PC-WARRANTS

Warrant Analysis Software

Quick Start Manual

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If you have any questions about the use of PC-Warrants, please call the following number:

877-603-5844
Monday – Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Eastern time

You may also contact us by fax at:

1-813-980-0187

or via e-mail at:

support@pc-warrants.com

For more information on our products, the latest news in product development, and to download software updates, visit our web site at:

www.pc-warrants.com

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Table of Contents

Introduction

Welcome to PC-Warrants, a software program designed to perform traffic signal and multi-way stop sign warrant studies. This program allows you to perform some of the standard calculations required when determining whether a traffic signal (and multi-way stop signs) should be considered for installation at an intersection.

Important Note: The Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) states, *The satisfaction of a traffic signal warrant or warrants shall not in itself require the installation of a traffic control signal.*

PC-Warrants does not report when a traffic signal should be installed, but rather when it should (or should not) be considered. If one (or more) of the warrant conditions is satisfied, then installation of a traffic signal can be considered further. **The final determination of whether to install a traffic signal should be based on the judgment of a traffic engineer.**

The MUTCD does provide guidance on when a traffic signal should **not** be installed.

1. A traffic control signal should not be installed unless one or more of the warrants are met.
2. A traffic control signal should not be installed unless an engineering study indicates that installing a traffic control signal will improve the overall safety and/or operation of the intersection.
3. A traffic control signal should not be installed if it will seriously disrupt progressive traffic flow.

The PC-Warrants software uses the rules specified in the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. The latest version of PC-Warrants are fully compliant with the MUTCD 2009 guidelines. PC-Warrants also has support for the older 2000/2003 MUTCD standards.

Minimum Computer Requirements
• Windows 98 or higher operating system, including NT, 2000, XP, Vista, or Windows 7.
• 64 Megabytes of RAM.
• 10 Megabytes of free space on your hard disk.
• CD-ROM (to install the software only)
• Screen resolution of 800 x 600 or better.

Software Updates
Updated versions of the software are released periodically and are posted on the support web site. Licensed owners of PC-Warrants can download updates to the program to make sure they always have the latest version of the software on their computer. To download the latest version of PC-Warrants, go to **www.pc-warrants.com** and then select **Downloads** from the list of options.

Software Support
If you encounter any problems while using the program, or have any questions on specific operations, refer first to this manual and the program's built-in Help system. For up to the minute information on all known issues with the program, refer to the PC-Warrants support web page at: **www.pc-warrants.com**

PC-Warrants (PCW) has the standard install procedure that most Windows programs use. The following pages outline the procedure to follow to install the software.

Begin the installation by placing the PCW CD into your CD-ROM drive. If your CD drive is configured for Autoplay, the Installation Options program will start after a few seconds. Otherwise, click on the 'Start' button on your Windows desktop. Select Run from the list of options and type the command line 'X:\ setup' where X is the letter of your CD-ROM drive. Press OK and you will see the Installation Options for the program.

The Installation Options allow you to do a number of things in addition to installing the program. You can view a copy of this manual, register your copy of the software and check out some other Ridge Engineering products. To begin installing the program, click on **Install PC-Warrants**.
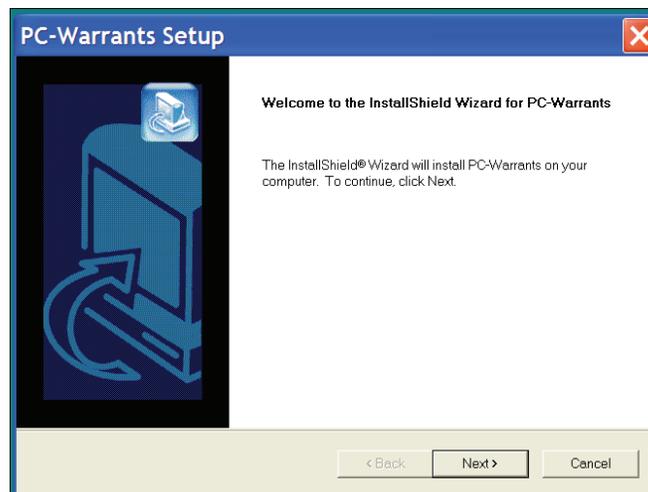
Figure 1 – Welcome Screen

The Welcome screen reminds you to be sure all other programs are closed before proceeding with the installation. During the installation, files used by the program will be copied to your computer, including some Windows system files. Make sure you close any programs that obviously are running (especially virus checkers) before you install this or any Windows based software.

Figure 2 – Customer Information Screen

After a screen that shows the license agreement (not shown) you'll see the screen shown here. This screen asks for your Name, Company and Serial Number. This should be the name and company of the primary person using the program. The Serial Number defaults to DEMO mode. You don't need to enter the serial number here; you can do it later. in the software. Once the information has been entered, click the **Next** button to continue.

PC-Warrants Quick Start Manual
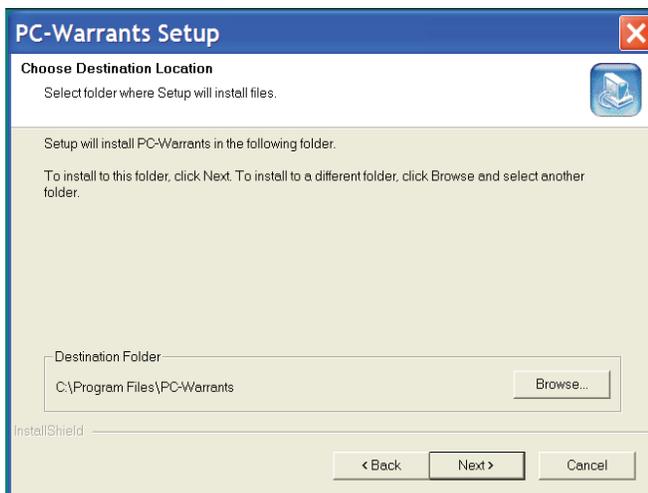
Figure 3 – Choose Destination Location Screen

The Choose Destination Location screen is used to select the folder where PC-Warrants will be installed. The default folder is C:\Program Files\PC-Warrants, but you can change this is you like. Click the **Browse** button and navigate to the folder you want. Once the directory listed is correct, click **Next** to continue.
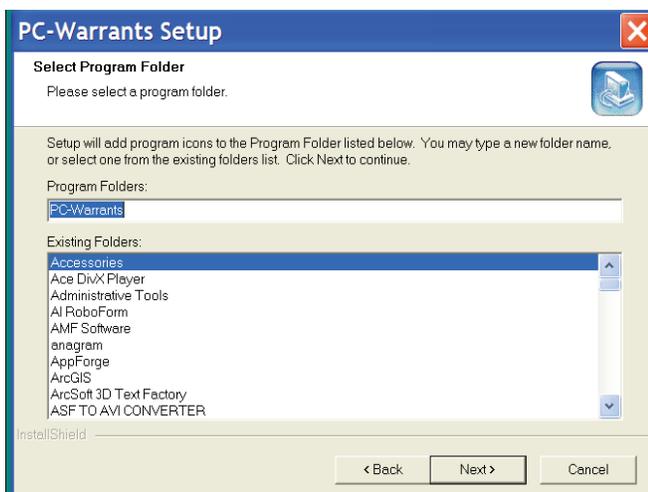
Figure 4 – Select Program Folder Screen

The next screen, shown in Figure 4, lets you enter or pick the name of the folder where the icons for the program will be stored. Unless you have a specific reason, just click **Next** to select the default shown.
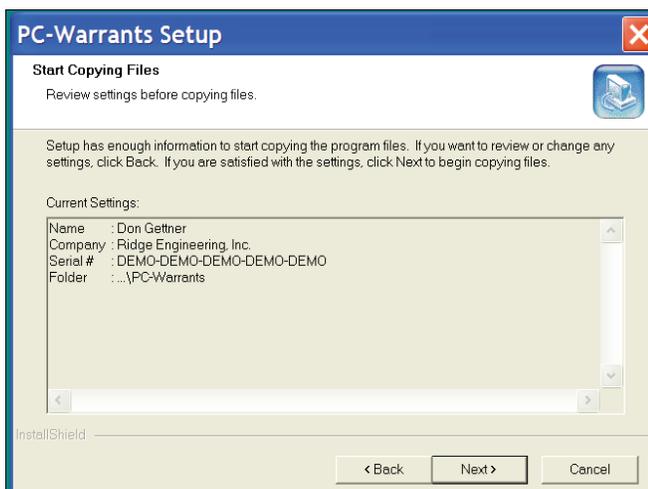
Figure 5 – Start Copying Files Screen

You will then see the screen shown in Figure 5, which is a summary of the information you have entered. Make sure everything looks ok, then click on **Next**.

Once the installation program has enough information, the files will be copied from the CD to your computer. You'll then see a screen that tells you the installation has completed. You may be asked if you want to re-start your computer now. If you get this message, you should re-start your computer before you try to run the program. This will allow any of the System files that were copied during the installation to be loaded properly.

You are now ready to run the program.

How to Run PC-Warrants

Like most Windows programs, there are several ways you can run the software. Here are three:

1. Double Click on the PC-Warrants shortcut that is on the desktop.

This is the simplest and most common way to run the software. The shortcut is put on your desktop when the software is installed.

If you don't like to have icons on your desktop, there are other options:

2. Open an Explorer window (right click on My Computer and select Explore) and find the PC-Warrants. exe file, which probably is in the *C:\Program Files\PC-Warrants* folder. You will see a screen that looks something like the figure shown here. Double click on the file **PC-Warrants.exe** and the program will run.
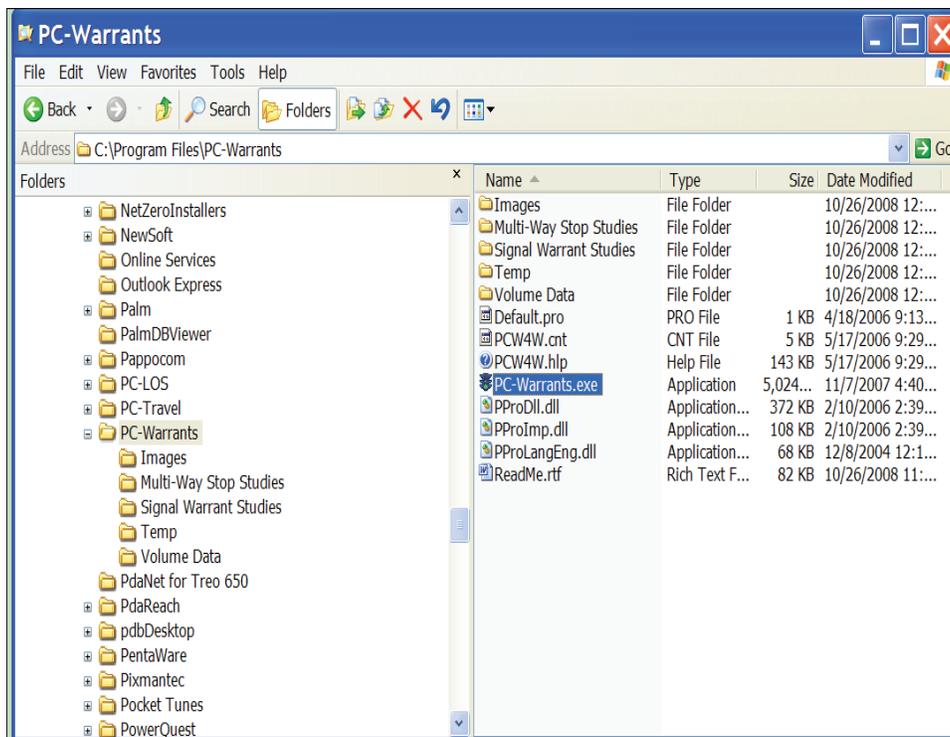
Figure 6 – Starting From Windows Explorer

3. Select **Start**, **Programs**, and then **PC-Warrants** from the list. There could be a long list, and they may not be in alphabetical order. Choose **PC-Warrants** again to run the program.

How to Enter the Serial Number

PC-Warrants installs in a Demo Mode. You need to enter the serial number that was sent to you to enable the software to do new studies.
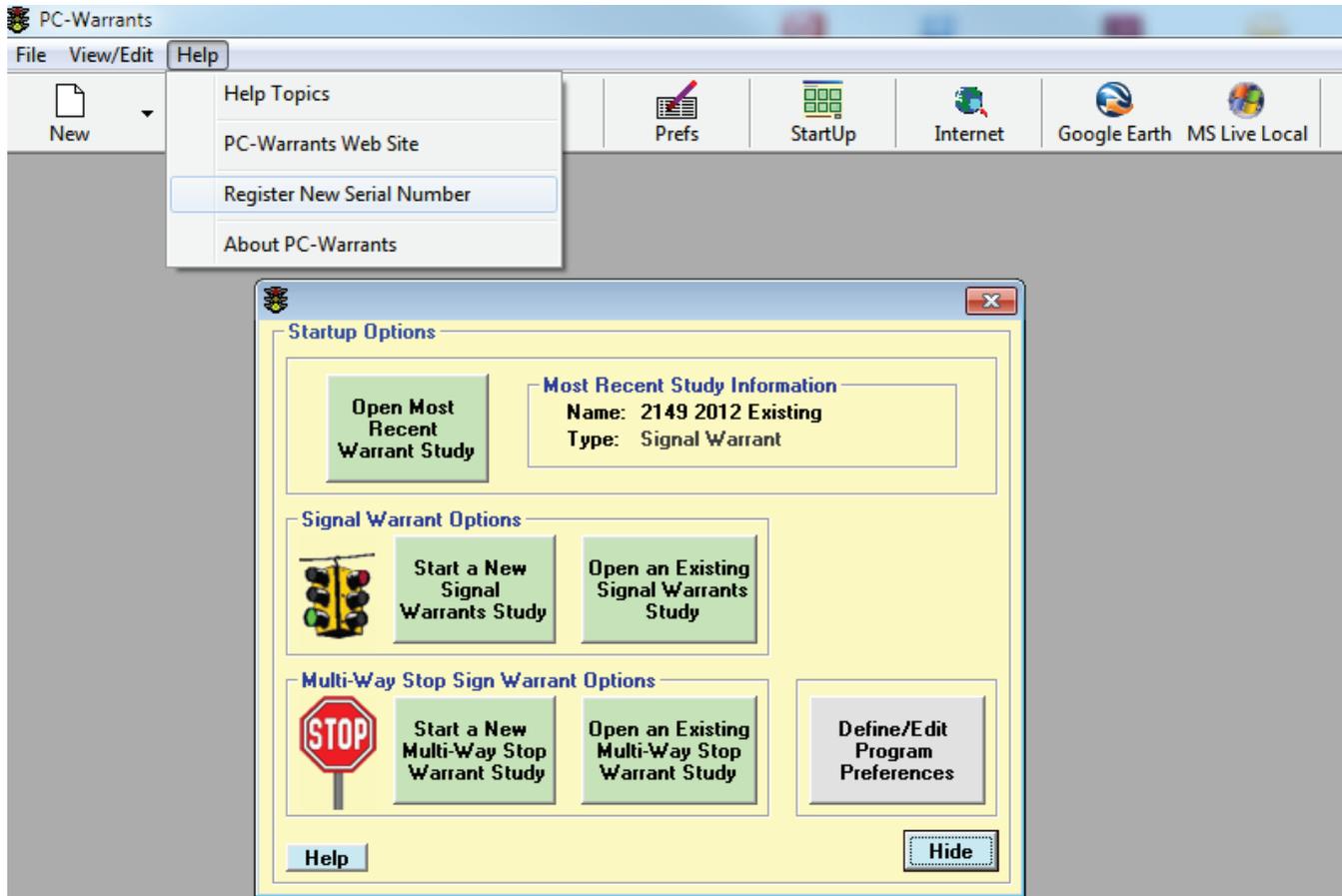
Run PC-Warrants. Click on the **Help** menu item at the top of the screen. This shows the list of options shown in the image above. Click on **Register New Serial Number.**
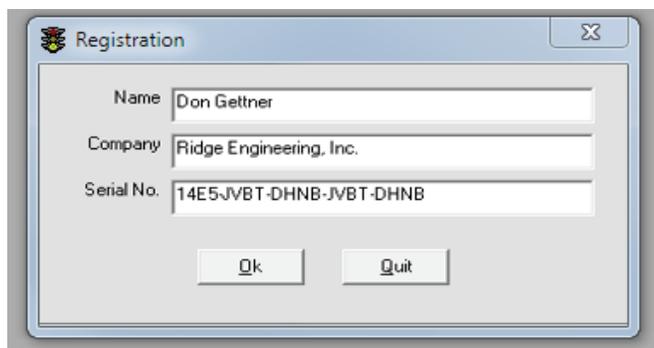
This brings up a window where you can enter your serial number. Enter your Name, Company or Organization, and then the serial number you were sent. Remember to enter the dashes "-"; they are part of the serial number.

Click **Ok**. The window will disappear which means the serial number was accepted. If there was a problem an error message will be displayed. This usually just means there was a typo error and you can edit or re-enter the serial number.

The software is installed, the Preferences are set, the serial number is loaded:
PC-Warrants is now ready to evaluate warrants.

How to Learn More About PC-Warrants: Web Tutorials

The PC-Warrants support site at **www.pc-warrants.com** has several tutorials to help you learn how to use the software.

Tutorial 1: Introduction to PC-Warrants
This is a general introduction to the software. It gives a brief overview of how to do a study starting from scratch. If you haven't used PC-Warrants before then you definitely should watch this one.

Tutorial 2: Support for 2009 MUTCD - Pedestrian Warrant
Tutorial 3: Support for 2009 MUTCD - Rail Crossing Warrant
These two warrants show how PC-Warrants supports the changes that have been made to the 2009 MUTCD. They will show how the warrants have changed and explain how they work in the software.

Tutorial 4: Right Turn Reduction Worksheet
A major addition to PC-Warrants is a worksheet to help you factor right turns from your volume data. If you aren't sure why you would do this then check out the tutorial. It explains why and also shows how it is done in the software.

Tutorial 5: Windows 7 and User Access Control
Page 8 of this manual has some general information about running PC-Warrants on a Windows 7 computer (and on Vista computers as well). If you want more information about why this is important and what is behind it you will find more than you ever wanted to know in this tutorial.

More tutorials will be added so check the Tutorials page occasionally.

Running PC-Warrants on Windows 7 Computers

Windows 7 computers can be problematical running programs like PC-Warrants. Microsoft, in an effort to protect us from malicious code, makes it difficult to save files to folders in the C:\Program Files\ folders. This is called User Access Control (UAC). Unfortunately, this is exactly what programs like PC-Warrants does by default; they store data files and preference files in folders under the C:\Program Files\PC-Warrants\. What is disconcerting is the software appears to work but the files can't be found outside of the program. This is because the files are re-directed to a Virtual Store in the Users section of the file system.

There is a relatively simple solution to this problem.

Follow the steps below and AEC won't be an issue for you running PC-Warrants.

1- Right click on the shortcut that is installed on the desktop when you install PC-Warrants.
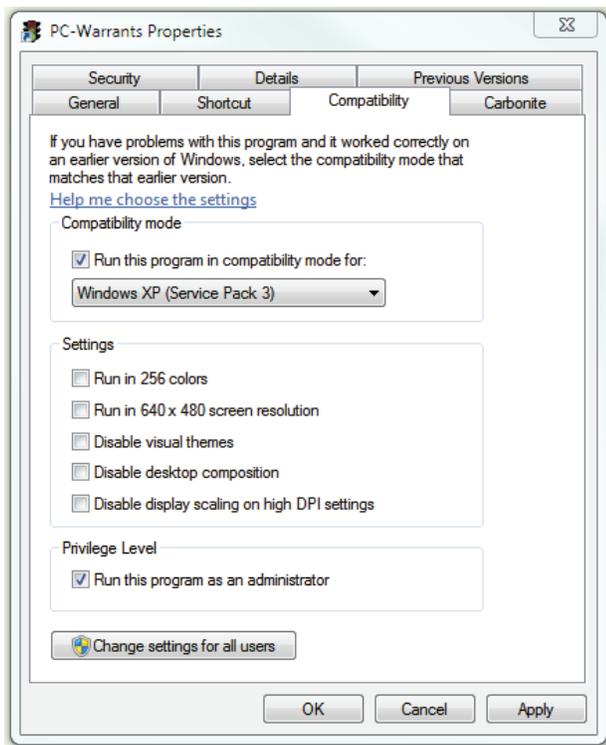
2- Select Properties from the list of options shown. You will see the window shown here.

3- Check the box that says "Run this program in compatibiltiy mode for:"

4- Select the "Windows XP (Service Pack 3) option.

5- Check the box for "Run this program as an administrator". This isn't essential but seems to work better in certain circumstances.

6- Click Ok to save the settings.

When you run PC-Warrants the UAC will be disabled and the operating system will not re-direct the files to another part of the file system.

If you want to learn more about how this works, there is a tutorial on the Tutorials page of the support site that will tell you more than you ever wanted to know about it.