

# Anaesthetic logbook development

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## The problem

Via 'support@logbook.org.uk' we receive a significant number of requests for assistance from anaesthetists struggling to import information back and forth between different logbook programs operating on different devices. The scale of the problem would be greatly reduced if a single logbook data file could be used interchangeably on desktop computers and portable devices such as iPhones and iPads.

## Background

The FileMaker Pro College logbook was first released as freeware for Windows 95 and Mac OS 7 computers on a CD-ROM via the College Tutor network in 1996. The original software was chosen specifically because it allowed a PC logbook file to be transferred and run unchanged on a Mac, and vice-versa if a trainee chose to switch computers. Since then, the logbook application has been updated and re-released in seven subsequent versions to accommodate specifications agreed by College Council and changes in computer operating systems. It still runs on Windows XP, Vista, 7, 8 and all versions of Mac OSX (see Table 1). However, in June 2007, Apple released the first iPhone. Since then, the iPhone and iPad (released 3 April 2010) have become almost ubiquitous amongst medical staff. These devices are portable, convenient, and stylish in appearance, hiding many of the more traditional computer housekeeping administrative tasks from view behind a simple touchscreen interface.

## The solution

Understandably, anaesthetists are keen to keep a logbook as a portable iOS 'App' and this is now possible using 'FileMaker Go' – a cut-down version of the FileMaker Pro database that is available free of charge from the 'App Store'. The current version release of the Anaesthetic Logbook (v9) has been redesigned specifically to make use of this utility. 'Logbook9.fmp12' (the version 9 datafile) opens with a conventional, but identical computer screen interface on a Mac or PC, but if loaded onto an iPhone or iPad it presents the user with a different set of interactive views designed around the touchscreen (Figures 1–3). Table 2 lists and compares the features that are available on the iPhone or iPad. For the first time, this version of the logbook allows reports to be generated, saved in pdf format, and emailed directly from the iPhone. This facility means that, for many, the process of generating annual reports will no longer necessitate exporting data back and forth in text format between logbooks held on a smartphone and a desktop computer.



**Figure 1** Logbook case entry (screenshot taken on an iPhone 4S)



**Figure 2** Scrolling case list, colour-coded by urgency. In this view, emergencies appear red, urgent cases are amber, and routine cases are green. Those labelled day cases would appear blue. Tapping on a case changes the view to the case entry screen for that case (screenshot taken on an iPad 2)

## Getting cases into this logbook from previous versions

Cases from older versions of the logbook program can be imported into the new version, but this needs to be done before the 'logbook9.fmp12' is transferred to the iPhone/iPad because FileMaker Go does not allow bulk import of records. All logbook versions (1–9) have traditionally used the same tab-separated text backup format that can then be re-imported into another version.

Mac logbook backup files are created in the 'backups' folder within the 'Mac RCA Logbook' folder.

Default locations for PC backups are:

Version 8: My documents > @logbook8 > backups > 'Backupyyyyymmddathhmm.txt' e.g. **Backup2013 02 01at1230.txt**

Version 7: C:\ > @logbook7 > backups > 'LogbookbackupA-E.txt' e.g. LogbookBackupB.txt (pick the most recent)

Version 6: These are not automatically available and must first be created within logbook 6 by going to:

**Version 6 MAIN MENU > IMPORT/EXPORT CASES > Export records as a simple text file (Export.txt)**

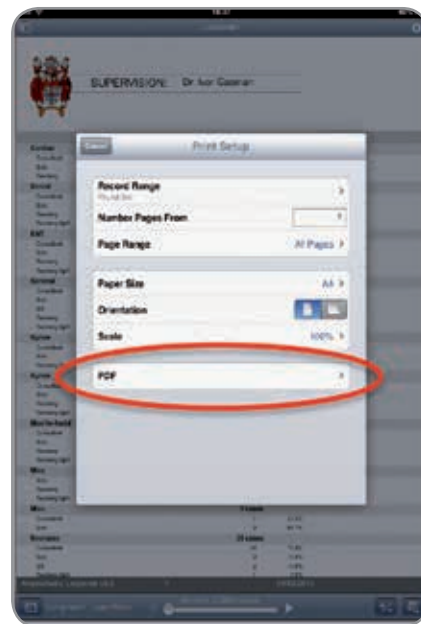
The routine that runs automatically when an empty copy of 'Logbook 9' is opened on a PC/Mac prompts you to import from a text backup made by the old logbook. By default this routine looks for FileMaker Pro 12 files first but if you change the highlight box that appears from 'FileMaker Pro files' to 'All available files' it will allow you to pick up one of these backup text files.

### The drawbacks...

Actually there are not many. The iPhone/iPad version of the logbook does not create automatic backups, but a depersonalised copy of the datafile may be archived as an email attachment at any time from within the 'app'. Sadly, there is as yet no version of FileMaker Pro that can be run on the Android operating system, but there are some excellent alternative logbooks available for this platform (using 'Memento' or 'HandBase').

Version 9 of the Anaesthetic Logbook program is currently available for download at [www.logbook.org.uk](http://www.logbook.org.uk).

Please see Table 1 for more details about system requirements.



**Figure 3** Core logbook reports are available to view, save, or email as pdfs. Reports can be run on the entire caseload, or constrained to a specific date range (the previous 12 months by default), or on a found set of cases e.g. gynaecology (screenshot taken on an iPad 2)

**Table 1** System requirements for Anaesthetic Logbook version 9. \*Mac Version 7 still works on Power PCs (PPCs)

Mac	PC	iPhone
Mac OS X v 10.6 (Snow Leopard) or greater (e.g. Lion, Mountain Lion)	Windows XP Service pack 3, Windows Vista, Windows 7, or Windows 8	iOS 5.1.1 or later
CPU: Intel-based Mac*	CPU: 700 MHz or faster	<b>FileMaker Go 12</b> pre-installed (available free of charge from the App Store)
RAM: 1 GB 1024x768 or higher resolution video adapter	RAM: 256 MB 1024x768 or higher resolution video adapter	

**Table 2** Availability of the different Logbook version 9 features on different computer platforms

Anaesthetic Logbook v9 features	Mac	PC	iPhone	iPad
Browse cases	✓	✓	✓	✓
Add/delete new cases	✓	✓	✓	✓
Add similar cases/duplicate case	✓	✓	✓	✓
Import cases from an older version	✓	✓	✗	✗
Search for cases	✓	✓	✓	✓
Run and view reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Save reports as pdf file	✗	✗	✓	✓
Print reports	✓	✓	✗	✗
Email reports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Create a text backup	✓	✓	✓	✓
Email a backup file	✓	✓	✓	✓
Online access to update bulletins	✓	✓	✓	✓