



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.

Message from the Editor

With the winter snow behind us and spring flowers appearing (apologies to those reading this in the antipodes) the world feels a brighter place, even if the economic climate is still fairly bleak. Here at Savoy we're pushing on with our plans and looking forward to the time when things start improving. The big effort in the office at the moment is the final preparations for Traffex...none of us can really believe it's been two years since we were there last. I guess time flies when you're enjoying yourself.

<p>AutoCAD 2010 Compatible</p>	<p>Autodesk</p>	<p>AutoTrack 8.5 supports new CAD systems</p> <p>With the recent release of version 8.5, AutoTrack now supports the new CAD systems from Bentley and Autodesk, MicroStation V8i and AutoCAD 2010. The new version supports both 32 and 64-bit versions of AutoCAD 2010 and all the vertical products such as Architecture and Civil 3D.</p>
<p>MicroStation V8i Compatible</p>		<p>Probably even bigger news is that AutoTrack now runs in MicroStation PowerDraft and the Bentley MX suite of programs that includes MXROAD. This allows AutoTrack users of these systems, who have previously used DXF files to transfer data to and from the stand-alone version of AutoTrack, to now use the embedded version, saving them time and effort.</p>
<p>MicroStation PowerDraft Compatible</p>		<p>At the time of writing AutoTrack is the only swept path analysis program that supports these new CAD systems.</p>
<p>Bentley MX Compatible</p>		

Development team grows again

No slow down at Savoy; on the contrary, with a full order book and a long list of new features and products planned, we're actually taking on more programming staff.

John Warby (on the left) and Matthew Whiteman, two very experienced programmers, are joining us to help us develop the product even faster.



The two have quite different career paths, John starting in computer hardware and Matthew in the aerospace industry, which is leading to some lively but healthy debates over the "best" approach. Both are clearly enjoying their roles and looking forward to making a contribution. Welcome to the team guys.

Traffex 2009

The biennial Traffex exhibition is nearly upon us again and we'll be there showing off the new version of AutoTrack.

The show runs from 21st to 23rd April and we are looking forward to meeting some of our existing customers and introducing others to AutoTrack for the first time.

Our lead trainer Luis Garcia will be there too so this is your chance to get free face to face answers to any questions you may have. Here's where we are, right opposite the Café...do come over for a chat.



US Partner Update

The relationship with our new US partner, Ourston Traffic Solutions, is developing well and they are getting more and more enquiries regarding AutoTrack. We have had the occasional glitch getting our two companies' systems working smoothly together but we're ironing out the procedures and are confident that Ourston will rise to the challenge and offer a superior service to our US customers. In the meantime if you have any problems please do contact us here in the UK (sales@savoy.co.uk).

Of course, their unrivalled knowledge of round-about technology has given them a great understanding of how well AutoTrack can be used in this scenario and this experience is something that many AutoTrack users will undoubtedly benefit from in the coming months. www.ourstonts.com



Training News

The latest releases of AutoTrack contain quite a few new features, particularly the inclusion of driver controlled variable steering linkages, which will hopefully solve some design issues. This feature alone has prompted some of you to enrol for training specifically focused on moving large vehicles. If you want to know more about AutoTrack 8.5 please contact Jane or Luis in the office.

Hands-on training (at our offices or yours) provides the most comprehensive approach, whereas the quickest way to learn about the new features is through our Accelerated Training which can be done on-line.

Phone 01580-720011 or email sales@savoy.co.uk to book your training.



Innovation in AutoTrack—our iPod prize winner

I'm sure many of you know by now that we have an on-going competition for the best new feature suggestion. The prize being an iPod Nano.

We're happy to announce that Jason Geurts of Wisconsin Department of Transportation is the worthy winner of the prize this release, for his suggestion of driver controlled variable steering linkages. This feature appears in version 8.5 which can be downloaded from our website www.savoy.co.uk. Unfortunately, as a state official, Jason is not allowed to accept his prize so instead we have donated the iPod to be raffled off in support of his chosen charity, The United Way. We were, however, allowed to present him with a certificate in recognition of his contribution. Congratulations Jason, thanks for the suggestion.

Just for the record, version 8.5 contained no less than 8 new features based directly on wish list requests. So you see, we do listen to you. Why not post your suggestion on our website now for a chance to win the next iPod Nano (assuming you're not a state official that is!).



Tips & Tricks

AutoTrack for Highway Design: User Libraries

We often get calls from users who create a vehicle in the Pool, use it and then save the drawing. Later, when they need to use the same vehicle again, they have to go looking for the drawing file. There is a better way—create your own vehicle library.

1. Run AutoTrack and open a drawing that contains one of your vehicles.
2. Open the Library Explorer.
3. Select **File, New Library** or right click and select **New, Library**.
4. Give the library a sensible name, say "My AutoTrack Vehicles".
5. Now expand the Pool, move the cursor over your vehicle and drag it over the new library name. (Note: hold the left button down to drag the vehicle and release it to drop)
6. Right click and select **Save As** to save the library.
7. If you add your library to the list of automatically loaded libraries in **System Settings, Start Up** then you won't even have to manually load it next time.
8. When you next want to add a vehicle to your library simply highlight it, right click and select **Unlock Library** and then drag your new vehicles into it as above.
9. As your library grows, use groups (right click **New, Group**) to structure it better.

And finally...

....it's all in the planning!

It's not every day that relatively straightforward engineering or construction jobs come our way, but when they do, the importance of planning still can't be stressed enough. Clearing up at the end of the day having carefully concreted in all the black bollards, I wonder how long it will be before these contractors manage to go home?

Until next time...



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