



For Roadsoft help, visit
the Roadsoft Manual at

<http://roadsoft.org/help>

Roadsoft: An Integrated Roadway Asset Management System

Shaping Tomorrow's Roadsoft

Microsoft Changes Impact Roadsoft

Microsoft has announced that three of its products, Windows XP, Windows Vista, and SQL Server 2005, have either reached the end of their lifecycle, or will be reaching the lifecycle end between 2016 and 2017. Interestingly, Microsoft supported Windows XP for 12 years, two years longer than the standard 10 year support.

Subsequent to Microsoft's termination of support, the Center for Technology & Training (CTT) can no longer support Roadsoft, Laptop Data Collector (LDC), and MERL on Windows XP and SQL Server 2005 as of January 1, 2016. Support for Windows Vista is ending in 2017.

Discontinuing support on Windows XP, Windows Vista, and SQL Server 2005 is a necessary step to ensure the safety of the systems that operate our software, and to retain the integrity of your Roadsoft, LDC, and MERL data.

Windows XP & Vista

Microsoft stopped supporting their Windows XP operating system on April 8, 2014. Computers still running Windows XP are vulnerable to security risks and viruses. As a result of Microsoft's termination of support, the CTT is discontinuing the support of its software on Windows XP systems starting on January 1, 2016.

After January 1, 2016, it will not be possible to install or update Roadsoft, LDC, or MERL on Windows XP. Existing installations will run, but will not be updated.

In an effort to give our customers as much notice as possible, [Microsoft's lifecycle fact sheet](#) includes end of extended support for Windows Vista on April 11, 2017. The CTT will follow Microsoft's discontinuation of Vista support in 2017. Customers should plan to update their Vista operating systems prior to January 1, 2017.

SQL Server 2005

Microsoft is terminating its extended support for SQL Server 2005 on April 12, 2016. More information can be found on [Microsoft's blog](#). Due to this announcement, the CTT has determined that our support must end prior to our Spring 2016 software release. The CTT's discontinuation of support for SQL Server 2005 is scheduled for January 1, 2016.

After January 1, 2016, new Roadsoft and MERL databases cannot be created on SQL Server 2005, and existing Roadsoft and MERL databases cannot be updated on SQL Server 2005.

Supported Versions

The CTT is continuing support for windows operating systems: Vista (through 2016), Windows 7, 8, and 10. Support is also continuing for SQL Server versions: 2008, 2008R2, 2012, and 2014.

Locating & Updating SQL Server Version

Help documentation for locating the SQL Server version and updating SQL Server Express is available in the Roadsoft Manual at www.roadsoft.org/help.

Roadsoft Manual Adaptive Interface

The Roadsoft Manual is being redesigned in Responsive HTML5 to be more usable on tablets and smart phones. The size and layout of the manual will now change depending on whether the manual is being viewed on a PC, tablet or smart phone. Technical Writer Shaughn Kern, who is converting the existing manual to Responsive HTML5, explained, "It bothers me when I have to zoom in and out on my phone to read documents... with the launch of Roadsoft Mobile, we don't want our customers to have to deal with that either." This new version of the manual available at www.roadsoft.org/help.

The Center for Technology & Training at Michigan Technological University publishes Roadsoft Roundup four times a year. To obtain permission to reprint any articles or graphics from Roadsoft Roundup, or to subscribe, please contact the CTT.

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Roadsoft® Roundup

Roadsoft: An Integrated Roadway Asset Management System

Focus Group Enhances Roadsoft

The Center for Technology and Training (CTT) encourages everyone to celebrate our recent improvements to the Point Pavement Marking module in Roadsoft, and to thank our focus group volunteers whose feedback was invaluable during the process. The migration to Microsoft's .NET platform was an optimal time to update and improve the module. These advances would not have been possible without volunteers from local agencies across Michigan that discussed opportunities for improvement.

Point Pavement Marking Focus Group

By hosting a focus group, the CTT software engineers have combined their talents with valuable feedback from our Roadsoft customers to provide the most ideal features in the updated Point Pavement Marking module. The CTT staff coordinators of this focus group were Mary Crane, John Kiefer, Nick Koszykowski, and Luke Peterson.

The volunteers were chosen because they previously inquired with Roadsoft's technical support for assistance with the Point Pavement Marking module. These participants from the City of Ann Arbor, the City of Kalamazoo, Muskegon County, Allegan County, Gratiot County, Bay County, and Atrium County graciously volunteered their time to help define the module's functionality, provide suggestions for layout redesign, and learn more about the program from fellow participants.

There were many excellent suggestions from the group. For example, Paul Bouman of the Muskegon County Road Commission, suggested additions like scheduled replacement of markings in order to organize annual replacements more easily. This type of exchange builds a better understanding of various uses for the module's features. Because of the thorough collaboration, CTT's Luke Peterson explained that the focus group met important expectations including a shift in the module's function from an inventory-based module to a management-based module for convenient use within Roadsoft and the Laptop Data Collector (LDC).

"The discussion helped me to understand how the program will function in the future."

*Jason Edwards, Participant
Kalamazoo County Road
Commission*

The collaboration was not only helpful for Roadsoft, but as Les Sipowski from the City of Ann Arbor explained, "focus groups are generally beneficial because they offer opportunity for participants to hear what problems other people have. For instance, I brought my problem of difficulty when placing markings at intersections and others came with different issues regarding point markings." Overall, the general consensus of the focus group participants was positive. Some resulting changes that can be expected in the new Point Pavement Marking module include varied units of measurement, additional reporting options, an updated rating scale, and ability to obtain archival information.

Upcoming Pavement Management Focus Group

After the outstanding success from the Point Pavement Marking focus group, the CTT is planning another focus group during the conversion to Microsoft's .NET platform in the Pavement Management module in 2015.

The Pavement Management Focus Group currently has volunteers from SEMCOG, the City of Traverse City, The City of Manistee, the City of Troy, East Lansing, Kalamazoo County and Kent County, but we are actively seeking additional participants. By encouraging customer feedback, we hope to give our customers power to define its functionality. These changes are expected to begin in 2016. For now, our software engineers will focus on the content of the module, including the layout of the tools. If you have any interest in joining the Pavement Management Focus Group, please email the Roadsoft team at roadsoft@mtu.edu.

Thank You

The CTT is always open to hear suggestions for new features or changes to existing features in Roadsoft. We strive to provide Roadsoft features that our customers need and will use. We would especially like to thank the Point Pavement Marking focus group volunteers for their time, support, and input. Looking forward, we are excited to begin working with the Pavement Management focus group in the upcoming months.

SAVE THE DATE! Roadsoft User Group Meeting - August 5, 2015 at 9:00-11:00 AM ET