MicroSurvey and Softdesk Secrets

BY GLEN W. CAMERON, C.E.T.

The work continues to come in and you are backlogged as usual. You are happy that the economy is slowly returning to normal and that the work has kept you so busy, but you know that there has to be some way in which you can make your job easier. The late hours are getting to you and you just wish you could find some way to get the job done faster and easier.

My last column gave you a couple of hints that helped you and you want more. Well here are a couple of hints that are sure to solve a few problems that you and others like you, are having.

TIP #3 : MicroSurvey.
House Location with Swing Ties.

After your crew run the property lines in the field, they proceed to tie in the house corners with nothing more than swing ties. These are the perpendicular distances from the house corner to the property lines. Now you want to enter this into MicroSurvey to coordinate the house to help prepare the required plan.

You can do this directly from the COGO prompt, the same way you enter other COGO information. Assume that point #1 is the place where your instrument is setup, on the front corner of your property and that point #2 is your back property corner, on the same side of the house. Point #3 is the other front corner of your property.

Your first swing tie is from the line between #1 and #2 (D1) and the second between #1 and #3 (D2), with both ties being measured to the same building corner.

To enter this information you just have to follow the prompts as shown below;

ENTER FROM POINT	1 <enter>
ENTER BEARING	1..2%D1 <enter>
ENTER DISTANCE	<enter>
ENTER SOLVE POINT	4 <enter>
ENTER BEARING	1..3%-D2 <enter>
TO POINT	1 <enter>

This will draw a line from Point #1 to the new Point #4 at the house corner. This accurately coordinates your house corner based on nothing more than your property boundaries and perpendicular swing ties to the house corner. Naturally this can also be computed from offsets to the boundaries or from a traverse line.

TIP #4 : Softdesk.
Changing scales of drawings.

You have just completed your drawing and your boss informs you that the client has changed his mind and wants the final product to be plotted at a different scale than what you have drawn it.

Normally you would be ready to pull your hair out but with Softdesk's RESCALE command, you may not need that wig just yet!

In the COGO module, the Rescale command is able to scale each piece of text in the location that it was inserted. It also allows you to scale the blocks that have been inserted. Once you have done this, you now only have to realign the text or move the text to make the drawing presentable.

Changing from a drawing scale of 1:500 and to a scale of 1:250, would mean that all the text must be scaled by 50%. This would double the space between lines of text which means you now have to move each line of text to ensure the spacing is appropriate.

This sounds like a lot of work, but trust me, it is a far cry from having to redo the whole drawing at that new scale.

Stay tuned for more tips in the next issue...

"Tips and Tricks" is brought to you by Glen W. Cameron, C.E.T. Glen is the Manager of Software Support and Training at Northern Survey Supply in North Bay, Ontario. Glen has been instructing on and supporting the MicroSurvey, AutoCAD and Softdesk products for 7 years now and has travelled from Manitoba to Newfoundland and as far south as Hamilton Bermuda and Nashville Tenessee to train his clients. Glen graduated from St. Lawrence College, Kingston with honours in Civil Engineering Technology, and has worked in the field, surveying for several years. With his practical experience as well as the training and support he provides for the software, his Tips and Tricks will be able to assist the casual users as well as the more experienced users!

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