

Flexible Data Output

We quite often receive questions in Survey GPS Support asking if it possible to output data from the Sensor or SKI-Pro in a particular format.

This particular format may be needed to import point data into a CAD package, or to import baseline data into a 3rd party adjustment package or a user may require a simple report style output containing point Ids, co-ordinates, code information, CQ and DOP values, etc.

These output formats are all possible by using a **Format File**.

Format Files and the Format Manager

Format Files are created within the **Format Manager** (Format Manager is installed automatically with SKI-Pro).

A format file is basically a "template" or an output "mask". When surveyed data is exported from the Sensor or SKI-Pro, the data is then output in the format as defined by the format file.

A format file needs only to be created once and then is simply used as required.

The **Getting Started with the Format Manager** manual is included on the SKI-Pro CD. This describes the use of the Format Manager and contains 3 simple exercises to create different format files.

It is very simple to make a format file with many users creating many different format files have been created including **GSI8** and **GSI16**, **Geodimeter**, **Zeiss** and **Sokkia** formats.....

However, there are also some features of the Format Manager and Format Files that are not so well known.

Defining the Format of Individual Export Variables

Double click on an export variable to access the **Formatting Options for Export Variable** dialog.

Here, the alignment, signing, length, precision and the fill character for that export variable can be defined.

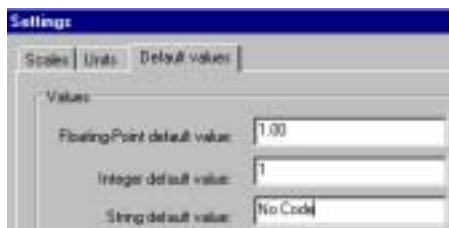
This allows different export formats to be defined for individual export variables. For example, a user could require that co-ordinates are output to 3 decimal places and are left aligned, whereas the CQ should be output to 2 decimal places and right aligned.

Setting Default Values for Variables

It could be that not every export variable is always output. For example, a user may usually assign a code to most surveyed points, but he may choose not to code some points (or may have forgotten to code them).

A format file can be written to output this collected data. However, the user wishes that if a point was not coded in the field, then the words **No Code** should be output for that point.

This is possible by accessing the **Settings** dialog box (click the settings icon) and define the **String default value** to "No Code" (by default this value is "-----").



Using a Format File within SKI-Pro

Choose to export a Project or Co-ordinate Set as **Custom ASCII (*.cst)**.



The sorting, co-ordinate classes (and other parameters) of the data and the selection of format file to be used during export, can be selected by clicking the **Settings** button.

However, if a user tends to use more than one format file and/or uses different settings depending on the data to be exported, then it may become tiring to keep constantly clicking the **Settings** button and defining these settings. For this reason, it is possible to define **Export Templates**.

Right-click in the **Settings** drop down menu and choose **New** from the drop down box that appears. Now enter a name for this export template (such as **GSI16**). Then click the **Settings** button and define the export settings including the format file and then click **OK**. This has defined the parameters for that export template. You may now define additional templates (such as **Sokkia SDR33**) if required.

Now whenever you need to export data in the **GSI16** or **Sokkia SDR33** format, simply choose the appropriate export template.



All export settings for that template are then used.

Remember

- Data can be output from the sensor or SKI-Pro in most common data formats by using a format file.
- Use export templates for commonly used format files and export settings within SKI-Pro.