1.4 What's new in The Observer XT

Users of previous versions of The Observer XT should read this section to get an idea of the improvements and changes in The Observer XT 12.5 relative to The Observer XT 11,5 (see page 25) and The Observer XT 12 (see page 27).

FOR USERS OF THE OBSERVER XT 11.5

Windows 7, 64 bit and Windows 8.1, 64 bit compatible

The Observer XT is compatible with the 64 bit versions of Windows 7 and Windows 8.1. For more information, see "System requirements for Noldus software" on www.noldus.com/downloads.

Episode selection in visualization

It is now possible to select episodes in the time event plot to create an episode selection and a video with only these episodes. In contrast to the other methods to create an episode selection, this method is independent from the start and stop of events. This means that you can start and stop the episode based on, for example, an audio or visual cue, which can appear halfway in an event. Furthermore, the new method is easy to use and intuitive, you can see immediately which video segments you have selected.

Visualization of comments

Comments that are scored in the event log can now visualized in the time event plot. This is especially useful if you use The Observer XT for the transcription of a conversation. The visualization of comments allows you to see in one view what was said and when. But also if you used the comments to make notes about the experimental setup, it can be useful to see these together with the events.

Playback control customizable

The **Playback control** window has been redesigned and is now customizable. Buttons that are not commonly used, like the step frame forward and step frame backward button, are hidden by default. You can select to show or hide these buttons in the Project Settings, so you can adjust the Playback control window to your own needs.

New statistics

The statistics for behavior and numerical analysis now include the Median and the 25th and 75th percentile.

Find and export

With the find functionality you can easily make a selection of events. It is now possible to export these events directly to excel or a text file, for example for statistical analysis in a program like SPSS.

Improved external data import

If you have the External Data Module of The Observer XT, you can import external data like heart rate, or galvanic skin response data. This way you can for example calculate the heart rate during the behavior *Running*, or see what behavior took place when the heart rate was above a certain threshold. External data can only be imported into The Observer XT when they have time stamps that deviate maximally 10% from being equidistant. Previous versions of The Observer XT were not able to import external data files when some time stamps, or samples were missing. This is now possible, missing time stamps are interpolated, and samples at those timestamp get the value NaN.

FOR USERS OF THE OBSERVER XT 12.0

Loop in video

You can set a loop in the video to play it back repeatedly. This way you can repeatedly view a fragment. This can be useful to score a fragment accurately, to inspect part of an observation, or to demonstrate your project in a presentation. You can set the start and the end of the loop manually, but also use a loop of a fixed length. This way you can, for example, first score the first minute of a video accurately and then move the loop to the next minute.

Data selection by duration

You can now select events and intervals with a minimum or maximum duration. This way you can, for example, select only those *Aggression* events that lasted minimally 1 minute. Or, for example, you can analyze only analyze those time intervals during which a child looked away from the mother for maximally 30 seconds.

Compatibility with European Data Format

If you have the External Data Module (see **Additional licenses** on page 21), you can now import European Data Format (EDF) files. EDF is a standard binary format to store and exchange physiological data. It is also possible to import EDF+ data, that may contain annotations, but the annotations are not imported into The Observer XT. Import of BioSemi Data Format (BDF and BDF+) files, which is the 24 bit version of EDF (+), is also supported.

Compatibility with Viso

It is now possible to import sessions created by the video recording and annotation program Viso into The Observer XT. Annotations done in Viso are imported as event logs in The Observer XT and Viso videos are automatically linked to these event logs. In The Observer XT, you can carry out more advanced annotations with your own coding scheme. And you can analyze the Viso data.

uLog 3.5

Together with The Observer XT 12.5, a new version of the key logging program uLog is released. This version is compatible with the 64 bit versions of Windows 7 and 8.1. uLog 3.5 creates log files in .odx format that can be imported into The Observer XT. In The Observer XT, you can analyze the logged computer activities. For more information, see the uLog 3.5 Reference Manual.

Improved Coding Scheme setup

Adding behavior and behavior groups is now easier, because the behavior and group types are explained while adding them. Mutually exclusive groups are no longer exhaustive by default. This means it is no longer necessary to define and score initial state events.