



Welcome to this issue of ON TRACK

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In future ON TRACK will be emailed to all on our mailing list. If you'd like to add your name then go to www.savoy.co.uk/maillist.php.

Seasons Greetings

The season of good cheer is with us again and, like everyone, we're looking forward to a well earned break. This edition of ON TRACK is a bit later than we planned but we wanted to tell you about the new version and that's taken longer to prepare than we anticipated. Now it's finally ready, we really hope you like the new features. Personally, I'm glad we're finished because I'm itching to go snowboarding!

Whatever you've got planned for Christmas we'd like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 'ON TRACK' New Year.

AutoTrack 7.60: The Cat's Whiskers



By now the new version of AutoTrack should have been posted to our website. You'd expect the latest version to always be 'the best yet' but we are especially pleased with this release which contains more than normal for a sub-release. There are several new features that we believe will make your AutoTrack experience even better but the most significant driving innovation is **Predictive Turning** or **Cat's Whiskers** as it has been nicknamed. These allow you a forward glimpse of where the vehicle can get to on the next step before you have even confirmed the current target point. The benefits are obvious from the moment you use them, no longer do you place a point close to a turn wondering whether you will be able to make the turn from that point, now you can place the point with confidence. We think the added convenience when working on long paths will be tremendous—let us know what you think.

For a full list of the new features in AutoTrack v7.60 go to www.savoy.co.uk/atr7.htm.

How to take care of your dongle

Remember a dongle is for life not just for Christmas! Seriously though, your AutoTrack dongle (or hardware lock) is the most valuable part of your product - if you have a network dongle it may be **very** valuable. If you lose it you will have to buy a replacement at list price. To help you look after your dongle we offer the following suggestions...

- Add it to your list of insured items if necessary.
- Keep the dongle in a safe place (e.g. a locked drawer) if it is not used continuously.
- Consider using an internal USB port if the dongle is always used on the same computer. (Remember to attach a note to the computer that internal hardware locks are in use)
- Attach network dongles to a server in a locked room if possible and/or use an internal USB port.
- Do not lend the dongle to those outside your company. (This actually contravenes the licence agreement anyway!).
- Unplug the dongle if you need to move the computer to prevent it falling off or getting broken.
- Finally, don't tread on it - quite apart from the damage to the dongle, it hurts!

Win an iPod Nano

Everyone knows that we have an excellent reputation for delivering user requested features promptly. However, time and again we discover that people have wanted a new feature or an improvement to an existing feature but don't bother telling us, assuming that others will!

We want to encourage you to tell us what you need so we've added a wishlist page to our website, just go to www.savoy.co.uk/wishlist.htm and click on **Request a Feature**. Enter your name, serial number and email address and add your suggestion to the list. As a further incentive, when each new version is released we will send an iPod Nano mp3 player to the provider of the best new feature suggestion. We'll do our best to incorporate your requirements as soon as possible but obviously we can make no guarantees.



Training news

There's been great demand for AutoTrack training and we're hoping to get even more of you enrolled in the coming year. Feedback has been excellent; all of our delegates seem to have found the courses beneficial with many opting to attend both level one and level two courses back to back. As Trainer, Paul Jackson, says "in addition to the broad content, a frequent comment from delegates is that they benefit from the opportunity to use AutoTrack without the pressure of interruptions from work".

We're planning some early new year offers so get in quick before the places get filled.

Update on Traffex 2007

As we mentioned last time we'll be exhibiting at Traffex 2007 and are proud to announce that again we are official sponsors of the event. Be assured that we will have some exciting new products which we are looking forward to showing. We hope very much that we will see some of you there. Come and see us on **stand F41**.

Tips and Tricks

AutoTrack for Highway Design: AutoUndo in AutoDrive

AutoDrive is a really useful tool to generate swept paths quickly. However, there's always an element of trial and error in placing the next target point and you sometimes need to retract it. One option is to close AutoDrive and use the **Delete Last Target** option from the toolbar, but this can disturb the creative flow. An alternative that has been available for several years is **AutoUndo**...

1. Select **AutoDrive Arc** from the AutoTrack drop down menu.
2. Select a single unit vehicle and drive a short path with four or five target points.
3. Now, whilst still in AutoDrive, move the cursor to between the inner axles of vehicle at the last point placed and click the left mouse button.
4. The last position will be removed and the ghosted active path now starts from the one before that.
5. The option also works with multi-unit vehicles and all other vehicle types.

A point to note is that the Cat's Whiskers feature mentioned overleaf is likely to reduce the need to use AutoUndo in AutoDrive. Time will tell.

And finally...

This guy discovered the hard way that his truck was too high to get under the bridge!



Photographed in Banff, Canada

Now you know why we added Vertical Clearance mode!

'Till next time... enjoy the holidays

autodesk
authorised developer



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