Demonstration Video
Strater - Part 2
Creating and Saving Log Designs and Templates

PART 2

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1. For my next demonstration, I am going to open a new Strater project and create a few logs so I can show you how all of this works.

   a. To create a log, I begin by going to Tools | Log Items and clicking on the type of log I want to create. Or, I can simply click on the toolbar icon for the type of log I want to create. For now, I'm going to create a bar log.

   b. I click on the bar log icon and place it in my log pane. When I click in the log pane the Open dialog box pops up.

   c. This is where I tell Strater what data file to use. I select the data file and click Open.

   d. If your data file has multiple worksheets, select a worksheet and click OK. If your data file contains a header row (such as this), then check the check box next to "Specify Column Header Row" and click Next, otherwise just click Next.

   e. You can import data into four different types of tables. The type of data table you choose will depend on two things: the type of log you want to create, and how your data is organized. Bar logs can only be created from Depth and Interval tables. I would choose a Depth table if the data I had was based on particular depths (like if I had a data point at 4m, and then another one at 8m, etc.). However, the data that I have is interval based. I have data for the interval between 0 and 4m, and more data for the interval between 4 and 8 m, and so on. Since I have interval data, I choose the Interval table type.

   f. Once you select the appropriate table type, you will be asked to specify some required field parameters. The Interval Table has three required fields: the Hole ID field, the From field, and the To field. Since my field names (shown here) are the same as the names of the required fields, Strater automatically fills in these fields. If the headers in my data file were something different, I'd have to select the corresponding fields from these drop down menus. Once the data fields are specified, just click Load and the data is imported and the log is drawn.

   g. If I wanted to view my imported data, all I have to do is go to the Database View and click on my data table tab at the bottom.

h. I am going to add a depth log by clicking on the Depth log icon and placing it in my log pane.

i. I am also going to create a line/symbol log. I click on the Line/Symbol log icon on the toolbar and place it in my log pane. I am prompted again to Open a data file. Since I want to use the exact same data that I already used to create the bar log, I simply select the data table from the list of Current tables and click Open.

j. The last log I'm going to create is just a basic lithology log. Strater does have a log type called "Lithology Log", but this is for complex lithology logs with different indent line styles, etc. For a simple basic lithology log, I am going to use a zone bar log. I click on the zone bar log icon and place it in my log pane. This time I am not going to use the same data I've already imported. I click on the same data file and click Open. This time, I choose the Lithology worksheet and click OK. Again, I check the check box next to Specify Column Header Row and click Next. I make sure the required fields are specified correctly and click Load.

2. After the logs are created, I can customize the colors, fills, or just about anything else about the logs by selecting each log and changing its properties in the Property Inspector.

   a. For the depth log, I'll change the Display side to the left, I'll decrease the number of Minor Divisions, and I'll increase the text label size.

   b. For the bar log, I'll change which data field the bar log is plotting, and the axis type from Linear to Logarithmic.

   c. For the line/symbol log, I'll choose to change the data field to match that of the bar log, I'll change the line color from black to blue, and I'll choose to show some variable grid lines. I set the Variable Grid Line Position to Bottom. This means that grid lines will be drawn under the line, and I'll set Show Major Variable Grid Lines to True. This displays the variable grid lines on my log.

   d. I'm going to move the logs a little on the page to the position that I want. I can move the logs by clicking on the log and dragging it to its new position.

3. Now I decide that I actually want the bars on my bar log to be filled with different colors depending on their data value. I do this using a scheme. I want to create a scheme containing number ranges from my data and specify fill and line properties for each number range. For some logs, like the zone bar, schemes are automatically created. For other logs, like bar logs, the schemes have to be manually created.

   a. I can manually create a scheme by activating the Database View and going to my data table.

   b. I go to the data field I am plotting, which happens to be Na, I click on any cell in that field and go to Table | Create Scheme.

   c. Now I get to choose the type of scheme to create. I look over the defaults to make sure it has the right Table Name and the right Field Name. I can change the scheme name if I wanted to by typing in a new name here. I then check the Initial Interval Count. By default, this is 10. This means that it will divide my data into 10 categories. That is too many for me right now, so I am going to change that to 5 and click OK.

   d. Now that the scheme is created, I go back to the Borehole View, select my bar log, and set Use Range Scheme equal to True. I then select which range scheme to use.

e. The default colors for the scheme are generated randomly. If you want to change these colors, or anything else about the scheme, you can do so in the Scheme Editor. You can access the Scheme Editor by going to Tools | Scheme Editor, or by clicking on the scheme editor icon on the toolbar, or by clicking on the little button to the right of the scheme name in the Property Inspector.

f. In the Scheme Editor, select the scheme you want to change and open it by clicking on the little "+" button. Here are the 5 scheme items I created. When I select an item, the properties for that scheme item appear to the right.

g. For range schemes, I can change the actual values for the range, in addition to the fill, line, symbol, and text properties. For now, I'm just going to change the fill colors.

h. I click on the first scheme item and I want to change the color from this dark blue to black. I click on the color box, scroll up, and choose black. The next item, I'll change it from this light blue to a dark blue color. I click on the color box, scroll up, and select the blue color I want. The next item, I will change it to a green color. The next item, I'll change it to a red color. And the last item, I'll change to a dark pink color.

i. I also want to change the lithology fills for my zone bar log. I open the Keyword scheme, which was automatically created when I made the zone bar log, and I select the first item, Gravel. For now, I'm just going to change the fill patterns. I click on the fill pattern box and click on the new pattern that I want. I click on the next item, Basalt, and I click on the fill pattern box and I change it to the new fill pattern that I want. I'll also change the fill pattern for Granite.

j. Once my schemes are created and I am happy with they way they're set up, I am going to save the Schemes to Scheme Files. I do this by selecting the scheme and clicking on the diskette icon. I give the file a name and click Save. I will also save the Range scheme. Now I can use these schemes again in the future with other projects without spending the time to recreate them. I click OK and the logs are updated with the new colors and patterns.

4. You can put the finishing touches on the log by creating informative headers and footers. You can use any of these drawing tools up here to create your headers and footers. I'll create a simple text object.

    a. I click on the text object icon and click in the header pane. The Text Editor dialog box appears. I type in my text ….and click OK. The text appears in the header pane.

    b. I am also going to create a linked text object showing the borehole name. I click on the Linked Text icon and place it in my header pane. By default it already shows the borehole name, so I leave it as is.

    c. When I change the borehole name from DH-45 to DH-76, you can see that the linked text showing the borehole name also updates.

    d. I'll add another linked text object to the header pane. I click on the Linked Text icon and place it in my header pane. This time, I want it to show the current page number instead of the borehole name. After the linked text object is created, I can change it to show the current page number by selecting it and changing the Linked Text Type in the Property Inspector from Borehole Name to Current Page.

e. If I had multiple pages, the linked text object showing the current page would change when I viewed the different pages. For example, I will change the scaling in the Borehole View Properties so that the log is displayed on two pages. I go to View | Borehole View Properties, I'll change the Depth Settings from Automatic to User Defined, and I'll change the Scaling Depth Per Inch to a smaller number. That will display the log on 2 pages. I can go from Page 1 to Page 2 by clicking on these arrows and you can see the linked text object showing the current page update according to the correct page number.

f. I'll change the Depth Settings back to Automatic.

5. Once the log design is finished, there are a couple ways you can output it. You can go to File | Export and export the log to any supported file format (including JPGs or TIFs) to use in other software packages. You can copy and paste your logs into other software packages (such as Microsoft Word or PowerPoint) to use in reports and presentations. You can go to File | Print and print the logs to any Windows compatible printer. Or, you can save the design as template for reuse. Templates are great ways to save the log design so you can make the same looking logs over and over again with new data and you don't have to tediously recreate the entire log design from scratch. I will go over saving and loading template files in my next demonstration.

6. For my last demonstration, I will show you how to save and load template files. To save a design as a template, you must be in Design Mode. To switch to Design Mode, you can go to Tools | Design Mode or you can click on the Design Mode button on the toolbar. When you are in Design Mode, graphical placeholders appear for each of the logs. These are only for display purposes and they do not represent any real data. Once you are in Design Mode, you can go to File | Templates | Save, give your template file a name, and click Save. Now I'm going to close this file.

7. To load a template that you or someone else has created, open a new Strater project by going to File | New.

    a. Then go to File | Templates | Load. Select the Template file and click Open.

    b. You will be asked if you want Strater to automatically create the necessary tables and fields for the template. In most cases, you want to click Yes.

    c. The template is loaded, so the Borehole View contains the borehole design (which is still in Design Mode) and the Database View contains all the data tables needed. However, the data tables are empty. The next step is to import your data into the data tables.

    d. You can import data by activating the data table you want to import data into. You will see that the fields are already defined. Then going to File | Import Data.

    e. In the Open dialog box, make sure you check the check box at the bottom where it says Import Data into Current Table, select your data file, and click Open.

    f. If necessary, pick a worksheet and click OK.

    g. If your data file contains a header row, check the check box next to "Specify Column Header Row" and click Next, otherwise just click Next.

    h. Make sure all the fields are mapped correctly. All the fields in the data table are listed on the left. All the fields in the data file are listed on the right. It is important that they match up correctly.

    i. Click Load and the data is imported into the data table.

j. Repeat importing the data into all the created data tables… Again, I'll confirm that all the fields are mapped correctly and I'll click Load.

k. Once all the data is imported into all the tables, go to the Borehole View and change the view mode from Design Mode to Active Mode by either going to Tools | Design Mode or by clicking on the Design Mode button on the toolbar.

l. Once in Active Mode, be sure to select a borehole name from the drop down menu and the logs will update with the appropriate data.

m. To complete my log, I am going to open the Scheme Editor by clicking on the Scheme Editor icon and open the Scheme files that I saved previously. I click on the Open Scheme icon, select the Lithology scheme, and click Open. I click on the Open Scheme icon again, select the Range scheme, and click Open.

n. When I click OK, the logs are updated with the scheme information.

8. Technical support has always been a high priority at Golden Software. If you ever have any problems using Strater or any questions, please give us a call at 303-279-1021. Or, you can go to Help | Feedback | Problem Report to email us a problem report, Suggestions to email us any suggestions you have to improve Strater, or Information Request if you would like some additional information. Our contact information can also be found by going to Help | About Strater.

9. That concludes my demonstration of Strater. You can get more experience using Strater by walking through the Tutorial, accessed by going to the Help | Tutorial. Thanks for watching.