

Predator Tracker™ v7.0 – What's New

Latest features and benefits in v7.0

Before Installing v7.0

Predator Tracker v7.0 requires Windows 2000, XP or 2003 Server. Existing customers that have older versions of Windows such as Windows 95, 98, ME or NT v4.0 must upgrade prior to installing v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

Existing Tracker customers should backup the database prior to upgrading. Predator Tracker Administrator v7.0 will upgrade the database automatically from older v1.x, v2.x or v3.x versions to v7.0. After the database has been upgraded to v7.0 older versions of Predator Tracker will not be able to use the database.

Microsoft Internet Explorer v5.x or later is required to be installed before installing Predator Tracker v7.0.

Why v7.0?

By design, this release is intended to add new features, reports and to improve the ease of managing tools and gages. Details of what's new are explained throughout this document and within the online help.

Installing v7.0

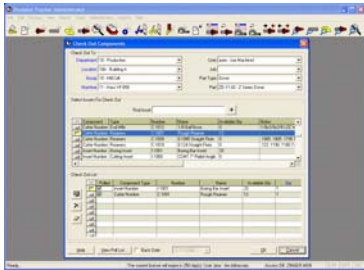
A new Install Wizard has been developed for v7. It is based on a single .MSI image and .CAB files have been eliminated. If you are running Windows 98, ME or NT v4.0 you must upgrade to Windows 2000, XP or 2003 Server prior to installing v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

By default installation occurs in the \program files\predator software\tracker 7.0 directory. If you were previously running v3.x we recommend uninstalling v3.x prior to installing v7.0.

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Predator Tracker



Network Installations of v7.0

By committing to store the product installation on a server, users will enjoy automatic healing of all critical files upon running Predator Tracker. For example, suppose a user accidentally deletes ptracker.exe. Under normal circumstances he would be down and the software would fail to run. With v7.0 when the user double clicks the desktop shortcut all critical files are checked and if necessary restored from the network server and the software begins to run automatically.

The easiest way to perform a network installation is to step through the following:

1. Copy the contents of the CD to a \\predator cd images\CD21\ or similar directory.
2. Run the setuptracker.exe from the CD21 directory.

NOTE: Should any automatic healing be necessary, Predator Tracker will be able to automatically extract the necessary files from the appropriate cab files stored in the CD21 directory. If you install from a CD, Predator Tracker will be forced to prompt for the CD.

What's New in v7.0?

Improved! HTML based Online Help

Updated online help expands several topics with new details.

New! Floating Network Licensing Option

v7.0 of Predator Tracker supports a new floating network licensing option. This option eliminates the need to manage a Predator SIM for each PC and to purchase a license for each PC. Only a single SIM is required at the Predator FLM (Floating Network Manager) PC and only the number of simultaneous licenses in use needs to be purchased. There is a minimum of three licenses.

New! Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Support

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 has been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

New! Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express Support

Support for Microsoft SQL Server 2005 Express has been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker. Support for this edition of SQL Server provides a free version of Microsoft SQL Server for small and medium manufacturers. The Express edition can be downloaded from Microsoft's web site.

New! Access 2003 Support

Support for Access 2003 has been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

New! Oracle Database 10g Support

Support for Oracle Database 10g has been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

New! Oracle Database 10g Express Support

Support for Oracle Database 10g Express has been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker. Support for this edition of Oracle provides a free version of the Oracle Database for small and medium manufacturers. The Express edition can be downloaded from Oracle's web site.

New! Bar Code Label Printing

Getting organized is now even easier with direct bar code label printing of tools, cutters, inserts, kits, gages, crib locations and all other components. Support for Dymo label printers have been added to v7.0 of Predator Tracker. Multiple bar code labels or a single bar code label can be printed with no wasted labels. Within the bar code label itself either the component number or the asset number can be selected.

New! Material References per Kit Number

Material references per kit number have been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker. This allows development of a knowledgebase of specific material and kit combinations that achieve maximum performance and reliability.

New! Part References per Kit Number

Part references per kit number have been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker. This allows development of a knowledgebase of specific part number and kit combinations that achieve maximum performance and reliability.

New! Cutting Details per Material Reference

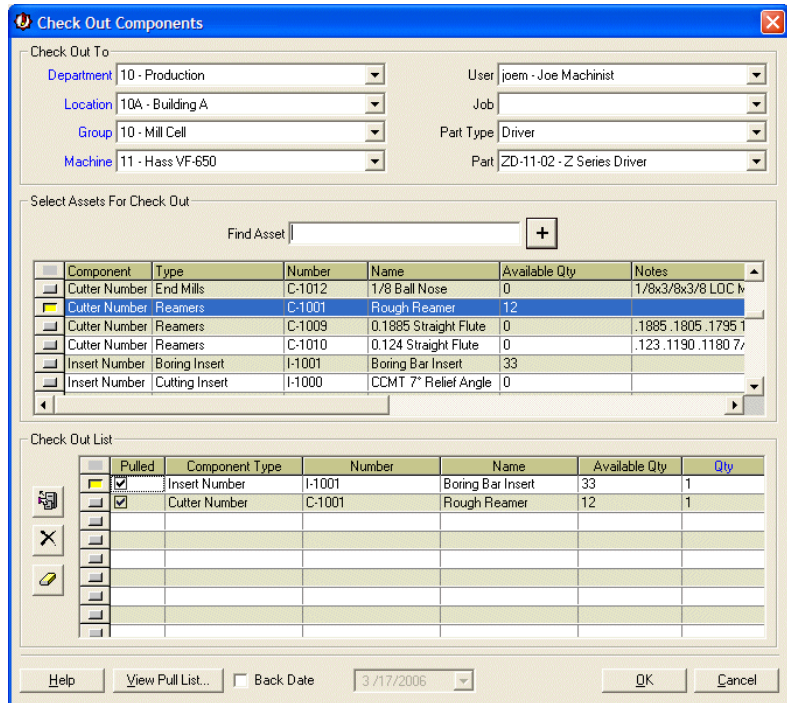
Material references have been improved with new cutting details for feed rates, spindle speeds, depth of cut and step overs. Support has been added for tools, cutters, inserts and kits per material. This allows the knowledgebase of specific material and tool/cutter/insert/kit combinations to be expanded to capture best practices.

New! Asset Numbers

Automatic unique asset numbers have been added to all major components within v7.0 of Predator Tracker. Component number must be unique within a specific component but they can be duplicated across components. For example, Predator Tracker supports a cutter number of 1200 and it also allows a gage number of 1200 to be defined. Often a unique asset number can simplify managing all of the components within Predator Tracker and the other applications within Predator SFC. Assets numbers are used to address this issue and are automatically managed and maintained by Predator Tracker and the other applications within Predator SFC.

New! Check In and Check Out via Asset Numbers

A second style of Check In and Check Out dialogs has been created to simplify the Check In and Check Out process. These new dialogs are based on bar coding asset numbers instead of component numbers. Since asset numbers are unique, several steps within the check in and check out process have been eliminated. A checkbox option within the Check Out Options dialog allows either component style or asset style to be supported.



New! Right Mouse Menus within Views

Two additional right mouse menus have been added to the major components to print bar code labels. For example, select View Cutters and then right click on an appropriate cutter number to see the additional Bar Code label shortcut menus.

New! Remote Desktop Support

Predator Tracker has been improved to support Remote Desktop within Windows. This allows for the SIM to be plugged into one PC (server) while another PC (client) starts a remote desktop session and runs Predator Tracker off the server without having to install Predator Tracker on the client PC.

NOTE: This is different than a Floating Network Licensing implementation.

New! External Edits via Predator CNC Editor Report

A new security report has been added to when users of the Predator CNC Editor Enterprise edition add/change the database.

New! End User License Agreement

Predator Tracker v7.0 is bound by a new end user license agreement that provides more details, rights and responsibilities of all parties including PSI, Predator VARs and end users.

New! Material References per Kit Report

Two new material references per kit number reports have been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

New! Part References per Kit Report

Two new part references per kit number reports have been added with v7.0 of Predator Tracker.

Improved! Upgrade Dialog

Predator Tracker v7.0 improves the upgrading and licensing process by including a SIM ID button that will check to see if a Predator SIM is plugged in locally and also via Remote Desktop. In addition a license type pulldown has been added to improve the startup performance.

Improved! Importing CSV files

Predator Tracker v7.0 shortens implementations and improving manageability by importing vendor details per tool, cutter, insert, kit and gage. Vendor details include pricing, order quantities and catalog numbers. As tooling and gaging vendors change pricing, catalog numbers and minimum order requirements appropriate CSV files can be imported. This will automatically either add new details or update existing details.

Improved! Material Reference Reports

Predator Tracker v7.0 improves all the material reference reports to include feed rates, spindle speeds, depth of cut and step overs.

Improved! History by Application Report

Within Predator Tracker v7.0 the history by application report has been improved to support the Predator CNC Editor.

Improved! History by User Report

Within Predator Tracker v7.0 the history by user report has been improved to support the Predator CNC Editor.

Improved! Microsoft SQL Performance

Predator Tracker v7.0 improves the performance of almost all processes, wizards, reports, charts and API calls with Microsoft SQL Server. This allows Predator Tracker to support more simultaneous users of Tracker and the other applications within Predator SFC and reduces the requirements for SQL Server.

Improved! Zinger Manufacturing

The sample company Zinger Manufacturing has been updated to take advantage of some of the new v7.0 features.

For the latest on Predator Tracker, check our web site at
<http://www.predator-software.com>