



InfoQueue

Strong Concepts Newsletter

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New Products: PRESYNCHRO & PRETSPPD Unveiled at Seattle ITE Meeting

Visitors were dazzled as Strong Concepts demonstrated its two newest TEAPAC products, **PRESYNCHRO** and **PRETSPPD** (as well as the new **VISSIM/TEAPAC** interface) at the recent ITE Annual Meeting in Seattle. **PRESYNCHRO** and **PRETSPPD** provide the first-ever linkages between TEAPAC and the popular **Synchro/SimTraffic™** program and the powerful **TS/PP-Draft™** program.

PRESYNCHRO has two significant modes in its connection to Synchro/SimTraffic:

- For projects started within TEAPAC, the Export function allows the creation of a complete Synchro/SimTraffic dataset so it can be used to view system performance with its colorful flow diagrams and simulation/animation. If Synchro is used to optimize timings, these timings can be Imported back into **PRESYNCHRO** and passed to other TEAPAC programs. This allows other time-proven tools like **SIGNAL2000 (2000 HCM)**, **PRETRANSYT (TRANSYT-7F)** and **PRENETSIM (CORSIM)** to be used to assess the quality of the timings in contrast to these and other techniques, as well as to provide further optimization.
- For projects started in **Synchro**, the Import function can bring the entire Synchro network into **PRESYNCHRO** for transfer to the other TEAPAC programs for optimization and assessment with time-proven tools like the ones mentioned above, with the option to send results back to Synchro with Export.

PRETSPPD allows a direct link to view the realistic flow diagrams of **TS/PP-Draft**, with an option to import any changed offsets back into **PRETSPPD** for further analysis. Read on for more about these exciting new programs .

Free demos for these and all TEAPAC programs at www.StrongConcepts.com

PRENETSIM, PRETRANSYT and PREPASSR Receive Major Upgrades

Major upgrades to **PRENETSIM**, **PRETRANSYT** and **PREPASSR** are now available. Each now has the same one-click, seamless integration found in **SIGNAL2000** to transfer data and control for a complete network between themselves, the new programs, and back to **SIGNAL2000**. They also provide full support for the latest releases of their host programs -- **TSIS/CORSIM 5.1**, **TRANSYT-7F Release 9.7**, and **PASSER II-02**. Each program has been extended to handle up to 500 intersections and can produce a graphical view of the network with an optional bitmap aerial or map background.

See the articles later in this newsletter for details of all of the many enhancements.

SIGNAL2000 Ver 2 Has Seamless Integration to PRENETSIM, PRETRANSYT, PREPASSR, PRESYNCHRO and PRETSPPD

Version 2 of **SIGNAL2000**, an upgrade announced late last year, now provides **one-click, seamless integration** of its data for a complete network with all of the TEAPAC preprocessors: **PRENETSIM**, **PRETRANSYT**, **PREPASSR**, **PRESYNCHRO** and **PRETSPPD**. Other major Version 2 enhancements included:

- Handle up to **500 intersections** in one file and with a **single click**.
- Accurate treatment of **NEMA-style, dual-ring** controllers, including optimization.
- Major **enhancement to optimization** method for signal timing and phasing.
- **Graphical view** of network with optional bitmap aerial or map background.

If you haven't tried **SIGNAL2000 Ver 2** yet, now is the time. Give your fingers and budget a break. Get Version 2 today –
you can hardly afford not to!

VISSIM Imports & Exports TEAPAC Files

VISSIM 3.70 from **Innovative Transportation Concepts** now provides simplified direct access to TEAPAC data files, including SIGNAL2000 and its associated preprocessors, further extending the integration capabilities of projects which use TEAPAC software. The built-in **Import** feature allows a complete VISSIM network to be generated directly from the TEAPAC inputs without the need to be a VISSIM expert knowledgeable in all of the detailed aspects of creating and coding a VISSIM network. **Export** creates a TEAPAC data file directly from a defined VISSIM network so TEAPAC can be used for HCM capacity analysis and optimization. VISSIM also uses the **PRESYNCHRO/TEAPAC** program to provide an interface to and from Synchro/SimTraffic.

PRESYNCHRO – The Details

PRESYNCHRO is an input preprocessor used to create input data files for **Synchro** display and manipulation, as well as **SimTraffic's** microscopic simulation and animation. Like PREPASSR and PRETRANSYT, it uses standard TEAPAC methods for data input, and if SIGNAL2000 was used for saturation flows and signal timings, and PREPASSR/PRETRANSYT were used for coordinated signal timings, **PRESYNCHRO** can read these data files directly so Synchro/SimTraffic can be run with no additional data input. It also plots time-space diagrams and displays complete signal timing tables. In combination with SIGNAL2000, PREPASSR and PRETRANSYT, all optimizations can be displayed, simulated and animated from a single database.

If a network has been input to Synchro/SimTraffic, the **Network Import** feature in **PRESYNCHRO** can import this entire network description for seamless transfer to the other TEAPAC programs, as well as third-party programs which read TEAPAC files such as VISSIM. This allows SYNCHRO data to be further analyzed and optimized using time-proven, government-sponsored methods and software.

For complete details about PRESYNCHRO, PRETSPPD and all the other TEAPAC programs, visit the Products section of our web page at www.StrongConcepts.com.

PRETSPPD – The Details

PRETSPPD is one of five preprocessors in TEAPAC that make it an unprecedented tool for signal operations, timing and progression studies. **PRETSPPD** creates input data files for the TS/PP-Draft program using the same data input techniques of SIGNAL2000 and PRETRANSYT, making it easy to learn and use. Since intersection capacity, timing and phasing are inputs for TS/PP-Draft, SIGNAL2000 is a logical means to get these inputs. Using the seamless LinkTo menu between SIGNAL2000, PRETSPPD and the other timing programs like PRETRANSYT, PREPASSR and PRE-SYNCHRO, coordinated timing plans are easily generated and passed to TS/PP-Draft for display. In this case, the SIGNAL2000 data file for the arterial can be read directly by PRETSPPD and the others so no additional input is required to run TS/PP-Draft.

If offsets are manually changed within TS/PP-Draft, these offsets can be imported back into PRETSPPD for transfer to the other TEAPAC programs, such as PRENETSIM for microscopic simulation and animation.

ITE Meeting Visitors Win Big

Many visitors to the Strong Concepts booth at the recent ITE Meeting and Exhibit in Seattle entered our annual drawing for free TEAPAC software. This year's winners were:

Ray Davis, City of Belmont, California
Eric Hawton, HDR, Albuquerque, NM

Visitors who learned the secret password "seamless" from our earlier email notification (described below) also received a great free gift at the exhibit. Sign up now for future notifications and special offers.

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.

PRENETSIM Upgrade Supports New TSIS/CORSIM 5.1

PRENETSIM Version 2 is an upgrade that supports several great new options offered by the **Version 5.1** update of **CORSIM**:

- Launch CORSIM directly into animation.
- Display bitmap background under animation.

Additional enhancements found in PRENETSIM and all the TEAPAC preprocessors include:

- **Seamless** exchange of data files between SIGNAL2000 and all TEAPAC preprocessors.
- Maximum network size increased to **500 nodes** and improved node management methods.
- **Network view** option shows network structure, including all network connections.
- Explicit ability to represent **NEMA-style, dual-ring**, movement-based controllers.
- TEAPAC Interface Ver 5.11 described below.

PRETRANSYT Upgrade Supports New TRANSYT-7F Release 9.7

PRETRANSYT Version 3 is an upgrade that supports several powerful new options offered by the **Release 9.7** update of **TRANSYT-7F**:

- Launch TRANSYT simulations and optimizations directly through T7F9.
- New optional genetic optimization.
- New methods for cycle optimization.
- New option for multi-cycle simulation.
- New MapView feature.
- New data input formats.

Additional enhancements include the same additional features described above for PRENETSIM.

PREPASSR Upgrade Supports PASSER II-02

PREPASSR Version 2 is an upgrade that supports the new **PASSER II-02 Windows** version of PASSER-II, as well as continued support for PASSER II-90 and PASSER II-87. PREPASSR continues its history of being able to create and run a PASSER-II data file directly from data used by other TEAPAC programs such as SIGNAL2000, PRETRANSYT and PRENETSIM, and now including the new PRESYNCHRO and PRETSPPD programs. It also maintains the ability to import the resultant timings generated by PASSER back into

PREPASSR for subsequent analysis by the other programs mentioned above.

Additional enhancements include the same additional features described above for PRENETSIM.

TEAPAC Interface Ver 5.11 Enhanced

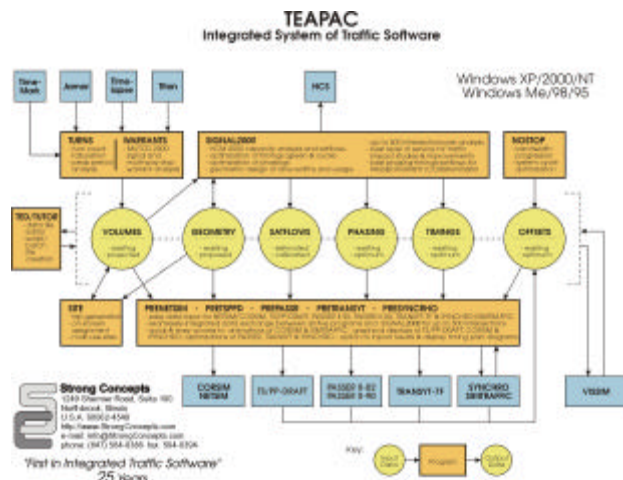
The generic **TEAPAC interface** has been further enhanced with new Ver 5.11 features implemented in SIGNAL2000 and all the TEAPAC preprocessors. These include:

- **Enhanced** output and edit window features:
 - Virtually **unlimited size** for multiple nodes and/or scenario analyses.
 - **Toolbar buttons** and **tooltip help** added.
 - Ability to **leave window open** for later review or to collect additional output.
 - Immediate display of **progressive output**.
 - **Sizeable** and **moveable**.
- **Moveable** windows and dialogs for more flexible desktop organization, including dual monitors.
- **Refresh** buttons to update dialog contents.
- **Help** for errors generated from Manual Mode.
- Warnings for potential conflicts between File-Save and File-**Advanced** file usage.
- Improved phasing dialog graphics.

Look for these free interface updates soon in the rest of the TEAPAC programs: **NOSTOP**, **URNS**, **WARRANTS**, **SITE** and **TUTOR**.

Flowchart Illustrates TEAPAC Integration

The flowchart below illustrates the complete software integration now provided by TEAPAC. For a more detailed view in color, click on the same diagram at www.StrongConcepts.com.



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**Courses Feature SIGNAL2000 Version 2 and
New TEAPAC Preprocessors**

Our highly acclaimed course "**Designing Optimized Traffic Signals and Systems 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 course has evolved considerably with changing needs and software capabilities over **14 years** to its current pre-eminence in the industry.

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**. Version 2 of **SIGNAL-2000** is used in the course, as well as the recent new releases of **PASSER II-02**, **TRANSYT-7F Rel 9.7** and **TSIS/CORSIM Ver 5.1**.

Did you receive your own copy of Strong Concepts *InfoQueue*? If your name is not on the mailing panel, send 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 to be removed from the list.

This year's offerings of this very popular course will be at the following locations:

New Orleans, Louisiana Louisiana State University	October 22-24, '03 (225) 578-6325
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania University of Wisconsin	December 3-5, '03 (800) 462-0876
Las Vegas, Nevada University of Wisconsin	January 26-28, '04 (800) 462-0876
Orlando, Florida University of Central Florida	March 10-12, '04 (407) 882-0260
Evanston, Illinois Northwestern Traffic Institute	April 19-22, '04 (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 and past chairman of the HCM signalized intersection subcommittee, is the primary instructor for all of these courses. Learn how to use the latest signal analysis software **effectively** and **efficiently**, and keep up on your continuing education requirements at the same time.

Same-Day Delivery of Software

Strong Concepts' software delivery through the internet usually delivers new licenses and upgrades to your desktop the same day an order is received if it is received by noon central time. **Call and start computing with TEAPAC today!**