

# NEWS LETTER

JUNE 9, 2009

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Office move completes
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## V-SOFT COMPLETES OFFICE MOVE

V-Soft Communication's new offices were completed on May 15, 2009 allowing a move-in on May 18th. The offices are on the second floor of the 401 Main building (picture to the right), located centrally in the Cedar Falls downtown business district. Tall windows of the newly renovated building provide ample sun light and a pleasant working space. An elevator provides easy access to the second floor area.

The new offices feature a dedicated I.T. infrastructure and broadband Internet technology to connect the various computers.

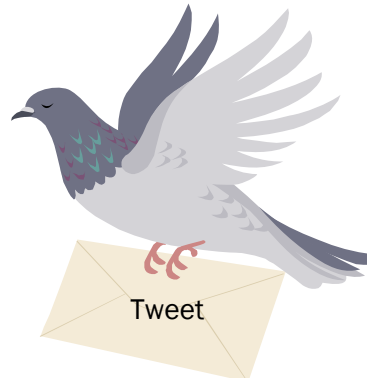
For more pictures of V-Soft's offices and staff see page number four.



## DOUG VERNIER TWEETS

V-Soft's president has become a twitterer. Doug's tweets are mainly focused on FCC matters or other issues affecting AM, FM and TV broadcasters. "I only tweet when there is something that broadcasters need to know," Vernier says. To follow Doug, use this URL:

[www.twitter.com/Doug\\_Vernier](http://www.twitter.com/Doug_Vernier)



### WHY TWEET?

Here's a strategic overview provided by Ogilvy's 360 Degree Digital Influence group. Find a strategy that fits your business on this "Strategic Approach to using Twitter" you might even want to revisit your plans for your business future.

[Twittering](#)

## V-SOFT BROADCAST ENGINEERING TRAINING

Once again, V-Soft Communication needs to hear from you if you are interested in joining our software training seminar scheduled for September 22nd and 23rd immediately preceding the NAB Radio conference in Philadelphia. We need at least ten attendees to provide the critical mass necessary to recover our costs.

The training will run for approximately one and three

quarters days and will feature how to get the most out of Probe 3 and 4 as well as FMCommander, AM-Pro 2 and Microwave-Pro. The program will be taught by Doug Vernier, John Gray and technical consultant Kate Michler. In the past year alone there have been many important changes and upgrades made to the V-Soft software. This is an excellent opportunity for you to learn new tricks and to have your

broadcast engineering questions answered. Catch up on all the new and powerful features with actual projects used as demonstrations. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days. The price for registration before July 15th is \$495; after that date the price is \$550.

Please FAX or email the registration form found on the last page of this newsletter. We hope to see you in the "City of brotherly Love."



Training at Las Vegas, Nevada

## COOL CHANGES TO FMCOMMANDER

The latest version of FMCommander (Build 42b) was released on June 4th. A highlight of this version is the program's new ability to indicate any FM database station record that has been changed by the user in a "what-if" scenario. If the user changes the antenna, class ERP, COR or HAAT of a station, the program will now place an asterisk next to the call-sign. If the user restores the FM station's record FMCommander will return the record to its FCC authorized parameters. The program also flags the user upon loading a job file that a station's record has been changed.

Another important feature is the addition of the calculation of Canadian, Mexican and U.S. cross-border contours using 8 cardinal radials and interpolation between

them. This feature comports with the international treaties with both countries.

FMCommander will now plot "user points" when provided the coordinates. Among other things, this can be used to indicate the location of a receiver or relay point.

Another new feature is found in the antenna pattern editor. In addition to showing the locations of contour overlap the pattern editor now shows the start and finish of all required protections (areas where the 2 dB per ten degree rule should be met.) A fine width blue radial line helps to define where protection begins and where it ends. The editor screen has been revamped to provide better access to the drag and drop pattern points.

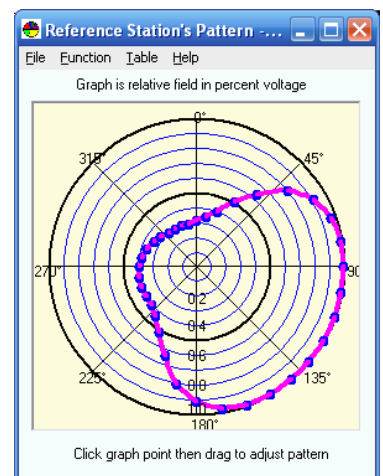
A user radial or a radial through a given city feature

has been added to provide radial lines in addition to the typical cardinal radials.

In a previous version of the program and after identifying that the FCC was using at least three different distance algorithms in their FM processing programs, V-Soft Communications researched these oddities and added a software switch to make the program give the same answers that the FCC gets, even though the old FCC programs were not always using the current rules.

In general, V-Soft Communications makes it a point to add new features to a given program in most version releases which become available to all users under the technical support program.

**V-Soft's Training:**  
**"An excellent opportunity for you to learn all the new tricks and to have your broadcast engineering questions answered."**



**VERNIER PUBLISHES PAPER IN RADIO WORLD EXTRA**

In case you missed it, Doug Vernier has written an interesting paper for *Radio World's Engineering Extra* of March 3rd, 2009. The paper, perhaps somewhat overdramatically titled "The Loom Danger of Digital Host Interference", discusses the issues related to self-interference caused by certain configurations of FM IBOC installations.

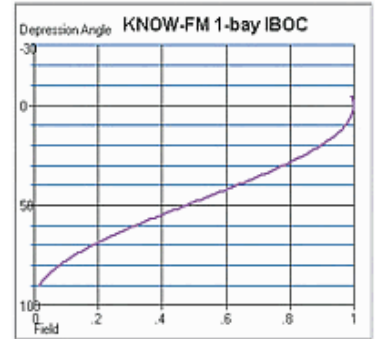
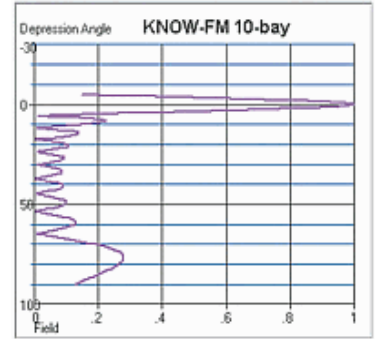
Data for the paper comes, in

part, from the KNOW study where a one bay IBOC antenna was used with a 10 bay analog antenna. If the IBOC antenna does not match the vertical elevation pattern of the analog antenna, bad things can happen to the analog signal. The problem is particularly apparent when separate antennas of differing bay numbers are used. The paper discusses self-interference at -20 dBc

and at the proposed -10 dBc. Some analog interference from the IBOC can travel up to 4 or 5 kilometers from the transmitter site.

The paper also looks at what happens to the analog signal to noise ratio in one of the higher-end component receivers in the presence of a varying levels of IBOC injection.

Check it out—click this [link](#).



**PROBE 4 AND AM-PRO 2 BECOME HOT ITEMS FOR GOVERNMENT REGULATORS.**

Probe 4 is the program of choice for the Department of Industry Canada which houses the engineering regulator watch dogs of Canada. Upgrading from Probe 3, Industry Canada now uses Probe 4 to study both domestic and international DTV stations interference relationships. Industry Canada also uses AM-Pro 2.0 for all its AM station interference analysis.

At the FCC, the AM engineers are regularly using AM-Pro 2, helping to make AM-Pro 2 the industry standard for US AM analysis.

Probe 4 now features specialized code to take advantage of the speed enhancement of the dual and quad core processors. The program also has new capabilities to perform Duopoly studies, IBOC studies and studies with distrib-

uted transmission systems.

AM-Pro 2 has had numerous new features added since it was release some two years ago. For more information on these products try the links below:

[Probe 4](#)

[AM-Pro 2](#)

**If the IBOC antenna does not match the vertical elevation of the analog antenna bad things can happen.**

**NEWS LETTER FORMAT CHANGE.**

We hope you have noticed a difference in this issue of our newsletter. The new newsletter is published in a PDF format with imbedded links to relevant URLs. In the past, many readers of the newsletter have asked us to make the paper "printable". PDF's are easily handled by almost every computer and a PDF document will

keep keeping the page format intact.

Adobe has issued version 9 of the free Adobe Reader which can be downloaded at [by clicking this link](#).

In past news letters we have covered FCC news such as the now pretty well known June 12 exit of Analog TV. We expect

that our Twitter tweets will highlight the important FCC news quicker than if they were included in our irregular news letter scheduled. So, much of this kind of news will be issued as tweets in the future. Make sure you sign up to follow Doug at [www.twitter.com/doug\\_vernier](http://www.twitter.com/doug_vernier).





**VSoft**  
**COMMUNICATIONS®**  
Broadcast Communications Software  
and Engineering Consulting  
401 Main St, Suite 213, Cedar Falls, IA

**Registration Form**  
**7th Annual V-Soft Communications'**  
**Broadcast Allocations Training**  
**September 22-23, 2009**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

**Please fill out the following form and sent it, along with a  
check or purchase order for \$495\*/person by July 15th to:  
V-Soft Communications  
Attn: Kate Michler  
401 Main Street, Suite 213  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613**

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of Attendee(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For office use only
Dt. Rcd. _____
Dt. Paid _____
Packet _____
TT _____
NT _____

Specific issues/questions you would like to see addressed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Cost after July 15, 2009 is \$550/person.

The cost of training is non-refundable and valid for the September 2009 Philadelphia session only.

Includes a guest pass for the 2009 NAB Radio Show exhibit floor.