

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

You may recall from the last newsletter that I was looking forward to going snowboarding in Switzerland. Well, as it turned out they had less snowfall this winter than in any for the past fifty years. And when it did finally fall it was washed away by rain a few days later when the temperature rose. Another example of global warming, a natural weather anomaly or my come-uppance for not spending enough time in the office? You decide...

Windows Vista - a bit faster ?

Windows Vista, the new operating system from Microsoft, is said to have been one of the most hotly anticipated versions ever. Like Windows XP it comes in 32-bit and 64-bit versions. We're running it in the office and it's certainly got some nice features and it is fast as long as you have a high-end graphics card. It does however have strict software compatibility guidelines which make our lives harder as developers. Nevertheless, the current version of AutoTrack, v7.60b, though not meeting all the guidelines, runs in 32-bit mode on both flavours of Windows Vista. The next major version of AutoTrack will meet all Microsoft's compatibility guidelines (currently in draft form).



AutoCAD 2008

The other big news, of course, is the new version of AutoCAD; AutoCAD 2008. This is the first version of AutoCAD that will be available in both 32 and 64-bit versions. We've been working closely with Autodesk for the last six months (on their beta test team) to develop a version of AutoTrack for both platforms. While it's been a painstaking task converting all our code to 64-bit, we are confident that our efforts will pay dividends in the future. Two of the major benefits of the 64-bit version are its increased speed and its handling of larger drawings. For those of you planning a move to AutoCAD 2008 soon, we are pleased to say that we will be showing a 64-bit version of AutoTrack at Traffex 2007 in a couple of weeks. In the meantime, AutoTrack 7.60c (available for download in a week or so) will be natively compatible with the 32-bit edition of AutoCAD 2008 and all vertical derivatives.

Best new feature competition

Back in December we launched an ongoing competition to find out what you want to see in AutoTrack. With each new release we have undertaken to give an iPod Nano to the provider of the best new feature suggestion.

This time the winner is Neil Gauld of Orkney Island Council who asked us to model acceleration and deceleration during animations. Neil's suggestion will be in the next version of AutoTrack which we will be showing at Traffex and which should be available for download shortly afterwards.

So that's it for this release but keep submitting those ideas and you might be lucky next time.



Training News: Overseas visits

Demand for AutoTrack training is very much on the increase. We're now getting requests from Europe and even America for on-site training, much to the delight of our Training Manager, Paul Jackson. You may not have realised this, but if you can't justify sending several staff out of the office for two days of training then why not ask for a quote for us to come to you. We can supply all the equipment and all we ask are some light refreshments. Call or email us for more details.

Traffex 2007

Well, Traffex 2007 is just a couple of weeks away and we're busy putting the finishing touches to our show material. Once again we're one of the main sponsors of the exhibition and you'll see our logos on the entrance and around the registration desks telling you our stand number, F41. If you are going to the show please do make a point of coming along and seeing our new product. And, if you know anyone who might benefit from AutoTrack but who maybe hasn't yet seen it, send them along and we'll do our best to show them what they're missing!

Tips and Tricks

AutoTrack for Highway Design: AutoUpdate

If you have a permanent internet connection the best way to make sure that you get the latest version as soon as it comes out is to enable the AutoUpdate option...

1. Open the System Settings.
2. Click on the Updates tab.
3. Tick **Check for updates automatically on startup**.
4. Set the interval in days. If you set it to zero AutoTrack will check for updates every time it is run.

If you don't have a permanent internet connection then you should disable AutoUpdate.

1. Run AutoTrack and cancel the connecting dialog or wait for it to time out (maybe up to 2 minutes).
2. Proceed as above and untick **Check for updates automatically on startup**.
3. Why not add your name to the mailing list on the website and be emailed when a new version is released.

Tell us what you think!

We hope we're doing things the way most of you want; that's to say developing the product, providing support, training, the website, this newsletter, and so forth. But, we'll never know how we're doing unless you tell us. So... this is a call for feedback, good or bad, on any aspect of Savoy's service to you. Email us at feedback@savoy.co.uk or phone 01580 720 011. Please don't be shy, if we're doing something wrong we need to know to put it right and if we're doing it right, it's always nice to know!

And finally...

We were recently sent this picture of a digger that had become a little too engrossed in his work. We think it needs a caption, something like...

Stop digging, stop digging...!

Or...to (mis?)quote Oliver Hardy...

Well here's another fine mess you've gotten us into!

Let us know if you have any better suggestions!

See you in the summer!

autodesk'
authorised developer



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