



DFweb Version 5.6.0

Release Notes

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1. Introduction

Overview

DFweb is a browser-based application for online data collection in clinical research. DFweb Version 5.6.0 is released with DFdiscover 2023 Version 5.6.0. Key updates to DFweb in this release include:

1. An overall redesign, including a new login and study selection flow and updated navigation including new User Profile and Settings pages.
2. A new Reports page for viewing DFdiscover reports and tabular listings.
3. DFweb now displays missed records, missing page queries, and overdue visit queries in the subject binder and supports related edit checks; supports CRF background types when set by dfpref edit check function; and supports auto logout time set by dfpref.

Full details of DFweb changes are covered in the following chapter, [Summary of Changes](#). See the [DFdiscover 2023 Release Notes](#) for details of changes to the server, API, and other client applications.

Supported Browsers and Devices

DFweb Version 5.6.0 is supported on devices (desktops, laptops, tablets, smartphones) that run the following web browsers:

- Chrome 71 and newer
- Edge 79 and newer
- Firefox 65 and newer
- Opera 58 and newer
- Safari 12.1 and newer

The minimum recommended screen width is 400 pixels, except for studies using CRFs with backgrounds and DFdiscover reports, where the minimum recommended screen width is 800 pixels. To avoid horizontal scrolling with CRF backgrounds in portrait orientation, the minimum recommended screen width is 1280 pixels.

Compatibility

The new features in DFweb Version 5.6.0 are only available when connecting to a DFdiscover server and API Version 5.6.0 or later, as noted in the following chapter.

If a version of DFweb will be used that does not match the current DFdiscover server version, ensure that the overall or study specific **Version Strict** setting is **All minor versions supported** in **DFadmin**.

The public instance of DFweb available at <https://dfweb.dfdiscover.com> is upgraded to Version 5.6.0 shortly after release. The DFdiscover API available at dfws.dfdiscover.com is also upgraded to Version 5.6.0 at the same time.

For self-hosted clients with their own DFweb instance, we recommend updating DFweb at the same time as the DFdiscover server and API.

Documentation

DFweb Version 5.6.0 is accompanied by updates to the DFweb User Guide and other DFdiscover documentation as appropriate. The DFweb User Guide is available online in the following methods:

- From the “User Guide” option in the DFweb application menu after login.
- From the [DFdiscover Releases](#) page on the DFnet website.

Getting Help

For software support, please contact the DFdiscover team via email at help@dfnetresearch.com or visit the DFnet website at <https://www.dfnetresearch.com>.

2. Summary of Changes

This chapter provides a summary of new features, changes, and bug fixes implemented in DFweb since the release of Version 5.5.0. The “See details” links below take you to the DFweb user guide with further information.

1. **Overall redesign**, including a new login and study selection flow and updated navigation. [See details.](#)
 - When accessing DFweb for the first time, users are prompted to specify a server name before proceeding to the login page. As an alternative, the DFdiscover server name can be added to the URL to pre-define the server name for the user, e.g., <https://dfweb.dfdiscover.com/?servername=explore.dfdiscover.com>. On subsequent logins on the same device, DFweb will remember the last accessed server and display it in the dropdown field at the top left of the login page (close the cookie notification to view). If connecting to multiple servers, all servers will be available in the dropdown.
 - When logging in to DFweb for the first time, a user with permissions for multiple studies will be prompted to select a study. The study selection dialog includes search and sorting functions. To switch to another study, click the study name in the app bar. On subsequent logins on the same device, DFweb will remember the last accessed study and open that study automatically.
 - DFweb version information, link to build history, and API server information are available from the Settings link on the login page.
 - The app bar at the top of the page has been updated to display the study name and logo, the username and full name of the current user, and the server name. Study Help and DFweb User Guide are now available from the app menu.
 - A sidebar has been added with links to the main sections of the app: Subjects, Tasks, Queries, and Reports. The sidebar can be collapsed to use less space on smaller screens.
2. **Subject selection** workflow has been updated. [See details.](#)
 - On opening a study, the new Subjects page displays the list of available sites, and under each site is the list of available subjects.

- The number of subjects and percentage of subjects with complete data to date are shown to the right of the site name. By default, the site statistics for the selected site only are displayed.
 - To load statistics for all sites by default and see the total number of subjects and percentage of subjects with complete data to date, enable the 'Auto-load Site Statistics' on the Settings page.
3. A new **Reports** page allows users to view standard DFdiscover reports and tabular listings. [See details.](#)
- By default, all reports are displayed in alphabetical order, but an option to group the reports into categories (as in DFexplore) is available, along with a search option to filter the reports shown.
 - Users have access to the DFdiscover Reports enabled in their role and to any tabular listings and task listings defined for their user or role.
 - For reports with options such as History of Changes, the Filters interface makes it easier to customize report output.
 - Legacy and custom reports are not currently available.
4. **User Profile** and **Settings** pages are now available from the app menu. [See details.](#)
- Users may update their contact information and change their password on the User Profile page.
 - The settings previously available from the app menu are now available on the Settings page. Users may customize general study settings, including Use Subject Alias, Use HD Images, Auto Logout Time, and others, and view DFweb version and build information on the Settings page.
5. **Missed records** are now displayed in the subject binder, and support for related edit check functions (dfmissingrecord, dflegal, dflostcode, dflosttext) has been added. The ability to set and unset missed pages is planned for a future release.
- *Requires DFdiscover server and API 5.6.0 or later.*
6. **Missing page and overdue visit queries** are now supported, where records with these queries are now displayed as incomplete in the subject binder. Related edit check functions are also supported: dfaddmpqc, dfdelmpqc, dfanyqc.
- *Requires DFdiscover server and API 5.6.0 or later.*
7. **CRF background types** are now supported along with the dfpref and dfprefinfo edit check functions BackgroundType option to change background types dynamically.
- *Requires DFdiscover server and API 5.6.0 or later.*

8. Additional edit check functions are supported: **dflevel** now returns the current validation level and the **dfpref** and **dfprefinfo** **AutoLogout** option is supported to customize and lock auto logout settings.
9. Permission requirements were updated for Tasks so that no permissions beyond what is specified in the task definition are required.
10. A new JWT method is used to improve DFweb network speeds.
11. DFweb User Guide has been updated and is now accessible from the app menu.
12. The following bugs have been fixed:
 - a. Incorrect dflookup result for LUT with multiple fields and no headers.
 - b. Field colour not updating when field status is changed by edit check.
 - c. Warning "Unable to access subject" when selecting a query on Queries page for a subject transferred between sites.
 - d. Scrolling did not work as expected in dferror/dfwarning/dfdisplay dialogs.
 - e. Edit check calculations used data values as entered rather than according to the defined number field format, which could return different results compared to DFexplore.
 - f. In some scenarios, edit checks using dfpassword function resulted in a crash.
 - g. Reasons for data values autocompleted by edit check were applied as pending in DFweb although they were applied as approved in DFexplore.
 - h. "Invalid program name" error in some cases when using dfexecute edit check function.
 - i. Opening a CRF without view permissions prevented access to other subject CRFs.
 - j. Incorrect error message could appear in Add Subject dialog.
 - k. Using the right/left arrow keys on radio fields could move to another field instead of staying on the current field.
 - l. Resuming a new subject after auto logout could show an error in DFweb.
 - m. Subject icon color in CRF page was not updated after saving a CRF changed the status.
 - n. DFweb could become stuck running the dftrigger edit check function when opening a subject binder after a connection loss while saving a CRF.

- o. Using dftrigger to open a new subject or unexpected record in DFopen_patient_binder edit check did not work.
- p. DFweb would freeze when opening a PDF document in Safari.

13. The following bugs were fixed with the 5.5.1 release:

- a. DFweb crashed opening a task URL for a study you don't have access to.
- b. DFweb didn't show network connection errors in Change Password dialog.
- c. DFweb didn't preserve existing system configurations during upgrades.

3. Known Issues

1. Reports have the following limitations:

- The subject alias setting is not currently supported in reports. Only the subject ID is displayed in reports and used in report filters.
- The Palette option for reports with charts and animations is not currently available.
- The ability in some reports to double-click a data point to go to that data field on the CRF is not currently available.
- Reports may not display well or be fully viewable on small displays.

2. The behaviour of the DFopen_study edit check has changed slightly in DFweb. When users move between various sections of DFweb, the DFopen_study edit check may be re-executed. For most studies this will have no impact, but if your study relies on DFopen_study for actions more complex than setting user preferences with dfpref, here are additional details on how the change might impact your study:

- The results of the first execution of dfpref and dfexecute functions are stored for use throughout a session and are not re-run.
- The dfmessage, dferror, dfwarning, dfdisplay, dfask, dfcapture, dfpassword, and dfpasswdx functions are ignored after the first time DFopen_study runs in a session and return default or blank values.
- All other edit check functions will run as normal if DFopen_study is run more than once in a session.

3. When adding a query via edit check (dfaddqc function), in the Add Query dialog users may change the query category. This only occurs for users with full create query permissions.

4. In DFexplore, missing page and overdue visit queries are not displayed in the subject binder for users without get level 0 access. However, in DFweb, missing page and overdue visit queries are displayed in the subject binder.

5. On Windows, for some reports, scrolling quickly up and down can result in the options in the filter list dropdown disappearing. As a workaround, close and re-open the dropdown to view the options again.

6. On Android smartphones using Firefox, for reports with a 'Search by option' dropdown, the options are not selectable. As a workaround, use another browser.

7. When using the Tab key to navigate between items on a page, some items may need two tabs to move to the next item.

8. When using DFweb on a mobile device in landscape mode with a software keyboard, in some dialogs such as Forgot Password on the login page or Change Password on the Settings page, the field being completed may no longer be visible. As a workaround, begin typing to show the field (on larger devices) or switch to portrait mode (on smaller devices).
9. When trying to view a PDF document in the Manage Documents dialog on Android mobile browsers, the PDF document may not be shown. As a workaround, use the download option provided in the dialog beside the expand button.
10. On small mobile displays, if the user does not have access to the first CRF in the subject binder, the sidebar is hidden, and the user cannot switch to another CRF. As a workaround, switch to landscape mode to open the subject binder sidebar.
11. If an unexpected record is created in DFweb when using `dfaddmpqc` to add an EC Missing Page query, deleting the query using `dfdelmpqc` does not display the updated record status as blank but instead leaves it as incomplete.
12. In the unlikely case a user saves a record to a level they don't have permission to view, DFweb will show the record with the missed icon instead of the empty plate icon. Moving to another record or refreshing the page will update the icon.
13. On some pages in DFweb, closing the study selection dialog without choosing a study will sometimes prevent you from choosing a new study the next time you open the study selection dialog. As a workaround, refresh the page.

4. Installation

Installation

As a browser-based web application, DFweb does not require end users to install anything. The public instance of DFweb with the latest version is available at <https://dfweb.dfdiscover.com>, or the study sponsor or coordinating center provides a separate URL for their own instance of DFweb.

When sharing the DFweb URL with end users, include the DFdiscover server name to simplify the login process. For example, to pre-define the DFdiscover server as explore.dfdiscover.com, provide the URL:

<https://dfweb.dfdiscover.com?servername=explore.dfdiscover.com>

For self-hosted clients installing or upgrading their own instance of DFweb, please contact the DFdiscover support team at help@dfnetresearch.com.

Configuration

Before a user can login to DFweb, the DFdiscover server they are connecting to must have the DFWS feature enabled in the license. In addition, DFweb users require the following study role permissions (defined in DFadmin) for features to function:

- 'API Clients – DFweb' permission is required to login to the study.
- 'Server – Attach Document' permission is required to attach documents to CRFs.
- 'DFdiscover Reports' report-specific permissions are required to view reports.