

Cruncher



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Contacting HRS

We are based in Hamilton, but supply, support and demonstrate our products around NZ as needed.

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The New HRS Web Site is On Line

Over the last year or so we have kept the same overall web site design but have tweaked it and polished it to make it easier to use.

Now the time has come for a completely new design. We have decided to move away from many of our past design decisions in order to make the site even simpler and easier to use. The site also looks snappier and more modern.

You will notice that the product pages are now much more tidy and consistent. We have standardised the page layout in order to make it easier for you to find the information you want.

If you are have trouble using any of the features of our new web site please let us know.

We hope you will use this yourself for the following purposes, and also pass on our URL to colleagues who could benefit from our products.

- Get timely information on new products, seminars and training courses



- Obtain more detailed information on products than we can provide in our catalogue
- Find links to other useful sites
- Find convenient access to downloads of demonstration versions
- Find free patches that update your software
- Find consultants to assist you.

Information Packs

We have many products that take different views on similar technical tasks. We have decided to provide "Information Packs" that are collections of brochures on products that deal in different ways with particular tasks. This approach means that you do not have to research the possible products before coming to us for details on each one. Do have a look at the enclosed form, and if any of the packs are relevant to you fax it back. All of the products are described briefly in our catalogue – if you want more copies please ask. If you want more than two packs please contact us by phone, because we may be able to do something specific for you.

Data entry services

We have two companies that will provide you with a data entry facility. Use them if you want to concentrate on designing your survey and analysing results. Just give us a call and explain your need, and we will pass on your details.

Free in-house seminars

You should have a copy of our **Millennium Edition Catalogue**. (If not, or if you want more copies, do ask us for them.)

We will be delighted if you tell us which of the products you would like to see demonstrated, and will come to your premises to show them off at a time of your choice. It is better if you get a group of people together, so you can discuss your corporate requirements, and perhaps save money on a multi-user purchase.

Let us pay your society newsletter mailing costs.

We have many more copies of our catalogue available for distribution. We will pay your society for the privilege of including our catalogue with your next mailing. We can even get a commercial mailing house to do the complete job for you. Save yourself time, and give your members a chance to become acquainted with the best technical software around.

Software

SPSS 10 is here.

We have been supplying SPSS 10 for a month or so. We have not started our upgrade program yet, but will do so as soon as new CD's are received with some new features and minor bug fixes. If you want to use version 10 immediately, let us know, and we will supply you with the first release and a URL to let you download a patch.

With the release of version 10, you now have the option of buying a server version, that will run on your Unix or NT server, using all its power, and saving the need to send potentially large amounts of data over your network. To use this option, you need to have client versions on one or more workstations, and to purchase licenses for as many simultaneous server users as you need. Normally, you would have many fewer server licenses than client licences.

DecisionTime

Many people need to use modern forecasting techniques, but have been unable to find packaged software that makes it easy to get data from their databases and to use the forecasts to make business decisions. DecisionTime, from SPSS, contains very strong forecasting algorithms, and is easy to build into your business processes. Ask glen@hrs.co.nz for more information.

Data entry software

Those of you who have SPSS Data Entry Builder or Surveys with Confidence will know how easy it is to make questionnaire forms and SPSS data files. You also know that it is easy for data entry staff with limited keyboard skills to accurately load data into forms. However, the present version of these products does not have a system for entering data that allows an expert at keypad data entry to utilise his or her skills. Such a feature is coming, but in the mean time we have decided to recommend and to help people to use a free program called Epi Info. Epi Info is designed to do a lot more than data entry, but it is a DOS program and shows its age in many ways. However, if you want to do keypad data entry it is superb – just make a mock-up of your respondent's form in Notepad, and **Epi Info** will turn it into an easy-to-use data entry form. You can export the data (via a syntax file) to SPSS. For a 5-page summary of how to use Epi Info for this purpose just contact glen@hrs.co.nz. Remember, the advice and the software is FREE!

Mathcad 2000.

There were a few problems with the initial release of this product. We should have sent replacement CD's to everyone who bought Mathcad 2000 – if you did not get your one please contact your company's Mathcad support person, or andrew@hrs.co.nz.

Training

Advanced SPSS Training

Wendy Phipps came to Auckland from Sydney recently to conduct 3 days of training in factor analysis and other advanced techniques, including CHAID. Ray attended the course and thought the material was great and that it was well presented. See enclosures for details on the next one.

Basic SPSS Training

Ray will run SPSS training using version 10 in February and March. If you are already familiar with version 9 you won't need this course, but if you are wondering why a colleague bought SPSS, come along and we will get you up and using it in one day. See the flyer for details.

Mathcad Training

We are re-starting our Mathcad training program with Helen Quekett. What better way to ensure you make the most of the facilities in this wonderful calculation software. See the enclosed flyer.

SYSTAT Training

We are offering our one-day SYSTAT training course in Wellington on Wednesday 23 February. Find out the tips and tricks if you are an existing user, or if you are not yet familiar with it come and see why Ray thinks it is the best tool available for scientific data analysis.

The enclosed brochure gives you details on time and place.

MATLAB Training

Auckland University has again been able to arrange with The MathWorks to have Ian Noell, one of their UK-based staff, give a course called "Introduction to MATLAB". This is a standard MathWorks two-day training course, designed with real tasks in mind.

It is intended that users of Matlab in many disciplines will be able to gain the skills they need. Contact andrew@hrs.co.nz for details.

SPSS Hint Three:

You can turn tables into graphs, by double clicking the table, highlighting the relevant cells, and using Edit/Create Graph. This may give you a graph that you can't otherwise make.

(Hints one and two were in the November issue)

Comment on the SPSS Advanced course

"Very worth while and extremely useful course. Will recommend to colleagues".

Steve Carter, of Research International