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## Chapter 12: GEOPAK Preferences

### Purpose

GEOPAK Preferences control many different aspects of GEOPAK, including how data is displayed, where data is stored, and how to handle complex procedures such as survey data and superelevation. This chapter will outline the preferences that must be set when working on CFLHD projects. This chapter will not detail every preference, as many are not consequential to CFLHD. The preferences not detailed in this chapter may be set to GEOPAK defaults or as the user desires. Information on preferences not detailed here may be found in the GEOPAK help files.

### User Preferences

User preferences may be accessed from the main GEOPAK pull-down menu, by selecting **Applications>GEOPAK ROAD>User Preferences**.

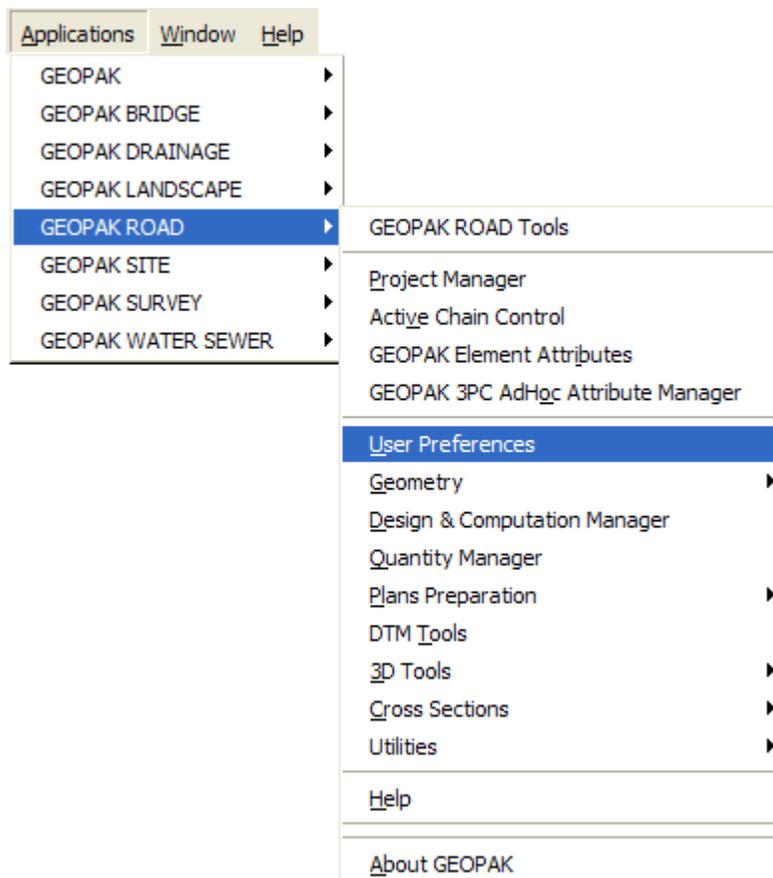
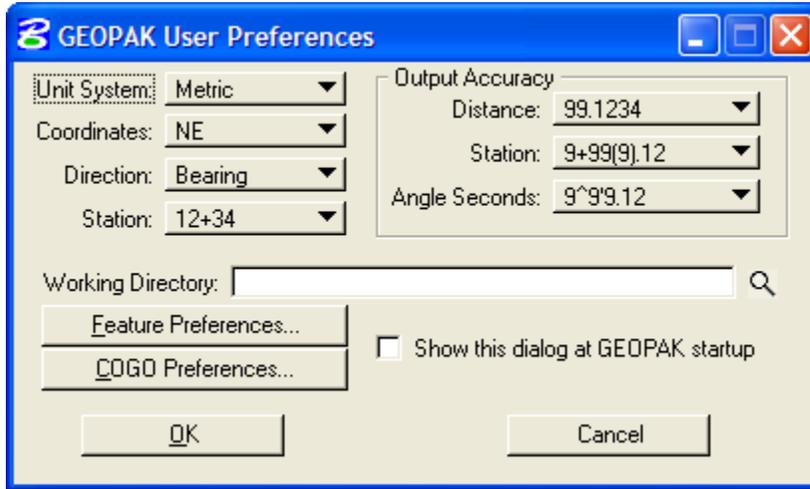


Figure 12-1: Accessing User Preferences



Once selected the User Preferences dialog will activate.



**Figure 12-2: User Preferences Dialog**

## Generic Preferences

The preferences set in the top portion of this dialog box are utilized by many GEOPAK functions including; plan view and cross section labeling, DP Station Offset, and Design and Computation Manager.

The setting of the decimal places only affects rounding of the screen output. Internally, GEOPAK still computes to double precision accuracy.



Generic preferences are set here. Project specific preferences may be set through Project Manager and will take precedence over preferences set here. See the chapter on Project Manager for more information.



The setting of the Unit option button, English or Metric, is critical to getting the correct results for GEOPAK earthwork and cross-section reports.





The following chart describes the settings to use when working on CFLHD projects.

GEOPAK User Preferences		
Preference	Setting for CFLHD	Notes
Unit System	<b>Dependent on project</b>	Determines whether GEOPAK operates according to the English or Metric system of measurement. The Unit parameter affects every GEOPAK component.
Coordinates	<b>NE</b>	Sets either NE (Northing/Easting) or XY coordinate values in Labeling components.
Direction	<b>Bearing</b>	Sets the direction format for such variables as line direction in Labeling, and components within the Design and Computation Manager.
Station Format	<b>1+234 (M) 12+34 (E)</b>	Sets the format for station variables in Labeling, and components within the Design and Computation Manager.
Distance	<b>999.123 (M) 999.12 (E)</b>	Sets the number of decimal places for most non-station and non-angle variables in the GEOPAK Labeling, and components within the Design and Computation Manager. Variables affected by the Distance Decimal parameter include point coordinates, curves parameters such as length and radius, inverse distance, elevations, etc.
Station	<b>9+99.123 (M) 9+99.12 (E)</b>	Sets the number of decimal places for station variables in Labeling, and components within the Design and Computation Manager.
Angle Seconds	<b>9°9'9.123" (M) 9°9'9.12" (E)</b>	Sets the number of decimal places for angle variables in Labeling and components within the Design and Computation Manager. Variables affected by the Angle Sec. Decimal parameter include curve delta and degree, bearings and inverse angles.

**Table 12-1: CFLHD User Preference Settings**

The Working Directory option directs GEOPAK to where the .gpk file and other data files can be found. If left blank, GEOPAK will look in the directory where the MicroStation file was opened. Either the Working Directory or the COGO Job Directory should always be defined so that GEOPAK can find the .gpk file.

### Feature Preferences

Feature preferences pertain to how survey data is interpreted by GEOPAK. Information for each element is stored in a Survey Manager Database, or .smd file. The .smd file controls how survey elements and visualized COGO elements are displayed in MicroStation. For

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example, the **.smd** file determines which cell will be used to represent a fire hydrant, or what level, color, weight and line style will be used to depict a fence line that was surveyed in the field. The **.smd** file also controls whether a point recorded in the field will be part of the DTM. The **.smd** file is specific to CFLHD and must be downloaded from the CFLHD web site or, onsite at CFLHD, loaded from the correct directory on the CFLHD network. This **.smd** file only controls survey information and therefore does not need to be set once the survey mapping has been completed.

## Workflow 1: Attaching the Correct .smd File

1. From the user preference dialog, shown above, select the *Feature Preferences* button.
2. The feature preferences dialog will activate, showing the currently attached *.smd* file.

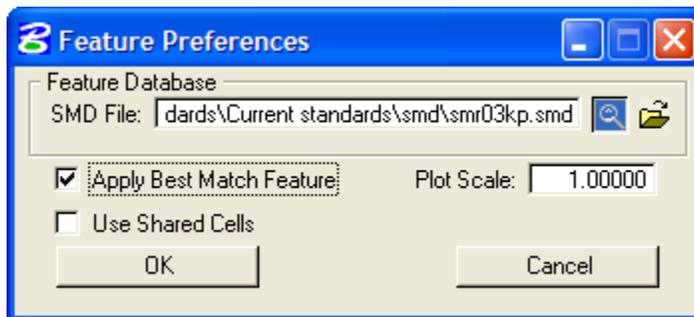


Figure 12-3: Feature Preferences

3. The CFLHD standard *.smd* file is *smr03kp.smd*. Press the *Select* button  and browse to the location of the CFLHD *.smd* file.
4. Check the *Apply Best Match Feature* box and set the *Plot Scale* field to 1.00

## COGO Preferences

The COGO preferences dialog box allows the user to specify the Job Open Mode, what GEOPAK will do when a new or incorrect job number is specified, setup COGO directories, and redefinition of COGO elements.

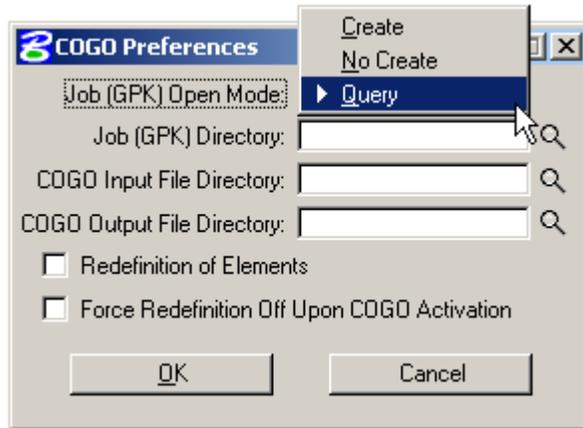


Figure 12-4: COGO Preferences

### Job Open Mode

The job open mode specifies what happens when a job number is input.

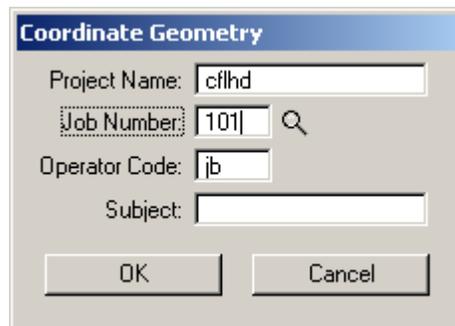


Figure 12-5: Coordinate Geometry

When coordinate geometry is accessed, a job number must be specified. This number corresponds to the file **jobXXX.gpk**, where **XXX** is the job number, shown above as 101. GEOPAK uses the following three rules to search for the specified job number:

- If the Job Directory is defined (in the COGO Preferences dialog box) then GEOPAK looks for the .gpk file exclusively in the Job Directory.
- If the Job Directory is not defined and the Working Directory is defined (in the main GEOPAK Preferences dialog box) then GEOPAK looks for the .gpk file exclusively in the Working Directory.
- If neither the Job Directory nor the Working Directory are defined then GEOPAK looks for the .gpk file exclusively in the directory that the active design file resides in.



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Both A/E Contractors and CFLHD roadway designers should get GEOPAK job numbers from their Design Team Leader or Project Manager.



If the .gpk file is found in the directory selected according to these rules then the job will be opened and Job Open Mode doesn't come into play. On the other hand, if the .gpk file is not found then the option chosen for Job Open Mode controls how GEOPAK deals with not finding the .gpk file as follows:

- **Create:** When set to Create, the job will be opened if it is found, or created if no job matching the number exists in the working directory. This option can be dangerous if an incorrect working directory has been specified. In this case, a new .gpk file will be created with no warning to the user.
- **No Create:** When set to No Create, GEOPAK will open the job, if found, or show the following dialog box if the job number is not found.

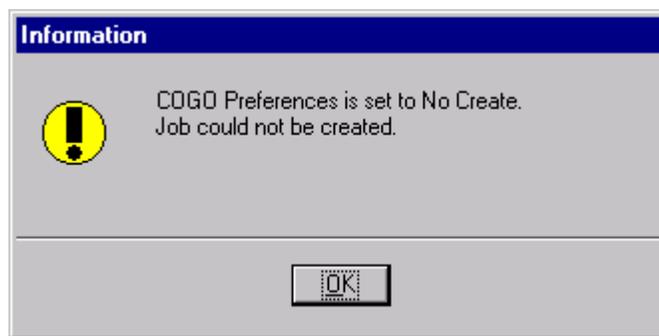
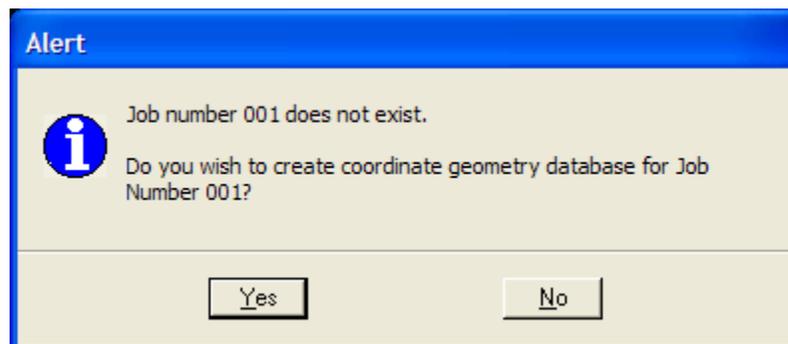


Figure 12-6: No Create Information

- **Query:** The Query option is the option preferred by the majority of users. If the job is found, it will be opened, if not a dialog box will open stating that the job could not be found and asking if the user would like to create the specified job in the working directory.



The job open mode **Query** is the CFLHD recommended mode.



### Job Directory and Working Directory

The working directory is where GEOPAK puts all of the files created by GEOPAK and is also the first place GEOPAK will look for files when you need to open something from GEOPAK.

The job directory is an ALTERNATE directory to store the .gpk file. If this is set, any **.gpk** you create will be placed in that directory and any time you need to open a **.gpk**, GEOPAK will look in that alternate directory as well.

These two parameters work in unison, the Job Directory is supplemental to the Working directory.