

NAACCR 2026 Call for Data – Tumor Deduplication Instructions

This document will explain how to use the Match*Pro record linkage software to identify duplicate cancer cases that may exist in your registry's database. **The steps outlined in this document should only be performed AFTER you've successfully deduplicated the patients in your database using Match*Pro and consolidated all of the duplicate patients in your database.**

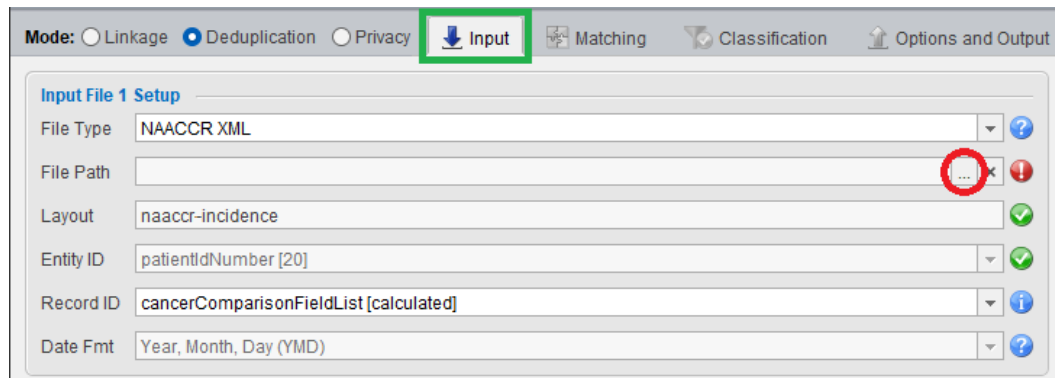
1. To get started, you will need to download and install Match*Pro version 3.3.1. The software can be downloaded from <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/matchpro/>. **You should use this specific version of the software (or a later version if it is available) to ensure that the library being used by the software to match the tumors is up to date.**
2. After you have downloaded and installed the software the next step will be to create an extract containing the fields listed below for ALL records of eligible primary tumors diagnosed from 2007 to 2024. The extract should include cases obtained through data exchange agreements with other central cancer registries, federal facilities like the Veteran's Administration, and other non-hospital data sources. The extract should be created in the NAACCR-XML (**Version 26**) format. **To minimize the linkage runtime, create an extract containing ONLY these fields:**
 - a. Patient Id Number (#20)
 - b. Tumor Record Number (#60)
 - c. Sequence Number (#380)
 - d. Primary Site (#400)
 - e. Laterality (#410)
 - f. Histology ICD-O-3 (#522)
 - g. Behavior Code ICD-O-3 (#523)
 - h. Date of Diagnosis (#390)
 - i. Override Site/Lat/Seq No (#2010, AKA the Inter-record Edit 09 review flag)
3. Once you have created the extract you are ready to begin the process of deduplicating the tumors in your database. A linkage configuration file named [naaccr-tumor-deduplication-linkage-cfg-20260630.mplc](#) was included with these instructions for this purpose.

Extract the configuration file from the zip folder, then double-click on it. It should open automatically with Match*Pro.

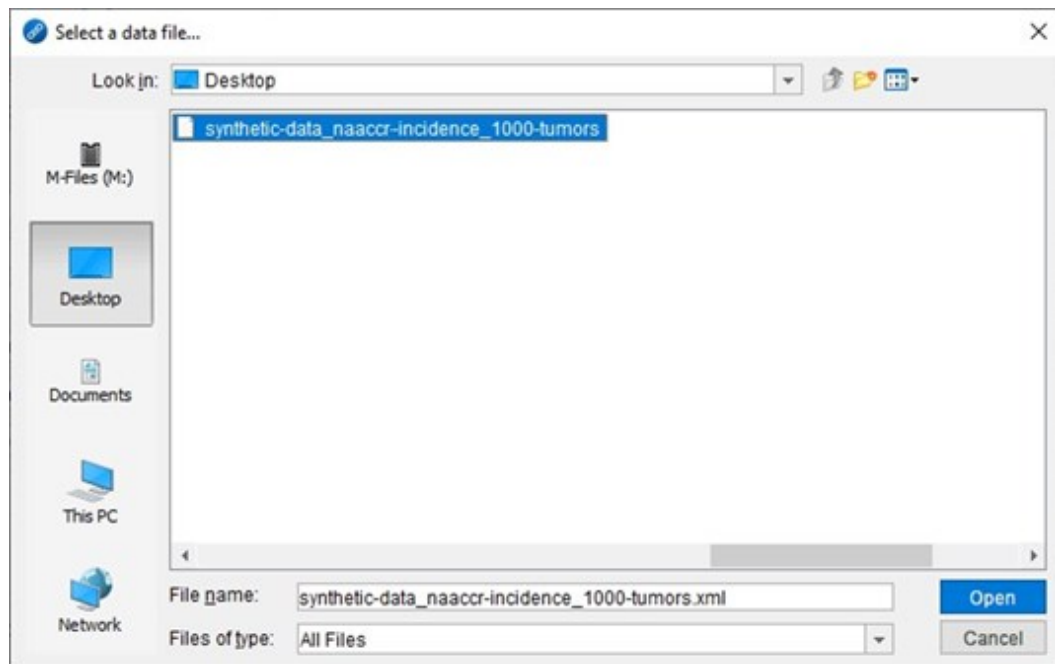
- a. If, for some reason, the file does not open automatically then you will need to manually open the file. To do this you will need to start the Match*Pro software (a shortcut for which should have been created on your desktop during the installation process). Once the software is running, click on the File menu and select "Open Linkage Configuration ..." from the list of options (this is the second option in the list). A file selection dialog will appear. Browse to the location of the linkage configuration file, select it, and press the open button. The linkage configuration will be opened.

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4. Now that the linkage configuration file is open, you will need to provide Match*Pro with the location of the extract you created in step 2. There are four tabs on the linkage configuration screen. The first tab, labeled **Input**, is where you will perform this step. This tab is shown to you by default.
 - a. Press the browse button associated with the **File Path** for **File 1**, which has been circled in **RED** in the image below.

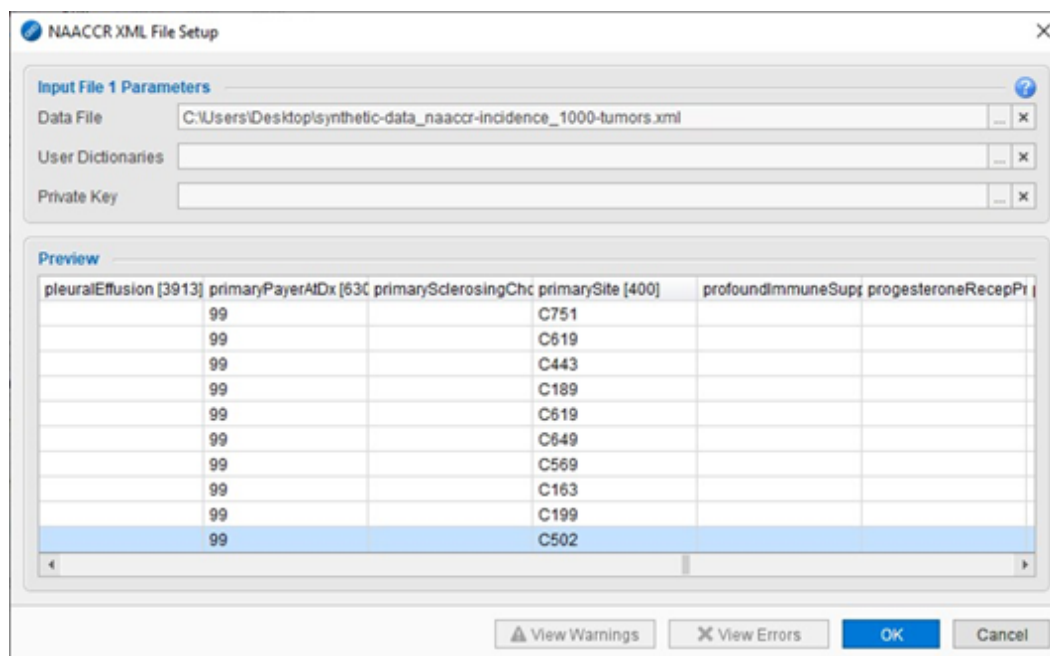


- b. A file selection dialog will appear. Browse to the location of the extract you created in step 2, select the file, and then press the **OPEN** button.

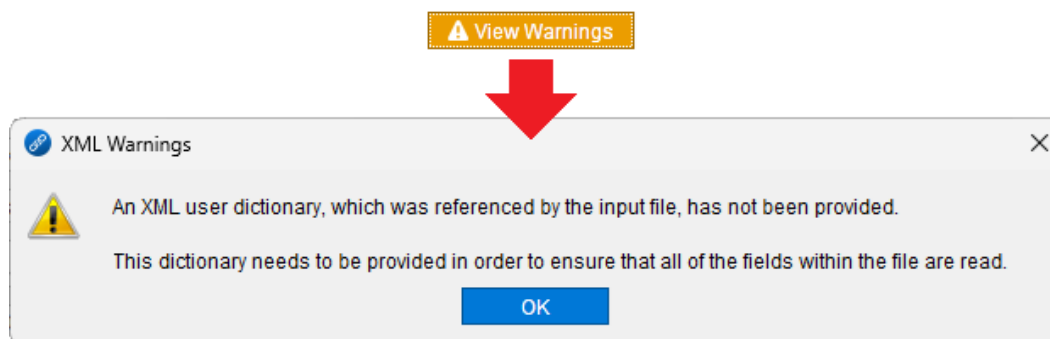


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- c. The NAACCR XML File Setup dialog will be displayed.



If the file that you selected references a user-dictionary then you will receive a warning that a user-dictionary has not been provided (because you have not provided it yet).

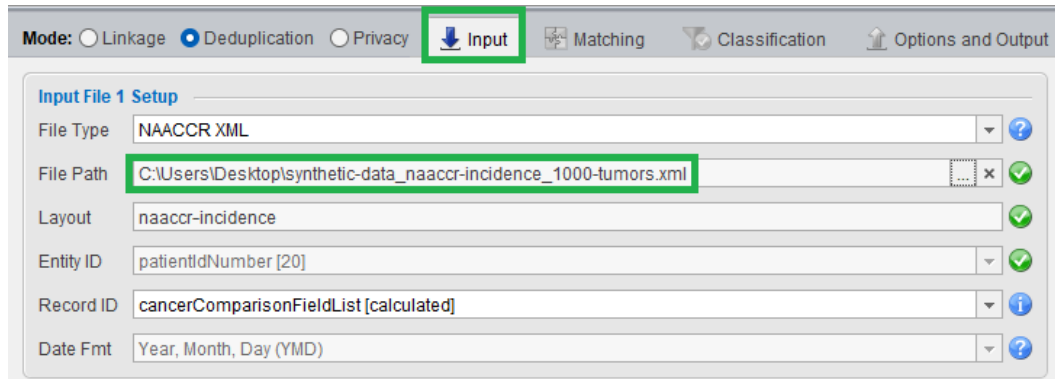


YOU CAN IGNORE THIS WARNING since there aren't any user-defined fields being used in this process or you can provide the dictionary in question (it is easier to just ignore the warning).

You can use the preview window on the NAACCR XML File Setup dialog to verify that all the fields have been populated. Once you are convinced that all the fields are being read correctly, press the **OK** button. The dialog will close, and you will be returned to the Input tab on the linkage configuration screen.

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- d. The name and location of the NAACCR-XML file will be displayed in the text box.



Mode: ☐ Linkage ☒ Deduplication ☐ Privacy ☒ Input ☐ Matching ☐ Classification ☐ Options and Output

Input File 1 Setup

File Type: NAACCR XML

File Path: C:\Users\Desktop\synthetic-data_naaccr-incidence_1000-tumors.xml

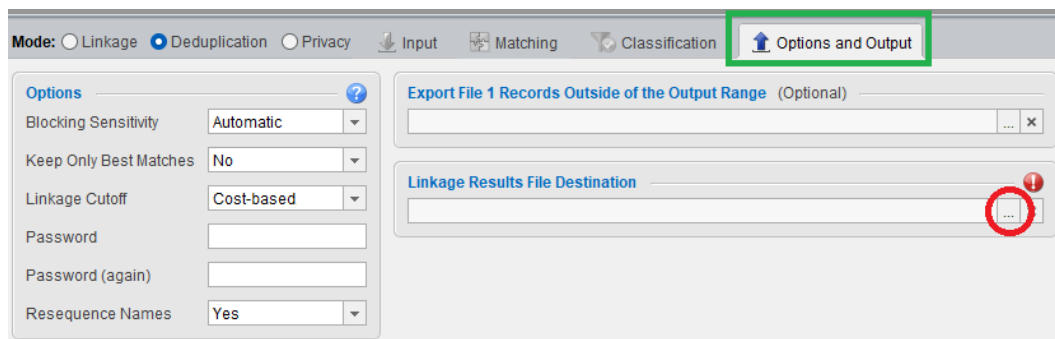
Layout: naaccr-incidence

Entity ID: patientIdNumber [20]

Record ID: cancerComparisonFieldList [calculated]

Date Fmt: Year, Month, Day (YMD)

5. You are now finished with the input tab. Switch to the **Options and Output** tab. This is the fourth and final tab that is displayed on the linkage configuration screen.
- a. Press the browse button associated with the **Linkage Results File Destination**, which has been circled in **RED** in the image below.



Mode: ☐ Linkage ☒ Deduplication ☐ Privacy ☐ Input ☐ Matching ☐ Classification ☒ Options and Output

Options

Blocking Sensitivity: Automatic

Keep Only Best Matches: No

Linkage Cutoff: Cost-based

Password:

Password (again):

Resequencing Names: Yes

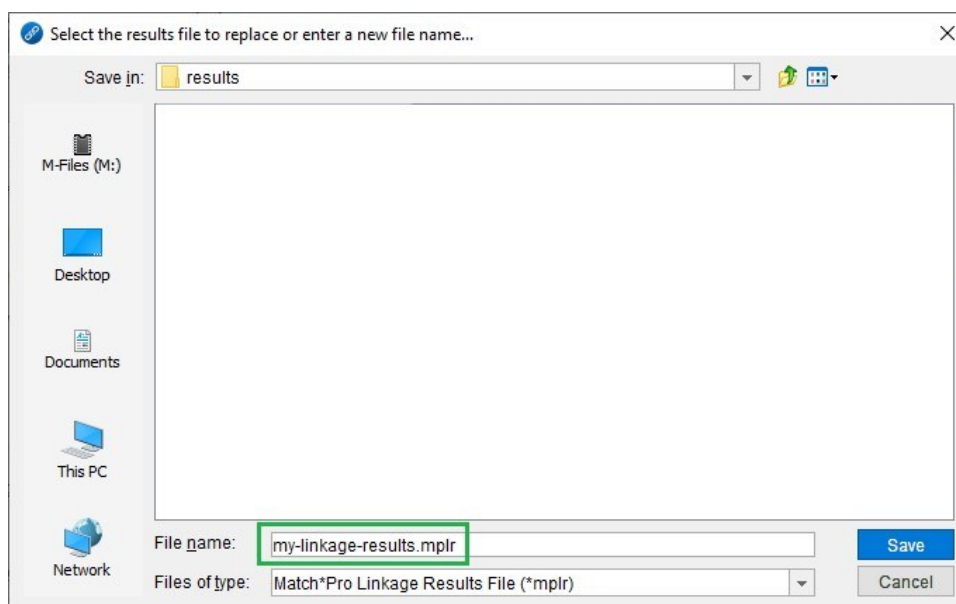
Export File 1 Records Outside of the Output Range (Optional)

Linkage Results File Destination

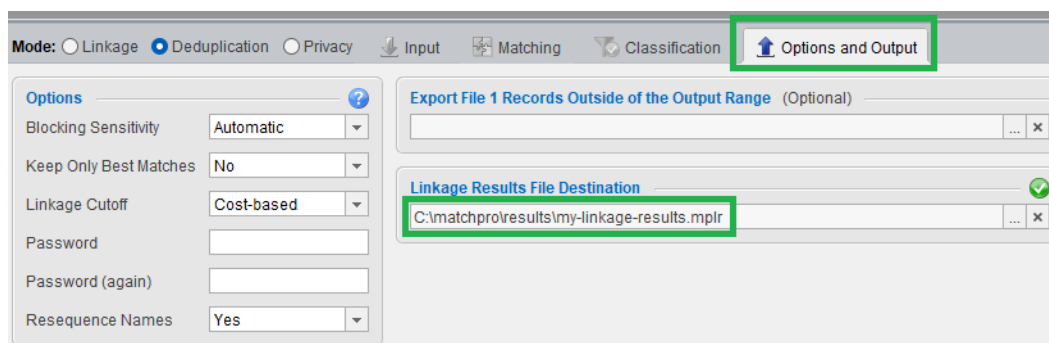
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- b. A save dialog will appear. Browse to the location where you would like the results file to reside, then enter a filename and press the **SAVE** button.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT THE LINKAGE RESULTS FILE SHOULD BE CREATED IN A FOLDER ON YOUR C:/ DRIVE AS OPPOSED TO A NETWORK DRIVE AS SLOW AND/OR DROPPED NETWORK CONNECTIONS CAN CORRUPT THE FILE (PARTICULARLY IF IT IS LARGE). THE RESULTS FILE SHOULD REMAIN IN THE FOLDER ON YOUR C:/ DRIVE UNTIL ALL OF THE WORK OUTLINED IN THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN COMPLETED. DO NOT SAVE DIRECTLY TO C:/ - YOU WILL LIKELY GET A PERMISSIONS ERROR IF YOU DO. YOU MUST SPECIFY A FOLDER.

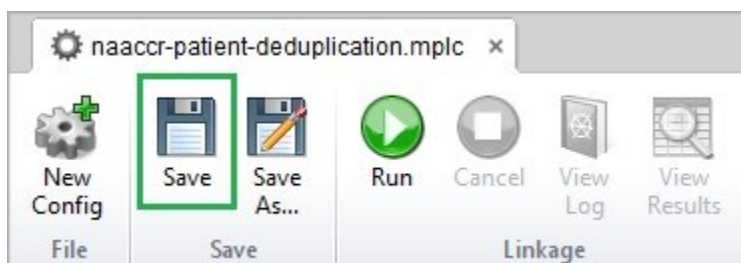


- c. The name and future location of the results file will be displayed in the text box.

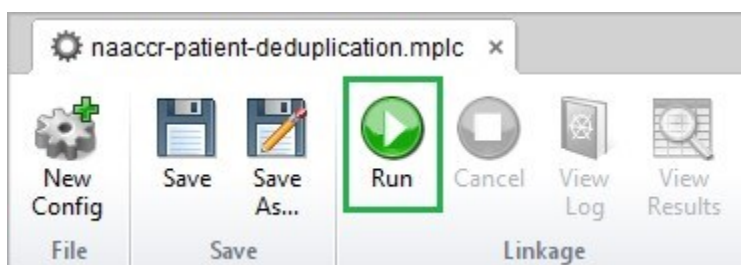


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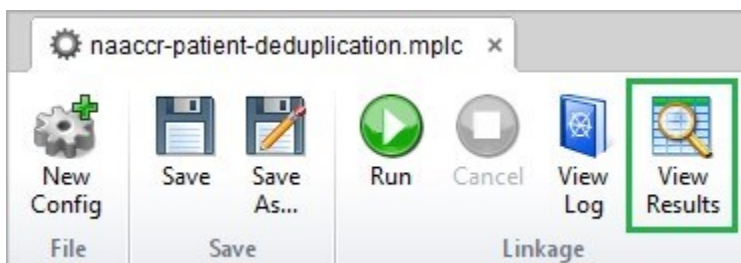
- Press the **SAVE** button, which is located at the top of the linkage configuration screen, to save the changes that you have made to the configuration file.



- Press the **RUN** button. The linkage process will begin. The run time will vary depending on the number of records that are in the extract.



- Once the linkage has finished running, press the **VIEW RESULTS** button to open the linkage results file. The linkage results screen will be displayed.



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9. Match*Pro uses an external library to determine if two tumors represent a single primary. If the library determines that two tumors represent the same primary, then those two tumors will appear on the results screen as a pair of records. For more information about the Java library and the Solid Tumor and MPH rulesets it implements, see:
 - a. <https://github.com/imsweb/mph>
 - b. <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/solidtumor/>
 - c. <https://seer.cancer.gov/tools/mphrules/>
10. Take note of the number of pairs that appear on the results screen. If there aren't any pairs on the results screen (unlikely, but possible) then the number is ZERO and you are finished.

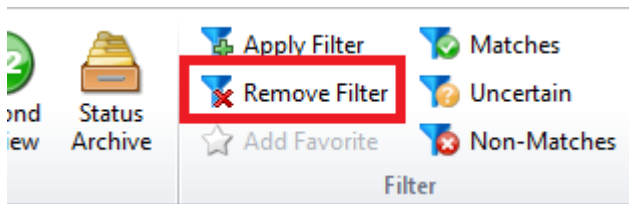
If there are pairs on the result screen, continue to step 11.
11. Please be advised that some of the cases that are flagged as single primaries may NOT be true duplicates. This could be due to issues with the Solid Tumor / MPH algorithms or other facts regarding the two cases. We estimate that less than 5% of the results fall into this category. You will need to use any/all information at your disposal (abstracts, etc.) to determine whether you agree with the results.

If you disagree with the result, you can submit a question using the [Ask a SEER Registrar](#) submission form. A SEER registrar will review and determine if there is a problem with the algorithms or will provide an explanation for the result. Any problems with the Solid Tumor / MPH algorithms will be reported to the appropriate development teams by the SEER registrar, so there is no need to contact Match*Pro Support regarding these issues. The [Ask a SEER Registrar](#) submission page can be found here: <https://seer.cancer.gov/registrars/contact.html>

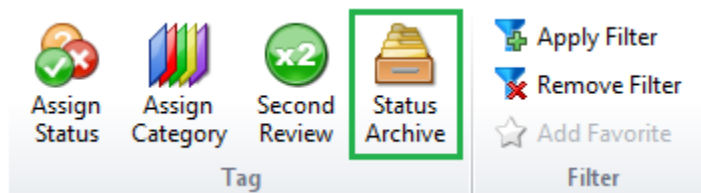
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12. If you did not use Match*Pro to deduplicate tumors last year or you didn't create a status archive last year, skip this step and proceed to step 13. **You should only perform this step if you have a status archive for tumor deduplication on hand.**

- a. Locate the status archive. When you find it, **MAKE A COPY** for safekeeping just in case something goes wrong during this process.
- b. Press the **REMOVE FILTER** button. **This step is very important for what we are about to do, so make sure that you press it at least once to be sure.**



- c. Press the **STATUS ARCHIVE** button.

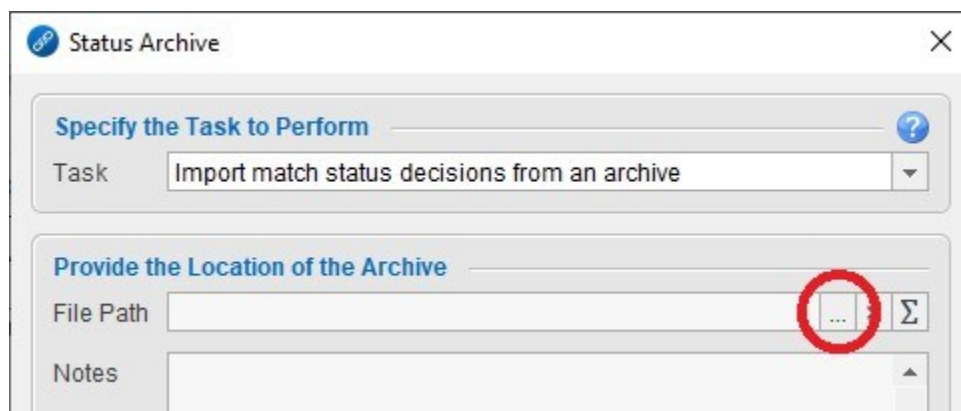


- d. Select **"Import match status decisions from an archive"** from the drop down.



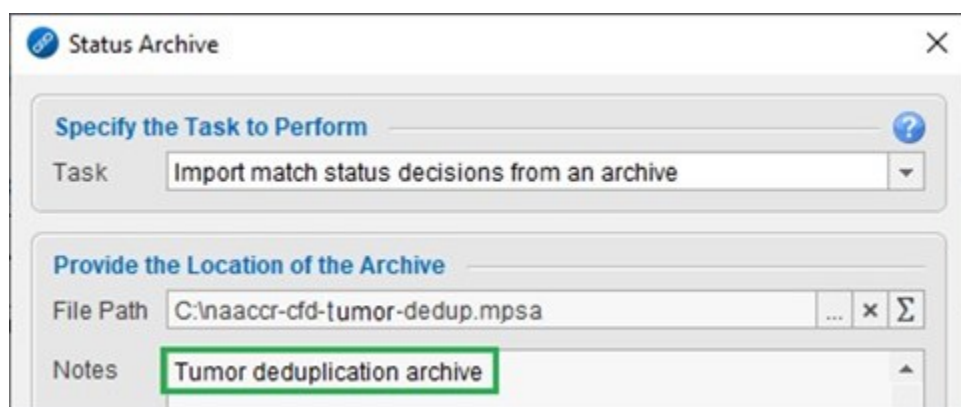
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- e. Provide the location of the status archive. The button you need to press to do this is circled in **RED** in the image below.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Status Archive". It has a close button (X) in the top right corner. Below the title bar, there are two sections. The first section is titled "Specify the Task to Perform" and contains a dropdown menu labeled "Task" with the selected option "Import match status decisions from an archive". The second section is titled "Provide the Location of the Archive" and contains a text field labeled "File Path" which is currently empty. To the right of the "File Path" field is a button with three dots, which is circled in red. To the right of this button is a button with the Greek letter sigma (Σ). Below the "File Path" field is a text area labeled "Notes" which is also empty.

- f. Notes will be displayed after the file has been selected. **Check the notes to confirm you selected the correct file before you proceed.**



The screenshot shows the same "Status Archive" dialog box. The "Task" dropdown remains "Import match status decisions from an archive". The "File Path" field now contains the text "C:\naaccr-cfd-tumor-dedup.mpsa". The "Notes" field now contains the text "Tumor deduplication archive", which is highlighted with a green rectangular box. The browse button (three dots) and the sigma button (Σ) are still present to the right of the "File Path" field.

- g. Press the **OK** button. The dialog will close and the match statuses on the linkage results screen will update. Any pairs that change from uncertain/yellow to non-match/red were reviewed by staff from your registry at some point in the past. They are not matches and they do not need to be reviewed a second time. Any yellow/uncertain pairs that remain will need to be reviewed.

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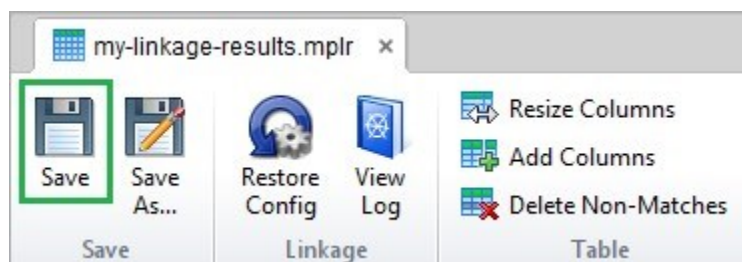
13. Determine whether you agree with Match*Pro regarding whether the two cases in each pair are single primaries.

If you agree with Match*Pro, mark the pair a match by clicking on the checkbox in the Match Status column. **Any pairs you mark as a match should be consolidated in your database.** If you disagree with Match*Pro, mark the pair a non-match by clicking on the 'x' in the Match Status column.



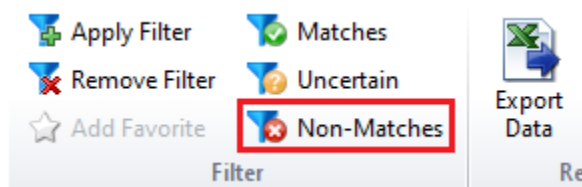
Any non-matches should be archived (instructions below). **DO NOT go into your database and set the override flag (NAACCR item #2010) to 1 for these cases.** NAACCR will be evaluating the issues associated with the usage of the override flag in the future and, at some point, all those cases may need to be manually reviewed.

14. When all of the rows have been designated as either matches or non-matches you are finished with your review.
15. **PRESS THE SAVE BUTTON** at the top of the screen to lock in the decisions you made during the manual review process.

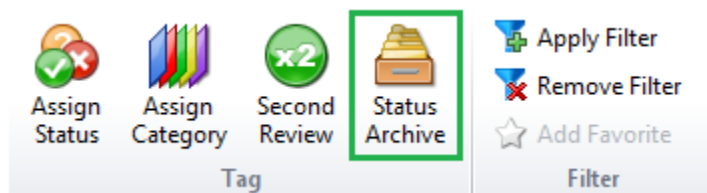


The remaining steps explain how to create or update the match status archive file that contains the list of non-matches. You can use this file in future linkages (such as next year's tumor deduplication) to save time on the manual review.

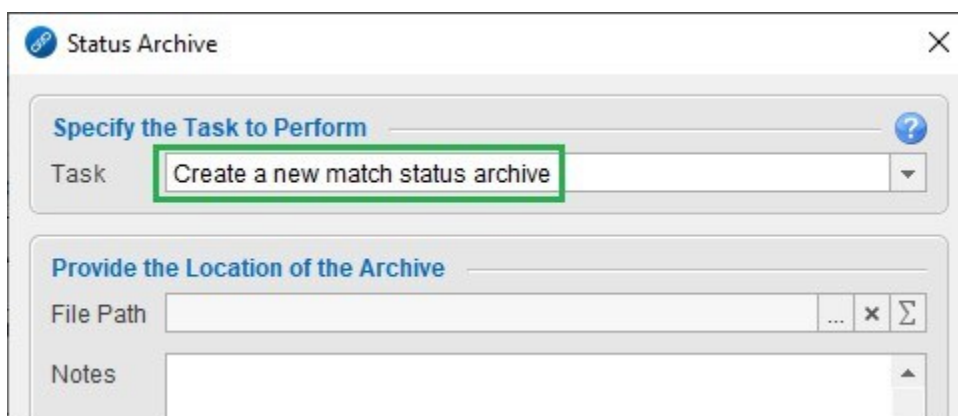
16. Press the **NON-MATCHES** button to only show the non-matching pairs. **This step is very important for what we are about to do, so make sure that you press it.**



17. Press the **STATUS ARCHIVE** button. The Status Archive dialog will be displayed.

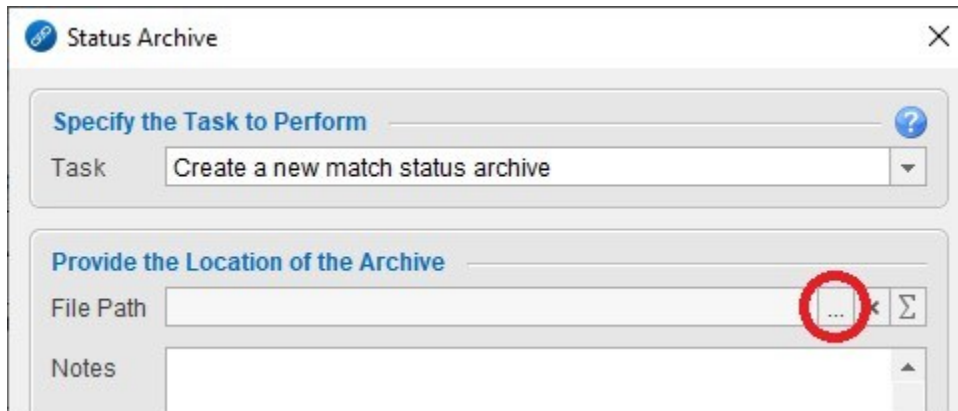


18. If you are creating a new archive, select “**Create a new match status archive**” from the drop down, otherwise, if you are updating an existing archive, select “**Append data to an existing match status archive**” from the drop down.



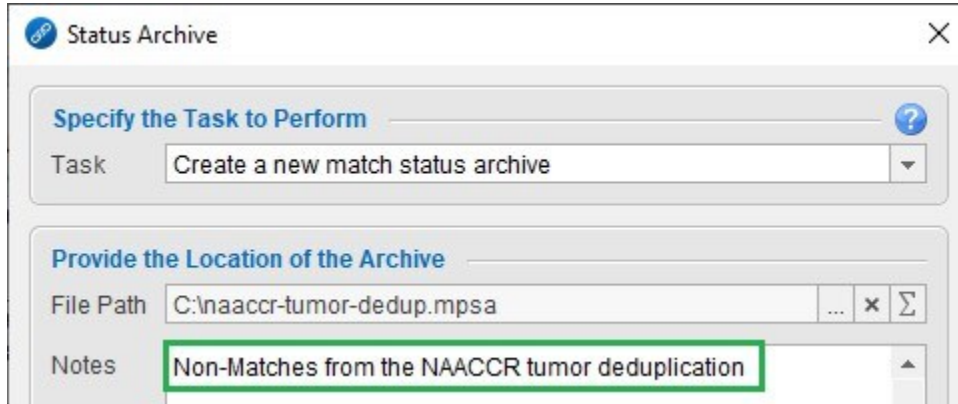
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19. If you are creating a new archive, provide the location of where you would like to save the archive, otherwise, if you are updating an existing archive, provide the location of the archive so that it can be updated. The button you need to press to perform either action is circled in **RED** in the image below.



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Status Archive". It has two main sections. The first section, "Specify the Task to Perform", contains a dropdown menu labeled "Task" with the option "Create a new match status archive" selected. The second section, "Provide the Location of the Archive", contains a text field labeled "File Path" which is currently empty. To the right of the "File Path" field is a button with three dots, which is circled in red. Below the "File Path" field is a text area labeled "Notes" which is also empty. There are also close (X) and help (?) buttons in the top right corner.

20. If you are creating a new archive, enter a description of the archive in the notes section (e.g., "NonMatches from the NAACCR tumor deduplication"), otherwise, if you are updating an existing archive, check the notes to make sure you selected the correct file then make any changes to the notes that you think are necessary.



This screenshot shows the same "Status Archive" dialog box. In this instance, the "File Path" field is populated with the text "C:\naaccr-tumor-dedup.mpsa". The "Notes" text area now contains the text "Non-Matches from the NAACCR tumor deduplication", which is highlighted with a green rectangular box. The "Task" dropdown remains set to "Create a new match status archive".

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21. Select “**Non-Matched Pairs**” from the drop down towards the lower half of the dialog.



The dialog box is titled "Which ID pairs do you want to export to the archive?" in blue text. Below the title is a dropdown menu with "Non-Matched ID Pairs" selected. A green rectangle highlights the dropdown menu. Below this is another section titled "Which records should be exported?" in red text, with a dropdown menu showing "Records that met my filter criteria". At the bottom of the dialog, there is a status bar that says "Task is Awaiting Execution." and two buttons: "OK" (blue) and "Cancel" (gray).

22. Press the **OK** button. The status archive will be created or updated.

Make sure to save this file for next year.

Close the dialog to return to the manual review screen.

23. **CONGRATULATIONS!!!** You are finished.