**What is WI-SDMS Translator**

WI-SDMS Translator is a VB6 software program that combines the functionality of the older SDMS Translator and WISCON programs. It can be used to convert points between the various coordinate systems used in Wisconsin and it can also be used to convert ASCII data files between various formats used by WisDOT (as well as those defined by users using the included User Defined ASCII file utility). For those familiar with the SDMS data format, there are functions included to manipulate many SDMS formatted files to do extractions, multiple search and replaces (including applying math), data sorts, re-projections, and some data format conversions. The User Guide that gets installed as a PDF file with the program gives details of all the functions (but right now it has not been updated to version 2.3.8).

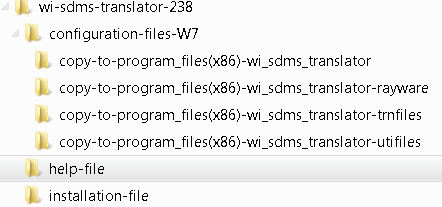
The first release of WI-SDMS Translator in January 2012 was v2.2.3. This new version moves it to v2.3.8. Besides bug fixes and support, enhancements will be done as time and maintenance money allow. It is possible that a system will be established that would allow users to pay to get updates and support. For now, users can contact Gene Hafermann at home (608-795-2287 or genehafermann@charter.net) to get support. I retired from WisDOT on February 4, 2014, but I am still trying to keep up with various software I used and supported when with WisDOT.

**Downloading and Installing WI-SDMS Translator:**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***Until the latest version of the program gets posted to the WIGST.NET web site, you can go to this link on dropbox and download the zip file called WI-SDMS-Translator-238R.zip. Then if you choose the default extraction path, you will see the following directory path created:

C:\survey-software\

Under which you should see this structure of directories and subdirectories:



4. Using Window’s Explorer, go into the installation-file directory and execute the Translator\_Setup.exe file. This will do the basic installation of the WI-SDMS-Translator program under the C:\Program files (x86) directory on Windows 7. Note that you do need to have admin rights to do this base install. This should also work on Windows 8.

5. After the basic installation, you will have v2.3.6 version of this program installed with WisDOT default configuration files, however, there are a few updates to some files in the associated subdirectories that you need to copy to the directories noted in the subdirectory name. So you need to proceed to do the following after the base v2.3.6 program is installed.

Go into the configuration-files directory and you will see subdirectories. The name of the subdirectory tells you where to copy the contents of that directory. So, for instance, to update the UTI files, you need to copy any files in the “copy-to-program-files-(x86)-wi-sdms-translator-utifiles” folder into the C:\program files\wi-sdms translator\utifiles directory. You also need to copy the updated UnivTran.exe and datums.ini files found in the “copy-to-program-files-(x86)-wi-sdms-translator folder to the C:\program files\wi-sdms translator directory. In all cases of this copying you allow the copy to overwrite any existing files of the same names in those directories. If no files exist in one of these “copy to” folders, then the basic Translator\_Setup.exe file has installed the current versions of the files in those directories.

6. Also note that because this program is written on VB6 and Microsoft no longer supports development of VB6 programs in Windows 7 and beyond, there are some adjustments that MAY be necessary when using this program with Windows 7 or 8. Sometimes this involves reregistering an Active-X control and sometimes it means allowing write access to a directory that is restricted to non-admin users by Microsoft. Hopefully most of these issues will be handled when the next full compiled version is posted.

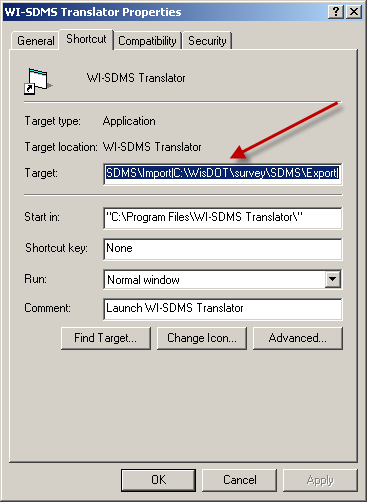
7. If you run into any issues related to installing or running WI-SDMS Translator, please contact Jacob Rockweiler at WisDOT (608-243-5992 or [jacob.rockweiler@dot.wi.gov](mailto:jacob.rockweiler@dot.wi.gov)) or me, Gene Hafermann at home (608-795-2287 or genehafermann@charter.net).

8. And finally note that even though WI-SDMS Translator v2.3.8 displays all the various H&V adjustment years in the pick lists, it still cannot currently convert data from NAD 83 (1991) to later adjustments because the NGS program (GeoCON) used to do this doesn’t yet have the needed parameters (NGS says these are coming yet later this year … we’ll see). So if you need to do such a conversion, you would have to use some type of best fit conversion such as is possible with Blue Marble’s Geographic Calculator.

**Getting started using WI-SDMS Translator:**

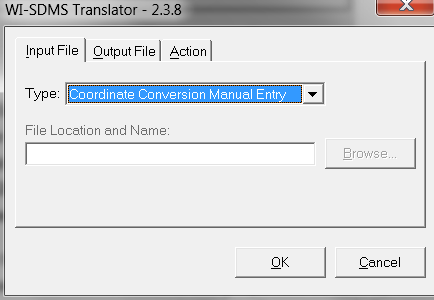
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1. First of all note that the shortcut to the program that gets installed on the computer’s All User Profile-Desktop is predefined with the paths to where the program will look for data files to import or export. These directories for WisDOT are C:\WisDOT\Survey\SDMS\Import and Export, respectively, but they probably don’t exist on your computer unless you work for WisDOT. While you can navigate to wherever you want to for the input or output files, if you want to change the defaults, you need to edit the target field in the properties as shown here:



You can read the User Guide to see how to do this and how to change other parameters in this field. For instance, there is a setting that tells the program to display any converted data files in a viewer and that is turned on by the current default.

1. IF there was an update to the UnivTran.exe file after the initial install, then after executing the shortcut for WI-SDMS Translator you may get a message asking if you want to Run this program from an Unknown Publisher. You can turn this message off and just click Run. Once the current UnivTran.exe is built into the Tran\_Setup.exe install file, you will no longer see this warning message.
2. Ultimately once you get the program installed, patched, and started, you should see a dialog like below with the current version number in the title bar.



The interface is very simple as you can see. The Input File Type you select will determine what Output File Types you can create and the Action options are likewise dependent on Input and Output File Types selected. So, for instance, if you select a Leica based \*.GSI file type for input, you can only select an SDMS \*.PRJ file type for output and can only select Convert Leveling for the Action.

Note that the Input option to select when you want to convert one point is named “Coordinate Conversion Manual Entry” (as shown above) and the Input option to select when you want to convert an ASCII data format you define is named “User-Defined ASCII Files”.

Also note that unlike WISCON, you don’t see the options to set the input and output metadata options until after you select the files and formats, and likewise, you don’t see the dialog to define and/or select User-Defined ASCII files until after you select the Input, Output, and Action options and click OK.

And finally, depending on the options selected, you may not see Reproject as an option, because sometimes that is automatically done as part of the Convert option.