**Introduction**

ASTERIX Display & Sniffer is a C# /.NET application developed using Microsoft Visual Studio 2010. Initially, it started as a small test application intended to read and decode ASTERIX messages. However, over the time I also added a data display functionality that eventually became a full plot/tracker display providing filters and different map overlays.

Note that the application also uses Visual Basic Power Pack, so in order to use full functionality of the application please make sure it is installed. You can get it at: http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/vstudio/bb735936.aspx

**Initial Setup**

To run the application needs to be configured via several configuration files. These files have to be located in ***C:\ASTERIX\*** directory that itself contains the following two directories and configuration files:

***C:\ASTERIX\ADAPTATION***

* ***DisplayAttributes.txt*** (Not to be manually modified)
  + Defines display attributes for the display maps. The application itself provides GUI for changing the attributes (see: Display Attributes for details).
* ***Main\_Settings.txt*** (Not to be manually modified)
  + - The system ***display origin point*** (LAT/LNG of the default center of the display map. The parameter is set to the center of Bosnia and Herzegovina but can be modified using application GUI. (See: Display Attributes for details).
    - Display ***background color***. The parameter is set to black, but can be modified using application GUI. (See: Display Attributes for details).
* ***Radars.txt*** (To be manually modified)
  + Defines radar positions (LAT/LNG). Please see the file for the proper syntax. If no file is provided then by default Sarajevo TWR and Jahorina radars are defined. ***All radars whose data is to be processed have to be defined in this file.***
* ***Sectors.txt*** (To be manually modified)
  + Defines sector borders. See the file for the proper syntax and modify it as needed.
* ***States.txt*** (To be manually modified)

* + Defines state borders. See the file for the proper syntax and modify it as needed. I got my data from <http://www.gadm.org/country>. Some manual modification is needed tough.
* ***Waypoints.txt*** (To be manually modified)
  + Defines system waypoints. See the file for the proper syntax and modify it as needed.
    - *NOTE: The last parameter is needed but does not have any impact at this moment. It is intended to flag the point as a COP (Coordination point) and is included for the future application growth.*
* ***LabelAttributes.txt***
  + Defines Track/Plot Label attributes. The file is not to be manually modified. Instead use provided GUI. Please see Label Attributes.

***C:\ASTERIX\IMAGES***

* ***radar.jpg*** (jpg image to be used for radar presentation on the display)
* ***waypoint.jpg*** (jpg image to be used for waypoint presentation on the display)

**Main Windows and Functionality**

Once started, the ***Main Screen*** opens up and, as you might assume, there are no any data displayed. In order to read in data the following requirements are to be met:

PC where ASTERIX Display & Sniffer is running has to be on the same network as the hardware which is providing the data so that application gets the ASTERIX data via known multicast IP and PORT number.

*In my case, for the testing purpose, I use a host WINDOWS machine and one virtual LINUX machine where an ASTERIX recorded data (I provide CAT48 data sample (****jahorinaJan\_cat.48****) that is re-played (****I use gengate provided by SkyGuide****) on the same network as my host machine, using the following setup:*

1. *Host PC: 192.168.5.104, 255.255.255.0*
2. *Virtual Linux ASTERIX replay (CentOS): 192.168.5.103, replaying data on 231.27.80.1, port 4001*

*Of course, if available you can connect* ASTERIX Display & Sniffer *to any live ASTERIX data provider or use other tools, such as* Bittwist to replay the radar data.

**Setting up a connection**

To start, from the Main Screen (Figure 2) open up ***Settings -> Connection Settings or directly from the Main Screen under Connection*** (Figure 1), and enter required data. It is possible to enter several connections and save them in a file. Later on, you can open up the file and just activate one of the saved connections.

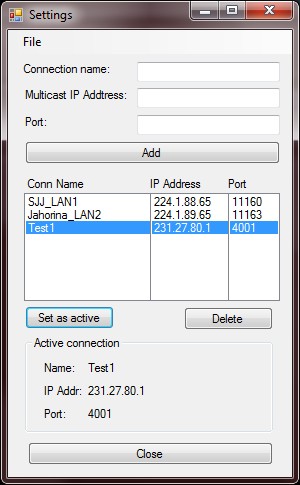


Figure 1: Connection Screen

**Start processing data**

Once a connection is activated to start processing the data it is necessary to enable it from the Main Screen using the upper right button (***Stopped/Running***). Once the processing is activated the screen will start to populate in real time with the buffered data as shown in Figure 2 & 3.

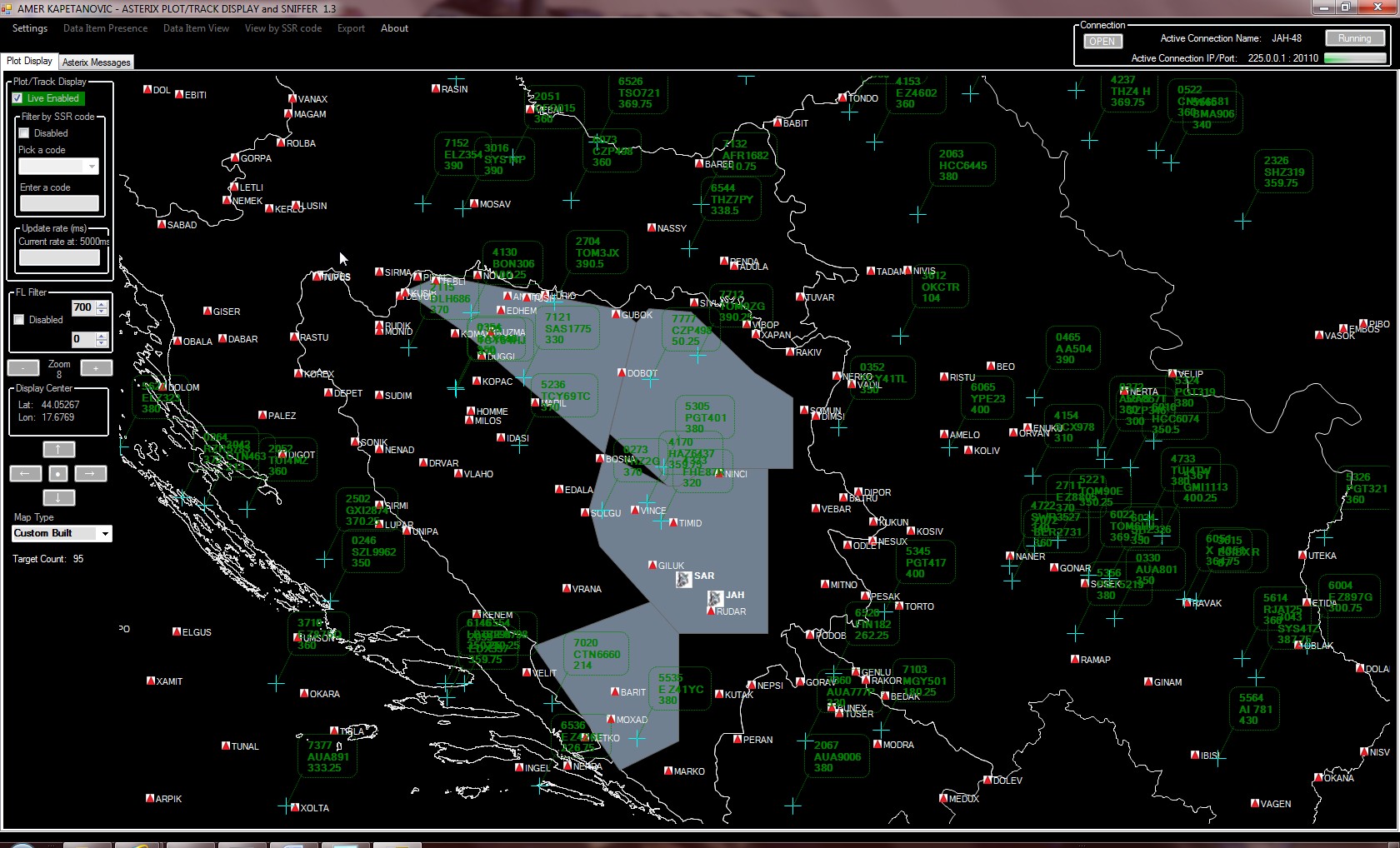


Figure 2: Main Display Window

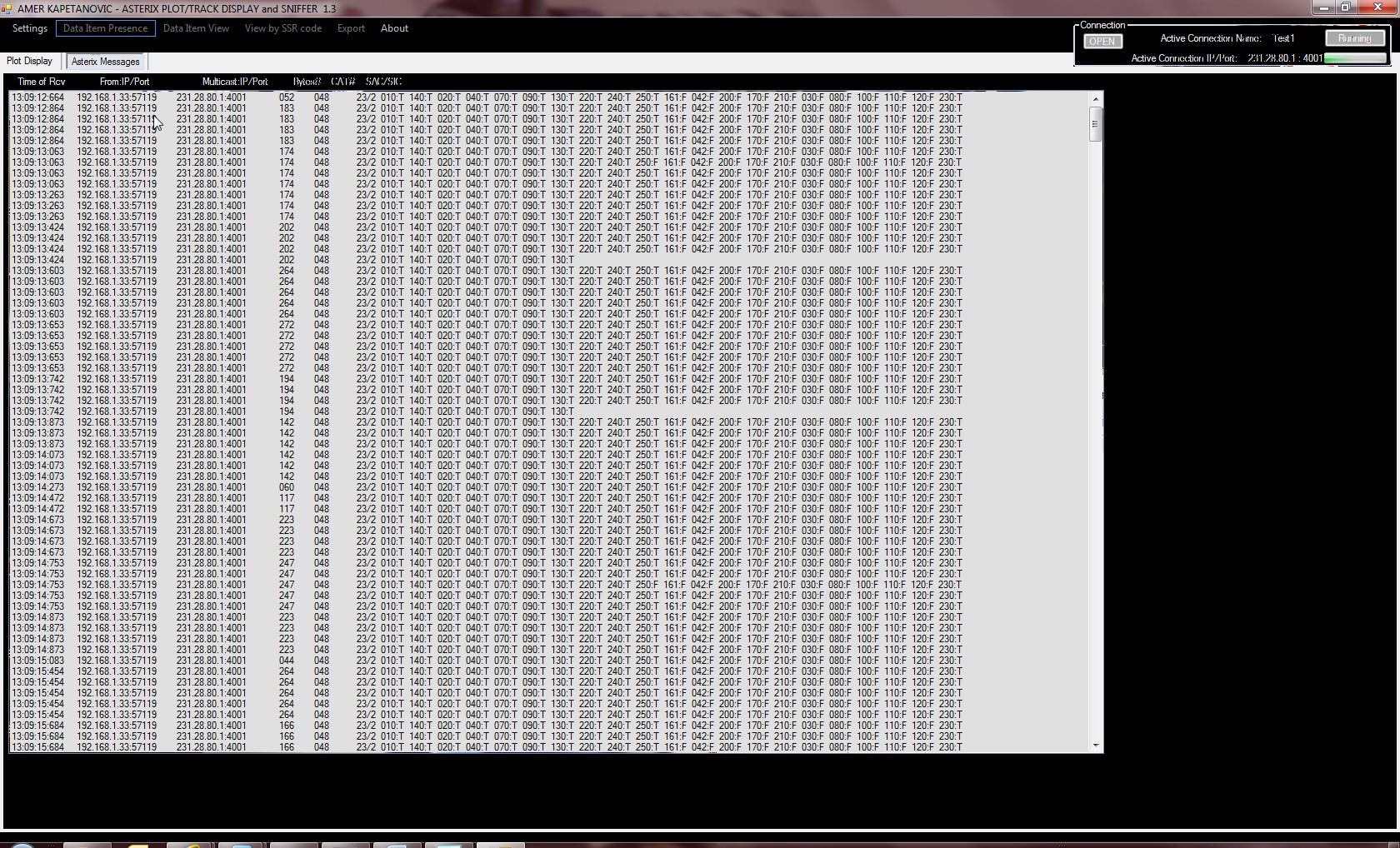


Figure 3: Main Capture Window

Once some data is buffered stop the buffering and then you can analyze the data either by looking at the Main Screen or by one of the below listed options:

**Data Item Presence**

This view will tell you what data items were detected for a given message category for the latest buffered data sample.

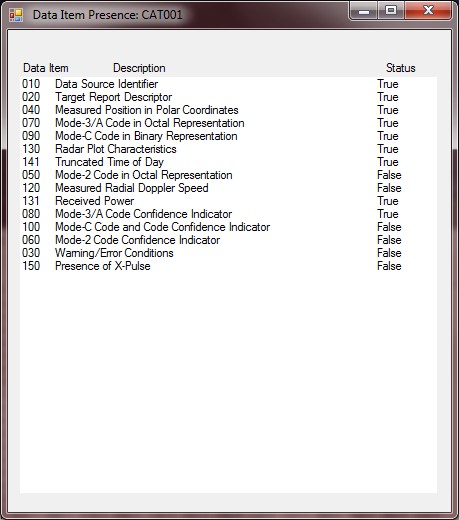
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Figure 4: Data Item presences

So far the data item presence for the following ASTERIX categories is implemented:

1. CAT 001
2. CAT 002
3. CAT 008
4. CAT 034
5. CAT 048
6. CAT 062
7. CAT 063
8. CAT 065

**Data Item View**

This view will list you all the given data items in the order they were received for the given data sample. It does not filter the data so for CAT001 and CAT048 it is much better to use “View by SSR Code”.

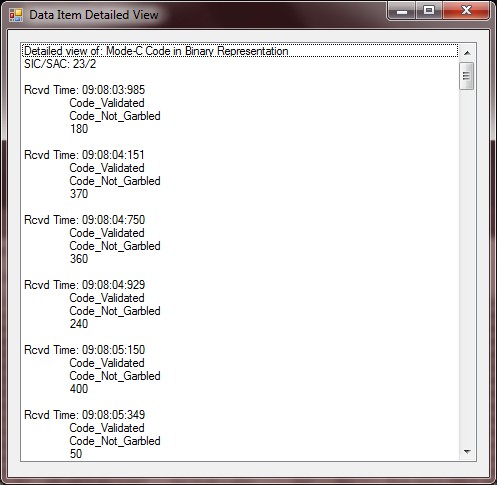
****

Figure 5: Data Item View

**View by SSR Code**

This view provides the following data (CAT 001 or CAT048), filtered by SSR code in the order received:

1. ***Distance from the surveillance source***
2. ***Azimuth from the surveillance source***
3. ***Lat/Long from the surveillance source***
4. ***Mode C code Validated (TRUE/FALSE)***
5. ***Mode C code Garbled (TRUE/FALSE)***
6. ***Mode C code value***

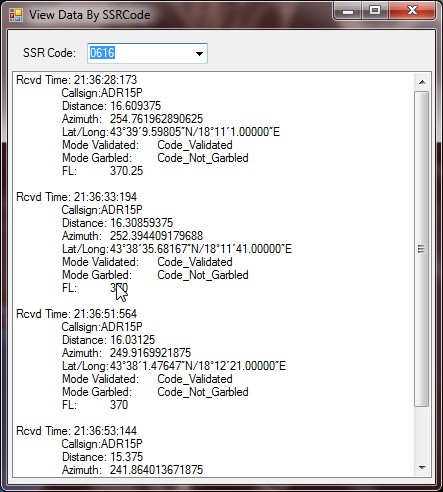
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Figure 6: View data by SSR code

**Export**

This option enables you to decode and export a data sample, filtered by a SSR code, to either Earth Plot or GE Path supported file formats that then can be used to export data into a KML file, used by Google Earth. The final result is possibility to display any track in the data sample as a 3D track in Google Earth, as shown in Figure X.

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Figure 7: Export to Earth Plot format by SSR code

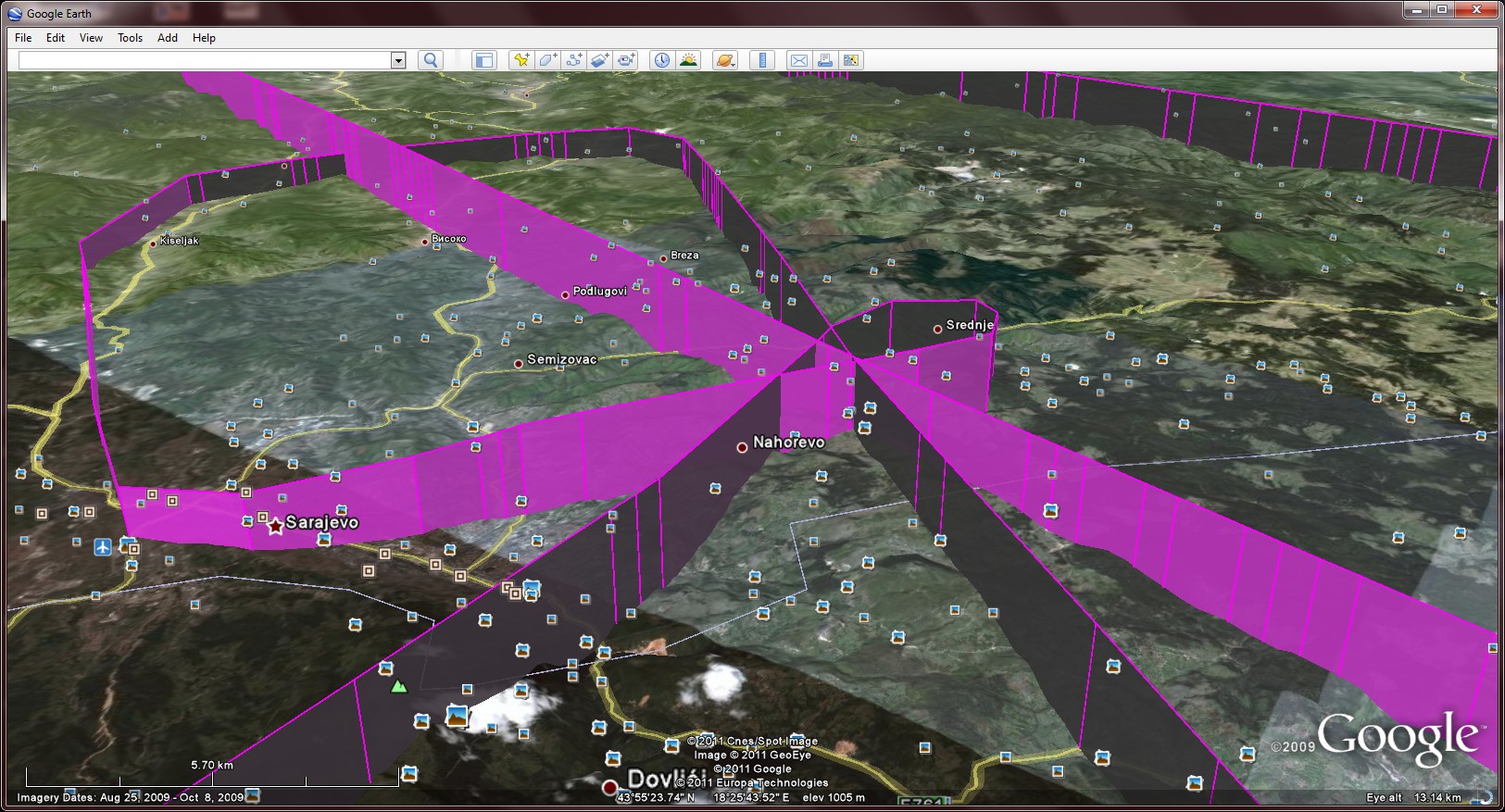
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Figure 8: 3D example in Google Earth of a real test flight over Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Plot/Track Display**

Plot display functionality enables you to display received plots either in real time or buffered data. It provides filter capability (by call sign and Flight Level) as well as to dynamically adjust update rate in order to match antenna time period of a specific radar.

Data display can be real time or passive. The passive display is an option to visualise all the buffered data (each recived target) including option to use available filters (By SSR code or Flight Level Band), as depicted in Figure 11.

***Please note:*** Application uses WEB map providers (google, yahoo, etc..) so first time application is powered it is necessary to be on the internet so application is able to cache the maps. While on the net zoom in so appropriate maps are downloaded. Later on maps will be cached and application can be used offline.

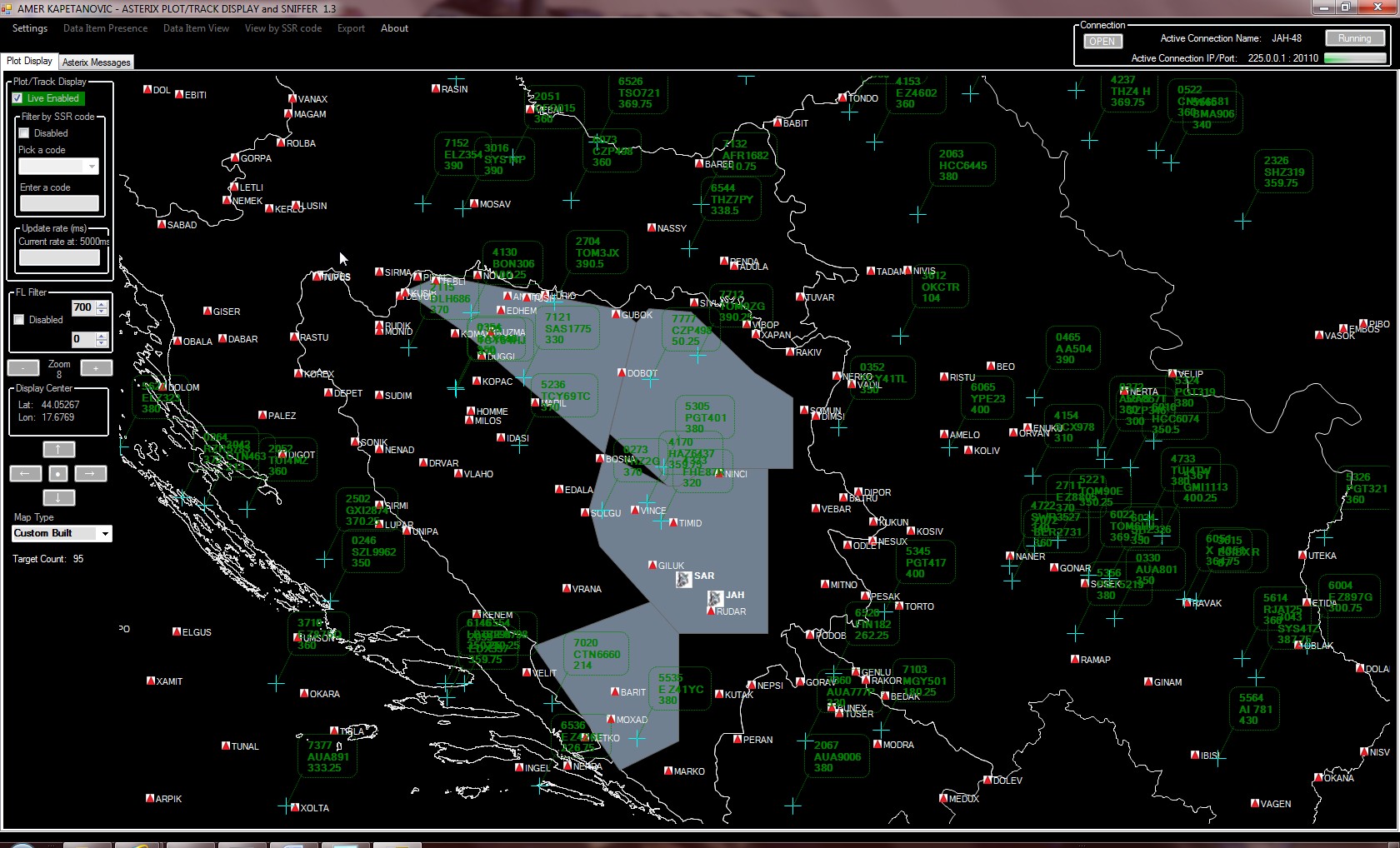


Figure 9: Custom Map with only user defined data.

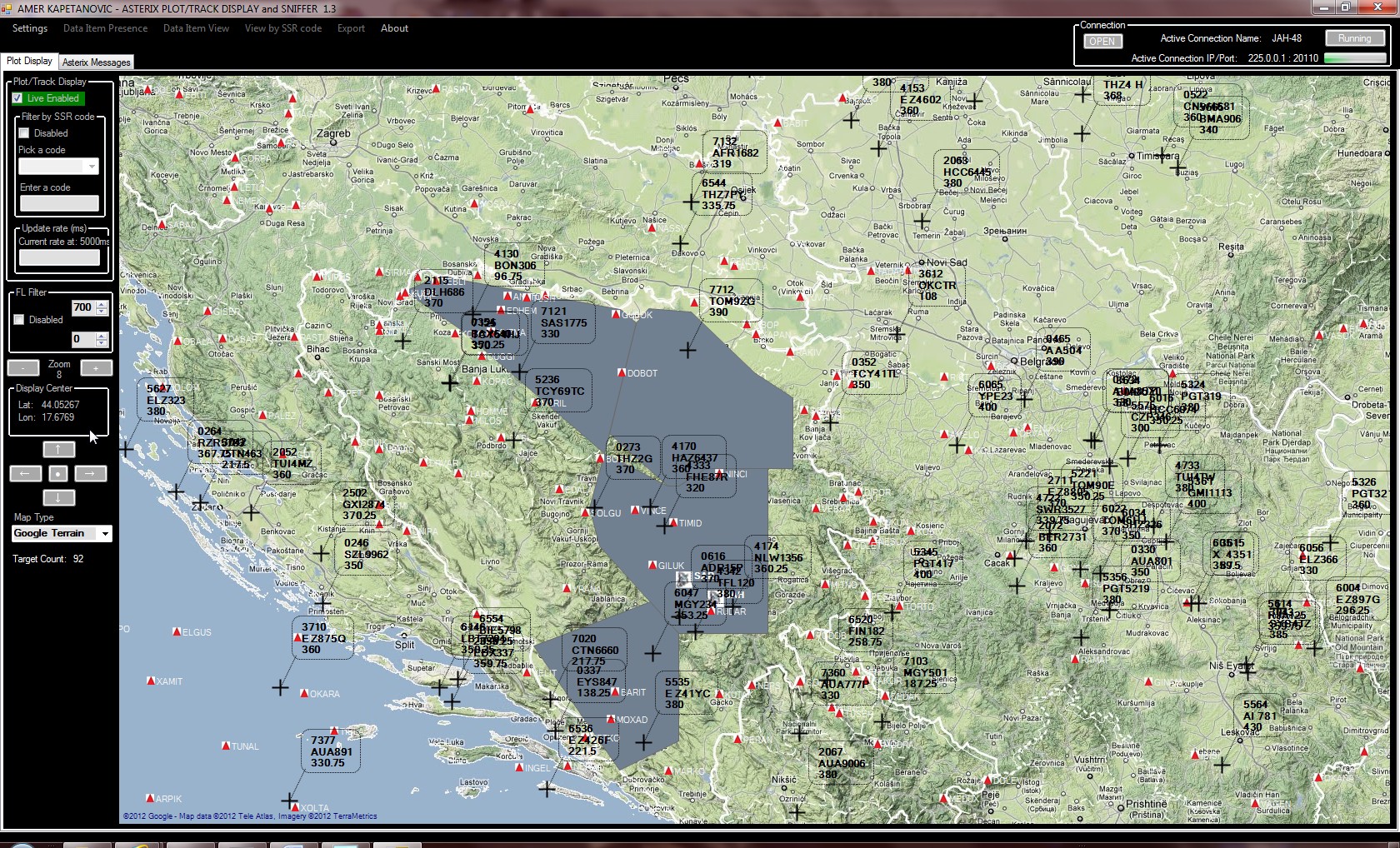


Figure 10: Map with user defined and Google terrain overlay

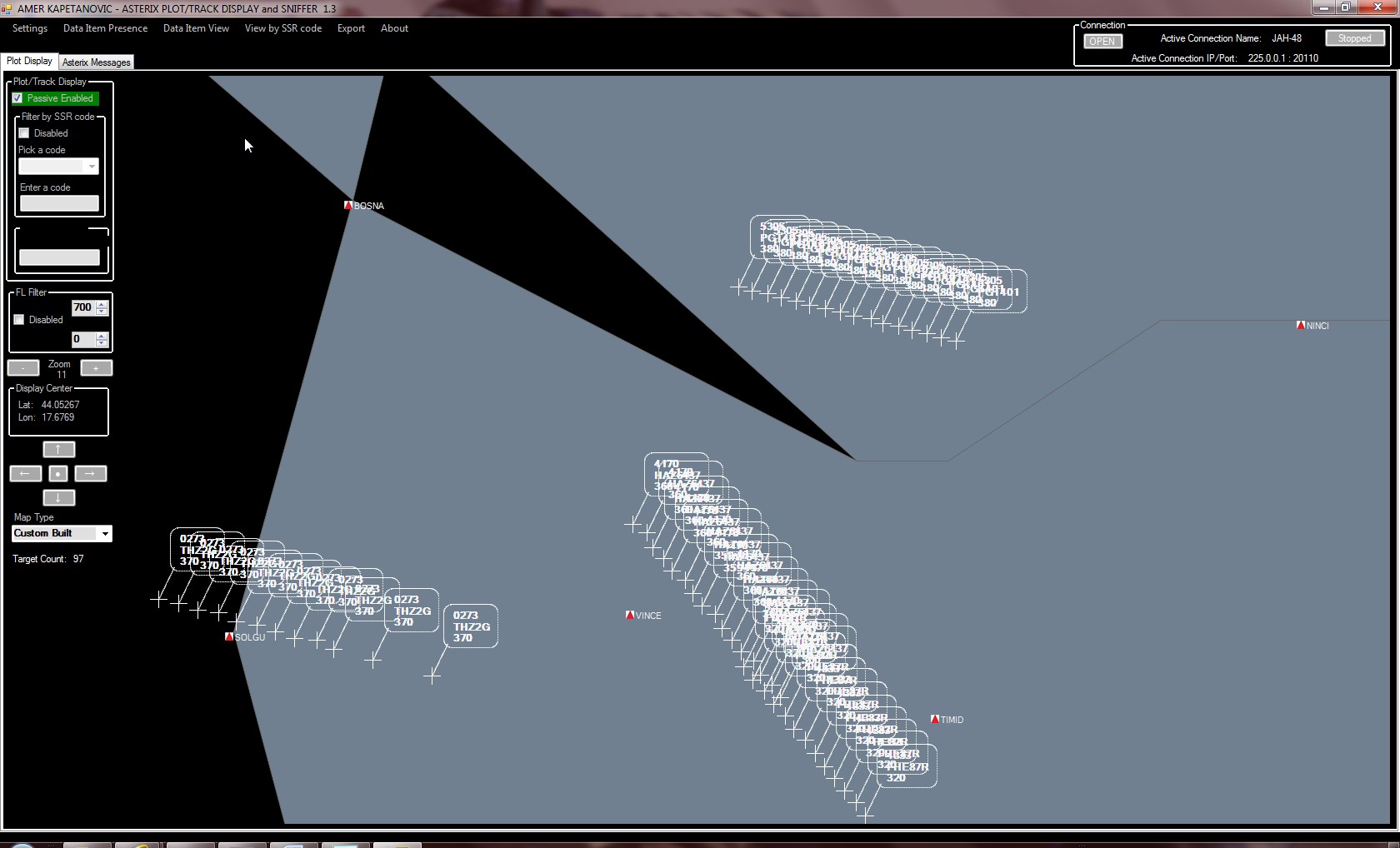


Figure 11: Passive display no filter

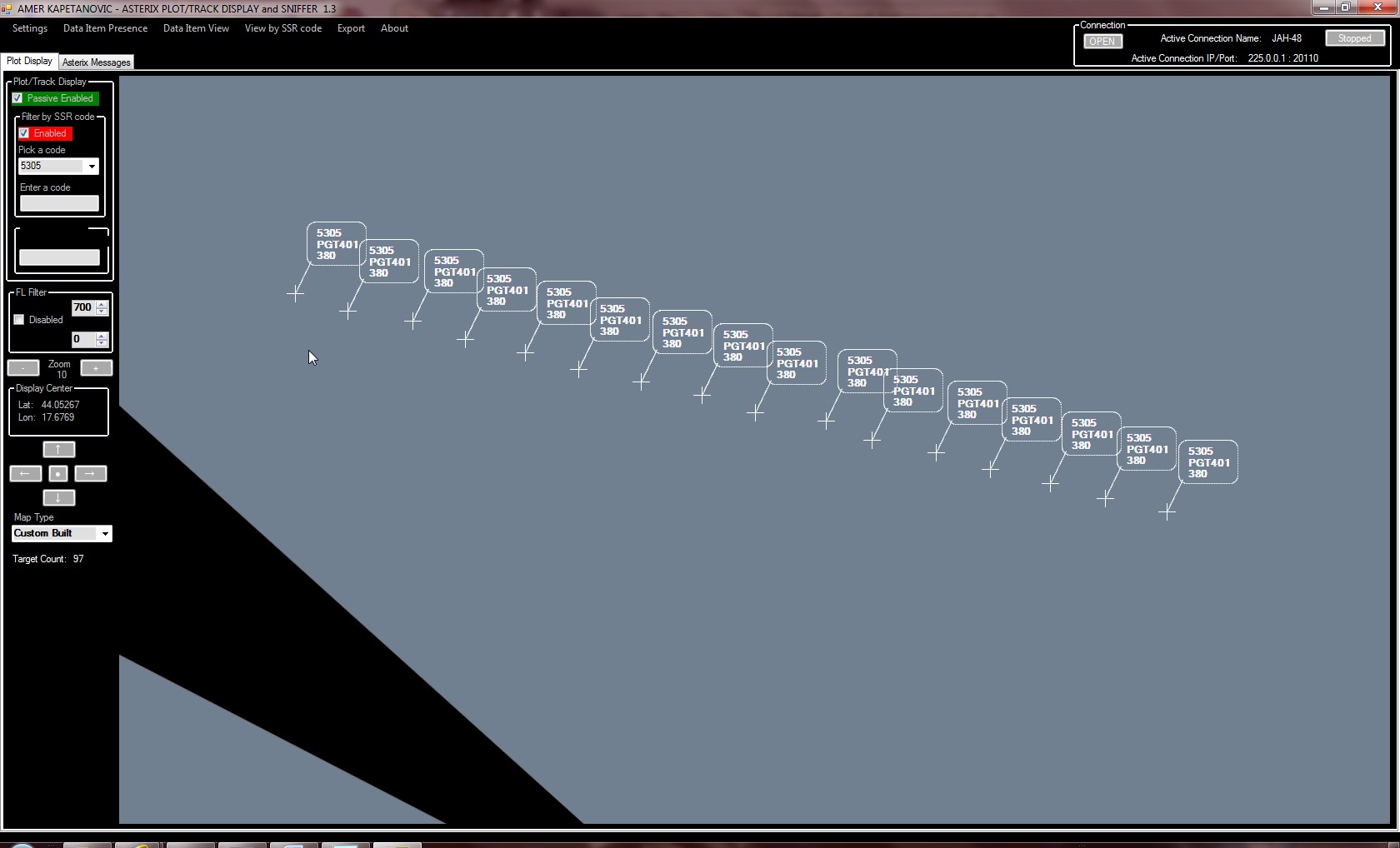
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Figure 12: Passive filter – filter to Mode-A 5305

While the application does provide GUI for re-centering and zoom in and zoom out functions, it is also possible to use mouse middle button for zoom and right button for moving the maps.

**Display Attributes**

Display attributes window is accessed either via the Main Window from ***Settings -> Display Attributes*** or by right button mouse click from the Display Window, that will then provide the option to open up the Display Attributes Window. This window is used to control various display attributes as shown below in the Figure XX.



Figure 13: Menu to Access Display configuration windows

To check/modify a specific display attribute first select ***Display Item***, and then modify an applicable attribute.

***NOTE: Although not all attributes are applicable to each Item all attributes are available for the implementation simplicity. Example: Line Attribute is not applicable to radar but is to State Border line.***

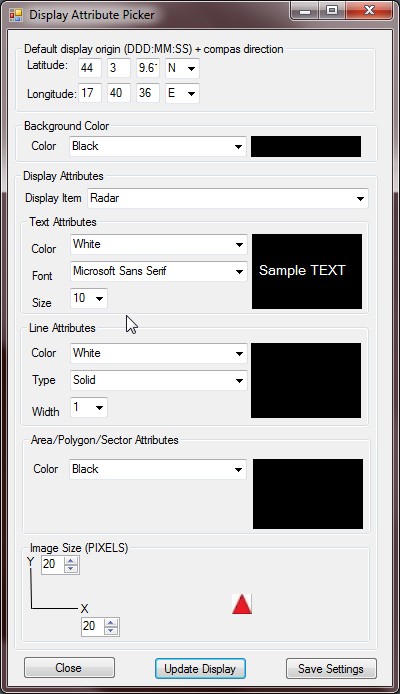


Figure 14: Display Attributes

**Display Items**

Display attributes window is accessed by right button mouse click from the Display Window that will then provide the option to open up the Display Item

Display Item is provides a simple way to enable/disable specific data item on the display. The selection gets saved between application sessions.



Figure 15: Display Items

**Label Attributes**

Label Attributes Window lets you configure Track/Plot Label attributes. The changes can be checked immediately by pressing “Update” button and then will be applied to the display. Once satisfied with the selection the settings can be saved using “Save” button so they remain same between sessions.

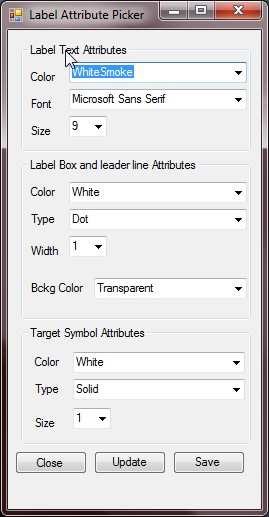


Figure 16: Label Attributes Picker

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