

Technical paper 6

Using data from Map Maker Pro 2.x



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Most data from Map Maker Pro 2.4 and earlier is compatible with Map Maker Gratis and Map Maker Pro 3. There are some data types that have changed but which can be converted using the program Map Maker Legacy (Mmlegacy.exe).

Style files

Earlier Map Maker style files (*.stl) can be used as is. However, style files create in the new Map Maker are slightly larger to contain some additional style options. When Map Maker opens an old style file it actually converts it in to a temporary style file in the new format before using it. The small amount of extra processing required in this operation can be avoided by using Map Maker Legacy to convert old style files to the new format (**Conversion – Style file**). The new style files can be used with Map Maker Pro 2.4 though clearly the new style options will not be available.

Embedded style sets

In Map Maker Pro 2.4 it was possible for DRA files to have an “embedded style set”. Though this technique had certain advantages it seemed to cause more problems than it solved so in the new Map Maker this idea has been dropped. Map Maker Legacy allows you to extract an embedded style set from a DRA file and save it as a new format style file (Conversion – Extract embedded style file).

Symbol sets

In Map Maker Pro 2.4 symbol sets are stored in *.mms files. These consist of a set of Microsoft Windows Meta files (.wmf) packed together into a single file. Windows Metafiles were designed for Windows 3.1 and have been superseded by Enhanced Metafiles (*.emf). Consequently, in the new Map Maker the *.mms files have been replaced by a new symbol set format (*.syb) which is based on the newer emf format. An mms file can be converted to a syb file in Map Maker Legacy (**Conversion – Symbol set**).

Map files

The biggest file format change effects *.map files which have been replaced by the project file (*.geo) which contains more information than the map file. A map file can be converted using **Conversion – Map file** but there are various limitations:

- Data points are not supported because in the new program data points are replaced by a special kind of label called a data chart.
- Surfaces (*.sfc, and *.ter) are not imported since these require Map Maker 3D.
- Map furniture is not imported since these items are treated differently in the new version of Map Maker Pro.