

LSS Training and Workshop Booking Form

You can book online at dtmsoftware.com, or complete this form and either fax to 01452 864194 or post to McCarthy Taylor Systems Ltd, Aerial View, Acorn House, Shab Hill, Birdlip, Glos. GL4 8JX

Birdlip, Gloucestershire, Dec '07 - May '08

Please circle the date(s) you wish to book

Course	Cost	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Names of attendees
LSS Introduction	£150	4 18	8 22	5 19	4	1 15	6 20	
LSS for Land Surveyors & Engineers	£150	5	9	6	5	2	7	
LSS Intermediate	£150	19	10 23	7 20	6	3 16	8 21	
LSS Advanced	£150	20	24	21		17	22	
Leica 1200 Workshop	£150		15	12	18			

Leeds / Wakefield Feb'08

Course	Cost	Date	Names of attendees
LSS Introduction	£150	26Feb	
LSS for Land Surveyors & Engineers	£150	27Feb	
LSS Intermediate	£150	28Feb	
LSS Advanced	£150	29Feb	

East Kilbride, Scotland Mar '08

Course	Cost	Date	Names of attendees
LSS Introduction	£150	11Mar	
LSS for Land Surveyors & Engineers	£150	12Mar	
LSS Intermediate	£150	13Mar	
LSS Advanced	£150	14Mar	

Discount structure

Discounts are available on bookings made for any standard £150 a day course. Discounts are applied by adding up the total number of training places booked on a single order. They do not have to be for just one person or for just one course. Please note that unused training places cannot be carried over.

2 days £280 3 days £400 4 days £500 >4 days £120 per day

Bespoke training

If none of the above standard courses prove suitable, either in content, location or date please contact us for details of our Bespoke courses. These are charged per group of up to five per day and cost from £500+expenses.

Contact details

Name Organisation

Telephone Fax or email

Notes, instructions and/or Order Number

If you have any training vouchers, enter their numbers here

Terms and Conditions. You will receive confirmation of your booking(s) within 2 working days of our receipt of this form and detailed joining instructions will be sent by 1st Class Post or email no later than 2 weeks before the respective event. By returning this form you are entering into a formal contract. We are unable to give refunds for non-attendance on a course.

All events are subject to availability. Prices exclude VAT
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NEWSLETTER (No.54) November 2007

Autoupdate

Once upon a time, listening to your favourite recording artist was quite an event. First, you'd thumb through your collection of LPs to find the one which fitted your mood then, with some ceremony, you'd remove the black disc from the white paper sleeve. Then, making sure you didn't touch the playing surface, you'd deposit flecks of saliva over the surface as you attempted to blow away the dust attracted by the very act of removing the record from its case. Placing the stylus on the record was the next challenge, requiring a steady hand and a light touch to avoid etching an arced line all the way to the middle of the disc. This was indeed the forerunner of 'scratching', albeit inadvertently.



Then you'd finally sit down and relax, more than likely with the record cover to hand so you could follow (or, heaven forbid, sing-along to) the lyrics. The whole process was a labour of love for the serious audiophile. And a short while later you'd have to do it all again as the speakers popped and banged in time to the stylus skipping off the end of the musical groove along which little more than 20 minutes earlier your stylus had begun its spiralling journey.

Now what does it take? You can download your entire record collection onto an MP3 player the size of your little finger, you never have to listen to tracks in any particular order, blow dust off the pickup or worry you're going to wear it out because you have played with it a thousand times.

Updating the LSS program is a similar activity for many users and has become a frequent exercise in recent months for the most dedicated. We've sent out three CDs this year alone and have 'posted' numerous interim updates on our website which have resulted in hundreds of hits on our download page. However, even our website updates are large and take some time to download, not to mention the effort of entering your contact details each time. Wouldn't it be better if LSS could check itself if there was an update available and download it without the user having to do anything? Well that's what we are testing at present.

Those of you who have looked in the LSS installation folder will have seen several files in there. Some are quite small, while the main program is 9Mb or so. Even the help file is over 10Mb. In future, we'll be breaking the help down into individual documents, so what the autoupdate service will do is check if there are any newer versions of the files on our website and automatically download them to a temporary folder. LSS will (if necessary) close down, the new files will be copied into the installation folder and LSS will be re-run. As far as is possible, the entire exercise should be seamless.



Those users who expressed a willingness to test the autoupdate facility in response to our last e-bulletin should already be testing it. We also hope that by the time you receive this Newsletter we will be up and running with the latest Beta version which will have the autoupdate built in. It is likely that we will be sending out a CD to everyone in the coming weeks for those who are unable to download large files.

Discounts

From 1st August we extended our prompt payment discount for LSS licence renewals. Previously, discounts were available on single invoices above £2,000. We have now reduced this to £750. So, any licence renewal invoice which exceeds £750 will automatically include a 10% discount on the balance above £750 for those who pay within 30 days. On a £2,000 invoice this equates to £125. On £3,000 it is £225 and so on. Add to this the generous discounts we already offer for multiple days training (20% on 4 days or more), plus the fact that we have never increased our software prices and we hope you will agree that LSS has never been such good value. There's an even bigger discount on orders over £5,000 and £15,000. No wonder then that 2007 has been our busiest year yet for new LSS users and we've trained more users than ever in the past twelve months.



EIG2008 25th - 27th June, Cardiff

The Extractive Industry Geology Conference attracts key earth science professionals not only from the UK but worldwide to present papers on a wide variety of subjects. This year the themes will be



'Security of Minerals Supply' and 'Technical Issues in the UK Extractive Industry'. To register your interest in attending and/or contributing a paper or poster display visit the website at www.eigconference.org, but be quick, the conference is very popular and is certain to be oversubscribed.

Christmas

It barely seems like yesterday that we were preparing for Christmas 2006 and it's almost upon us again. What has happened to 2007?



Apart from taking this opportunity to wish all of our customers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year and to thank them for their continued support, we'd like to inform everyone of our Christmas closure. Our office will close at lunchtime on Friday 21st Dec and will re-open at 9:00am on Wednesday 2nd January.



dtmsoftware.com

Latest Beta Developments

Icons save time



In a drive to enhance overall efficiency, the 7 separate Edit point & link options have been split into their own commands with direct access via individual icons. What this means is that Quick Link is now just a single click away and, as the rest use the 'Method' described below, they too are single click commands the second time in. Furthermore, as with all commands in LSS, there's no need to escape out of one command and into another, just click the icon of the next command and it will automatically quit the current one. If it is what is called a 'dynamic' command (i.e one which has an '*' after it in the pulldown menu), it may be selected without first quitting the current command. Then on exit LSS will return to the original command. It saves time and effort. Not a lot of people know that!

Mistaken Identity

According to Wikipedia, Cogo is a remote town on the Mitémélé River in Rio Muni, Equatorial Guinea, lying east of Acalayong. It is known for its partly ruined colonial architecture. It's also a village in Nepal.



It just goes to show how little they know. For those of us who don't get out much or, rather, those who do get out but mainly stand in muddy fields, Co-Go means Coordinate Geometry - effectively, design tools which allow you to use the points and links in a survey to generate new ones. Available for a long time via 'Output / Design Digitise', until now they have been design and not edit commands, thus limiting their use for more complex operations. With the launch of the current Beta version of LSS, Co-Go is now in fact an edit command. This means that you build up the features realtime on-screen and newly generated points and links are immediately available for further editing without having to bring in a load file.

So what Co-Go commands found their way into the current Beta version?



Intersect
Extend
Offset a point
Offset a line
Move an observation
Division
Line & offset



As the Beta version is tested, so we will add even more Co-Go commands to the list. Expect to see more as the months progress. Why not let us know if there's one you feel should be considered.

There's Method in it

Many commands in LSS require the user to choose a number of options through an initial screen. For Edit Point & Link that includes the feature to be used and maybe the level to give the newly inserted point - all essential information, but something you don't necessarily want to have to go through every time you return to the same command.

In the forthcoming Beta version we have introduced a concept we are calling 'Method'. In practical terms, once you have visited a command in an LSS session, the default options for that command will be set, so the next time in you don't need to choose any options at all.



What you will see, however, is a new button in the lower right of the LSS screen labelled 'Method'. Whenever this is available it is possible to click and change the settings for the current command (or via the right mouse button). This should speed up most operations within LSS and, as we roll out the functionality to more commands, its use will become second nature.

Training

Training has become essential for any new LSS user, not because the program is difficult to use - far from it. It's just that with the immense pressures of work and the vast amount of functionality now available even in our entry-level LSS Solo product, the most effective means of learning all about the system so you can hit the ground running is a full-on 1 day training course. Now that might take care of the LSS side, but what if you've just bought a survey instrument and need to know how to get the kit working with the software?



We have been running instrument workshops for the past 2 years and have now entered into an agreement with Leica Geosystems for them to sell training vouchers whenever they supply new instrumentation to an existing or prospective LSS user. A single voucher will cost £150 and will entitle the holder to book, via our website, on one of our standard Leica System 1200 workshops (see timetable on the back of this Newsletter). The vouchers can also be redeemed against any of our standard LSS training courses. The alternative is to purchase a bespoke training voucher which will cost £500 and this will entitle up to 6 people from a single organisation to attend a tailor-made 1 day training Workshop (expenses will be charged separately if training takes place away from our offices in Gloucestershire).

The workshops are hands-on courses which involve configuring LSS and the survey instrument, undertaking a supervised surveying exercise and then downloading it into LSS. The aim is to enhance coding efficiency and awareness of the capabilities of both LSS and Leica System 1200. Users bring along their own equipment so they go away with it configured just how they like it.

If you are in the process of buying some Leica equipment you can ask for the vouchers to be added to the order, or if you already have the equipment you can book a place via our website or by completing the form on the back of this Newsletter. We're kicking off 2008 with Leica System 1200 Workshops on 15th January, 12th February and 18th March.

Those of you who use Trimble or Topcon Toposurv equipment can also book training courses, but you'll have to contact us direct. At the moment we aren't planning any specific Workshops for these instruments, but bespoke ones are always available at a date and venue to suit you.

e-bulletins

With almost 2,000 people regularly receiving our e-bulletins, we are still concerned that about 200 fail every time because they are spammed or refused by the end-user's ISP. If you aren't receiving e-bulletins from us (and the last one will have gone out just before you received this Newsletter) please visit our website and follow the e-bulletin link. Register as a recipient and that way we can make sure you are on the list. Then please make sure your spam filter lets through emails from our domain - dtmssoftware.com.



'Go-anywhere' Computing



Pen-based computers have been around for quite some time. Used primarily to allow site-based editing and processing, they have established themselves in a number of markets over the years. The problems have always been the lack of screen brightness when used outdoors, fragility and poor battery life. Now a company has come along with a couple of products which they claim will overcome all these problems and the devices are called the 'Atigo S' (above) and 'Spyglass' (below).

Supplied in the UK by X² Computing and manufactured in the USA by parent company Xybernaut Computing, the hand-held units are full Windows PCs with a touch-sensitive screen and all the usual peripheral ports you'd expect on a full sized PC, plus Wi-Fi and Bluetooth. Specified with either solid state or hard disc storage, the units boast high resolution screens which are very bright, some even in full sunlight (different screen specs. are available). What's more, they are ruggedised, weatherproof and light. Other tablet PCs on the market offer similar PC specifications, but require additional ruggedised cases which bump up the weight to almost 2Kg, which is a bit of a weight to lug around. The 'Atigo S' is just 840g with battery.

While these PCs will take conventional mouse and keyboard inputs for use in the office, when used as hand-held units the main interface is a pen-like stylus. In early testing we took one out to show a couple of LSS users and asked them what they thought of the concept. It was decided that, as a site-based survey editing tool it had potential, especially for field verification and, in combination with the new LSS CO-GO editing tools, could save quite some time on more complicated jobs. Certainly the feedback we have received has been positive and we are confident that whoever does purchase one will be able to make full use of LSS.

Visit xybernaut.com and browse for the 'Atigo S' (at the time of writing, Spyglass is still under development). Contacts in the UK are X² Computing. Their contact details are available via www.dtmssoftware.com/x2.htm.



If you fancy a quick look at the Atigo, pop into your local Tesco store. You will see them being used by the home delivery staff!

Self-Supporting

The LSS support Forum was launched almost two years ago and we have been pleased with the level of user take-up and the continued use of the site for help and advice.



This year we have expanded its usefulness by introducing a section which contains a variety of support files, documents, rough guides (practical screen-by-screen guides) and resources and, of course, the site is available 24/7 which we, regrettably, aren't. So, if you need any help with a particular aspect of LSS and either can't call or you're working out of hours then please visit the forum. You never know you might find the answer you were looking for. Access the forum via our main website at dtmssoftware.com.

And Finally...

If you have a couple of minutes to spare, why not take the following test, scurrilously termed 'The Inner Blonde Quiz' but we wouldn't be so prejudiced. You ought to be aiming for full marks here, but no one will know if you don't get them all right. The key is not to think too hard. Just write down the first answer you come up with.



1. What do you put in a toaster?
2. If you drove a bus with 52 people on board from London to Glasgow, you dropped off 7 and picked up 3 in Birmingham and then dropped off 15 and picked up 11 in Manchester, what is the name of the driver?
3. Take 3 oranges from 4 oranges. What do you have?
4. A man builds a four sided house. All four sides face south. A bear is outside. What colour is the bear?
5. If you had just one match, and went into a cold, dark room, which contained a candle, a cigarette and a gas cooker, which would you light first?
6. A doctor had 15 patients. All but 6 died. How many live patients were left?
7. I went to bed at 7 o'clock in the evening, and wound up my clock and set the alarm for 8 o'clock in the morning. How long would I sleep before the alarm went off?
8. Divide twenty by half and add 5. What number do you get?
9. If a doctor gives you 3 pills, and tells you to take one every half hour, how long would it take before you have finished all the pills?
10. Some months have 30 days, and others 31 days. How many months have 28 days?
11. How many of each species of animal did Moses take with him to the ark?
12. Say silk. Spell silk. What do cows drink?
13. Red houses are made from red bricks. Pink houses are made from pink bricks. What are greenhouses made from?
14. You are on a plane over Korea. There is a fire in an engine and the plane crashes exactly on the border between North and South Korea. In which country would you bury the survivors?

Answers here: www.dtmssoftware.com/quiz.htm