



InfoQueue

Strong Concepts Newsletter

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WARRANTS2000 Uses 2000 MUTCD Methods

The WARRANTS/TEAPAC program now performs signal warrant analyses according to the procedures dictated by the MUTCD 2000 (Millennium Edition) which became official earlier this year. WARRANTS2000 also provides an option to perform a warrant analysis using the previous MUTCD (1988) like its predecessor. WARRANTS2000 performs a comprehensive signal warrant analysis using all the volume-oriented warrants of the MUTCD 2000, including warrants 1A, 1B, 1C, 2, 3A, 3B and 7. A unique algorithm searches every possible 60-minute period of a 15-minute count for hours that meet the warrants, ranking the identified hours by minor street volume. Input data can be imported directly from various electronic traffic counters or entered/edited manually. The 2000 warrant analysis is also built into the Usage Level 2 version of TURNS/TEAPAC.

Usage Level 2 of WARRANTS also provides advanced tabulation and peak hour analysis features. Peak 15-minute or 60-minute volume data can be sent directly to other TEAPAC programs like SIGNAL2000 for optimized level of service calculations, SITE for background traffic in impact studies, and PREPASSR, PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM for signal timing and modeling studies. Use of the TED and TUTOR programs in the TEAPAC system allow complete automation of all of these calculations for unparalleled efficiency, accuracy and speed.

WARRANTS has a unique Visual Mode which provides an intuitive, Windows graphical user interface, as well as a Command Mode for power users. This is the same WinTEAPAC2000 interface found in all other TEAPAC programs. This interface includes a fully-indexed, on-screen user guide and context-

sensitive help and error diagnostics. WARRANTS also incorporates the new TEAPAC Version 5 interface with its Tabular View to increase efficiency for intermediate users and certain data-intensive tasks (see article below).

The Warrant Analysis version of WARRANTS/TEAPAC Ver 2.00 from Strong Concepts is now available for \$395. The Usage Level 2 version which adds advanced tabulation and peak hour analysis features is available for \$595. Educational versions are also available, and demonstration versions are available free as downloads from the www.StrongConcepts.com web page.

Prior licensees of WARRANTS may upgrade a Usage Level 1 license for \$195 or a Usage Level 2 license for \$295. TURNS Level 2 which includes the 2000 MUTCD method is available as an upgrade for \$295; TURNS Level 1 with the Version 5 enhancements is available as an update for \$69 (see below). Order your license or upgrade today.

TEAPAC2000 Version 5 Interface Introduced

The new WinTEAPAC2000 Version 5 interface has now been installed in all TEAPAC programs. This innovative new interface which was unveiled at the recent ITE Annual Meeting has many new and enhanced features for ease of use and efficiency.

The most significant new feature is a new Tabular View for data input and editing which displays a maximum amount of data in a dialog box using a table format. This permits the data to be reviewed, edited or input with a minimum amount of mouse navigation. The Tabular View compliments the two other user-selectable modes of data entry and review already found in every TEAPAC program: the Normal View of the

Visual Mode which provides significant on-screen aids and visual, graphic cues (but lacks input efficiency), and the Manual Mode which is highly efficient for power users (but lacks helpful cues). As with the Normal View, customized Tabular View dialogs can be generated from the Manual Mode on the fly, adding unmatched efficiency to the data entry and review process.

Many other enhancements have also been made. A partial list of some of the other features offered by the Version 5 interface includes:

- the tabular view for dense, tabular dialogs to view and change data,
- a recent files dialog with an option to include recent files in the File menu,
- automatic Share and write-protect of files written by another Ver 5 program,
- option to log significant results of computations in a text file,
- complete, built-in printer setup support,
- popup tool-tip help under the mouse cursor, plus status-line help for the screen cursor,
- direct linkage to other TEAPAC programs, including launching script files,
- registration of TEAPAC file type allows double-click to launch,
- WinTEAPAC Menu permits naming a data file or script file to use,
- a 'Getting Started' button for first-time users is easily customizable,
- enhanced look for all dialogs using depressed input fields,
- direct editing of script (control) files and small data files with integrated TED editor,
- direct editing and conversion of text files to TEAPAC file format with TED editor,
- history of manual mode commands for repeated command sequences.

A detailed description of all of the Version 5 enhancements can be found at the Update Downloads page at www.StrongConcepts.com.

Did you receive your own copy of Strong Concepts InfoQueue? If your name is not on the mailing panel, drop us an email, note or phone call and you'll be added to the list for future mailings for free! Also let us know if your address has changed, you've moved on to a new position, or you'd like your name dropped from the list.

Version 5 updates are available from Strong Concepts for \$69 each, except for the WARRANTS2000 and TURNS modules which include the 2000 MUTCD upgrades described on page one. Order your updates today.

Courses Feature SIGNAL2000 and the TEAPAC2000 Version 5 Interface

Our highly acclaimed course "Timing Traffic Signals Using TEAPAC, PASSER, TRANSYT and CORSIM" is a popular course which has a focus on specific solutions to signal timing and simulation problems from isolated intersections and arterials to diamond interchanges and grid systems. Hands-on work problems using each of the programs provide the user with real experience applying these solutions with the only software system that integrates all of these programs into a single system of software. The TEAPAC programs used include the latest versions of SIGNAL2000, NOSTOP, PREPASSR, PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM, in addition to PASSER-II, TRANSYT-7F and TRAF-NETSIM/CORSIM. The TEAPAC programs all include the new Version 5 interface described earlier, as well as the recent new releases of SIGNAL2000 for the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual, TRANSYT-7F Release 9 and TSIS/CORSIM Version 5.

The next offerings of this very popular course will be at the following locations:

Arlington, Virginia University of Wisconsin	December 5-7 (800) 462-0876
Seattle, Washington University of Wisconsin	January 28-30 (800) 462-0876
Orlando, Florida University of Central Florida	March 11-13 (407) 207-4920
Evanston, Illinois Northwestern Traffic Institute	May 6-9 (800) 323-4011

Call Strong Concepts at (847) 564-0386 for more course information, or check our web page for course outlines and on-line registration, as well as future offerings. These classes tend to fill up quickly, so call now to reserve your space. Dennis Strong, author of TEAPAC, is the primary instructor for all of these courses. Learn how to use the latest TEAPAC programs effectively and efficiently, and keep up on your continuing education requirements at the same time.

Demonstrations of New Product Developments at ITE Annual Meeting

Strong Concepts demonstrated its latest TEAPAC developments during the 71st Annual ITE Meeting in Chicago, Illinois in August at the Transportation Products & Services Exhibit. At the Strong Concepts exhibit booth visitors were able to get a sneak peek of all of the new developments mentioned in this newsletter and discuss the many advantages of using our TEAPAC software. As an added benefit, winners of free TEAPAC licenses were selected at four separate times during the Exhibit. Winners picked the new SIGNAL2000, WARRANTS2000 & PRETRANSYT programs.

In the technical sessions of the Meeting, Dennis Strong moderated an eye-opening session on the use of computer models entitled "Computer Applications and Simulations."

Quick, How Can I Get This?

With the release of the new TEAPAC Version 5 Interface, TEAPAC users now have several new options when purchasing TEAPAC software from Strong Concepts. Since TEAPAC programs come with complete, fully-indexed, on-screen Tutorial/Reference Manuals which are linked to the programs with context-sensitive buttons and hot keys, programs may now be ordered without the printed manuals to save money. Printed manuals are still available as a separate order item. Also, the entire licensing process may be conducted via the internet with expedited processing, resulting in same-day or next-day delivery and a credit of \$20 towards the expedited order cost. The details of this new

Electronic Notification Service

People who have enrolled in our Electronic Notification Service may have received much of the information contained in this newsletter via email at an earlier date. If you wish to get timely notice of developments at Strong Concepts via email as they happen, go to the Join Our Mailing List section of our web page at www.StrongConcepts.com and provide the necessary information.

expedited process can be found in both the on-line Price List and on-line Order Form located at the www.StrongConcepts.com web page.

PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM Updates

PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM have been updated to account for changes which have occurred recently in new versions of their host programs, TRANSYT-7F Release 9 and TSIS/CORSIM 5. These updates are available at no additional charge when the TEAPAC Ver 5 updates are purchased for these programs (\$69 each).

PRETRANSYT is a program which for over 20 years has provided an easy way to input data into the TRANSYT program without the difficulties of using TRANSYT directly. Further, it provides an interface between TRANSYT, PASSER, CORSIM and SIGNAL2000 so that relevant information used by all programs need only be entered once, then shared by all.

PRENETSIM is a comparable program which eases the input burden for the CORSIM program (previously called NETSIM). This linkage provides a connection between all of the proven optimization technologies of SIGNAL, PASSER and TRANSYT with the validated simulation and animation of the FHWA-sponsored CORSIM model.

Queue Calculations in SIGNAL2000

Like any legitimate implementation of the 2000 Highway Capacity Manual (HCM), SIGNAL2000 produces a calculation of the new HCM queue model, including the most recent changes adopted by the Highway Capacity Committee. However, SIGNAL2000 takes the analysis of queues well beyond this simplistic approach. Users of SIGNAL2000 have noticed that the new QueueCalcs function provided in SIGNAL2000 calculates queues using ten different ways of applying five completely different methods of computing queues.

The value of this function is two-fold: first, to compare the calculation of queues using the new HCM method to other tried-and-true methods, and second, to see the impact that using different queue models has on the resultant calculated queue.

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The primary objective here is to provide a platform from which users can make an intelligent, informed decision about how queues in their analysis will be computed. Via the QueueModels inputs, the user can select what percentile queue value should be used, what spacing for queued vehicles should be used, and which queue model should be used in other program outputs. From user feedback, we're finding that many users are learning a lot about the various queue models and how best to use the new HCM queue model in their studies.

New Features at Our Web Page

We continue to add features at our Internet web site (www.StrongConcepts.com) in order to serve our users. Most recently we added demos for all the newest TEAPAC programs, and detailed descriptions of all the recent changes made, both to the generic TEAPAC interface as well as to each specific program. The site contains links to frequently accessed government and research organization sites, as well as various professional organizations and software developer and distribution sites. Our Training and Events Calendar provides a list of upcoming courses with course outlines and on-line registration links.

We've recently added an on-line order form which can be used to prepare an order for TEAPAC software and upgrades. We've also added a flowchart depicting the complete integration of all the TEAPAC programs, illustrating how data and results are easily

shared among all the TEAPAC programs and certain other proven tools like HCS, PASSER, TRANSYT, CORSIM and VISSIM. Another addition is copies of letters we've received from satisfied clients. Visit anytime to see the latest.

New TAS Import for Electronic Counters

The WARRANTS and TURNS programs have been updated with the ability to import traffic counts from electronic counters which utilize the TAS file count format. This includes, for example, certain Jamar and TimeMark electronic traffic counters. In particular, this is an important enhancement for WARRANTS since the TAS file format is commonly used for machine approach counts used when conducting an MUTCD signal warrant analyses.

Please note our current mailing address at our recently renovated offices in the historic district of Northbrook:

**1249 Shermer Road, Suite 100
Northbrook, IL 60062-4540**

Strong Concepts can also be reached in a number of other convenient ways:

**Phone: (847) 564-0386
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Call us today, Optimize tomorrow!