

## Welcome to *Affinity* 2.5

This is the most up-to-date version as of January 2007. The manual is in the process of being rewritten, but the basic structure and function of this version of *Affinity* is shared with other 2.x versions.

The main differences between this and earlier versions are as follows:

1. There are now 10 images in each category (making a total of 80, compared with the 56 in version 1.0 to 2.2). This is a substantial proportionate increase in items, for a fairly modest increase in assessment duration. If you have a number of assessments completed with a previous version of *Affinity*, the results file in the new distribution can be replaced with your existing one. If you do this then when you first identify yourself as a licensed user, the program will advise you it needs to update the old results file. This is a Good Thing, and will add the 'filter' option described below. The software will automatically accommodate and properly display both 56 and 80 image assessment data.
2. There is a new practice module which can be used to assess mouse pointer skills. This effectively replaces the 'clicker' module, and focusses on the specific analogue scale used in the assessment. The problem with Clicker is that it encourages rapid responding which, if carried over into the assessment modules can adversely affect assessment results<sup>1</sup>. The new module consists of the *Affinity* rating interface, but with pictures of people replaced with those of cars. The word 'sexually' is omitted from the rating scale. The task is therefore to rate the attractiveness of images of cars. The task is not timed, and no data from the ratings is recorded. The module can be entered and left at any time, and repeated if necessary.
3. The accuracy of timing routines has been improved from 60th to 1000th of a second. This will probably make little apparent difference to the latency measures. However, it may well reduce the number of tied scores (which can have a significant impact on non-parametric statistics, and also in the mean rank ipsatization). It also means that reporting *Affinity* data to 2 decimal places is no longer slightly misleading.
4. Adjacent to the list of completed assessments in 'browse results' is a field called 'filter with'. Begin typing in this and the display to the left will display only those records containing whatever you type. You can type a name or part of a date to help find the assessment you are looking for.

### Getting started

The procedure for unlocking the software remains the same as the previous version.

First click on 'add user'. Use the 'open file' dialog which appears to select the 'users.rev' file contained in the 'users' folder in the *Affinity* installation. Click 'open' or double click on the file. The 'select user' pop-up list will now contain all user names in the file. Select your own name, and all the buttons on the first screen will be unlocked.

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<sup>1</sup> Clicker remains available just in case it is required for direct comparison with previous assessments. However, use should be avoided, and to all intents and purposes has been replaced by the new practice module.