

# KISTERS Australia News

December 2008

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## From The GM's Desk

*By Bill Steen*

2008 seems to have flown by and it has been one of our busiest years. We welcomed new users from 12 countries of the Southern Africa Development Community, USA, New Zealand and Australia. In addition to new users the consulting group was kept extremely busy undertaking consulting work for approximately 32 agencies globally. On the technical front there has been major work undertaken especially with the pending release of Version 10 in mid 2009. So all in all a very busy year and 2009 is already shaping up with major commitments already scheduled.

From an industry view point it has been evident that agencies also have been extremely busy especially with the access to Bureau of Meteorology funding for the upgrade of their networks. With current economic crisis I believe the industry can take comfort in the fact that everyone still needs water and energy. The consumer may not rush out and buy a new car but they will always need water.

From my personal perspective I wish to thank the staff for their ongoing dedication and commitment. We at Kisters wish you all a happy festive season and a prosperous New Year

Bill Steen

General Manager  
Kisters Pty Ltd



## 2009 User Group

The Australian Kisters Users Group meeting next year (2009) will be held in Canberra on August 12 and 13. The US meeting will be held in San Diego on August 17 and 18. Put the date in your diary and start begging for travel funds - with a recession looming funds may be tight soon!

## Perl Training Course

Next year we are planning to offer a five day training course on Using Perl with Hydstra. The first scheduled course is planned for May 18 2009 (sorry about that, but we're busy!). The course will cover all aspects of integrating Perl into Hydstra, and will cost \$3000 per person. The topic list will include:

- Hydstra Perl libraries
- CMD Scripting
- Perl batch jobs
- Perl preprocessors
- Perl postprocessors
- Perl datasources
- HYSCRIPT
- Dealing with databases in Perl
- Dealing with time series in Perl
- Using HYDLL
- Perl and XML
- Perl and MODSYN
- HYPLORE dynamic menus
- OLE Automation

The mandatory pre-requisite for attendance at the Hydstra course will be successful completion of a four-day Programming Perl course run by Perl Training Australia. You can find their upcoming training schedule on their web site at [perltraining.com.au](http://perltraining.com.au).

It may be possible for us to offer a Perl Training Australia course at our office in Canberra the week before our course (e.g. May 12) if we get enough interest (and if the prospect of two successive weeks of Perl doesn't invoke depressive tendencies). We could then invoice the two weeks directly from Kisters Pty Ltd.

Please send expressions of interest at this stage to us via [support@hydstra.com](mailto:support@hydstra.com).

# Hydstra Product News

## Registering HYDLL on a new Vista PC

As Vista becomes more widespread people sometimes find the security a little intrusive. One problem you may encounter is the registration of the Hydstra DLL. You have three options:

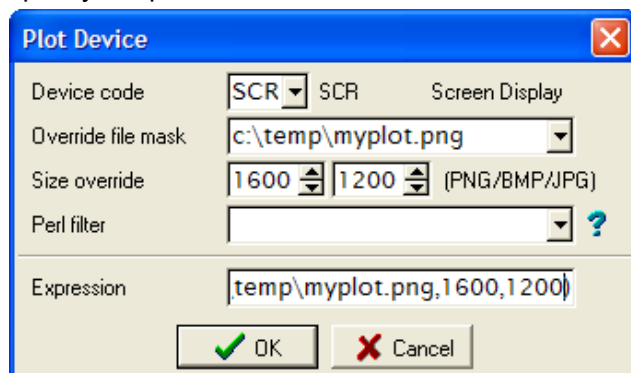
- Start Hydstra as Administrator every time, by right-clicking on the HYPLORE or HYMULTI icon and choosing Run as Administrator.
- Have an administrator do this once and then the DLL should remain registered until you change the location of RUNPATH for any reason. You don't need to re-register just because of an upgrade as long as the path remains the same.
- Turn off User Access Control (not recommended) via Control Panel/User Accounts.

## Dual Screen issues

Some users are having problems with Hydstra running on dual screens. We have improved the dual screen handling in V10, but for V9 you will have to live with it. Citrix users may also see problems depending on the Citrix client version. Screen location is kept in one of 2 places by Hydstra depending on the version you are running - the registry or an INI file. For example in 9.5 and earlier HYDMWB.INI kept the screen location for the workbench. Other locations are kept in the registry in subkeys under HKEYS\_CURRENT\_USER\Software\HYDSYS. If you get into trouble (like losing a window off the screen) try deleting the INI file or registry key related to the program with the problem.

## Directing Plot Output

Did you know that in Hydstra 9.6 you can direct all plot output to a specified file at a specified size using the Plot Output dropdown on the parameter screen. Select 'Advanced Options ...' and you will be presented with a dialog box where you can specify the plot file name and size:



In a batch job you use a plot destination string of the form:

```
SCR(c:\temp\myplot.png,1600,1200)
```

## Microsoft Changes MSTSC Switches

Be warned that Microsoft has changed the switches in their remote desktop client MSTSC.EXE, and in later versions of RDC the /console switch has been replaced by /admin. RDC 6.1 is delivered with Windows Server 2008, Vista SP1 and XP SP3.

Users who access a Hydstra server PC running SVRRUN must connect to the console otherwise all hell breaks loose, and you can end up with multiple copies of SVRRUN running on the same PC - a very bad thing indeed. If you upgrade to SP3 or install Vista be sure to change your connection to use /admin.

## Troubleshooting Hydstra Help

Some people are having problems seeing the Hydstra Help file - symptoms are usually that you see the left hand pane but nothing on the right. The problem is caused by Microsoft tightening security a while back in a system patch. The Help file talks about this issue in some detail, but of course - you can't read the Help file! A few pointers:

- You can always read the help file off a local hard drive - in an emergency, copy Hydstra.chm from MISC\_PATH to c:\temp and open it there.
- Configure HYCONFIG.INI to copy the help file to a local drive  
[System]  
HelpFolder = c:\temp\help
- Run CHM.REG from MISC\_PATH to relax the security a little. This will require the administrator password on a locked-down PC

See <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/896358/> and <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/896054/> for a more detailed discussion of the issues.

## Current release is Hydstra 9.6.6

The current release of Hydstra is version 9.6.6. It rolls up a lot of changes and enhancements made since the beginning of this year. 9.6 will be the last version 9 release, though we may release more patches if necessary.

The 9.6.6 release is available from the FTP site as a zipped ISO file, please contact us for ftp details if you want to download it. Also please notify us when you go live with 9.6, as it is important that we keep accurate records of which version everyone is running.

You can find a summary of what's new in 9.6 at <http://hydstra.kisters.com.au/>.

## Hydstra 10.0.0 Progress

Version 10 development is proceeding well, with an expected release date of mid 2009. Issues we have finalised already in V10 include:

- Consolidating all DBF tables to a single path (DBFPATH). This will impact any scripts that assume RATEPATH or GAUGPATH are in a different location.
- Starting on the move to alphanumeric variables and sub-variables
- Enhancing the notion of datasources, and collapsing suffixes, datasets and datasources together into a single concept.
- Made some enhancements to the underlying binary time-series file formats to further improve accuracy and round-tripping.
- Improved support for Oracle, PostgreSQL and SQL Server. There will be a cost associated with migrating to a corporate database.

Because we are proposing to implement a number of significant changes, you should plan for a period of in-house testing before V10 is deployed, during which time you should check that all your local scripts and processes operate as expected.

We will probably be offering some sort of V10 migration training closer to the time.

## BOM Data Uptake

The Bureau of Meteorology's Water Data section, based in Canberra, recently reported that they had completed the uptake of data into a Hydstra archive from major Hydstra users in NSW, NT, QLD, SA and WA. The data was delivered via HYBOMEXP and taken up via BOMIMP, programs developed for the Bureau by Kisters Pty Ltd. Data has been received from a further five agencies and is presently being tested prior to final uptake.

The archive presently contains 4853 sites containing 113,000 years of data with 258 million points of data. The process was carried out using only a desktop PC, as the major IT infrastructure planned for the project has not yet been commissioned. After an initial flurry of problems, Todd Lovell reported that the main uptake process proceeded smoothly and was completed in just a few days.

Congratulations to all involved, particularly to Paul Sheahan and Todd Lovell from the Bureau and Peter Heweston from Kisters Pty Ltd.

## iQuest News

*Mike Cook, iQuest*

The team at iQuest have almost completed our first year as part of the Kisters Group. It has been an amazing year with many changes. We end 2008 with several significant achievements on which we will continue to build in 2009. In particular, we have successfully launched our new generation iRIS 150 and iRIS 350 loggers which have gained rapid market acceptance. In November we shipped several hundred iRIS family data loggers to eager customers in NZ, Australia and beyond. We have continued to develop our relationship with our Australian agents, Hydrological Services, and have already begun technology sharing in a range of areas.

Our most recent and interesting sale is for HydroTel and a number of iRIS 350 data loggers for installation in Brunei by HiQ Engineering. This will incorporate a mix of GPRS, satellite and radio communication with some loggers acting as communication gateways to other sites.

We extend our best wishes for the holiday season to our users and colleagues. We look forward to continuing growth and new technology releases in the New Year.



iRIS150



iRIS350

## WISKI 7 News

*By Michael Natschke*

The current version of WISKI is 7.0.11. In this version a couple of new agents have been implemented (such as calculation of percentiles and standard deviations, cubic spline interpolation and tidal peak detection). The agent framework has been extended to raise alarms with the Kisters Alarm Manager, and validation routines such as threshold exceedance or rate of change can be configured to generate an alarm message based upon an XML template. Each time the validation criterion fails the validator parses significant information into the assigned XML template and sends it off to the Kisters Alarm Manager.

In addition to the enhancements in the calculation

framework the new face of the Kisters scripting language has been implemented. KiBasic has become the scripting language KiScript and provides easy methods for accessing and performing calculations on time series data. With KiScript users can write their own calculations, validations and reports.

The next version of WISKI (Version 7.0.13) will support runtime calculations. Any agent can be preconfigured and registered globally by a unique name. Recurring standard calculations do not need to be configured manually for each parameter; the runtime calculations are displayed automatically.

WISKI 7.0.13 will be officially released at the beginning of 2009.

I echo Bill's words in "From the GM desk" and wish all of you a happy festive season and a prosperous New Year. I am looking forward to coming to Australia again in 2009.

## Record Australian Rainfall



**Queensland Government**  
Natural Resources and Water

*Ray Maynard, Dept of Natural Resources and Water, Queensland*

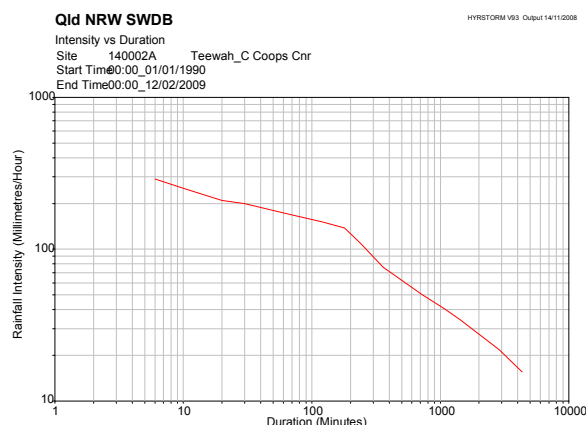
NRW's gauging station 140002A Teewah Creek near Coops Corner recorded 818 mm of rain for the 24 hr period starting at 1420 hrs on Thursday 23 August 2007. The site is on the Noosa River headwaters, south-west from Rainbow Beach, and east-north-east from Gympie.

This fall eclipsed the 24 hr rainfall records in all the other Australian states for any month of the year, and has only been exceeded several times in recorded history during summer tropical cyclones along the Queensland coast, when atmospheric moisture levels are normally much higher. The rainfall intensity on Thursday night was phenomenal, with a maximum 6 minute rainfall intensity of 290 mm per hr, while 173 mm fell in an hour, and 415 mm fell in 3 hrs! By comparison, NRW's historic logged 6 min rainfall totals for the Wide Bay-Burnett probably top out at about 200 mm per hr, and that had always previously been during summer thunderstorms. Apparently the associated low pressure system dragged in moist air from the southern Coral Sea, which fed a near-stationary area of extremely thermodynamically efficient thunderstorms.

It is quite marked on the rainfall intensity plot that the intensity didn't start to decline more sharply till durations over about 3 hrs. Only a few exceptional storms have a graph like that, whereas at most

sites, particularly inland, this faster decline normally tends to occur at durations of about 1-2 hrs. Normally summer thunderstorm events hold all the records for less than a few hours along the Queensland coast, and tropical cyclones or tropical lows mostly hold the records for longer durations.

Duration	Began Time	Date	Amount (mm)	Intensity (mm/hr)
6 Minute	23:52	23/08/2007	29.0	290.0
10 Minute	23:50	23/08/2007	42.0	252.0
20 Minute	23:50	23/08/2007	70.0	210.0
30 Minute	23:32	23/08/2007	100.0	200.0
1 Hour	23:32	23/08/2007	173.0	173.0
2 Hour	22:18	23/08/2007	303.0	151.5
3 Hour	22:04	23/08/2007	415.0	138.3
4 Hour	21:24	23/08/2007	436.0	109.0
6 Hour	21:46	23/08/2007	456.0	76.0
12 Hour	21:24	23/08/2007	603.0	50.3
18 Hour	21:24	23/08/2007	727.0	40.4
24 Hour	14:20	23/08/2007	818.0	34.1
48 Hour	03:20	23/08/2007	1043.0	21.7
72 Hour	05:32	22/08/2007	1118.0	15.5



Kisters Pty Ltd wishes to thank the Queensland Depart of Natural Resources for this information.

## Staff News

In November Martina Dorn joined us from Germany to do a work experience internship. Martina has completed her degree in Business Informatics in Germany, and has been assisting Debbie Cockburn on accounting and business related issues. Martina will remain in Canberra until February next year, when she will travel around Australia before returning to Germany to look for permanent employment. She has done excellent work with Kisters and we wish her well for the future.





### **Office Christmas Party**

Every year we hold the office Christmas Party in Canberra, and it is a good opportunity to bring together the staff from Hobart and Canberra. This year we had a Secret Santa round of tasteful gifts under \$5. Debbie Cockburn was particularly pleased to receive her folding colander from Santa!



## **Contact Information**

This newsletter is published by Kisters Pty Ltd and edited by Peter Heweston.

Homepage: <http://www.kisters.com.au>

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