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Alternate Heading Source in the Excavator.dll

By John Marinuzzi

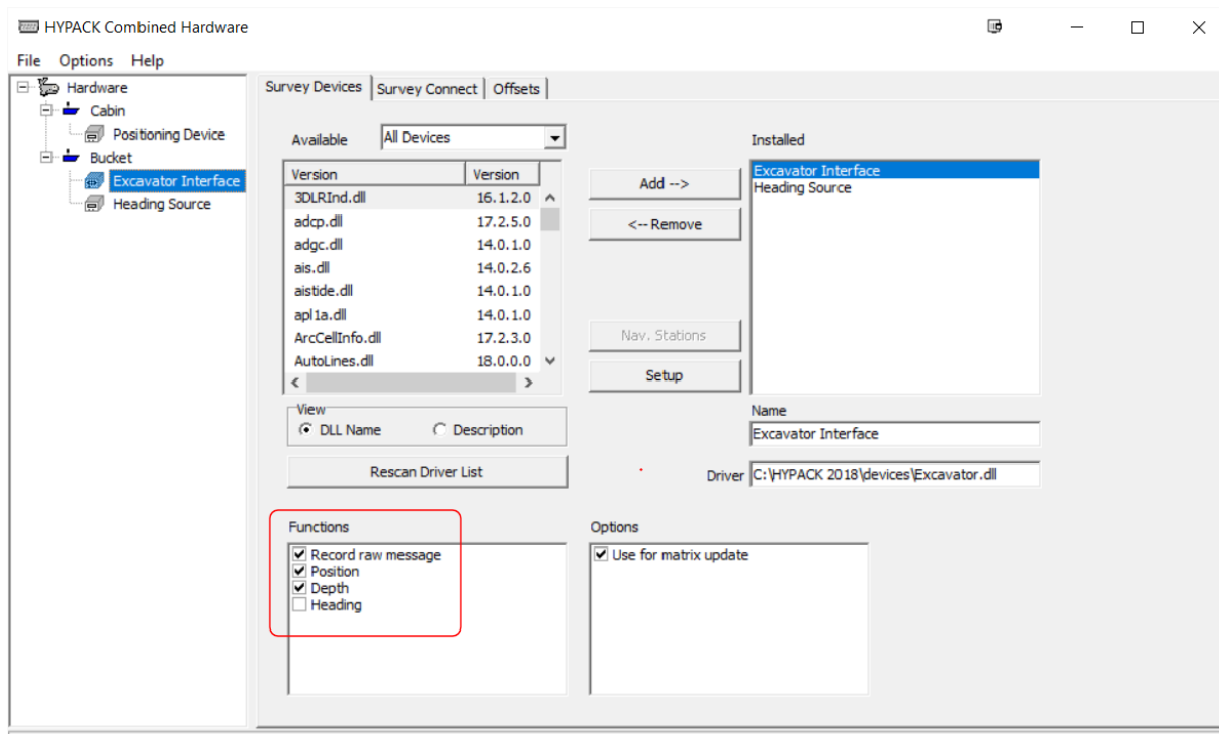
The Excavator.dll was originally setup for use on a “typical” mono or knuckle boom type excavator where the boom stays relative to the house. We recently had a request to setup an excavator with a swinging boom. Since the Excavator.dll was taking its heading from the device that it is setup relative to, usually the main mobile (house) where the GPS is defined, allowing for a swinging boom meant looking for a heading device other than the main mobile. So, we made a small change to the Excavator.dll to allow for this configuration. The change in the setup dialog for excavator looks like this:

FIGURE 1. Excavator Driver Setup Dialog

Here you indicate that you will be using an alternate heading source, then select the mobile on which the heading device will be defined. For this example, we will be using a swing sensor set up on the same mobile. If necessary, it could be another mobile.

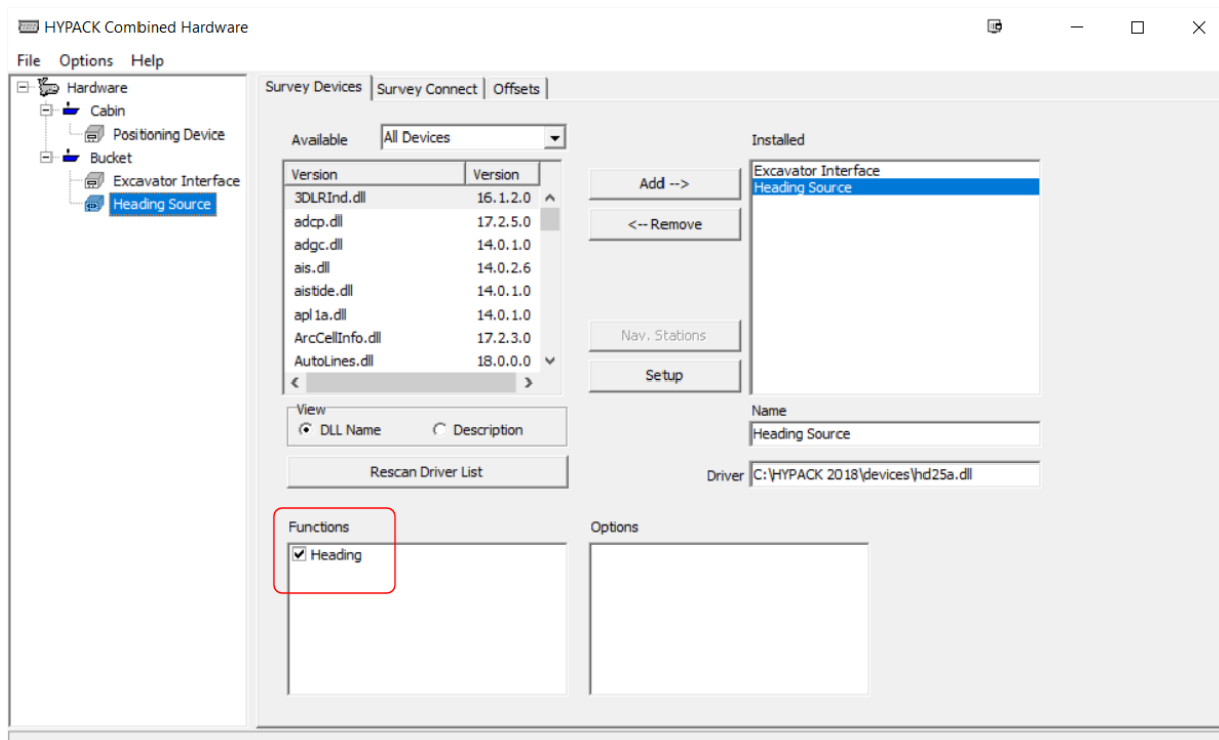
When using this option, it is important to deselect Heading as a function of the Excavator.dll (Figure 2).

FIGURE 2. Deselecting the Heading Function in the Excavator Device Setup



You must select Heading as a function on the device that will be measuring the swing angle on the boom:

FIGURE 3. Selecting Heading on the Device Measuring the Swing Angle



It is also important to make sure that the excavator driver and heading device driver are set relative to the main mobile:

FIGURE 4. Referencing the Excavator Driver to the Main Mobile

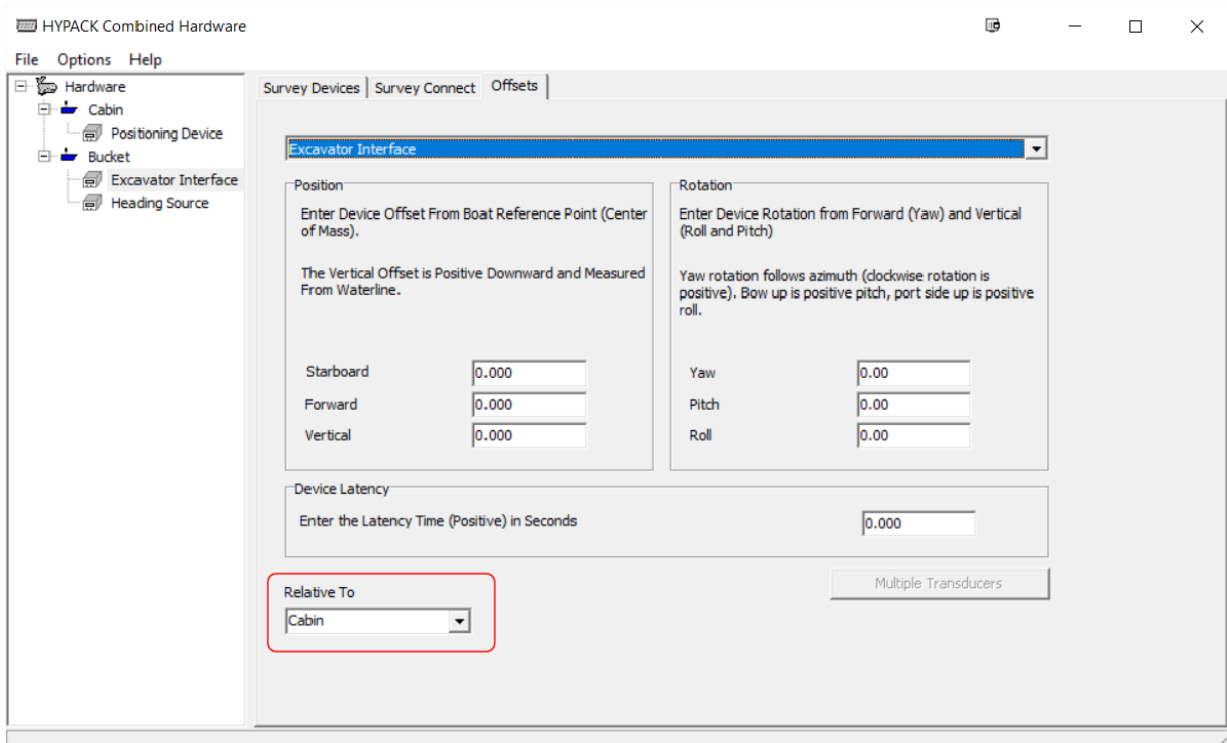
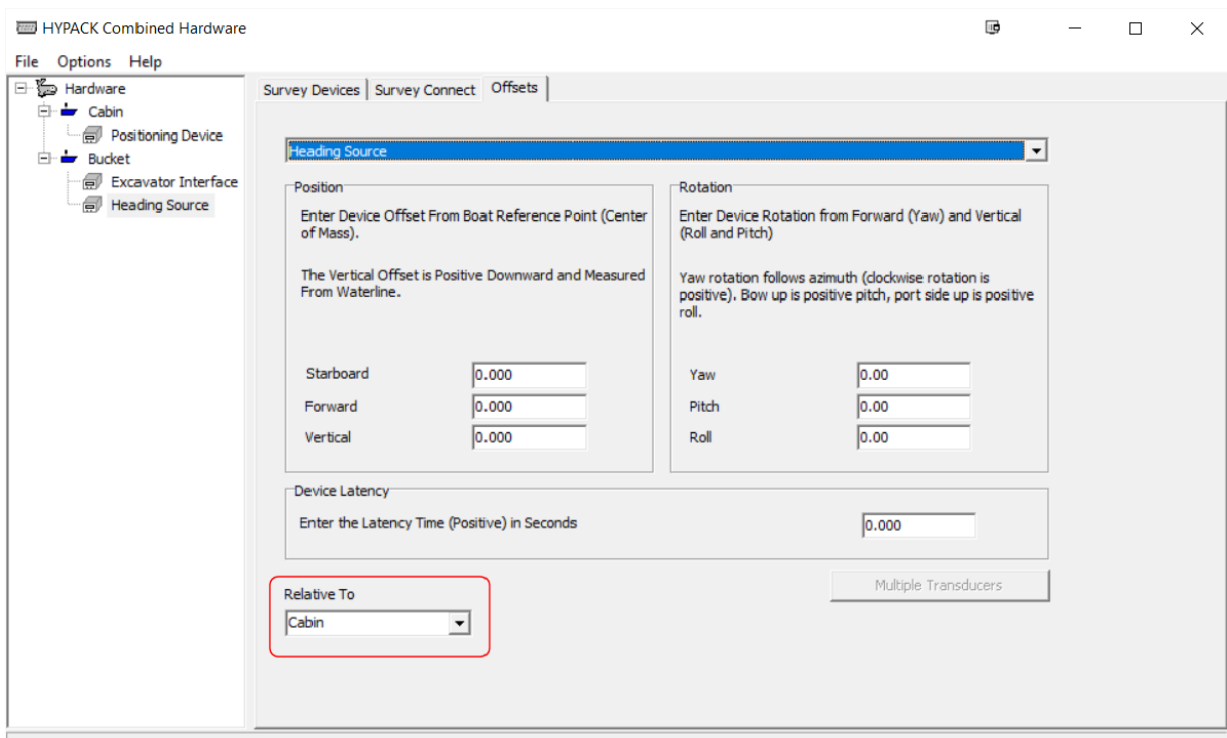
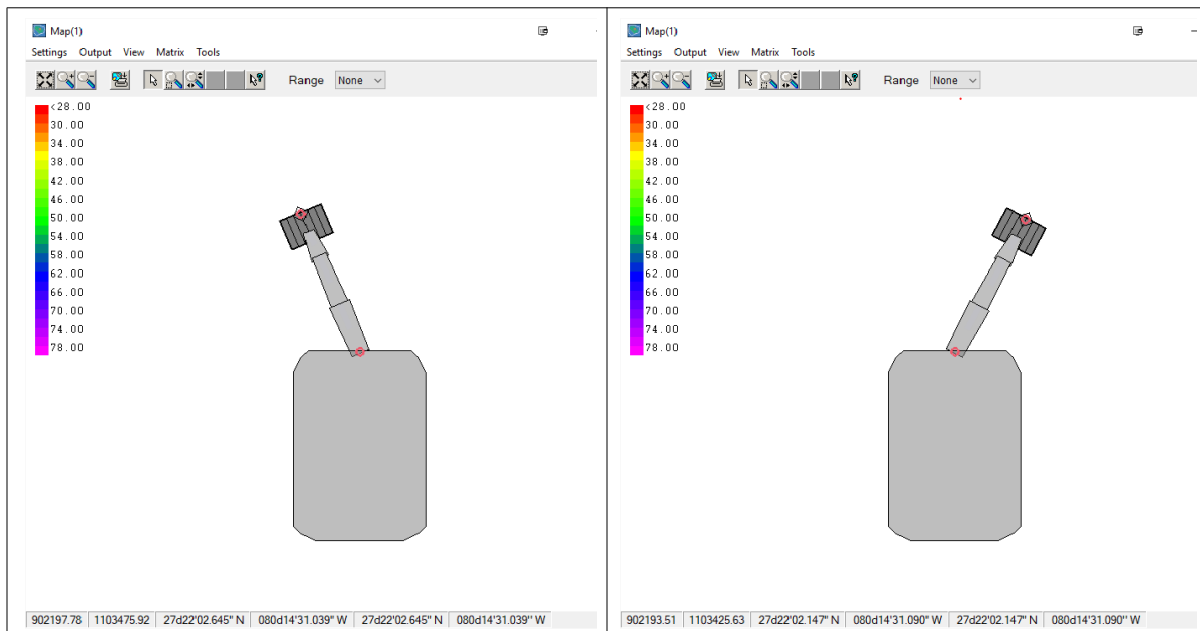


FIGURE 5. Referencing the Heading Driver to the Main Mobile



You should be set to go. Here is what it looks like in DREDGEPACK®:

FIGURE 6. *Swing Arm Excavator in DREDGEPACK®*



If you have any questions about this functionality, please contact us.