

Mapping Bulletin

Orienteering NZ Mapping Committee 28 Sep 2018

Summary: The OCAD licencing arrangements are changing. A "sugar pill" offered by OCAD to upgrade by 31 Oct means that clubs and mappers should review their software now.

A tool in OCAD to assist ISOM symbol conversion has both pro's and cons.

Mapping Software - the Changing Environment - OCAD and OOM

Clubs and other OCAD licence-holders will have received advice from OCAD about its new version and changed licence system. There's an encouragement to take up the new version by 31 Oct. Here are some comments from the Mapping Committee

1. We have long wanted a more flexible software licence for occasional and learning users.
2. Up to version 12, OCAD has only had single-user licences. There was no such thing as a club licence.
3. OCAD's Starter version was a fairly unsatisfactory way to provide for lots of occasional mappers, the licences were still single-user.
4. With the latest version (called OCAD 2018) OCAD provides a "Team" option with 2 or more licences. This is clearly relevant to clubs. The licences can easily be reallocated as required via an on-line form.
5. OCAD has also moved to a subscription model – you sign up for 1 or 3 years at a time. For a single user who keeps up with each latest version it costs about the same. Improvements will be continual, as with eg Windows updates.
6. Two drawbacks. Reduced ability to "save back" into earlier versions. And at the end of the subscription you lose the use, unless renewed.

Cost? Some NZD figures from the Australasian OCAD agent Ken Dowling - may change with exchange rates. Let's take a 3yr subscription. Single user, about \$500, so about \$170 a year. Team subscription with two licences about \$870 or \$145 per licence per year. Further licences within the team pro rata.

Why you should think about it now, there's a deal up to 31 Oct: 20% off to upgrade an OCAD 11 licence to one of the above, and 40% off to upgrade OCAD 12. On a 3yr basis, this would reduce the price NOW for an OCAD 12 holder to approx \$300 for a single-user licence. Or to upgrade to a 2-licence team subscription about \$520. Ken suggests individuals with OCAD licences might transfer them to the club, and become one of a 2-or-more team licence.

The Alternative. The free "Open Orienteering Mapper" continues to develop. With all clubs having a large investment in OCAD files, easy transfer of files is a must. Those with long memories may remember difficulties with alternative word-processing and spreadsheet software.

There are differences in the way OOM and OCAD treat geo-referencing which have got in the way, though these appear to be better now. Transfer to/from OCAD still produces warning messages about differences and loss of some features. But it now seems possible that a club could start new mappers on small projects in OOM. Or move an OCAD file to OOM - but probably not continual to-and-fro.

OOM can run on Linux and Mac computers as well as Windows.

A club could probably exist ONLY with OOM. One might expect OCAD to be ahead of OOM with advanced facilities, as it has an income to support development. A current example is tools to convert mapping specifications (symbol sets) which were developed within months of the change. Another example is the "reshape" tool which has revolutionised the editing of lines and boundaries. The situation most clubs are in however, is having its most valuable resource, ie its maps, currently held in OCAD files.

Club (and mapper) needs will vary. A large club with a number of capable mappers is AOC, they have decided on a team subscription, mostly to get everyone on the same version. See a 2-page description of their choice at www.mapsport.co.nz/mapresources.html. A small club without a "back-catalogue" is Upper Clutha who are doing fine with OOM. In between are clubs like NOC and OHV who have maps in OCAD but are dependant on one main mapper. Just as with EQ preparedness, they need to be able to operate when (not if) their mapper "goes under a bus". Note that a individual's licence will go up in a puff of smoke in this case.

Clubs and individual mappers with an OCAD 11 or 12 licence should consider before 31 Oct, whether to upgrade it to the 2018 subscription. There's a need for smaller clubs to think about their dependence on one main mapper.

Further help. Michael Croxford on the Mapping Committee is an OOM user in a club which has previously used OCAD, and can provide his perspective. Michael Wood on the Mapping Committee is an OCAD user and he and his club are at the decision stage. Selwyn Palmer wrote the article about AOC's choice and can amplify anything therein. And Ken Dowling ken@ocad.com.au will give you OCAD quotes in NZD which last up to two weeks. Ken is a former kiwi living in Victoria. Feel free to ask. Or if you have decided, to pass on your advice 😊

ISOM2017 Map Conversion

Thank you to those clubs who answered our request for progress on ISOM2000 conversion. We have added email addresses to this list.

Replies have varied from "all done", to "none" and of course "as required" and that's fine. There are a couple of things which may help conversion: first a list of issues we have come across, see www.mapsport.co.nz/mapresources.html

Second, a test of OCAD12's "symbol conversion tool" which seeks to insulate the user from the messy details of conversion tables (CRTs). We have tested this and have to say that it has messy details of its own, so it's not a "magic answer". You can read our assessment of it at www.mapsport.co.nz/mapresources.html

Lastly, we don't see a lot of advice of which map specification is in effect for a particular map. Sure the differences are not huge, but we think participants have a right to know. As well as the ISOM changes, there are differences in Out-Of-Bound rules between standard, sprint mapping, and MTBO mapping.

Distribution

This bulletin goes to regular mappers known to the Mapping Committee, and ONZ clubs.