to adjust all the end dates simultaneously.



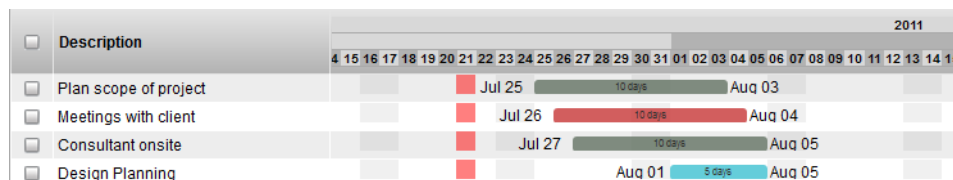
Shift all the bars: With multiple items selected, click drag on one of the bars to shift all the start/end dates simultaneously while maintaining the duration.



Shift the view: Click drag on an empty area of the Gantt Widget to the mouse left or right. The bars and the units will shift while maintaining their values.



Scale the view: Hold down the shift key. Then, click and hold on an empty area of the Gantt Widget and drag the cursor to the left or the right. The bars and the units will scale while maintaining their values.



Notes and Communication

Notes Widget

Introduction

The Notes Widget provides the ability to add a note directly to an item in the view. The notes are tracked in chronological order and are also grouped by process if entered against tasks. Other conveniences provided in this widget is the ability attach files and to CC/BCC extra email addresses when you submit the note.

Adding a Note

If the Notes widget is not in the view, it can be added through the Column Manager.

To add a note, go to the Notes column and click on the plus sign in the top right corner.

Preview	Asset Code	Title	Notes
	asset001	Nuclear Explosion	<div> <div> <p>cindy Cindy Client dan@southpawtech.com</p> </div> <div> <p>design</p> <p>Please work on the particle effects.</p> <p>Attachments: 0</p> </div> </div> <div> <p>Aug 10 - 22:35 - [cindy] - Please work on the particle effects.</p> </div> <div> <div> <p>beth Beth Content Creator dan@southpawtech.com</p> </div> <div> <p>design</p> <p>There was some trouble with this please have a look.</p> <p>Attachments: 0</p> </div> </div> <div> <p>Aug 08 - 19:50 - [beth] - There was some trouble with this please have a look.</p> </div> <div> <p>final (5)</p> <p>For Process: final</p> <p>Note:</p> <p>I've fixed it. Please validate.</p> <p>Attach File(s) Submit</p> <p>▼ Mail Options</p> <p>Mail will be sent to:</p> <p>Extra list of emails to send mail to (separated by commas):</p> <p>Cc: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Bcc: <input type="text"/></p> </div>

The "For process:" drop down allows you to select the pipeline process to add the note to. If there is no pipeline for the item, then a default process will be used for the note.

The Submit button will save the note to the item.

Additional Note Options:

To attach a file, click on the Attach File(s) button. The file browser will open to prompt to select a file.

Additional fields to input Cc or Bcc email addresses can be found at the bottom, under Mail Options.



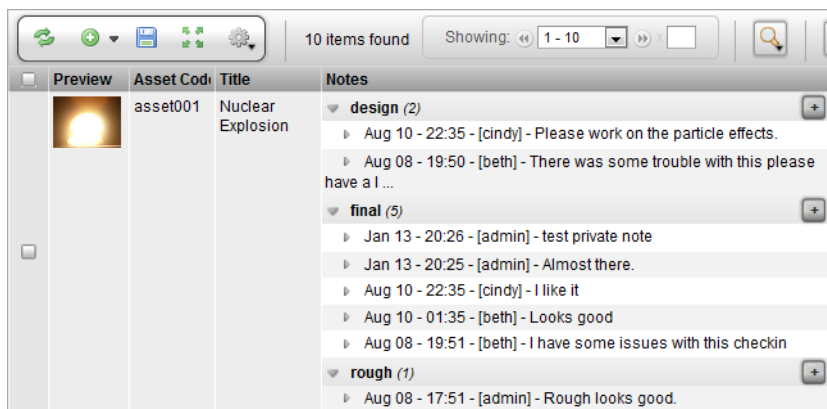
Note

If Notification Triggers have been set up in the project, emails will automatically be sent to the appropriate users when notes are added. Adding a CC email address to a note simply sends the note to the email addresses regardless of Notification Triggers.

Multiple Notes

When multiple notes are saved to an item, the interface will look like the following (notice that the notes for the item are conveniently categorized by process):


Collapsed



The screenshot shows a web application interface with a table of assets. The first asset, 'asset001' with title 'Nuclear Explosion', is selected. To its right, a list of notes is displayed, categorized by process: 'design (2)', 'final (5)', and 'rough (1)'. Each category has a plus icon to expand it. The notes are listed with timestamps and user names in brackets.

Preview	Asset Code	Title	Notes
	asset001	Nuclear Explosion	<div>design (2)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 10 - 22:35 - [cindy] - Please work on the particle effects. Aug 08 - 19:50 - [beth] - There was some trouble with this please have a l ... <div>final (5)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan 13 - 20:26 - [admin] - test private note Jan 13 - 20:25 - [admin] - Almost there. Aug 10 - 22:35 - [cindy] - I like it Aug 10 - 01:35 - [beth] - Looks good Aug 08 - 19:51 - [beth] - I have some issues with this checkin <div>rough (1)</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aug 08 - 17:51 - [admin] - Rough looks good.

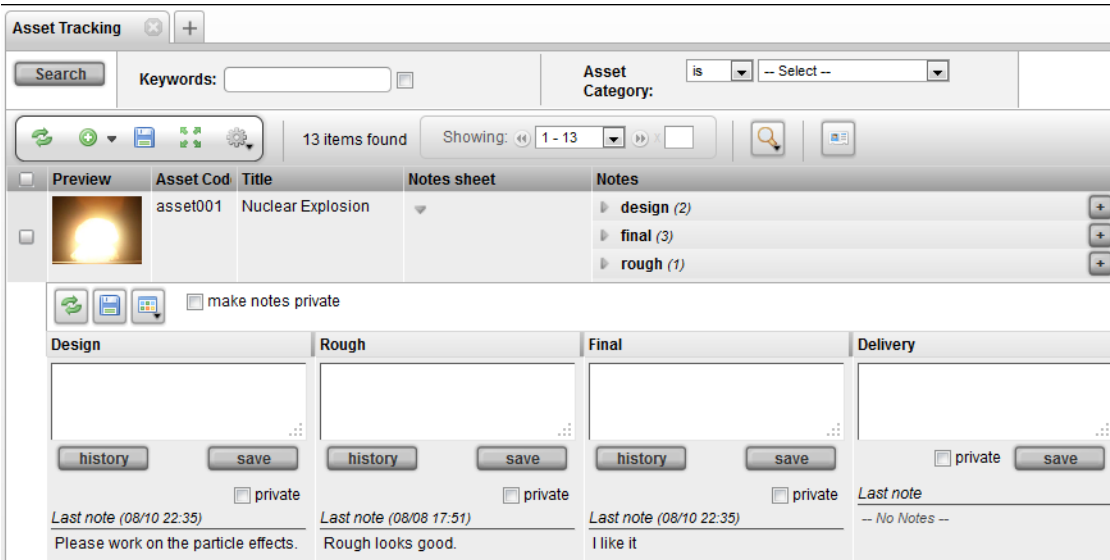
Expanded

 Preview	Asset Code	Title	Notes
	asset001	Nuclear Explosion	<div><div><div>▼ design (2) </div><div>▼ Aug 10 - 22:35 - [cindy] - Please work on the particle effects.</div><div><div><div><div>cindy</div><div>Cindy Client</div><div>dan@southpawtech.com</div></div></div><div><div>design</div><div>Please work on the particle effects.</div><div>Attachments: 0</div></div></div><div>▼ Aug 08 - 19:50 - [beth] - There was some trouble with this please have a l ...</div><div><div><div><div>beth</div><div>Beth Content Creator</div><div>dan@southpawtech.com</div></div></div><div><div>design</div><div>There was some trouble with this please have a look.</div><div>Attachments: 0</div></div></div></div><div><div>▼ final (5) </div><div>▼ Jan 13 - 20:26 - [admin] - test private note</div><div><div><div><div>admin</div><div>Admin</div><div>dan@southpawtech.com</div></div></div><div><div>final</div><div>test private note</div><div>Attachments: 0</div></div></div><div>▼ Jan 13 - 20:25 - [admin] - Almost there.</div><div><div><div><div>admin</div><div>Admin</div><div>dan@southpawtech.com</div></div></div><div><div>final</div><div>Almost there.</div><div>Attachments: 0</div></div></div></div></div>

Note Sheet

Introduction

The Note Sheet widget provides a convenient layout for typing in notes for different processes in one concise user interface. The Note Sheet is also built to provide rapid interface for entering notes. For example, the Note Sheet helps in daily review sessions where the ability to enter notes in rapid succession is necessary.



Description

Notes can be entered for any item. When the Note Sheet widget is added as a column, by default, the pipeline processes are used as the processes for note entry. The processes for the example item shown in the screen shot above include design, final, rough and delivery. The Notes Sheet widget allows entering of many notes in different processes and different parents at the same time. They can be saved either individually or altogether. The private check box option make a note private.

Usage

When the Note Sheet is expanded, it may require that the processes be selected to display. At the top of the widget is a button which allows you to load a process selection pop-up which exposes the desired processes.



After you are finished with note entry, you will two buttons appearing on the top right corner. Clicking on "save" will save all of the notes. If you have the Note Sheet Widget opened for vehicle001, vehicle002, and vehicle003, clicking

on the standard save all will save all new notes in the view. To save one note at a time, there is also an individual "save" button for each process.

Clicking on the history button pops up a window which displays all the note entries under this particular context.

Private Notes

The private check box turns a note access to private if checked. The private option is a built in access rule which can deny a group of users from being able to see notes flagged as 'private'.



Note

Note - When using the Note Sheet on items such as Tasks, Notes and Snapshots, the default assumption will be to add a note to the parent item for the particular process. For example, if adding a note to the "design" task, a note will be added with the same process.

File Management

General Check-in

Introduction

The General Check-in widget provides interface to do many of the most common kinds of check-ins used in TACTIC. It is a highly configurable widget that allows a project to have customized check-ins for any part of the content creation process.

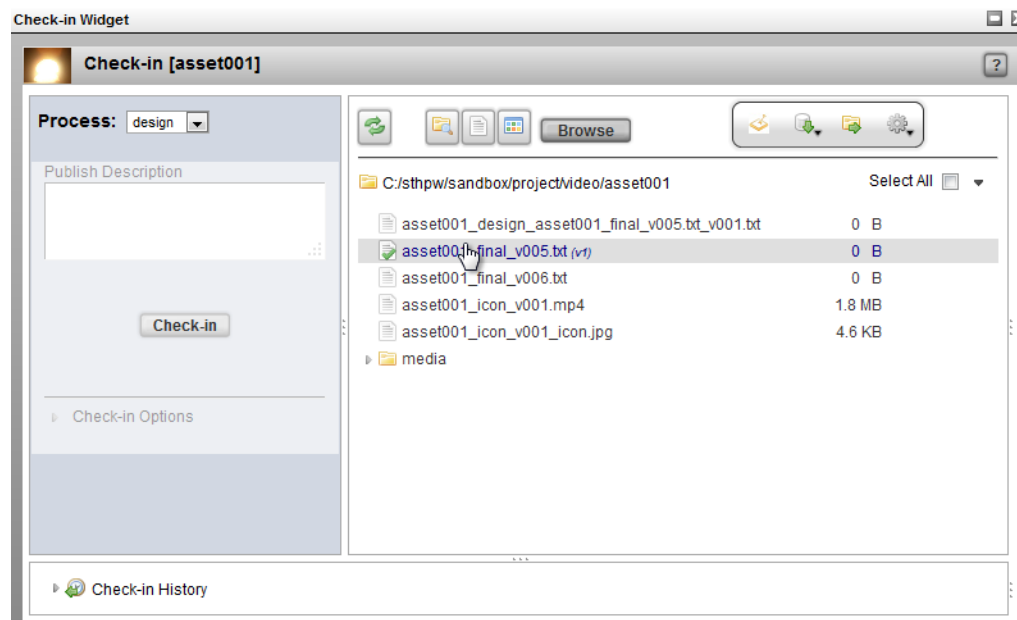
Check-ins are the ability to in TACTIC to take files that have been created and submitting them to TACTIC's central repository to be organized, stored and versioned. TACTIC has a comprehensive ability to track files and their histories with the added benefit of enforcing naming conventions.

The general check-in widget can handle:

- **Single Files** - An image, video, document, etc
- **Sequences** - Commonly image sequences
- **Directories** - Full directories including files and sub folders
- **Complex packages** - Handling of a project source including project and source medial files.

Interface

The interface below shows a standard example of the General Check-in widget.



Tool bar

The tool bar contains a number of use functions.



Refresh	Refreshes the whole widget and will also rescan the sandbox for any changes.
Browse to working folder	Allows the user to browse to a new location for the working area.
Set to My Documents	Sets the working area to the My Documents directory
Set to Desktop	Sets the working area to the Desktop directory.
Browse	Allows the user to select file(s) or directories to check in directly.
Set Sandbox	Set the sandbox automatically based on the naming conventions. This makes setting up a workspace very easy and organized.
Check-out tools	Tools to assist in Checking out files. <i>Described in the section "Check-out" below</i>
Explore Sandbox	Opens up the folder directly on the users computer. This allows for the quick copying and pasting files into your sandbox workspace.

Process Select

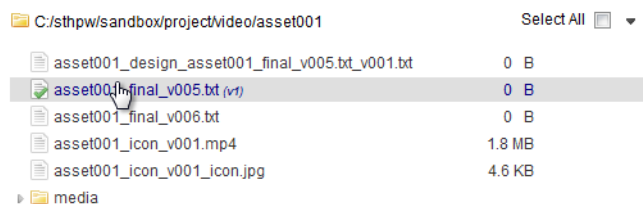
Check-ins for an item are always classified by a processes. TACTIC organizes all of the check-ins with various processes that are defined for that item. The current process can be selected by the process selection drop-down. This often times corresponds to a task assigned to that user for that process.



This will only show up if a pipeline has been defined for the item. If no pipeline has been defined, then a default process called "publish" is used.

Often this selection will be locked because it is associated with an assigned task. A user will often work from a task also associated within a particular process and then choose to check in files based on content created from this task.

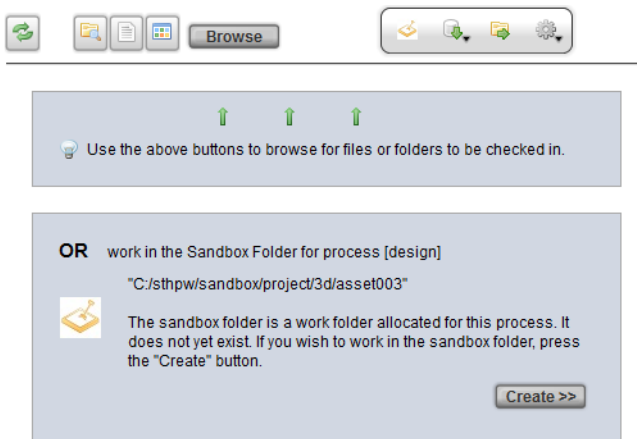
Sandbox Area



On first load of a new task (process) the check-in widget will assist the user in setting up a work area.

The user experience protocol will determine how the user leverages the features in the sandbox. The recommended approach is to allow TACTIC to create a sandbox location for the current process. This method is beneficial because

it helps the user organize work-up files before they are even checked into the server. This approach is recommended because it creates an easy accessible and well organized file system on the users computer. It is however, possible to check in files from another location on the file server using the browse buttons in the tool bar.



During the content creation process, users will create files and save them under this sandbox folder. All files associated with this item should be stored here. It should be noted that this sandbox work area is not strictly enforced and it is easily possible to navigate to other folders to check in files to a given asset. However, it is considered good practice to have user's create files in a well defined location in order to more easily manage overall disk space usage.

Any files created in the sandbox area will be display in this section. If any new files have been created and are not reflected in the interface, then a simple refresh should make these new files appear.

Files that have been checked-in will show a small indicator in the icon to the right and will be colored in blue. The small indicator will either be a green check mark, which indicates that the file in the sandbox is identical to the checked in file. If the indicator is a red exclamation mark, this means that the file has been changed and is different from the checked in file.

To select all files in the sandbox area check off the "Select/Deselect All" check-box on the top right hand side.

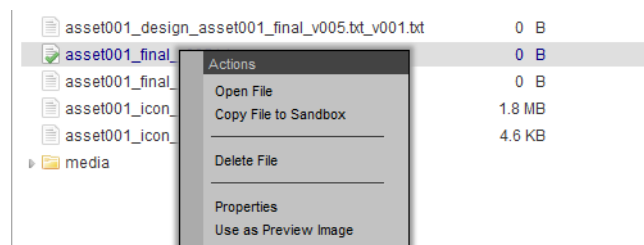
Select/Deselect All: ☒ ▼

To quickly select all changed files, click on the arrow to open up extra menus and select "Select Changed Files".



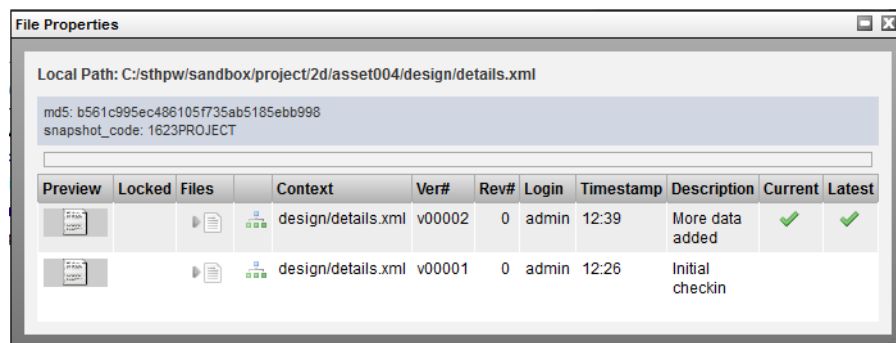
All files that have been changed since the last check-in will be selected. TACTIC will remember the last subcontext checked in for this file so. This allows changed files to be easily rechecked in when changes have been made.

Clicking on the right mouse button of any file will open up a context menu.



The following actions are available:

Open File	Open the file using the application as set up by the client operating system.
Delete File	Permanently delete the file from the sandbox area (and on the computer).
Properties	Open up a pop-up showing the properties of this file, including all past check in information. An example is shown below:



Check-In

When any files are ready to be checked in, they can be selected. The row will highlight for all selected files, and either a selection list, or a text box will appear on the right side. Since many files can be checked into the same process in an asset, this provides a sub-category to organize checked in assets (this is known as the subcontext of the context of a check-in). By default, this should read (auto) which means that it will be automatically filled in.

When all of the files that need to be checked in have been selected, the check in widget will be enabled.

It's good practice to add a note in the Description field while performing a check-in. This is important so all project users understand why a particular check-in was made, and where it's located.

When the "Check-in" button is pressed, all of the selected files will be transferred to TACTIC's repository. There are a number of ways that the files can be configured to transfer files. When TACTIC checks in a file, it will move them to the correct folder, version and rename them to the correct file name as specified for the naming conventions.

Check-in Subcontext types

When checking in, a drop-down is available beside each file or directory. This functionality allows control over how each check-in will be handled. This type of control is called **subcontext**. This can be looked at as a sub process for the sub-directories included in a check-in.

Auto

The "Auto" mode is used if it's desired to keep file names the same as they are before the check in. This work-flow is beneficial if one wishes to keep file names, or work in a situation such as subversion where files are constantly overwritten and versions are handled automatically in the background.

Sandbox	SANDBOX/project/assets/asset001/design/original_file.jpg
Check-in	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/original_file.jpg SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/.versions/original_file_design_v001.jpg
Check-out	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file.jpg

Main

If only one file/directory/sequence is going to be checked-in, it will also be re-named correctly by the naming conventions. This is often the case when files are delivered to another department or the client.

Sandbox	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file.jpg
Check-in	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_v001.jpg
Check-out	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_v001.jpg

Text

If more than one file/directory will be checked in and strict control is required for each item, the subcontext will be different each time a check-in happens. This often applies when different variations of a check-in are required. For example a blue and a red version of a file might be needed for a particular check-in, so the user would type this in for each file:

Sandbox	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file_red.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file_blue.jpg
Check-in	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_red_v001.jpg
	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_blue_v001.jpg
Check-out	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_red_v001.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_blue_v001.jpg

List

If more than one file/directory will be checked in and strict control is required for each item, the subcontexts are the same every time a check-in occurs. This often applies when there are multiple sub-directories that need to be worked on for a task. For example, a preview, project file and a directory of media files would be organized by selecting preview, project or media in the drop-down.

Sandbox	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file_preview.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/original_file.psd
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/media/background.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/media/foreground.jpg
Check-in	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_preview_v001.jpg
	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_project_v001.jpg
	SERVER/project/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_media_v001
Check-out	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_preview_v001.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_project_v001.jpg
	SANDBOX/projct/assets/asset001/design/asset001_design_media_v001



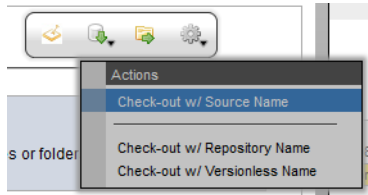
Note

Often these options are predetermined by the pipeline configuration set up by the TACTIC administrator. Other combinations file/directory naming and file version control can also be configured through naming conventions.

Check-out

When working on a particular task that is part of a pipeline, files may need to be checked out or "downloaded" to be worked on or revised. TACTIC assists with this process and allows easy access to retrieving the right files/directories from the TACTIC server.

Check-out options menu

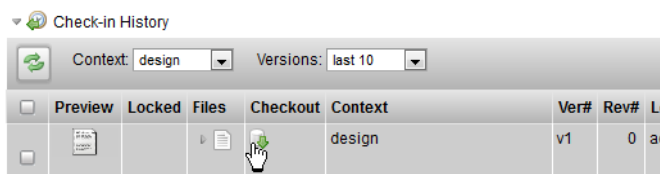
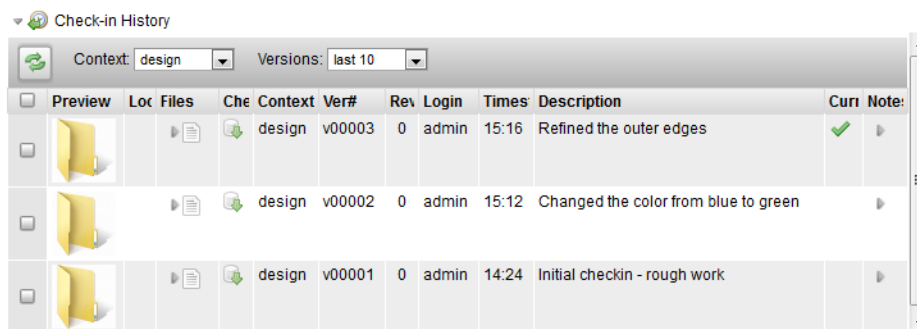


A specific version can be checked out through the Check-out button in the History area. There are also more advanced options available in the Check-out options menu.

Check-out w/ Source Name	Check out the latest version of different contexts based on the original file name that was checked in regardless of naming conventions.
Check-out w/ Repository Name	Check out the latest version of different contexts using the repository names as seen in the TACTIC repo.
Check-out w/ Versionless Name	Versionless check-ins only - Check out the latest versionless of different contexts using the the versionless convention as seen in the TACTIC repo.

History

This area shows the check-in history. By default, this information is collapsed but can be accessed by clicking on Check-in history.











Time tracking

Tracking User Work Hours

The TACTIC system has built-in work hour tracking, which can be tracked per task or work hours can be entered manually.

By default, hours can only be submitted to a task by the user that task is assigned to. For example, if an asset has a pipeline process called "texturing" and this process is assigned to the user Albert, then only Albert can log work hours for this task.

Users log work hours in a task view with the "Work Hours" column.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Preview	Created f	Process	Description	Status	Priority	Work on Task	Jan	Sun 08	Mon 09	Tue 10	Wed 11	Thu 12	Fri 13	Sat 14
<input type="checkbox"/>		asset001	design		Review	0				2.0	3.0				5.0
<input type="checkbox"/>		asset001	final		Waiting	5				5.0	5.0				10.0
<input type="checkbox"/>		asset002	design	Design Task for asset002	Pending	5					6.0	2.0			8.0
<input type="checkbox"/>		asset003	rough		Approved	4					2.0	5.0	1.0		8.0

Hours can be logged and edited per day, per task.

To view the logged hours, go to the **Work Hours** view. (This view shows the hours for the user currently logged in.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Parent	Description	Day	Login	Straight time
2012-01-09 00:00:00					7.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	asset001		Jan 09, 12	beth	2.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	asset001		Jan 09, 12	beth	5.00
2012-01-10 00:00:00					8.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	asset001		Jan 10, 12	beth	3.00

In the Work Hours view, you will see an item per time entry with totals per day and per week based on hours logged on all assets.

To manually track work hours for other events (for example, daily meetings), click the insert button and fill in the options in the pop-up window:

Add Single Item

Add new item to Work Hours

Login: -- Select a User --

Day: 11

Category:

Description:

Straight time:

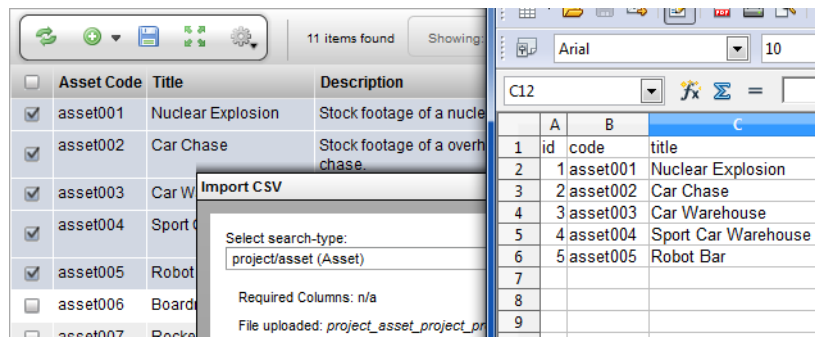
Add Cancel

Options

Login	The login (user) who the hours are for.
Day	The day the hours are for.
Category	The category of work the hours represent.
Description	A description of what the time was spent on.
Straight Time	The amount of hours for the entry.

Importing and Exporting

Importing CSV Data



Data can be imported into TACTIC and associated with the appropriate columns. Since TACTIC is based on a table system, data can be exported as a CSV file for easy manipulation in a spreadsheet program.

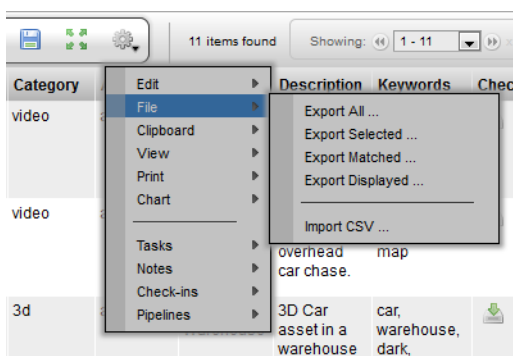


Note

For more information on exporting existing CSV data, go to the section, "Exporting CSV Data."

To import a CSV file:

1. Go to **Gear Menu -> File -> Import CSV ...**



2. Select an sType or copy and paste the data from a spreadsheet. Once an sType is selected, the required columns will be displayed to the right of the drop down. Although these aren't the only columns that can be imported for this sType, they represent the minimum requirements for a successful import.

3. Browse and upload the CSV file. The CSV file is the raw format required by TACTIC. Below is an example of the contents of a CSV file:

```
"id","title","description"
1,"Nuclear Explosion","Stock footage of a nuclear explosion"
2,"Car Chase","Stock footage of a overhead car chase."
3,"Car Warehouse","3D Car asset in a warehouse setting"
4,"Sport Car Warehouse","3D Car sport car"
5,"Robot Bar","Robots drinking in a bar"
```

Below is an example of a CSV file being manipulated in a spreadsheet application.

C13			
	A	B	C
1	id	title	description
2	1	Nuclear Explosion	Stock footage of a nuclear explosion
3	2	Car Chase	Stock footage of a overhead car chase.
4	3	Car Warehouse	3D Car asset in a warehouse setting
5	4	Sport Car Warehouse	3D Car sport car asset in a internal warehouse setting
6	5	Robot Bar	Robots drinking in a bar
7			

4. Click the Upload button. The TACTIC system will introspect the CSV file and fill in the rest of the import interface.

Import CSV

Select sType to import data into: project/asset (Asset)

File uploaded: *project_asset_project_project_asset_list.csv* Change

The following is taken from first line in the uploaded csv file. Select the appropriate column to match.

▼ Parsing Options

Use Title Row: ☒ ⓘ

Sample Data Row: 1 ⓘ

Encoder: ASCII (default)

Identifying Column: - Select - ⓘ

💡 Use the sample row to match which columns the data will be imported into TACTIC

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CSV Column Value	TACTIC Column	Create New Column
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	id	id
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nuclear Explosion	title	title
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stock footage of a nuclear explosion	description	description

Preview Data

Refresh Import

The following table will be imported into Asset (Showing Max: 100)

id	title	description
1	Nuclear Explosion	Stock footage of a nuclear explosion
2	Car Chase	Stock footage of a overhead car chase.
3	Car Warehouse	3D Car asset in a warehouse setting
4	Sport Car Warehouse	3D Car sport car asset in a internal warehouse setting
5	Robot Bar	Robots drinking in a bar

5. Parsing Options

▼ Parsing Options

Use Title Row: ☒ ⓘ

Sample Data Row: 1 ⓘ

Encoder: ASCII (default)

Identifying Column: - Select - ⓘ

Use Title Row	When checked, this import will read the first row in the file to determine which item columns are being imported.
Sample Data Row	Specify a row in the file to use as a sample for the data import.
Encoder	Select the encoding format for the data: ASCII (default), UTF-8, Excel ISO 8859-1

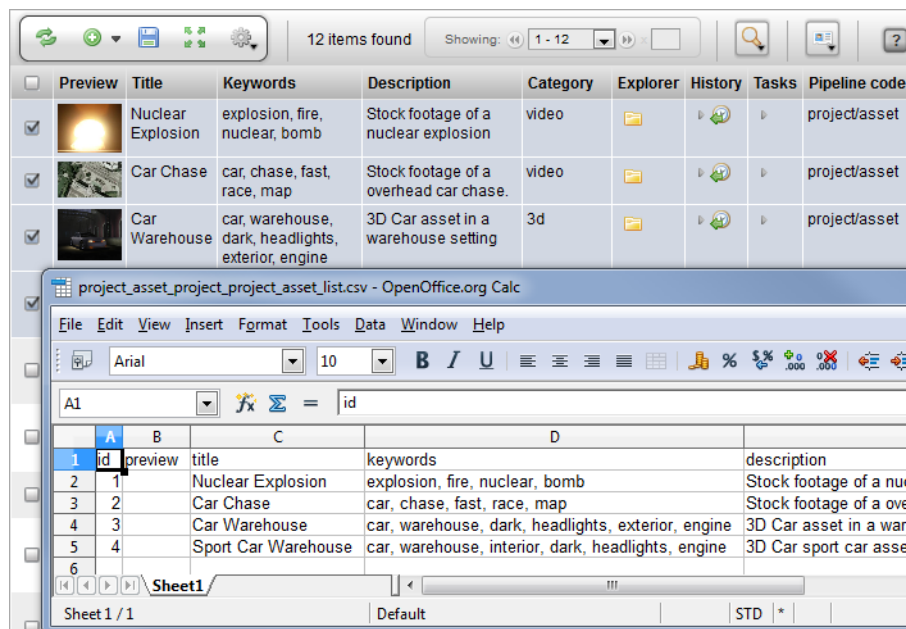
Identifying Column

Select the column which unique identifies the corresponding row in the table to update the data with.

6. Import

The bottom of the page shows a preview of the import results. Hitting the **Import** button will start the CSV import.

Exporting CSV Data

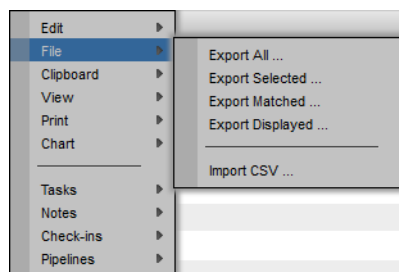


Description

TACTIC uses a database and thus naturally exports to table-based outputs. TACTIC includes a simple user interface to export any table-based view out to a CSV file (Comma Separated Values file). Data can also be edited and imported to update or create new items in TACTIC.

Exporting Data

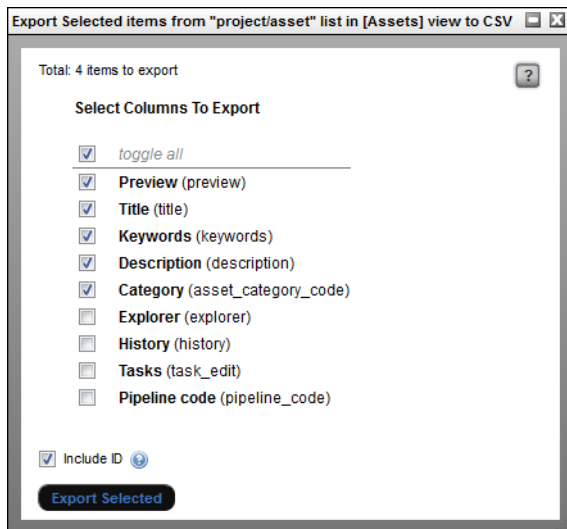
To export data from a TACTIC view to a CSV file, first check mark the rows to export. Then, go to the gear menu and under File select one of the following options:



Other export options include

- **Export All** - All items in the database
- **Export Selected** - Only the selected items in the view.
- **Export Matched** - All items found by the search
- **Export Displayed** - All items in the current view.

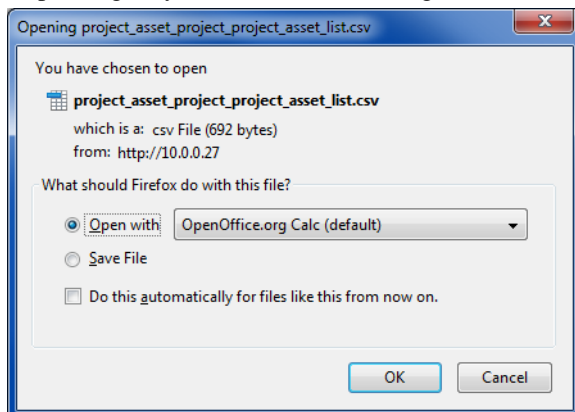
Next, select the columns to export from the selection list and click the **Export Selected** button.



Note

Only columns saved to the current view will be available for export. It may be ideal to save a view particularly for exporting which includes all desired columns.

Depending on your web browser settings, the web browser will prompt to open or save the file.



Below is an example of the contents of the resulting CSV file:

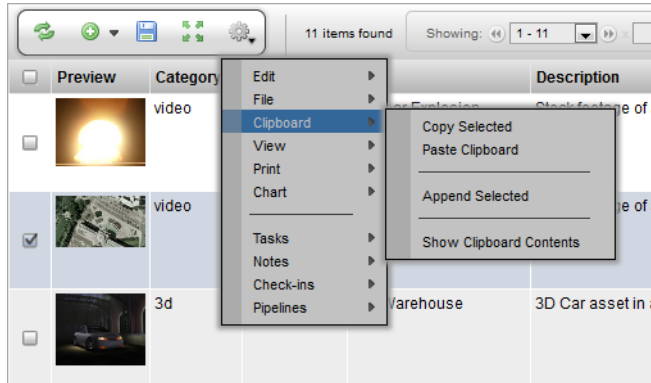
```
"id","preview","title","keywords","description","asset_category_code"
"1","","Nuclear Explosion","explosion, fire, nuclear, bomb","Stock footage of a nuclear explosion","video"
"2","","Car Chase","car, chase, fast, race, map","Stock footage of a overhead car chase.", "video"
"3","","Car Warehouse","car, warehouse, dark, headlights, exterior, engine","3D Car asset in a warehouse setting", "3d"
"4","","Sport Car Warehouse","car, warehouse, interior, dark, headlights, engine", "3D Car sport car", "3d"
```

When the CSV file is open in a CSV-compatible spreadsheet application, you will be able to easily manipulate and add data:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	id	preview	title	keywords	description	asset_category_code
2	1		Nuclear Explosion	explosion, fire, nuclear, bomb	Stock footage of a nuclear explosion	video
3	2		Car Chase	car, chase, fast, race, map	Stock footage of a overhead car chase.	video
4	3		Car Warehouse	car, warehouse, dark, headlights, exterior, engine	3D Car asset in a warehouse setting	3d
5	4		Sport Car Warehouse	car, warehouse, interior, dark, headlights, engine	3D Car sport car asset in a internal warehouse setting	3d

Clipboard

Using the Clipboard



Introduction

The Clipboard menu feature provides an easy method for transferring items (row data) from one view to another. Items can also be copied between different projects. This feature can be used similarly to the copy and paste function that we are familiar with in most applications.

The Clipboard Menu Options

The features for the Clipboard can be found on the tool shelf under the **Gear menu -> Clipboard**.

The individual options of the Clipboard menu are described in detail below.

Copy Selected

This menu option copies the items to the Clipboard that you have checked marked in the view. Either one row or multiple items can be copied. Once the items have been copied to the Clipboard in memory, the destination view has been navigated to, to allow pasting the items.



Note

The Clipboard has been built with the ability to copy and paste items from one project to another.

Add Selected

This menu option copies the items that have been check marked and adds them to the items that are already have on the Clipboard without wiping out what is on the Clipboard. This menu option is useful especially when navigating through different views to gather row data.

Paste Clipboard

This menu option pastes the items that have been stored in the Clipboard into the view.



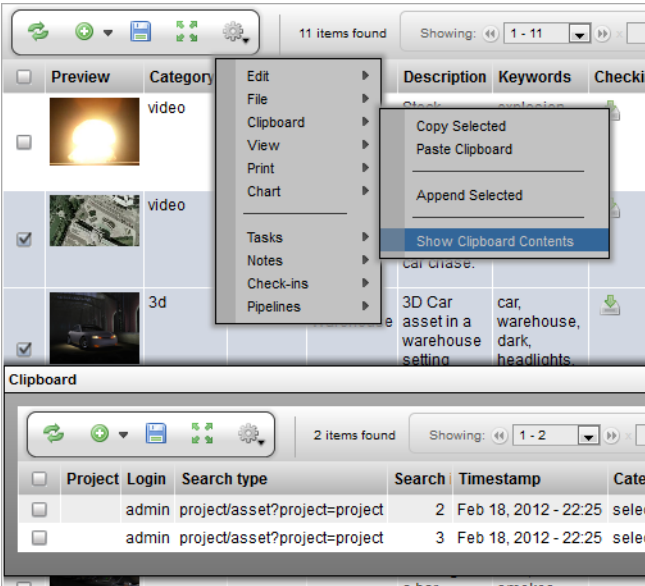
Note

Regarding copying and pasting to another project and the History column: After pasting the contents of the Clipboard to the view, the latest History of the item's check-ins will refer to the item under the original

path where the files live. The paths will point to the item in the new project as soon as the first check-in transaction is completed for this item under the new project.

Show Clipboard Contents

This menu option opens up a pop up and displays the items that are currently stored in your Clipboard.

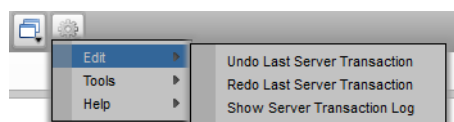


Transactions

Undo Your Actions

Similar to most software applications, TACTIC provides a convenient way to undo an action. Almost every action in TACTIC is undo able. Transactions can include changes made to the database and to the file system (for example: check-ins). One major benefit with TACTIC transactions is that they are not scoped to just your current session. If you close down Tactic and log in a week later, you can still undo your last transaction.

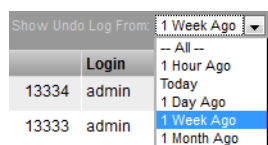
The Undo action can be found by clicking on the top gear menu and choosing: **Edit -> Undo Last Server Transaction**



To see a list of the transactions which can be undone, click **Show Server Transaction Log**. (This log contains only those actions completed by the user who is currently logged in.)

Id	Login	Timestamp	Description	Namespace	Type	Details
13334	admin	Jan 13, 2012 - 20:26	Added 1 Items for [sthpw/note]	project	redo	
13333	admin	Jan 13, 2012 - 20:25	Added 1 Items for [sthpw/note]	project	redo	
Transaction <pre><?xml version='1.0' encoding='UTF-8'?> <transaction> <!-- new transaction --> <object search_type="sthpw/note" search_id="682" action="insert"> <column name="access" to="/" /> <column name="process" to="final" /> <column name="search_id" to="1" /> <column name="note" to="Almost there." /> <column name="context" to="final" /> <column name="search_type" to="project/asset?project=project" /> <column name="login" to="admin" /> <column name="project_code" to="project" /> </object> </transaction></pre>						
13332	admin	Jan 13, 2012 - 20:08	delete_subject	project	undo	
13331	admin	Jan 13, 2012 - 20:07	retire_subject	project	undo	
13330	admin	Jan 13, 2012 - 20:07	retire_subject	project	undo	

Notice the drop down selection menu provides a way to filter the transaction list by time.



To reverse the transactions directly from this log, click **Undo** to undo the most recent transaction in the log. Continue back through the log, undoing one transaction at a time until the transaction to be undone is reached.

When a transaction is undone, it is relabeled with the type "redo" in the "Type" column. The original action can be performed by clicking on the **Redo** button.

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