

Vampire Development Plans

16th July 2020

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Vampire V7.00 – SNC-Lavalin

- April 2020 Vampire Pro rebranded and released as Version 7.00
- Still some work to do on documentation, icons and logos
- Please request your copy vampire@snclavalin.com







Vampire V7.10 – Enhancement Release

- Work has commenced on V7.10
- Requirements have already been documented
- Coding is underway
- Expected release Q4 2020
- Marks a divergence from previous versions of VAMPIRE®





- Proposed Enhancements
 - subject to technical specification and review
- Longitudinal Dynamics Enhancements
 - Curving Resistance Implemented based on TGamma

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- Propulsion Resistance Implemented as a function of speed second order polynomial (A+BV+CV²)
- Supported in the Run File Editor
- Hysteresis Element Enhancements
 - PRELOAD and CLEARANCE keywords
 - Supported in the Interactive Builder







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- Check Rail Modelling Enhancements
 - Improved check rail response during loss of contact
 - Re-arranged code to output creepage, creep force and Tgamma on check rail
 - New outputs for above and check rail displacement
 - Improved creepage expressions for contact data grooved rail flangeback contact
- Improved Contact Data Generation Calculation for Yawed wheelsets
 - Calculation tolerances adjusted
 - Minimum number of points in a profile increased to 500 using curve fitting
- Wheel Rail Contact Numerical Stability Checker
 - Based on wheel longitudinal creep force.
 - Counts sawtooth peaks over 80% of saturation limit









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- Revised Sperling Ride Index Calculation
 - Various interpretations as Ride Index has evolved for numerical analysis
 - Squared and Cubed implementations get slightly different results
 - Results can vary slightly based on timestep due to FFT analysis method
 - Summation method implemented
- Flange Two Point Contact Output Below 30 Degrees
 - Traditionally the Vampire Contact Calculation assumed flange contact above 30 degrees.
 - In V6.30 (Nov 2014) method changed to lateral movement of contact patch position
 - Allowing tread two-point contact zones
 - Simulation is correct for a tread/flange two-point contact zone below 30 degrees
 - However result saved to incorrect output terms
 - Correction requires addition of new section to contact data file
- Minor Enhancements
 - Smaller change requests and enhancements









- Completion of Rebranding
 - Images in the Vampire manuals
 - Logos and icons used within the package
 - Images and colours used by the Installer program

- Product managed using DevOps
 - Controlled source code changes
 - Management of change requests









Vampire Major Update

- A Major Update
 - Anticipated scoping of project in 2021
 - A significant move away from previous versions of VAMPIRE®
- Proposals
 - In-Line wheel rail contact calculation based on current Vampire Hertzian contact method
 - In-Line wheel rail contact solution based on CONTACT (edwin.vollebregt@cmcc.nl)
 - Enhanced track flexibility model allowing different track forms to be modelled
 - Re-write Line Element code for position format keeping link equations







Reporting and Fixing Bugs

- If you discover a bug in the software, please report it via the Vampire helpdesk
- Please report it even if you think the bug is already known about:
 - We may not know of bugs inherited from pre-SNCL versions of the software
 - If multiple users are having the same problem this will help us to prioritise which bugs to fix first
- Reported bugs will be checked and prioritised:
 - Rare critical bugs which could affect the validity of results are the highest priority, and if one is discovered we will notify other users and fix it with a patch or new release
 - Most less critical bugs will be fixed in the next scheduled release
 - Minor issues associated with the user interface may not be such a high priority, and we will address these in future releases when the relevant parts of the code are overhauled
- We are still keen to hear about bugs in the legacy versions of Vampire, as these may persist in subsequent releases:
 - SNC-Lavalin will aim to fix bugs in our version of the software but we cannot offer patches to fix bugs in earlier non-SNCL releases







Requests for Changes and Enhancements

- We are always keen to hear your ideas for improvements to Vampire
 - We are currently creating a list of change requests at SNC-Lavalin
 - We're actively working on 15 of these at present, some will be in V7.10, others to follow
 - SNC-Lavalin needs to prioritise which enhancements to address next
- It is unusual to get the same request more than once users all have different priorities!
 - This can make it difficult for us to justify investing heavily to develop a niche capability
 - The more requests we get, the more justification for investment
- If clients have a particular niche requirement, we are open to collaborating on a joint project to deliver that capability within Vampire or in connection with other software – please ask
- For software developments of broader interest funded from our development budget, it is more efficient to address a group of issues while overhauling a particular area of the package
 - For example in V7.10 we are focusing on the check rail code, addressing 6 change requests





Requests for Changes and Enhancements

- Which areas do YOU think we should focus on next:
 - Pre-processors
 - Graph plotting
 - Post-processing, filtering and statistics
 - Track modelling
 - Vehicle model elements
 - Command file capabilities
 - Manual
 - Training courses
 - Error checking and reporting
 - Track and profile libraries
 - Anything else













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Thank you



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Our values are the essence of our company's identity. They represent how we act, speak and behave together, and how we engage with our clients and stakeholders.

SAFETY

INTEGRITY

COLLABORATION

We put safety at the heart of everything we do, to safeguard people, assets and the environment.

We do the right thing, no matter what, and are accountable for our actions.

We work together and embrace each other's unique contribution to deliver amazing results for all.

INNOVATION

We redefine engineering by thinking boldly, proudly and differently.

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