

Client: Castle Rock Associates

Year: 2010

Description: I was sole author on this user guide describing a piece of software ("Module X") that I had worked on as a project manager, UI designer, and tester. I also traveled to the customers' offices to help conduct in-person training sessions based on this guide. Screen captures have been omitted.

Camera Inventory Tool: Training Guide

Objective #1: Becoming acquainted with the Module X Camera List

Start by selecting "Camera List" from the System Menu in the upper left corner of the Module X screen. Initially you will see a list of "closed" header bars, each of which is labeled with a route number. Click on one of these route headers to open up a list of cameras that are currently on that route. Alternatively, you can press the "Open All" button to open the complete list of cameras. The cameras are grouped according to route number by default, but they can also be sorted by name using the "Sort by" drop-down menu at the top of the list. Sorting the list by Site Name puts the cameras in alphabetical order according to the first letter of their names.

When you click on the name of any camera in the list, the map to the right will zoom in and center upon the selected camera icon. Left-click this icon to view the current image display for that camera inside a Google text bubble. You can also pan the map and left-click another camera icon at any time. The camera you selected will then be highlighted in yellow in the Camera List, and a text bubble will open on the map to reveal the current image for that camera.

Objective #2: Adding a new camera to the database

To add a new camera to the Module X camera database, first press the "Add New" button located above the Camera List. This will open up an editing panel at the top of the Camera List, containing a number of fields that will be used to define the camera's physical location and other properties.

Cameras on State Highways

A camera's location is defined by several factors. First, choose the route on which the camera is located. If you select "Major Road" as the road type, then the "Route" field below will be auto-filled with a list of all routes available in your state. When you select the desired route from the list, the full length of that route will be highlighted in green on the map to the right.

For cameras located on highways (Major Roads), you can select the specific location in one of three ways: by milepoint, by latitude and longitude, or by manual placement on the map. If you know the milepoint at which the camera is located, you can type this value into the "Milepoint" field. Module X will then calculate the corresponding latitude and longitude, and place a yellow pin at the selected location on the Google map. Conversely, you can manually enter the geographic coordinates of the site, in decimal degrees, into the "Lat" and "Long" fields. Module X will then place a yellow pin on the map as near as possible to the point you defined; if the point is determined not to be on a highway, then Module X will "snap" to the nearest point on the route you selected earlier. Module X will also calculate the milepoint for that location.

After the initial lat/long and milepoint have been determined, you can adjust the camera's position by left-clicking the yellow pin, holding down the mouse button, and dragging the pin across the map. When you let go of the mouse button, the pin will automatically "snap" to the selected route, so there is no need to worry if you mistakenly drag it off the highway.

You can also use the pin drag-and-drop method to initially define a camera's location, without manually entering a milepoint or lat/long information. Simply right-click the map anywhere along the selected/highlighted route, and a yellow pin will appear which can be further dragged along the route. Milepoint and lat/long will be determined automatically each time you move the pin.

Cameras on Local Roads

If the camera you are adding is located on a local road rather than a highway, you can select "Other Road" as the road type and enter the route name into the "Route" field. From here, the specific location can be chosen by the same methods described above, except that the "Milepoint" field is optional. If a milepoint value is provided for a local road, it will not help to determine the camera's location, but can be used for reference.

Dragging-and-dropping the yellow pin also works a bit differently when you are defining a location on a local road. You can begin by right-clicking the Google map at any spot, which will cause a yellow pin to appear there. As you drag the pin across the map, it will not "snap" to the nearest route—because no route has been selected—so it can be placed anywhere you wish. Module X will determine the latitude and longitude automatically.

You can further refine the location description by referencing the camera site to a nearby city or town. A camera may be described as "*In, Near, or [X] miles [direction] of*" a city. For example, you can say that the camera is "In Sacramento," "Near Boise," or "3 miles east of Louisville." To do this, check the box next to the desired option, or select the number of miles and a direction (N/S/E/W) from the applicable drop-down menus. Then, choose the nearest city from the "Select City" drop-down menu. The resulting description will show up beneath the camera name whenever the text bubble is opened for that camera in Module X or Web Module Y (where deployed).

Camera Owner and Site Name

In certain states and regions, different cameras may be under the ownership of different agencies. You can define which agency owns the camera you are adding by selecting an option from the "Owner" drop-down menu at the top right of the camera editing panel. This is especially important for states that will be using Camera Control, which operates on a set of user permissions that are defined by camera ownership. Otherwise, it simply determines which agency's icon will be displayed alongside that camera image in Module X and Web Module Y (where deployed). The "Owner" field is pre-populated with a list of agencies that are applicable to your state.

Each camera is required to have a name associated with it, for example, "Sunrise Blvd. Overpass" or "I-265 / I-64 Interchange." This should be entered into the "Site Name" field. The site name will appear in that camera's header bar in the Module X Camera List, and will be displayed in the text bubble for that camera after the route number or name, e.g. "US 50: Sunrise Blvd. Overpass."

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