

## PenMap Technical FAQ

### Q. Is there a way to set a default project directory in PenMap?

A. Yes. Add the following lines in the penmap.ini file.

```
[Custom]
projectdir=c:\projects\penmap\
{enter the fully qualified path after the equal sign}
```

It is extremely important to add the trailing "\" to the path and make sure the directory exists.

### Q. Can a threshold be set for the DRG list?

A. Yes. Add the following lines in the penmap.ini file.

```
[Rendering]
DRGMaxRatio={enter a number between 4 and 1000}
```

The value is the number of image pixels per screen pixels.

### Q. Will PenMap ever support long filenames 100%?

A. No. Many Structures in PenMap are fixed sizes. Since this is deeply integrated in the core of PenMap, a change in the immediate future is not likely.

### Q. Can I preload a file in PenMap?

A. Yes. There are two options for preloading a file. Both ways require that you create a Universal export file named default.unv. Once these files are created, simply start Customizer, goto step 1 and load the default configuration. Proceed to step 6 and enter either of the following two numeric options for startup commands.

```
6040 {This will Load default.unv at startup}
6041 {This will Merge default.unv at startup}
```

After entering the start up command, save the default configuration.

### Q. What is the limit for data characters when exporting as a shapefile?

A. The current limit is 25 characters. Any data exceeding the 25 characters will be truncated.

### Q. When I change the staff height in the trigger window it is not reflected in the GPS setup window. Which staff height setting is it using?

A. The staff height in the immediate dialog is the one that PenMap uses when collecting information. Since there are many places to change the staff height, the setting in the GPS setup window will not change automatically to reflect values in the trigger window.

### Q. I get an error 105 when using PenMap. What causes this?

A. This is caused by the PenMap directory having a "." in it. For example, c:\penmap3.60 to fix this problem, re-install PenMap to a standard 8 character directory without a "." in it.

**Q. I'm having problems with the TCA 1100 interface. It takes a long time to fire and will not stay locked.**

A. ON Earlier versions the lock used to be automatic. However with the advent of 'reflectorless' surveying, the default had to be changed to OFF. So before you use this instrument you have to set the LOCK check box now.

**Q. Does PenMap support the viewing of Mr. SID images?**

A. Currently PenMap does not directly support Mr. SID images. You can download a free viewer from Lizard Tech that will open Mr. SID images and export them to TIFF with TIFF world files. Uncompressed TIFF files are directly supported in PenMap.

**Q. When I place certain graphics I get a message "Device already open". I cannot cancel out and the system crashes.**

A. This error occurs when you have a Total Station instrument and an Input device set using the same COM port. To fix this problem, Restart PenMap. From the main dialog go to MISC/MISC OPTIONS change the Input Device to None. If you are using an Input Device, go to MISC/INSTRUMENT/INSTRUMENT SETUP and change the COM Port setting to a setting other than COM 1.

**Q. I have a box that is always on that says "Next Observation". How do I get rid of this box?**

A. This dialog box is part of the Point Numbering system feature in PenMap. If you do not want to use the point numbering system simply go to MISC/NODE OBSERVATIONS/CHANGE SYSTEM. You will be prompted with a box indicating that this action is irreversible. Choose yes. A dialog box will appear with numbering systems. Choose No Numbering System.

**Q. How do check what baud rates PenMap uses to interface with instruments?**

A. The settings for instruments are located in 2 different files. For Total Stations (Laser Range Finders) open the instrum.lst file. It is very important not to change the order or delete any items from the list. You can change the parameters for a specific device. For input devices like the Leica Disto and LT Impluse, open the inputdev.lst. Be sure to read the headers in each one of the files for setting information.

**Q. I'm getting strange results when contouring points. I have too many contours for my settings.**

A. When you have strange results, it usually happens due to points with a zero value. To check all of the points to make sure they have a "Z" value you can do the following:

Open your PenMap Survey

Go to FILE/EXPORT/OTHER FORMATS and scroll to the bottom and select XYZ point only format

Save the XYZ file

Go to FILE/IMPORT/DTM FILE. The file dialog appears looking for a DTM extension. Enter the file you just created and add the XYZ as the extension.

Choose OK

The points go in the Default layer.

Include the Default Layer into Surface 1

Set your options for the DTM Surface

Regenerate All

**Q. I have a background map and I am using GPS. When I start the GPS the background map disappears. What is wrong?**

A. Typically the problem revolves around mixing projections. Be sure to check that the background map, GPS projection and units are exactly the same. If one of these settings is not the same, your GPS will not display over the map.

**Q. I have the option to export a PNEZD file. When I write the file it is empty. How do I get this format to work?**

A. The PNEZD format works only when you are using a point numbering system. Before collecting data, select a point numbering system from MISC/NODE OBSERVATIONS/CHANGE SYSTEM. A good simple node numbering system is USA 'A' Commented.

**Q. When using PenMap, the dialog boxes are not displaying correctly. I first tried using Troubles.exe to fix the problem but the dialogs are still not right.**

A. The first place to check is in Troubles.exe. This will fix the problem if the dialogs are dragged off the screen or accidentally resized. Troubles resets all dialogs to default positions. If you still have problems, check to make sure that Windows is not using Large Fonts. In some cases large fonts help in readability but also changes the size of some dialogs. Reset the fonts back to normal size.

**Q. When using a Shapefile background list, my shapefiles disappear when I zoom into an area?**

A. This is a known issue in PenMap when using polyline Shapefiles, when zoomed in, if any portion of the line falls outside of the drawing display area the whole line will not display.

**Q. Every time I place a symbol on the screen I get the adjustment handles. Where do I turn it off?**

A. To turn off the symbol adjustment handles, go to MISC/DISPLAY CONFIGURATION. In the middle-right side of the dialog box is the panel for "Action on Create". Untick Adjust Symbol.

**Q. How do I change the default size of the symbol when placed in PenMap if the adjust handles are not activated?**

A. In the symbols Toolbox, highlight the symbol to work with. Choose the PLACEMENT menu item. This dialog will allow the size/orientation to be modified.

**Q. I can't communicate with my total station. What do I do?**

A. First, find out from the total station what the communications parameters are. PenMap assumes factory settings are used but in some circumstances this will change if a radio modem is used to give a wireless link between the PC and the instrument. PenMap uses the settings for instrument as held in a file called INSTRUM.LST which is stored in the main PenMap directory. Check that the serial communications settings for the instrument in this file corresponds to how the instrument is set up. Some instruments also have more than one protocol of communication. Please refer to INSTRUM.DOC for information about your device if you still find communications a problem.

**Q. I keep getting an error message 'Open Error. The port is not open' when I try to use my instrument. What could cause this?**

A. Check that you have assigned the correct COMM PORT for your connection to your device. Valid range: 1 - 9. Check also that you have not assigned this port to your GPS device, another sensor like a depth sounder or to a modem or that the port is not being used by another active program.

**Q. I have a Robotic Total Station. Can I control this with PenMap?**

A. At the time of writing this, all Leica, Trimble, Spectra-Precision, Zeiss robotic total stations are supported. Depending on the instrument, the setup status in the Instrument Setup dialog may be used for changing the functional control of the instrument. eg going from reflectorless to prism mode. The Misc: Instrument: Control/Reposition function allows the robotic instrument to rotate and look in other directions although some instruments do this with a special dialog when the prism is lost. Normally the 'LOCK' checkbox in the total station trigger dialog box allows the prism to be locked onto the instrument in an Automatic Target Following mode. When a prism is lost, a search for prism dialog appears to help relocate the position of the prism.

**Q. I loaded a background map from a TIFF file and it does not look right. Is there a way to fix this?**

A. Yes. Go to MAPS/DISPLAY OPTIONS. Choose no Color Reduction. In Most cases this resolves the poor display of images.