

KISTERS Australia News

December 2005

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Introduction

The end of 2005 is drawing to a close and we are already looking forward to 2006. Planning is well in hand with some exciting new developments in the wings that will be of great benefit to users.

As outlined in this newsletter the combined 2006 AHA and Kisters Australian User Group meeting will take place in Darwin in August. We encourage all users worldwide to consider attending this conference. The conference theme is "Interactive Hydrography: Future Directions" covering topics such as acoustic data management, an acoustics workshop, and presentations on projects that improve the interaction of hydrography, industry, and community groups. Hope you can make it.

From all of us at Kisters Pty Ltd we wish everyone season's greetings and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Bill Steen

General Manager
Kisters Pty Ltd



Kisters News

New Hobart Office

We have relocated our Hobart office to a new location just up the hill from the water in Battery

Point. The views are not quite as spectacular as from the previous office, but the location has convenient access to the CBD and the waterfront. The address is Level 4, 2 Kirksway Place, Battery Point, Tas 7004 - drop in and say hello some time.



Water glimpses



Office interior

User Group Meeting Darwin 2006

Initial Call for Papers and Expressions of Interest

In association with the Australian Hydrographers' Association Conference the Annual Kisters User Group Meeting will be held at the Sky City Casino in Darwin on Friday Sep 1 2006. The User Group Meeting will be part of the larger AHA Conference which runs from August 29.

Kisters has been a proud supporter of the Australian Hydrographers' Association for many years with many of its users being hydrographers and hydrologists alike and the association of the User Group Meetings with the AHA's conference has continued to be a great success.

Expressions of interest and abstracts for the Kisters User Group day can initially be forwarded to:

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phone: +61 2 6288 2756 * fax: +61 2 6288 9061
E-mail: support@kisters.com.au
WWW: <http://www.kisters.com.au>

Details of the AHA Conference can be found at www.aha.net.au.

Office Staffing over Holiday Period

The Canberra and Hobart offices will be very lightly staffed over the holiday period Dec 19 to Jan 9 while many developers and support staff take leave.

Kisters Integration

TimeStudio – WISKI integration

The first stages of TimeStudio-WISKI integration (TWI) have been completed which have resulted in TimeStudio reporting and Modelling functioning over a WISKI database and thus becoming available to current WISKI users. The first round of migration tools for TimeStudio to WISKI have been developed and provide a means to move to WISKI from an existing TimeStudio database. This will be a guided process that requires input from the users to ensure an equivalently functioning WISKI system.

The next stage of development is the integration of these modules into the WISKI 7/ TSM Server environment which will form the base of all future WISKI products. Work is currently taking place on moving core aspects of the TimeStudio system into the WISKI 7 client.

Discussions are currently underway regarding the direction of the Scheduler application but no matter what the outcome there are sure to be many benefits from other WISKI products. With applications such as SODA and WISKI Alarm Manager, Kisters will be in the position to provide a complete communication/telemetry system for all needs. It is a priority of this project to provide at a minimum the current functionality that is available in the scheduler application along with features that were previously not available.

Soda Developments

The Unidata driver is now released, and the Unidata 6804D switch device is also supported. The SDS driver has been bedded down and seems to be running smoothly.

Client Services News

Please Update Your Email Address Book

We still continue to receive emails addressed to individuals at hydstra.com. The only valid address at hydstra.com is support@hydstra.com. Staff in Australia should be addressed as firstname.lastname@kisters.com.au. Staff in Germany are firstname.lastname@kisters.de, and staff in North America are firstname.lastname@kisters.net.

Client Services Diary

The last few months have been relatively quiet on the travel front, though there seems to have been a significant increase in local project work. Much of our project work seems to revolve around reporting on the management of data systems, telemetry systems, key performance indicators, etc.

Paul Sheahan delivered an advanced ratings course to 8 DIPNR users at Hume Weir near Albury. The course was co-run with DIPNR staff who presented the local policies and procedures for ratings, while Paul covered HYRATED and associated rating tools.

Dylan Evans spent time on site with Suwannee River Water Management District and the City of Seattle doing Hydstra training and system enhancement work.

Paul Sheahan spent time in New Zealand consulting with the Auckland Regional Council on a range of data import and reporting issues. During that trip he developed HYTELSUM, a reporting tool for real-time data that shows current data values and colour codes how up-to-date the values are:

	10	100	100.01	140.01	140.02	150.01
	Rainfall (mm.)	Level	Level	Discharge (Cumecs)	Discharge (Cumecs)	Discharge (Cu. M.)
HYDSYS01 hydys01	0.3	0.049	0.049	0.000	0.000	0.000
HYDSYS02 HYDTRA test site 2	0.0	-0.023				
HYDSYS03						
HYDSYS04		1.000				
HYDSYS05						
HYDSYS06						
HYDSYS07						

HYTELSUM is available by request for Hydstra 9.3 and will be distributed generally in later releases.

We have been re-visiting aspects of the Hydstra Instruments system, and have developed new instrument reporting programs HYINSACT and HYINSREP which report instrument status by site:

Instruments at Site

Model	Serial	Date in	Description	CalPer	Task	Due	Status	Description
SITE 00001			Fosters Creek Raingauge					
6003B	L4590	20040701	Unidata PDL	12 Ser	REPLBATT		Overdue	Replace internal battery
SM2500	1006C	19911031		6 Cal	VOLUME	20050510	Overdue	
SITE 00003			Rivett Raingauge (New)					
6004C	L7522	20040521	Starlogger RED				OK	
MILLTRONICS	P177577	20040820	Milltronics 'Probe' 2 wire Loop	0 Cal	B4USE	20060818	OK	
				12 Cal	FIELD		OK	
NOAHII	283	20040922	762 mm (30 inch) Capacity weighi	0 Cal	FACTORY		OK	
				3 Cal	FIELD	20050907	Overdue	
SITE 00004			Tuggeranong Meteorological Station					
7001-11	L1161	20041201	Unidata Prologger	0 Cal	B4USE		OK	
				24 Cal	FIELD		OK	
7001-11	L1161	20041201	Unidata Prologger	24 Ser	REPLBATT		OK	Replace internal backup battery
EP08	8281	20040907	McVan Pyranometer	24 Cal	FACTORY	20060810	OK	
EP08	8281	20040907	McVan Pyranometer	2 Ser	CLEAN		Overdue	Clean glass dome and check level
HMP131Y	T591927	20040810	VAISALA temperature/humidity tra	12 Ser	REPLACE		Overdue	Replace with calibrated EP08 from
				0 Cal	FACTORY		Overdue	
				99 Cal	HUMIDITY	20121026	OK	
HMP131Y	T591927	20040810	VAISALA temperature/humidity tra	0 Cal	MAXMINT		Overdue	
				72 Ser	HUMSENSE		Overdue	Replace HUMICAP sensor
				12 Ser	REPLACE		Overdue	Replace with calibrated unit from

Hydstra Product News

Current Releases

The current release version of Hydstra is 9.3.0. The current release version of TimeStudio is 4.2.0.8.

TimeStudio users are reminded that they must migrate to version 4.2 before they need to use dates in 2006, as TimeStudio 3.x will not handle dates beyond 06:28:14 on the 7th Feb 2006. All uses of Hydrol.dll must be rewritten to use TimeStudio.dll - Hydrol.dll will not work after Feb 2006.

Ask us for a CD if you want to upgrade either product via an email to support@hydstra.com.

Long Filenames in Hydstra Paths

Hydstra 9 is unable to run safely in an environment where any component of the Hydstra path is greater than 8 characters or contains spaces. The following locations for Hydstra are all fine:

```
c:\hyd
c:\hydstra\v903\hyd
c:\consult\programs\hydstra\hyd
```

But these are not:

```
c:\hyd stra\hyd (contains a space)
c:\consulting\hyd ('consulting' too long)
c:\program files\hyd (contains a space and too long)
```

The reason is that we still use some 16-bit applications like HYCD that do not understand long paths. You can try it for yourself if you wish - make a directory of c:\temp\longfilename and then run

```
set hyconf=junkpath;c:\temp\longfilename
hycd junkpath
```

You will not end up where you expected.

We plan to loosen this restriction in Hydstra 10, but the cost will be a replacement for HYCD. Starting from V9.3 you should change all occurrences of

```
HYCD xxxpath
```

to

```
CALL HYCHDIR xxxpath
```

in all batch jobs and scripts.

Perl Scripts in MISCPATH

As of Hydstra V9.3 all Perl scripts in MISCPATH are named with the owner orgcode as the first two or three characters. We have had to rename a few scripts to implement this policy, so

```
tsarcage.pl -> hyarcage.pl
tsqualst.pl -> hyqualst.pl
... etc
```

Many scripts in MISCPATH were simply examples, and they have been moved to a new directory \hyd\sys\run\perl\examples that contains lots of examples of Perl programming techniques.

Eliminating Dead Programs

We are presently planning for Hydstra 10, which will involve updating the Delphi compiler to a more recent version. Major changes of version are always a good time to review the programs we hold on your behalf, and possibly dispose of any that you are not using. Remember that we charge you annual maintenance fees on all code we maintain on your behalf.

To find out what we are maintaining for you, first discover your ORGCODE, which is in your HYACCESS.INI file, for example ours is HSY. Then find out what we are holding for you by running

```
hycd miscpath
dir hsy*.psc
dir hsy*.pl
dir hsy.hsc

hycd runpath
dir hsy*.exe
```

but use your orgcode instead of HSY. If you find programs you no longer use please let us know, we will certainly be happy to delete them. Presently about 25% of our total code base comprises programs that are used by only one organisation. We would love to reduce this figure.

Telstra to switch off CDMA network coverage

Telstra announced in early November that it plans to switch off its CDMA mobile network covering rural and regional areas and replace it by 2008 with a national 3G or 4G service. The phasing out of these services, according to Telstra, could commence as early as next year.

Little is known about the new mobile service, which will replace CDMA by 2008, but Telstra claim country people will be better off. However concerns have been raised as the new Telstra network will be on a different frequency to that used by Optus and other companies, meaning there will be two separate mobile phone systems, which could result in a need for phones with dual bands.

TimeStudio Product News

TimeStudio Update

Whilst all major development has finished on TimeStudio (except for Modelling which will remain part of the Kisters offering indefinitely) there has been plenty of work being done on bug fixing, driver updates and other various parts of the system that need continuing support. This has led to the next release version of TimeStudio (4.2.0.8) being more stable than ever before. Numerous bug fixes have been added to this release and a summary of these fixes are available in the release notes on your update CD.

The majority of the work done has been on the driver framework to ensure support of date-times post February 2006. The individual drivers (telemetry, source and output) have been worked on to support this new framework. All drivers we believe are still in use have been updated but there still may be some drivers out there that have not been updated. Please contact Kisters if you are using a driver that you are unsure about. All drivers written by customers will need to be recompiled

using the new common files/interfaces.

If you want to check if a driver DLL is current, right click on it and check the version in Properties. All updated drivers will be version 2.0.0.x.

Staff News

Employment Opportunities at Kisters Pty Ltd

Kisters Pty Ltd are looking for staff with a mix of computing and hydrographic skills to join us in the Client Services group in Canberra. The work requires demonstrated programming experience, though we will provide specific Perl training if necessary. The group provides front-line client support, carries out Hydstra installations, provides Hydstra training, and works on consulting projects for clients. A considerable amount of local and overseas travel is involved. Please contact Paul Sheahan or Peter Heweston if you are interested.

Contact Information

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

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

All support and accounts questions should be directed to support@hydstra.com.

All personal Hydstra email addresses are of the form firstname.lastname@kisters.com.au, but all general emails should be addressed to support@hydstra.com.

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