

RoadSoft RoundUp

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<http://roadsoft.org/training/tutorialvideos>

RoadSoft Version 7.3 Released

This month, several significant updates have been released in RoadSoft 7.3. These changes affect the way users interact with the laptop data collector (LDC) and historic sign data. The most significant changes make the LDC compatible with new touchscreen technology, and allow users to keep archival records of historic sign data for reference.

Laptop Data Collector Updates

One of the most noticeable changes in RoadSoft 7.3 is a graphical overhaul of the LDC. "We wanted to give users the opportunity to choose what data entry windows are visible while rating roads to save screen space," says Software Engineer Luke Peterson. The new version of the LDC has modular windows like the Road and Sign modules in RoadSoft. "The modular display makes it easy for users to collect data on smaller devices like a netbook, because they can re-arrange or condense their workspace," he said.

The PASER rating interface within the LDC has also been updated to make it compatible with touchscreen devices. Previous versions of the LDC used drop-down menus to enter PASER ratings. The new version utilizes a button interface that is arranged in a row. "This new arrangement is touchscreen friendly and speeds up data entry," says Peterson.

Archiving RoadSoft Sign Data

In RoadSoft 7.3 users also have the option to archive historic signs so that they can still be searched for and accessed, even after a sign is deleted. This feature is an alternative to deleting an old sign.

In the past, when a RoadSoft user clicked on the "Delete Sign" button in the Sign Module RoadSoft permanently removed the

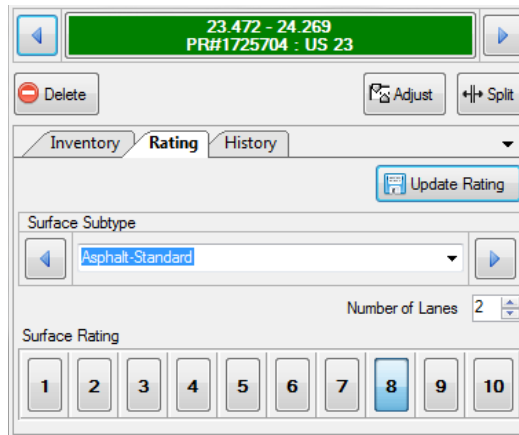
selected sign. In RoadSoft 7.3, this button has been changed to read "Delete/Archive Sign." Upon clicking the button users are asked whether they want to delete or archive the selected support or sign. Software Engineer Mary Crane explained the significance of this change: "Deleting a sign still removes the data permanently, like it always has; however, archiving a sign locks the data and greys it out so that it can still be used as a reference."

The search tool has also been updated to search for archived sign data. The tool now has a checkbox that reads "Include Archived Signs." With this option checked, a search displays archived data in addition to data this is active. If an archived sign is selected it can be opened in the sign module just like a normal sign.

The archiving feature is useful for users that want to access old sign records for legal purposes, or for more thorough data analysis. "This is our first use of archiving in RoadSoft," Crane explained. "If users find the feature useful, we will look at adding it to other modules in the future."

To download the latest version of RoadSoft, visit: roadsoft.org/releases/latest_roadsoft_release

Version 7.4 of RoadSoft will be released in April. This version includes an update to the framework basemap. **Starting with this update, users will no longer need a RoadSoft CD to update their framework.** After users apply the 7.4 update from roadsoft.org, RoadSoft will download updated framework from a CTT web service. The CTT will still be capable of preparing RoadSoft CDs for users without an internet connection, however, they will not do so unless a CD is specifically requested.



The new LDC PASER rating interface features a button-based rating entry system. This interface simplifies data entry.

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