



## Dave's Soapbox

As you would imagine, this is the last newsletter for 2009 and it has plenty of important information, so it's definitely worth a scan. Our staff has remained stable throughout the year, which is good for both you and us. In my planning I have allowed for some additional personnel, so let's see what happens.

The iQuest family has grown since the last newsletter. Chris and his wife Aroha welcomed Eric, the newest addition to their family, born in September; and Malcolm and his wife Kirstie welcomed Elizabeth, their first child, born in November. Though a little sleep deprived, they are both back working hard, although the office conversation seems a little different to what it used to be!

2009 has been another good year for iQuest, though testing in some areas. Mike has grown to know well and love various airports, in particular Hamilton, Auckland, Sydney and Adelaide – but not necessarily in that order! You may well be aware of this if you have tried to reach him or others in our team only to find me at the end of the phone. I've pretty much got most of you trained to know now that I am real and not an answer service! It's taken a while though.

As always, we have appreciated your business through the year (our year now conforms to the European model and ends December 31<sup>st</sup>) and we look forward to more of it through 2010. Our offices are closed from COB 23<sup>rd</sup> December, reopening Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. If there are any emergencies please call either Mike or me on our cells (+64 21 763-953 or +64 21 489-617 respectively). Mike will be in Aachen, Germany from the 8<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup> February.

If you are holidaying with friends or family, I hope it's relaxing, safe and fun-filled; it's been the fastest year that I can remember... they say that's an age thing!

## 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

In previous newsletters we have mentioned that 2009 marks 20 years since the company was founded back in October 1989 in Mike's garage. As this year comes to an end, that era is well and truly behind us. Mike and Desma recently sold their home (and of course the famous garage) in the Whatawhata village and have moved back into Hamilton, leaving behind many great memories.

As a company, we move into the next 20 years radically different to those early (simpler?) days. It is great that a number of you have shared the journey with us for a considerable number of years. We look forward to embracing the latest technologies, but also maintaining and strengthening links with the past. There are opportunities now in a rapidly changing world that we could only have dreamed of 20 years ago. We will be making use of our new blog to keep you informed and sometimes challenged!

## New iQuest Website Release

Today we officially release our brand new website. Our old website was looking a little tired, so we engaged the services of Bold Horizon (just down the hall from us here at Waikato Innovation Park) to carry out a complete re-design. Our logo remains unchanged, but everything else is different!

The new website includes:

- A blog all about our take on the environmental monitoring industry;
- A more user-friendly 'Client's Area';
- Access to the iQuest Bug/Enhancement Tracking System (iBETS);
- Better integration between the website, Forum, Blog, Global Data Network and iBETS;

Check it all out at [www.iquest.co.nz](http://www.iquest.co.nz).



## iQuest Bug/Enhancement Tracking System

As mentioned above, a new feature of our website is the iQuest Bug/Enhancement Tracking System (iBETS). This is a database of all bugs and enhancement suggestions for each of our products. We have been running this system in house for several months, and we are now ready to open it up further to key technical coordinators in our major client organisations.

As this is a working area for us, and all suggestions will require action to some degree, we would like each organisation to nominate one person who will be responsible for reporting bugs and enhancement suggestions. Please contact us to get a username and password for your nominated user.

## Product Status and Release Versions

This is an ideal opportunity to list the current release versions of code for our key products. Versions that are marked as 'RC' are available for use but may still be under going user evaluation or have final adjustments pending before official release.

### HydroTel™ 3.6.2.x

**Version 4!** We have had a number of enquiries about the upcoming release of HydroTel™ version 4. This made significant progress following our preliminary show-and-tell at the mid-year HydroTel™ User Group Meeting. However, this was put on the back-burner for a period due to other obligations. Also, as it is over eight years since HydroTel™ 2000 was first developed, we made the decision to radically review the database design while "the bonnet was up". This is to ensure it is optimised for performance, to better use the features in the later versions of SQL Server and to cater for the changed demands and market requirements of the new decade. This review raised a large number of changes which require considerable testing over the simpler "face-lift" that version 4 started life as.

### HydroTel™ Web Server 4.0

Yes, HydroTel™ Web Server V4 is ready to go. As said in the previous newsletter, it includes a detailed electronic help manual with example help pages. Once HydroTel™ Version 4 is released, a newer version of the HydroTel™ Web Server will be released that will be compatible with a HydroTel™ Version 4 database. Contact Malcolm if you are ready to upgrade your existing HydroTel™ Web Server or if you are interested in purchasing it.

### iTerm **This product is obsolete.**

Any one still using this datalogger support tool should download and install iLink at the earliest opportunity. iTerm was a cut-down version of iLink and intended as a simple datalogger download tool for end users. iLink now has the look and feel of iTerm and with basic level registration is almost the same. It makes sense for us to have to support only one application.

Although iLink is free, to obtain it you will need access to the client's area of our website. If you do not have this you can easily register by following the 'Register' with iQuest' link under the Client Area log-in box on the home page. The iLink installation is supplied with a 'Basic' level registration. The more advanced features of iLink require re-registering it with a higher level code. Please contact us if you require this.

### iLink 3.7.0.x **(Important information)**

Note: An impending issue relating to the use of iLink (and iTerm) with legacy DS-CPU3 and DS-4483 dataloggers has been identified during our ongoing development programme. Unloading these loggers after 1st January 2010 will result in samples having a date stamp of 200x instead of 201x. Anyone who





The Transfer Agent has a new DLL for supporting importing and exporting of data in this format, including the ability to have a 'watched' folder for fully automated importing. HydroTel™ Version 4 will support right-click exporting to a file in XML format and future releases of iLink will support downloading from a logger directly into this XML format.

## Telecom XT support

Since the NZ Telecom's XT® network commenced operation earlier this year, we have had a number of enquiries relating to our products and this service.

The Telecom XT® network is the same as the Telstra NextG® network in Australia. We have extensive experience with this and hundreds of our devices are deployed across Australia using it.

The main difference for NZ users who are familiar with GPRS on our Vodafone APN is the change in operation to dynamic IP addressing. In most situations, devices (iRIS datalogger, iCE<sup>3</sup>) using XT® will be configured to initiate the connection to HydroTel via the Internet on a scheduled or event/alarm basis. This requires some input from your IT department to set up the appropriate firewall and router pathway. It also means that the device is not "pollable" on demand in the same way as devices on GPRS are able to be when they are configured to be on line continually. To assist with the need to demand an update, HydroTel V3.6 has a feature whereby a special SMS message can be sent to the iRIS or iCE<sup>3</sup> to request it to call in.

Please contact us should you want to know more about this topic.

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