

NEWS LETTER

DECEMBER 3, 2009

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INTEREST:**

- Windows 7 Compatibility
- Probe 4's new DTS capabilities
- New Scala pattern files in the V-soft format
- FMCommander displays urban boundaries
- Year end discounts

FMCOMMANDER VERSION 6.3.0.48 RELEASED

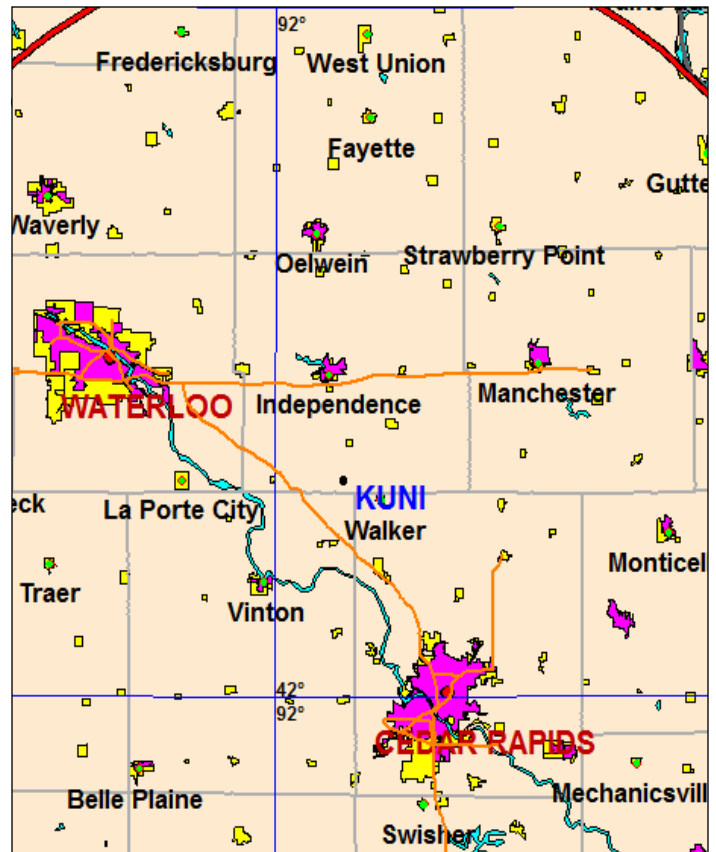
V-Soft Communications has released the latest version of its flagship FM allocations program, FMCommander. The new release boasts the capability of providing the graphics included in the latest U.S. Census Tiger data release. This includes new shape files for urban boundaries (concentrated population areas), updated Tiger county boundaries and names as well as landmark areas and names. This boundary set was packaged with Probe 4 and is available as an option to other users.

This version of FMCommander has been certified by V-Soft as being Windows 7 compatible.

The program can now direct load ERI, Dielectric and Scala-Katherinein patterns.

For those users who have good graphics cards and monitors and wish to work in high screen resolution we

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FMCommander Map Showing Urban Areas and City Boundaries

END OF YEAR PRICE LIST DISCOUNT

V-Soft Communications announces an end-of-year discount on software, terrain and shape file databases. The discount begins on December 15th and ends on the 31st. For users under professional level technical support the discount is 10%. For those on standard support, the discount is 7%. Order your programs and databases using this year's prices. This discount cannot be applied retroactively.



PROBE 4 UPDATE CONTAINS DTS (DISTRIBUTED TRANSMISSION SYSTEM)

The OET 69 module of Probe 4 now allows analysis of distributed transmission systems (DTS). Many HTDV operators have found that their HDTV channels and power assignments have created many holes in their formerly solid analog coverage. The FCC has acknowledged this issue and now allows applicants to submit proposals for numerous on-channel synchronized transmitters. These transmitters, in most cases, may not expand the noise limited signal contours

of the primary station. Now, in its latest release, Probe 4 provides the ability to add multiple transmitters to provide single frequency interference analysis based on OET 69 standards as modified for DTS.

Enter the primary reference station and then add the additional DTV transmitters. Probe will automatically link all such DTS transmitters listed in the FCC database together.

The program will then

calculate the interference the individual transmitters cause and provide you with a composite table of the total percentage of interference caused by the full DTS system. The program will also generate a map of the system showing the locations of the interference areas.

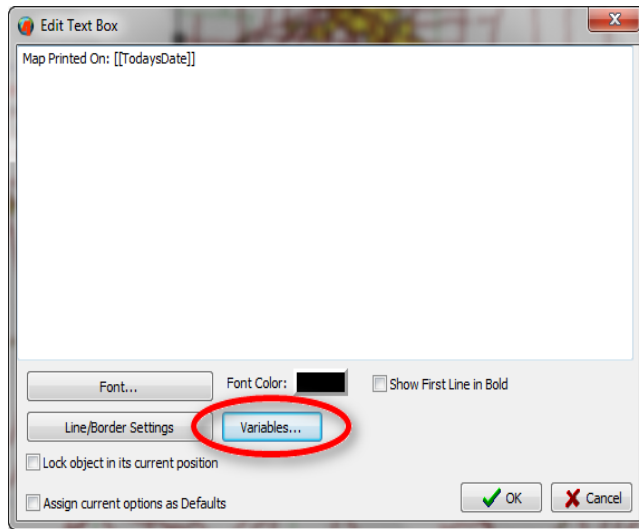
The DTS functionality is packaged with the optional OET-69 module for all Probe 4 programs. If you originally had Probe 3 and the OET-69



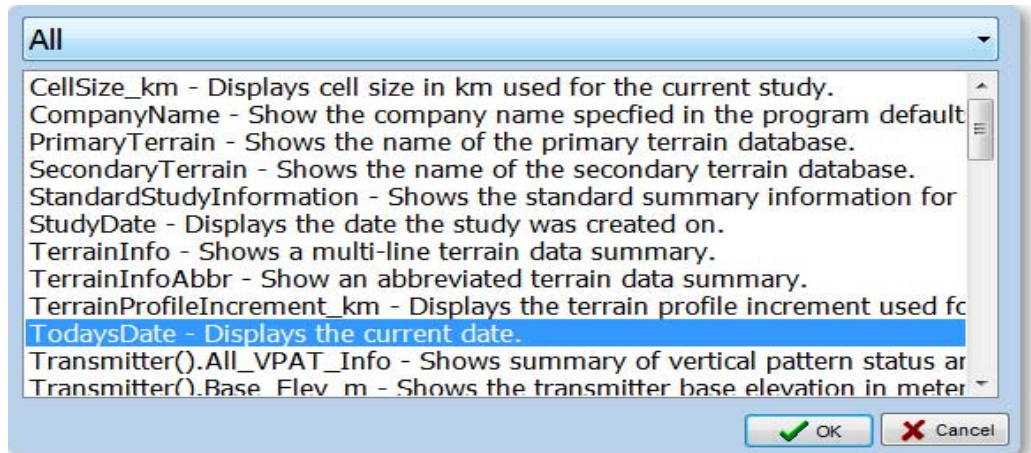
module and you upgraded to Probe 4 the new OET-69 module would be included in the Probe 4 upgrade price at no extra charge. Otherwise, to purchase the DTS capability you would need Probe 4 and the optional OET-69 module, which when purchased includes the DTS functionality.

PROBE 4'S NEW STUDY VARIABLE FEATURE

Ever wanted to add a variable item to a text area on a Probe map but you couldn't remember the exact name or what variables names were available? Hidden among the hundreds of nifty new features in the latest version of Probe 4 is the "variable look-up" routine. Probe 4 contains various "study variables" that represent such values as transmitter ERP, antenna height AG and AMSL, etc. Click the "Variables." button on a text box, rich text box, or single line text edit window and another window will appear showing all of the available variables with short descriptions. Select the variable you want and its value will be automatically inserted in the editor at the current cursor position (The square coding braces are automatically added to the text box, but do not appear on the printed map.)



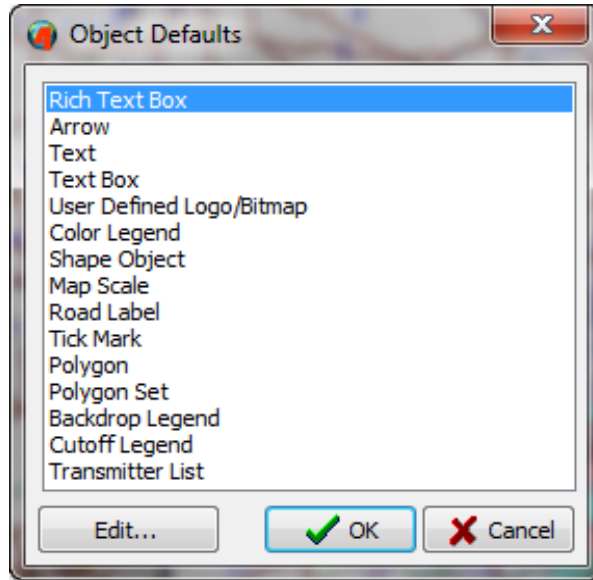
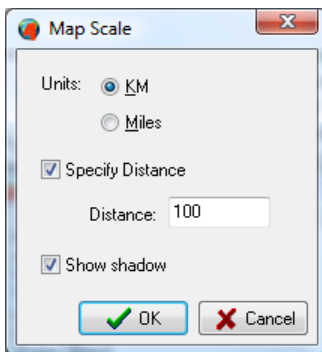
"Ever wanted to add a variable item to a text area on a Probe map but you couldn't remember the exact name or what variables names were available?"



SETTING PROBE 4 MAP DEFAULTS AND OTHER TIPS

There has been some confusion about how to set many of Probe 4's object defaults. Probe 4 puts all the drawing object defaults in one list making it easy to find and set the object properties. To edit the default properties choose "Edit Draw Object Defaults..." from the "Map" menu. The defaults window will show a list of all available objects. Next, select the one you for which you wish to set the properties and click the "Edit" button.

For example, if you select the "Map Scale" default you will see the default setup window for setting the map scale properties. Once you set these properties, Probe 4 will always use them for future drawings.



WINDOWS & COMPATABILITY

Many users are buying new computers and want to know if V-Soft programs are compatible. The answer is definitely "yes". All our programs have been tested and work great under Windows 7, both 32 and 64 bit OS systems. Users who install their programs on Windows 7 will need our new hasp key installer program.

The file named HASP_SRM_Runtime_cmd_line.zip can be found in our program update folder on the V-Soft web. Once unzipped, you install the program with the command "haspdinst-i". An HTML readme is included in the zip file for further information. If you have trouble installing call us at 800-743-3684.

SCALA PATTERNS NOW IN THE V-SOFT FORMAT

V-Soft Communications has been working together with Scala/Katherine to provide complete up-to-date antenna patterns for all their products. Special thanks goes out to Jerry Sutherland at Scala for spending his weekends to make these patterns files available for their entire product lines.

These files will load to V-soft programs as standard V-Soft azimuth and vertical elevation field files. When downloaded from the "Program Updates" folder on our website, the user will find a file for each antenna model which includes related information on antenna gain and other useful data. The user will find two main zip files, one for Scala patterns and another for Katherinein products.

In the spirit of the season, these files are provided absolutely free as a service of Scala/Katherine and V-Soft. Communications.

NEW FMCOMMANDER VERSION RELEASED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE #1)

have added a new check box to the Defaults Setup window, a switch for 125% DPI font usage. To take advantage of the larger fonts, you must first change your computer's display to 125% DPI fonts. Then if you have clicked on the 125% DPI font box, FMCommander will rearrange its screen format to accommodate the larger font selection. You may find this display setting easier on your eyes for all of

your computer work.

We have been asked by some users what the asterisk signifies on the main screen next to the HAAT value. This symbol appears when the HAAT of the reference station does not match the HAAT derived from the terrain elevation database selected by the user. If you click on the asterisk, the program will use the HAAT derived from the

terrain database that is loaded and resident within the program. The mapping feature found on the "Find Information Screen" now allows the user to edit labels even after the center of the map has been changed and the scale is changed. In previous versions, if the map was re-centered and the scale was changed the labels remained fixed and did not

allow drag and drop editing.

Finally, making any change to a station's operating parameters now results in an asterisk being placed at the end of the call sign. This is to remind you that you have a study based on changes you made in the FCC database, which must be reconciled before your scenario can be played out with an FCC application.

V-SOFT INTERNET TRAINING

With today's travel costs being high we have been asked by several of our program users if we could provide personal training using the internet. The answer was a resounding "Yes we can." We are able to show the live training computer screen on your computer via the internet and to complete the aural communication process we use a telephone line and speaker phone. If you or a member of your staff is interested in internet based personal training call us at 319 743-3684 to request a quotation.

LPTV AND THE FULL - MASK

The rural LPTV window is now open and the large city window opens on January 25th, 2010. Many LPTV engineers have thought that the current LPTV emissions masks called "Simple" and "Stringent" fail to provide enough opportunities for new stations. The "full-mask" is the mask required of full-service TV broadcasters. This mask has been added to SearchTV, Probe 4 and to our on-line SUN DTV processing program as an LPTV option. While the FCC has said it will agree to the use of the "full-mask" they will not yet accept applications proposing its use. So, until this happens, an applicant must propose either the simple mask or the stringent mask. At one time, the "stringent mask" was much more costly to build, however today this mask is usually a standard feature of modern LPTV transmitters.

SBE CHAPTER WINS RECOGNITION

The Kansas City Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers, for which V-Soft's Director of Research, John Gray is the webmaster, was recently recognized for having the "Best Chapter Website" for 2008-2009 by the national SBE organization. Congratulations to John and the Kansas City chapter for work well done!

NEW AM-PRO FEATURES

In mid-November, version 2.33 of AM-Pro was released. This version added a "Functions" button to the night allocation window. The user will now find the "Mass Remove" tool and a tool to turn off the "Ratchet Rule" for all protections in the study under the "Functions" button. The program manual has also been updated to provide information on using the program to reflect the AM "Fade Zone".

Earlier this year, companion program 'Conductivity' Version 1.08, was released. This new version added an option to "Assign Default Page" when editing a graph page. This will remove all of the labeling from a page and replace it with the current "default". The new version also added the capability to set the Font used for axis labels. The "Plot Options" window now contains a button for editing the axis label font.

Version 2.31 of AM-Pro added the ability to save and load radiation limits in the interactive pattern. It also added support for 2007 US Census estimate data (an optional module). The program can 'lock' parameters in place when using the interactive pattern editor. In this manner, the user can lock in the spacing, orientation, and height of the towers so they are not accidentally changed when editing an existing array.

The program now allows critical hours calculations to be done at an azimuthal resolution of down to 0.01 degrees and a new progress bar has been added.

MICROWAVE PRO

Improvements in Microwave Pro have also been made this year. This program will search the BAS frequencies and find new S.T.L. frequencies. It provides information on available channels, shows the geometry of interfering paths and provides a path profile screen showing the proposed path over terrain. The program keeps a record of all microwave stations and provides the user with a mailing list ready for pre-coordination activities.

One new feature in Version 1.05 changes the program so that only the first 100 records found are loaded and shown in the database search window. This makes manipulating the data for a given search faster.

Some older records in the ULS database do not contain any data for the receive point. Previously, these were shown having the same transmit and receive coordinates. This was a problem. To address this, the ability to calculate the receive point based on a distance and azimuth was added to the program. When loading records with no receive point the azimuth is taken from the ULS data and a distance assumption is made. Stations using a calculated receive point will now show the code "RxC" in the 'notes' section of the allocation window. A checkbox has been added to the receive side of the path editing window that forces the program to calculate the receive coordinates based on distance and azimuth.



JOHN GRAY



CHAPTER WEBSITE AWARD