

Cruncher



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Don't confuse us with our competitor

An Australian company with a name similar to ours has recently set up a NZ office. Although they primarily sell a huge range of oddball items, they also sell some of the products that HRS sells. There are some products that our mutual suppliers will not allow them to sell in NZ.

We are sure we can offer better service, since although they are significant in Australia, they are small here. (They are probably not the biggest in Australia, as they claim. SPSS and Ceanet are both larger, based on informal information we

have on all 3 companies.) We sell almost as much here as they do in Australia.

We will not allow them to beat us on price, so do tell us if they appear to offer a good deal.

Please do not expect us to support you if you buy your products from this (or any other) competitor. The manufacturer may be the same but HRS carries the cost of supporting you based on the profit we make from the initial sale. However, if any of our competitors lets you down give us a call anyway - we've got soft hearts!

FREE SEMINARS

SPSS seminars

We are planning a set of seminars to demonstrate SPSS products in Auckland on Tuesday 3 August. In the morning we will demonstrate the new SPSS Market Research package, and in the afternoon discuss Data Mining with SPSS. The afternoon meeting will include a brief presentation of Oracle, by Steve Holley. See the enclosed flyer for details.

Mathcad Seminar

We will run a seminar on Mathcad in Auckland on Wed 4 August. (See enclosed promotional flyer.) Come and see what our fuss has been about! We will have a draw for one person to have a free training day.

Staff changes

Rory Fitzpatrick is known to many of you as our cheery SPSS salesman. He recently left to expand his experience in Australia, and his sales role has been taken over by Glen Irving. Rory's marketing role has been picked up by Cormac van den Hoofdakker, a graduate student at Waikato University. Both of these men have extensive academic and real world experience as well as a practical orientation.

Value for money from software - an example

"I've just come down from doing three hours of hierarchical cluster analysis to discover the statistical treasures in a large client survey. I love this stuff - what I found, just below the dull spreadsheet of data, was absolute gold for the client."

Duncan Stuart, *Interview*, March 99

Duncan is a recent convert to statistics - he writes of his "near addiction to SPSS software". He attended (and enjoyed) one of our courses, which probably helped him get to where he is now.

Conferences

We had great success meeting old and new clients at ComputerWorld Expo and NZ Organisation for Quality, and many smaller recent shows. If you are looking for sponsors for your conference and we would fit in, please call us.

Future shows

We will be at Marketing Today (21-22 June), Strictly Business (22-23 July) and Market Research Society (6-8 Oct). We have free passes to Marketing Today - just ask us.

We will also be at the Statistics and Physics conferences at Victoria University, from 5-9 July. Drop by to see Ray.

Business Software

SPSS Version 9

We have almost finished upgrading our users of SPSS to version 9. If we have not contacted you, and you think we should have, please contact us.

There was some confusion with the procedure required for network licensing. We wished to implement a procedure that controlled the number of simultaneous users on a network by using a licence manager that comes with SPSS, and which uses an IP address for one of the computers. We have since been advised not to do this by SPSS technical support, so will not do so. We will help you install it on your network, but you must use your own procedures to control the number of simultaneous users.

Note that SPSS Science products **are** being controlled by a licence manager that uses IP addresses

Reporting from SPSS with Visual Basic.

The Clinical Information & Research Unit (CIRU), based at Waitemata Health Limited, specialises in contract work involving the automation of reporting systems based on SPSS.

Their most recent customised application can automatically produce up to 1,000 reports containing 12,000 different charts within 2 hours. The application was developed in Visual Basic 6 and utilises SPSS in the background to tidy and manipulate data, and to create and export charts. MS Word is used by the application to automatically create the final report.

Contact Dr Grant Paton-Simpson (09) 377-7394 for details.

Creating SPSS files from any ODBC compliant application.

SPSS will read ODBC databases directly, but several programs that can read SPSS files, such as TextSmart and Systat, cannot read ODBC. Some people will find it convenient to install free software called a "driver for ODBC", to enable them to write SPSS files from their application. ODBC can then be used to write SPSS files from Microsoft Access, Excel, and many other database types. Ask Stuart or Ray for this software.

SPSS Guide to data analysis.

A book that deals with how you do your job, not just how to use SPSS. Lecturers can ask for a free copy of an old version (while stocks last) if they want it to help with devising courses.

Discounts for SPSS

If you buy modules at the same time that you buy SPSS, we will give you a discount over the usual price. If you buy more than one module at a time, you also attract a discount. Ask for details.

AnswerTree Version 2

This product is now in use, and all those on subscription should have their copies.

Beat the price increase

The price of AnswerTree will increase from \$1795 to \$3295 on 1 August 1999. (Not our decision!) We have been able to get this increase delayed to enable anyone who had been contemplating buying to get it at the lower price. This is a great product that will give you powerful insights.

A few organisations did not upgrade their copies of CHAID at the special price last year. We cannot repeat that offer, but we will upgrade them until 30 July 1999 at the bargain price of \$995 + gst.

SPSS ANSWERNET

Now, you can access the same technical information that SPSS Technical Support staff use. Visit

<http://www.spss.com/tech/answer>

and save time by answering your own software questions — any time, day or night. The SPSS AnswerNet is brand new, so be sure to try it out.

SPSS White Papers.

You can download them from www.spss.com or ask us for them. Some people will find "Using QI Analyst to get ISO 9000 certified" and "Using allCLEAR to get ISO 9000 certified" to be of particular interest.

Surveys with Confidence

The book.

A guide to designing and completing surveys. \$70 + gst.

The software product.

The above book, plus an electronic coach, a form and database builder, an analyst program, and tabular and graphics reporting. Incorporates parts of SPSS base, Data Entry Builder and the Tables module. Ideal if you need to do surveys but are not going to do the more advanced statistical procedures available in SPSS Base. \$2395 + gst.

GARCH

Generalised Autoregressive Conditional Heteroskedasticity is here!

Use it with MATLAB to model and understand volatility in financial time series. We don't guarantee you will make your share market fortune, though.

Financial Engineering news

This free 8-page tabloid size newspaper contains articles, reviews and advertisements of interest to the financial engineering community. It started off mainly as a MATLAB vehicle, but is now much broader. Subscribe on the web at www.fenews.com/subscriptions.

Science and Engineering Software

Autosignal

This new SPSS Science product automates a wide range of signal analysis actions, so you can get information on your signals without having to develop your own application. It is not here yet, but is due in a few months.

Mathematical Solutions

We recently sent to our Mathcad clients a 24 page brochure called "Mathematical Solutions". This contains a wealth of information about the new Mathcad products, including Expert Solver, Wavelets, Signal Processing, Image Processing, Steam Tables, and Numerical Recipes. We have a few left over, so if you missed out then contact us right away and learn how to make the most of this easy and powerful calculation environment.

MATLAB on Linux

If you use MATLAB exclusively on Linux, we may be able to save you money with a change in your license. Contact Andrew ASAP because there is a cutoff date!

New MATLAB Products

MATLAB C/C++ Graphics Library At last you can create stand-alone applications from MATLAB that contain a full GUI and make use of MATLAB's acclaimed visualisation features. This product requires the MATLAB Compiler and C/C++ Math Libraries. Your applications can be distributed royalty free!

Data Acquisition Toolbox This new toolbox provides access to live measured data from the MATLAB environment, allowing the user to analyse/visualise data as it is being collected. Currently supported hardware includes several board families from NI and HP, as well as standard Windows sound cards.

Mathtype 4

This is a much-upgraded version of the 'Equation Editor' which ships with MS Word and other publishing/presentation packages. MathType adds hundreds more symbols and templates, highly customisable toolbars for storing frequently used expressions, translators to TEX, LATEX & MathML, and much much more. This is now available for Windows-based machines for \$305 + gst. Academic discounts are available.

Axum 6

This technical graphing package has undergone a major revision in Version 6, and now contains many data analysis features usually seen only in statistical packages. The S-PLUS statistical language now underlies much of Axum's workings. As well as working well with Mathcad, Axum 6 also adds toolbars to Excel and SPSS – allowing you to take advantage of Axum's advanced plotting features directly from within this software.

New Chemistry products

ChemOffice 2000 and ChemDraw 5 have just been released. Contact us to upgrade, now.

ChemNews.com newsletter/web site.

Chemists NEED to read these! If you missed out on our mailing of ChemNews.com (the new name for CS Catalyst) please tell us you want the next edition - we probably have not got your interest recorded in our database. It is worth reading - students can get a FREE copy of ChemDraw 3.5, but only if they are ChemNews email subscribers.

Business Software

SPSS Version 10

Version 10 is on its way already! Expect it by year end. The data editor is improved, and there is a new mapping module. New statistics are in some modules.

Version 10 will be Client-Server. Do the hard work on your server, and save network traffic. Speed up your analysis if you have a powerful server.

Call us if you need indicative pricing for your budget.

Lingo 5.0 and What's Best! 4.0

Radically faster linear solver, enhanced non-linear solver, and increased capacity on linear models. Ask for details, or check out www.lindo.com.

Forecasting in spreadsheets

We are now selling Forecast X for those who want the full power of a modern expert system based forecasting package, but within their spreadsheet or Access-based system.

Mathcad Special Offer

For each 2 dollars you spend on Mathcad products you get one dollar's worth of product FREE! You choose what products you want from the Mathsoft range. For example, buy 2 Mathcads, and have a free Mathcad or a free Axum.

ONLY TILL 30 JULY!

Mathematica 4 is here

Mathematica 4 has just been released. In addition to its traditional strength at symbolic mathematics, its performance on numerical calculations has been greatly improved.

Training courses

SPSS course

We plan to run a public SPSS training course in Auckland on Monday 2 August. Cost \$495 pp + gst. Private courses are also available. See the enclosed response form.

Systat courses.

We have a one-day in-house Systat course that we run quite often. Learn the little tricks that make you much more productive. Cost \$1100 plus gst and expenses.

Statistical process control with QI analyst.

To help you ensure your service or production process is in control. Ask us for an in-house course. Cost \$1100 plus gst and expenses.

Mathcad

Helen Queckett is an experienced Mathcad trainer from England. She has done a number of Mathcad courses for us, and is available for more but only till the end of August. We offer a course in Auckland on 5 August - \$595 pp + gst - see the enclosed form.

Matlab Training

We have arranged with CEANET, the Australian distributor of MATLAB, that their trainer will be available for up to 5 days from 2-6 August, in Christchurch. 2-day courses in MATLAB, and in SIMULINK, and a one day course in Signal processing are available. See the enclosed form.

Cost will be \$1000 pp + gst for the longer courses, \$600 + gst for the short one. We reserve the right to cancel if not enough interest is shown.

If you want to grab the trainer all to yourself for any of these courses, ask us about the availability and cost.

Quantitative risk analysis.

David Vose is a full time consultant and trainer specialising in risk analysis. He uses @Risk, but the courses are more than an @Risk course. He will be back here to do training 18-22 October, and if last year is anything to go by this will be a sellout. (We have booked a double training room this year.)

Book as soon as you can. It is a little early to commit yourself, but please return the form if you are interested, and we will contact you again in September.

Bits and Pieces

The MathWorks programming competition

Collaborate with Matlab programmers from around the world to design an algorithm to guide a simulation of the Mars pathfinder. Sounds like a fun way to learn new Matlab skills.

<http://www.mathworks.com/contest/>

The HRS web site map has been redesigned to make it easier to see where things are. If you ever do have trouble finding anything on our site the web site map is the best place to look.

Consultants

We have a consultants page on our web site. If you use this feature, do tell us, and tell the consultant where you found them. If you think you should be there, do ask us.

Why not put this newsletter on your notice board?

Mathcad 8 service pack 3 is now available for download from our web page. We have found this new version to be more robust allround. In particular, conflicts with certain Microsoft libraries have been fixed.

The service pack can be found by clicking on the software button on the left frame of our site and then selecting Mathsoft from the patches drop down list. The page that loads has a description of the service pack and download instructions.

Subscribing to Systat-L

This is an active email list that gives lots of help to Systat users. To subscribe, send mail to listproc@spss.com - you do not need to put anything in the "subject" section of the e-mail header. If I were to subscribe I would in the body of the e-mail, type

subscribe SYSTAT-L Ray Hoare

You can do the same, replacing "Ray Hoare" with your own name.

We hope you found this issue of the Cruncher to be useful.

The last one was in January 1999.

If you have colleagues who could benefit from a personal copy of the Cruncher and our Software Guide, please get them to contact us or give us their names and contact details on the faxback form sent out with this copy.

Contacting HRS

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

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