

Cruncher



February 2000 "Road Show" was successful

In February we ran another in our series of seminars around the country. In this series we showed over 120 people how they could benefit from the use of about 6 of our top-selling statistical and mathematical products. Ray enjoys doing these shows, because they are also a chance to find out

what existing customers are doing with their software, and what their needs will be in the future. The material keeps changing as new products and new versions are released, so if you haven't been to one of our seminars for a while, do come along. Details of the next series are enclosed with this mail out.

Contents

Business Software

Announcing @RISK 4.0	2
QRA Seminars	2
Forecast Pro 4.0	2
SPSS 10 notes	2
allCLEAR 5.0	2
Didger 2.0	2
Clementine	2
ORSNZ	2
SPSS hints	2

Science & Engineering

Software

Maple 6.0 released	3
Mm 4 - Network License	3
Motorola DSP Kit	3
SigmaPlot 2000	3
VR Toolbox for Matlab	3
TMW acquires MathTools3	3
ChemDraw 6.0	3
Structure modelling	3
AutoSignal	3

Training / Seminars

The HRS "Roadshow"	4
Mathcad Training	4
SPSS training -Dunedin	4
Training for 2000	4

Bits and Pieces

Help for societies	4
Customer stories	4
Consultant	4
Spam	4

Demos and Patches

Those of you who have visited our web site will have noticed a few changes. Apart from it looking fantastic and being easier to navigate, we now have downloadable demos for some of our products. To use this facility simply go to the product description page, see whether there is a "demo"

icon , and if so, click to start the downloading process. You will be asked to register your contact details.

Our web site also gives you access to patches for some products, to give you improvements and bug fixes. Click on the Support button, then on that page click Patches. Select the software category, such as business or mathematics, and then choose from the available patches.

Staff Travel

Andrew travelled to Boston in March. He was able to catch up with the latest developments in products from three of our suppliers in one city - The MathWorks, Mathsoft, and CambridgeSoft. We always get useful insights on these visits, that ensure we can give you well-informed service.

One such viewpoint was that, in the USA, Mathcad is seen by customers to be a design documentation tool, instead of just a mathematical calculation tool. Now he is aware of it, Andrew has discovered several NZ clients with a similar view.

Addresses

Rather than repeating the address of contact people many times, the newsletter will refer to, for example, **Andrew***. This means the email address and freephone number is on the last page of *The Cruncher*.

Yet more on Excel

Here is another reference that describes how bad Excel is at doing statistics: Jon Honeyball in PCPro, Issue 62, Dec 1999, pp 248-255. He refers to an article by McCullough and Wilson in Journal of Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, **31**. One quote sums it up "If you use the statistics add-on package that ships with Excel you had better know your stuff, because Excel may well come up with wrong numbers."

Learn tricks of data analysis

We have placed on our web site some documents that Ray has written to describe techniques he uses all the time when analysing data. These will be gradually added to, and your own contributions are welcome.

The documents presently cover aspects of date handling, missing values, and multiple response questions. Go to www.hrs.co.nz/resources/.

Stocktaking Sale

Here are some oldies and goodies at unbeatable prices - shipping cost is included:

DataPlot 1.2 Win. - graph 2D data. . \$100 +gst

Stanford Graphics 3.0b Win. - Graph 2D and 3D data, with lots of visual effects. \$150 + gst

SigmaPlot 5.01 Mac.Academic. Scientific Graphing. No longer made for Mac. \$600 + gst.

Mystat Macintosh. Entry level statistics with great graphs. \$50 + gst.

Student Matlab Version 4 **User's guide.** \$15 +gst.

Nodal2 Circuit design software for Mathematica. Still current, but you can have it for \$400 + gst instead of \$900.

Business Software

allCLEAR 5.0

allCLEAR is now much more than a flow charting program. SPSS have integrated analytical functionality along with new, innovative diagramming and deployment features into the new allCLEAR 5.0.

New analytical features include techniques to:

- Automatically calculate all possible paths
- Automatically highlight optimal and critical paths
- Identify the most likely path your process will take given the probabilities you enter
- Combine different paths and analyse them together
- Analyse paths using multiple start and end boxes

To find out more information contact **Glen***

Didger 2.0

People who need to make maps should look at Didger, which is a powerful, highly accurate, easy-to-use digitising program from Golden Software (makers of Grapher and Surfer). It quickly converts paper maps, graphs, aerial photos or any other plotted information into a digital format. Didger version 2 incorporates a very large list of innovations and improvements, including the ability to save maps for use in MapInfo.

For more information or to upgrade to Didger 2 contact **Andrew***

Clementine

This is an already-successful data mining program that SPSS are adding to in order to create a major product that will establish an important company presence in this area. We now have permission to sell Clementine into academic environments at good discounts from the commercial price. Check it out on the SPSS web site, or call **Glen***.

ORSNZ

HRS is a corporate sponsor of the Operational Research Society of New Zealand, which is a nationwide body comprising academics and public servants, consultants and people in industry. It currently has more than 150 members within New Zealand. The main aim of the Society is to promote Operational Research and Management Science in New Zealand in both academic and industrial aspects. If you wish to know more about this organisation, we suggest you look at the web site www.esc.auckland.ac.nz/Organisations/ORSNZ/.

Announcing @RISK 4.0

This new version of @RISK for Excel makes it even easier to quantify uncertainty in your spreadsheet models. It provides a completely revamped interface, and integrates new versions of RISKview™ (Palisade's probability distribution viewer) and BestFit® (Palisade's distribution fitting program) to provide a fully integrated risk modelling environment. Totally re-engineered with state-of-the-art graphics and an enhanced simulation engine, this new release makes it faster and easier to analyse your risk models and present important information on risk to others!

To order your upgrade or for more information contact **Glen***

Quantitative Risk Analysis Seminars

For the sixth time, we will be running Quantitative Risk Analysis (QRA) courses by David Vose in the week 19-23 June. The courses use Monte Carlo simulation with @RISK to allow you to analyse uncertainty within spreadsheet models. An introductory two-day course for those new to the area will be run, followed by an advanced three-day course concentrating on some of the more technical aspects of risk modelling. See the enclosed course outline, or contact **Aandrea*** for more details.

Forecast Pro 4.0

The main enhancements made in this upgrade to an already great time series forecasting program include improved expert selection (to give even greater accuracy), three additional exponential forecasting models, graphical forecast adjustments, an improved interface and customisable output. Contact **Glen***

SPSS 10 notes

One of the important new features of SPSS 10 is the way it uses ODBC drivers. You can now leave your data in your data warehouse and process it with SPSS without making copies of your files. This saves disk space and network traffic, that can be important when you have large data files.

A consequence of the new way that ODBC has been implemented is that you have a different procedure for defining the tables you wish to use. To summarise, you have to assign a "dataset name" to your database before you can use it. If you have difficulties, please contact **Support***

SPSS Hint Four

In SPSS Data Entry you can enter data purely with the numeric keypad. You have to set the questions up so they all have numeric codes (labels can be words, of course) and when doing data entry you choose Table Entry mode, go to the Data menu, and turn off the item "Display response items". You can then enter the code. This is not easy to find in the manual, but it is in a tutorial.

This series of hints started in November 1999. See our web site for back issues of the Cruncher.

SPSS Hint Five

Want to show your SPSS Output Viewer documents (*.SPO) to clients or colleagues who don't have SPSS? Give them the free SPSS Viewer program found on the SPSS installation CD in the VIEWER folder. Using SPSS Viewer you can view and print, but you cannot reformat or pivot tables.

When you install this product on Windows 98 a spurious error message sometimes occurs - ignore the message and install the product anyway.

Science and Engineering Software

Maple 6.0 released

Maple 6 is available now from HRS. Maple 6 embodies technical enhancements and new functionality that dramatically speeds up complex technical computation projects. The new math engine delivers a tightly integrated suite of symbolic and numerical solvers, derived from a strategic partnership between Waterloo Maple and the Numerical Algorithms Group (NAG). For upgrade or general pricing enquiries please contact **Andrew***

Mathematica 4.0 – Network License

Mathematica 4 is now available as a floating network license for Windows and Mac, allowing entire workgroups to utilise Mathematica with much less expense. For pricing and licensing options, please contact **Andrew***.

Motorola DSP Developer's Kit

The MathWorks, working with Motorola, have produced a "Motorola DSP Developer's Kit". This product provides seamless system-level and instruction-level co-simulation for engineers who design algorithms for Motorola's 56300 and 56600 families of fixed-point DSPs, used in wireless handsets and base stations, multimedia, speech processing and audio devices. Engineers can verify the behaviour of assembly language routines for these DSPs by inserting them into a Simulink model or MATLAB program. Contact **Andrew*** for details.

SigmaPlot 2000

This leading-edge data graphing program has just been upgraded. New features include:

- ◆ Windows 2000 and Office 2000 compatibility
- ◆ More error bar options including asymmetric error bars
- ◆ Ability to arrange graphs with built in page layout templates
- ◆ More graphs – 2D filled contour, waterfall plots, high-low-close plots
- ◆ More calculation tools
- ◆ Tools to put graphs in web pages, slides and Word documents

And much more!

For more information contact **Glen***

Virtual Reality Toolbox for MATLAB

Humusoft, in the Czech Republic have again come up with a powerful extension to the facilities of MATLAB. This is an open technology for rendering animated 3D scenes within the MATLAB/SIMULINK environment. It is truly interactive, so that you can connect a SIMULINK model to your virtual world and instantly run the simulation. For more information contact **Andrew***

MathTools acquired by The MathWorks

Future versions of the MATLAB compiler suite will be even better, now that The MathWorks has acquired MathTools, makers of MATCOM and Mideva. Core technologies within MATCOM, as well as the expertise of its designers, will be used to create future products from The MathWorks.

ChemDraw 6.0 – Now Available

CambridgeSoft's excellent chemical structure drawing package has now been updated to version 6, and contains many new features and refinements – a large number of which were included due to user feedback. For upgrade or general pricing enquires please contact **Andrew***.

Structure modelling

Dr.Frame and Dr.Beam are low cost, easy to use structure modelling programmes for engineering and architecture. They feature direct manipulation capabilities embedded within rich modelling environments that allow users to concentrate on model behaviour rather than details of the user interface. Dr Frame 1.0.1 has now been released. Download a free demo from www.drsoftware-home.com or contact **Andrew*** for pricing and details.

AutoSignal

Autosignal completely automates the process of analysing signals. You use a graphical user interface to simplify every aspect of operation, from data import to output of results. Choose your analysis techniques, select the algorithm and options from the interface, and get immediate visual feedback with 2D or 3D graphs of your signal analysis plus numeric summaries for reports. Contact **Glen***

Only the Best!

"David Vose has been a consultant and instructor of Palisade Corporation risk analysis software for over ten years. In that time his informal-but-knowledgeable presentation of risk analysis and statistical concepts has impressed and educated hundreds of our @RISK, BestFit, and RISKview users. David Vose has a knack for making abstract, complex ideas accessible to the real-world, every day decision-maker. His manner is highly animated, and his knowledge is vast. In short, David Vose makes risk analysis fun."

Randy Heffernan, Sales & Marketing Manager, Palisade Corporation

A happy customer

"Great Product! I am finally getting some really useful information following the Advanced (SPSS) course you organised"

(The client's employer would not, on principle, allow its name to be used.)

Training and seminars

The HRS "Roadshow"

As always, we are pleased to present another one in our regular series of seminars. These seminars allow us to demonstrate the latest features in our most popular software products and most importantly to meet you, our clients. We are always looking for workplaces to hold our "roadshow" and if you are aware of a group or organisation that would benefit from this please let us know. Just contact **Aandrea***.

Our next seminar program will occur in June 2000 and will be held in Auckland, Wellington and by special request **Dunedin**. Details are on the enclosed form. These seminars are free and are a good way to find out about our products, ask questions and meet Ray face to face.

We also will be holding seminars in August/September and in November, in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. More detailed information will be available in the next *Cruncher*.

David Vose course

See Page Two

Mathcad Training

Mathcad, a mathematical calculation and design documentation program, is one of our more popular products. HRS offers a one day training course in Mathcad, run by Helen Quekett, a professional trainer. This will help you quickly to learn how working with Mathcad lets you make the most effective and efficient use of your time. Throughout the year we run a series of public training courses in major centres and we can also bring the training to you and personalise the course to meet your needs. Contact **Andrew***

Training program for 2000

See the enclosed flyer for dates of the June series, and an enrolment form. We will also be holding training in August and November. Watch out for your next *Cruncher* for more information.

SPSS in Dunedin

We do not often get to Dunedin, but we are offering SPSS seminars and an introductory course there in June. Be in while you can, Southerners!

Bits and Pieces

Help for professional societies

We do our best to make ourselves visible, but sometimes we get people who tell us that they wish they had found out about us sooner. If you are in a professional society and you think that your fellow members should know about us, then please tell us who your secretary is and we will offer to pay the society a suitable fee if they will insert our catalogue in with a mailing to their members.

Customer stories

Help your colleagues! Often we are asked by the media and industry associations for examples of how our products have improved the work practises of our clients. If you would like help us compile some case studies about the benefits our products have brought to your organisation, please contact **Aandrea***.

Data analysis consultant

We are not yet in a position to offer extensive consultancy ourselves. However, one of our clients has seen the value of our SPSS, AnswerTree and TextSmart products, and has successfully applied them to practical market segmentation problems in NZ, coming up with fresh and radical approaches to understanding his clients' markets.

If you want to have someone work with you to use the products we sell, contact us and we'll put you on to an expert who we are sure will convince you that you can make money by using our products.

Spam

Our web address is being used by someone somewhere as the "From" field in various spam messages. If you get a mail from an address like h8g76679h@hrs.co.nz please know this is not from us, and that we are trying (with little hope) to stop it.

Contacting HRS

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

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

The last one was in January, 2000.

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.