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Hardware Lessons Learned in Field Testing

By Daniel Tobin

In March, Joe Burnett and I traveled to Vancouver, Canada to visit a customer and train them on using HYPACK®. Going on trips to support customers helps tremendously from a programming perspective as we get to see how the software is used in the field. We used a Marine Sonic Sea Scan Arc Explorer for our side scan sonar, an Edgetech 3100 for our sub-bottom sonar, and a Trackpoint for location.



Sometimes, when documenting hardware, we miss certain important points. For example, we were having connection issues with the Arc Explorer until we realized we had to stop the Marine Sonic software in order for HYPACK® to connect. This is the opposite of the Edgetech device, where you need their software running in order for HYPACK® to connect.

We encountered another issue in trying to connect to the Trackpoint: In their software, we discovered we needed to set the device to “unicast” mode.

Using the software in the field often reveals quirks and frustrations that aren't apparent in a software testing environment. We found a handful of improvements that will be made to the HYPACK® software and available in the next quarterly update.

