Viewing Acquisitions

Introduction

This guide covers how to view and manage acquisitions created in the ADF application.

This document applies to the following applications		
ADFPRO Mobile & Computer Triage	DEI Digital Evidence Investigator	MDI Mobile Device Investigator

What is an acquisition?

An acquisition is a data container created during the collection process. It stores the raw data and metadata retrieved from a target device or source. Acquisitions can include mobile device backups and previews, file collections, screen captures, drive images, and data containers created with the ADF remote agent. Only acquisitions created with ADF tools (the ADF application or the ADF remote agent) are listed; backups and images from other tools are not.

Each acquisition can later be scanned to generate results for review and may be linked directly to scan results within the application.

The View Acquisitions screen allows you to review, manage, or delete acquisitions, ensuring all data is properly tracked and retained according to your workflow and organizational policies.

Accessing the View Acquisitions Screen

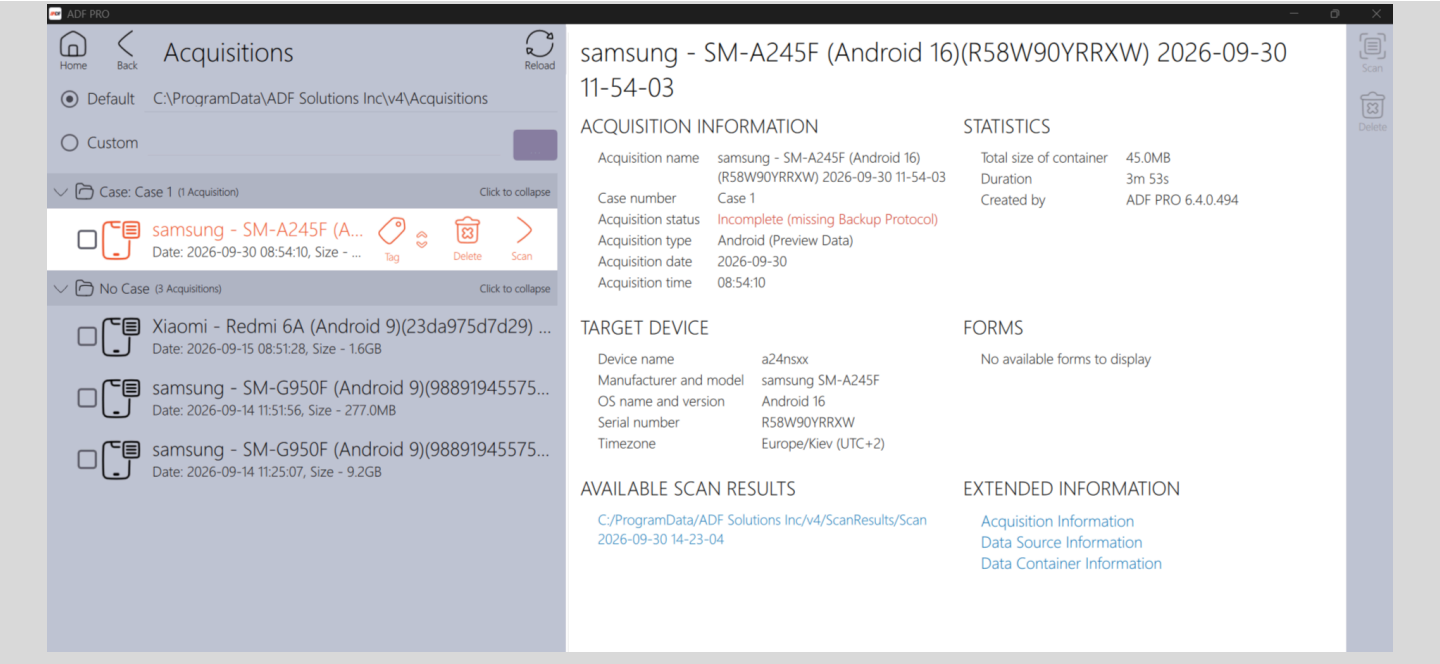
You can open the **View Acquisitions** screen in two ways:

- From the Home screen, select View Acquisitions.
- The screen also opens automatically when you select OK in the Acquisition completed message (Logical image completed for Collect Files) after one of the following:
    - An Android, iOS, ChromeOS or Wear OS acquisition, including one started with ACQUIRE on a screen capture screen.
    - A Collect Files acquisition.
    - Selecting FINISH on the Screen Recordings and Screenshots Capture screen.
    - Selecting FINISH on the Screenshots Capture screen.

It does not open after Image or Preview, or when an acquisition fails or is canceled.

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Select an Acquisition



Folder Path Selection

At the top of the acquisitions list, you can select which folder path to load acquisitions from.
Two path options are available: Default and Custom.

Default Path

- Displays a read-only text box showing the Acquisitions path defined in **Settings** screen (for example, C:\ProgramData\ADF Solutions Inc\v4\Acquisitions).
- This option is automatically selected if no other choice has been saved, or if the saved custom folder no longer exists.

Custom Path

- Allows you to view acquisitions from a different folder location.
- When selected, an editable text box and Browse (…) button are available.

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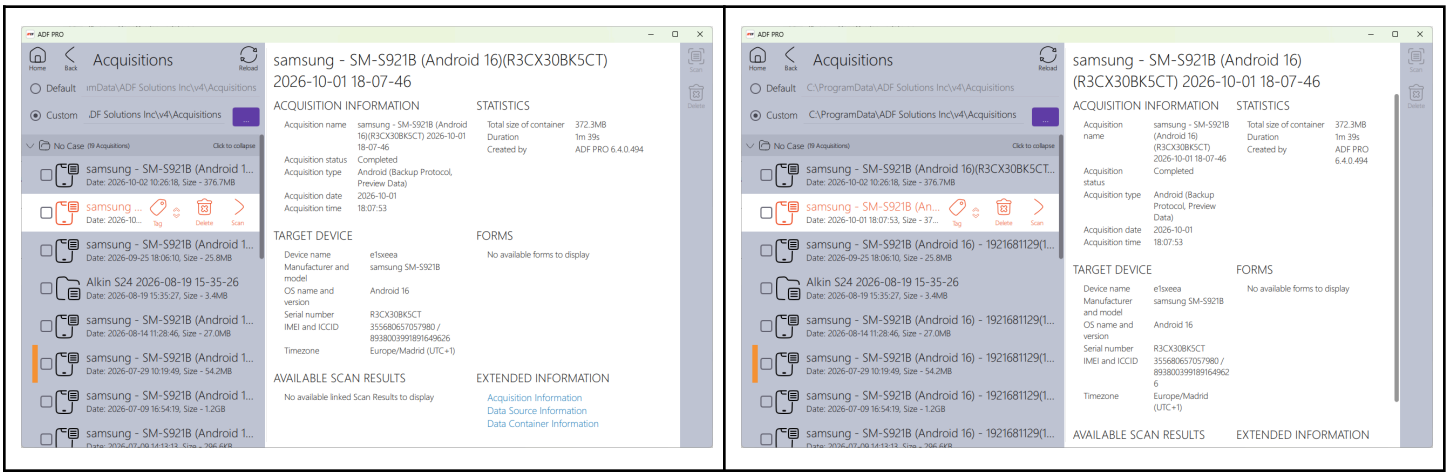
- Select Browse (…) and choose a folder, or type its path and press Enter, to load the acquisitions in that folder. Only acquisition folders placed directly in the selected folder are listed. If the folder does not exist, the box shows: Path does not exist. Only existing directory can be selected.
- A Custom folder chosen with Browse (…) persists when navigating away from and returning to the **Acquisitions** page, and when the application restarts.

Behavior and Persistence

- Switching between Default and Custom reloads the acquisitions list immediately (for Custom, only if its box already holds an existing folder; otherwise type a path and press Enter, or use Browse). Select Reload at the top of the list to read the folder again.
- Changes here never alter the default path in Application Settings.
- When the screen opens automatically after an acquisition, it shows the folder where the acquisition was saved: Custom is selected and its box shows that folder, even if it is the default Acquisitions folder. This selection is kept for later visits and sessions until you select Default.

Viewing Acquisitions

On the left side of the screen, acquisitions are grouped by case number. Each group header shows Case: and the case number (No Case for acquisitions without one) and the number of acquisitions in the group. The group with the most recent acquisition is at the top, and within each group the most recent acquisition is at the top. Case numbers that differ only in upper and lower case form separate groups. When the screen opens, all groups are collapsed except the one that holds the selected acquisition; select a group header to expand or collapse it.
To make the list wider or narrower, drag the divider between the list and the summary. The width is remembered.



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Each acquisition entry shows:

- The tag color, as a colored bar before the checkbox, if a tag is assigned.
- A checkbox for selection.
- Acquisition type icon.
- Acquisition name (the name of its folder).
- The date and time the acquisition started, in the local time of your computer, and its total size, for example Date: 2026-09-30 08:54:10, Size - 45.0MB. If no start time is recorded, only the size is shown.

If the text does not fit, hover over the entry to see it in full.

Hovering over an acquisition, or selecting it, shows its action buttons:

 Tag	Assign or remove a tag. The tag color appears as a colored bar before the checkbox.
 Delete	To delete the acquisition folder from the disk. No confirmation is shown: the entry shows Deleted with an UNDO button for 15 seconds. Select UNDO to keep the acquisition. Selecting Back, Home or Reload, deleting another acquisition, or loading another folder during this time completes the deletion.
 Scan	To scan the acquisition. Clicking **Scan** will show the Scan screen with the acquisition selected for scan. Select Back on the Scan screen to return to this screen.

If an acquisition is not supported by the current license, the **Scan** and **Tag** buttons are disabled, while **Delete** remains available. Instead of the date and size, the entry shows the reason in red: “Your license does not support scanning this data container.” The disabled buttons show no tooltip; if the message is cut off, hover over the entry to read it in full.

Assign Tag to an Acquisition

To assign a tag to an acquisition, select the Tag icon action button. Choose the relevant tag from the dropdown list. Once selected, the chosen tag’s color will be displayed on the far left-hand side of the acquisition, providing a visual indicator of the assigned tag. An acquisition has one tag at a time: choosing another tag replaces it. The tag is saved in the acquisition folder.

To remove a tag from an acquisition, select the Tag icon again. Select the transparent or clear tag option at the top of the list. Upon selection, the assigned tag will be removed from the acquisition, and the tag color indicator will disappear from the left-hand side.

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You can also select an acquisition and press a number key from 0 to 9 to assign the tag with that number (0 is the first color in the list, 9 the last); pressing the same key again removes the tag. Press Space to select or clear the checkbox of the selected acquisition.

Scan Compatibility by Product License

Not all acquisitions can be scanned in every ADF product.
The table below lists which acquisition types are supported for scanning, based on the product license.
Some acquisition types require additional add-ons for scanning functionality.

Acquisition Type	ADF PRO	DEI	MDI
ADF Android, ADF iOS, ADF Wear OS	✅	❌	✅
ADF ChromeOS	✅	✅	❌
ADF Screen Capture / Video Source	✅*(requires Video Source add-on)*	✅*(requires Video Source add-on)*	✅*(requires Video Source add-on)*
ADF Data Container - Remote Agent (Mac and Windows)	✅	✅	❌
ADF Data Container - Collect Files (drives)	✅	✅	✅*(requires External Devices add-on)*
ADF Data Container - Collect Files (MTP)	✅	❌	✅
ADF Drive Image (E01 or DD)	✅	✅	✅(E01 only, requires External Devices add-on)
iTunes Backup / GrayKey / UFED / Other Images (dd, 001, E01, L01, aff4)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Screen recordings and screenshots captured from an Android, iOS, Wear OS or ChromeOS device are saved as an acquisition of that device and follow its row; the ADF Screen Capture / Video Source row applies to captures from a video source. The ADF Drive Image row applies to E01 and DD images created with version 6.4.0 or later and saved in the displayed folder; MDI scans only the E01 images. N/A: these sources are not listed on the View Acquisitions screen.
If an acquisition cannot be scanned due to license constraints, the following message is displayed below the acquisition name (in place of the date and size): “Your license does not support scanning this data container.”

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Acquisition Summary

When you select an acquisition, its summary appears on the right side of the screen, under the acquisition name.

The summary is divided into six sections, shown in three rows: Acquisition Information and Statistics; Target Device and Forms; Available Scan Results and Extended Information.

1. Acquisition Information
   Displays the key metadata related to the acquisition process:

   - Acquisition name
   - Case number, if one was entered when the acquisition was created
   - Acquisition status: Completed, Incomplete, Interrupted, or Incomplete (missing parts) — such as Backup Protocol, Acquisition Agent, or Shared Data. Any status other than Completed is shown in red.
   - Acquisition type (e.g., Android, iOS, ChromeOS, Wear OS, Windows Agent, macOS Agent, Collect Files, ADF Screen Capture, or Drive image). For a mobile device, the requested parts follow in parentheses, for example Android (Preview Data); for a drive image, its format, for example Drive image (E01).
   - Acquisition date and time: when the acquisition started, in the local time of your computer (if available)

2. Statistics
   Shows performance and size metrics:

   - Total size of container
   - Duration (for example, 3m 53s; shown if recorded)
   - Created by (ADF application name and version)

3. Target Device
   Lists device information collected during acquisition:

   - Device name, manufacturer, and model
   - OS name and version
   - Serial number, IMEI and ICCID (in one row, only when both are known), timezone followed by its standard-time abbreviation or UTC offset, for example Europe/Kiev (UTC+2) or America/New_York (EST), and phone number
   - Drive and volume information (if applicable)

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- If an encrypted volume (BitLocker, or FileVault on a Mac) was locked, “Locked” appears in red instead of its size.

For a Windows Agent or macOS Agent acquisition, the device details describe the computer. For a Collect Files acquisition from a drive, the device name, manufacturer, model and serial number are those of the computer on which the ADF application was running. For a drive image, Target Device shows the model, size and serial number of the imaged drive and its volumes.

4. Available Scan Results
   Lists all scan results created from the acquisition:

   - Each result appears as a clickable hyperlink with the path of its scan result folder. Click it to open the scan result.
   - If a result is locked by another workstation, it is shown with a red suffix: “Locked by another workstation” and is not clickable.
   - Scan results that are invalid or not supported by your license are not listed, unless they are locked by another workstation.
   - If no linked results exist, the message “No available linked Scan Results to display” appears.

5. Forms
   Lists the forms saved with the acquisition (see the Managing Forms guide):

   - Each form is shown as a clickable PDF link with its file name. Click it to open the form in the default PDF viewer.
   - If no forms are linked, “No available forms to display” is shown.

6. Extended Information
   - Acquisition Information: the hyperlink to open acquisition_information.json (if available) in an external application.
   - Data Source Information: the hyperlink to open data_source.json (if available) in an external application.
   - Data Container Information: the hyperlink to open data_container.json (if available) in an external application.

The ADF application writes the content of the file to a new .json file in the Windows temporary folder (%TEMP%) and opens it in the application associated with JSON files. That file is not deleted automatically.

The detailed breakdown of the aforementioned JSON files is provided in the ADF Data Container Structure guide.

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Bulk Actions

The Scan and Delete buttons at the top of the toolbar on the right edge of the window act on all acquisitions whose checkboxes are selected, including acquisitions in collapsed case groups.

When one or more acquisitions are selected using the checkboxes, the following buttons become active:

 Scan	Opens the Scan screen with all selected acquisitions added as Scan Targets. If any selected acquisition is not supported by your license, the button is disabled and its tooltip reads "One or more selected acquisitions cannot be scanned due to license restrictions."
 Delete	Asks "You are going to delete the selected acquisitions. Are you sure?" Click OK to permanently delete all selected acquisitions; this action cannot be undone. If some acquisitions cannot be deleted, an error message lists their paths.

The Scan and Delete buttons on the toolbar are also temporarily unavailable in these two cases, even if acquisitions are selected:

- After you delete an acquisition with the Delete action button in its entry, as long as the entry shows Deleted and the UNDO button (up to 15 seconds). The buttons become available again when you select UNDO or when the deletion is completed.
- While the application is searching for the scan results of the selected acquisition. The search starts each time you select an acquisition, and during the search the Available Scan Results section of the summary shows a loading indicator. The buttons become available again when the search is finished.

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