

Re: Mapsource Mileages Generated Are Not Accurate – Question – Why?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2004-09/1449.html>

From: George Pinson (gfpinson_at_*.nospam*bellsouth.net)

Date: 09/23/04

Date: Thu, 23 Sep 2004 11:41:43 -0400

On Thu, 23 Sep 2004 02:27:25 GMT, whereami
<oaknuts@yahoo.com> wrote:

>Peter <prathman@comcast.net> wrote in
>news:l8Odnc7dKb9FFNLcRVn-rw@comcast.com:
>
>> Tommy M wrote:
>>
>>> shark572@yahoo.com (Tommy M) wrote in message
>>> news:<d759909e.0409191314.19d23a97@posting.google.com>...
>>>
>>>>I recently did a 19 leg trip using a Street Pilot III and Mapsource
>>>>6.3/City Navigator v5.0 generated routes. The total mileage of all 19
>>>>individual route legs was 2907 miles, actual mileage ended up being
>>>>3406 miles.
>>>>
>>>>A good portion of the mileage was through mountainous routes.
>>>>
>>>>Can anyone here tell me how/why this 499 mile variance occurred?
>>>>
>>>>Thank you.
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>
>>>>Your total discrepancy is about 15%. As discussed before there are a
>>>>number of possible sources. On twisting roads the maps may not
>>>>include all the smaller turns and that could cut the distance up to a
>>>>few percent; MapSource figures horizontal distance rather than slope
>>>>distance and that could reduce the distance by some fraction of one
>>>>percent; and there could be some minor side trips that didn't get
>>>>figured separately. But that still seems to leave an error of at
>>>>least 10% and the first thing I'd check would be the odometer
>>>>calibration – freeway mile markers are a convenient way to do this but
>>>>pick an area with few exit/entrance ramps since they may relocate the
>>>>markers to avoid these. Next I'd suspect some map database
>>>>discrepancy. Comparing mileages for subsets of the trip would help

>> *pin this down. Did the cursor appear to stay on the marked route line*
>> *at all times?*
>>
>
>*When I lay out motorcycle enduro routes, cutting the corners instead of*
>*staying on one side of the road can cut a tenth of a mile off every mile*
>*traveled when the roads curve a lot. That can throw the time checks way*
>*off.*
>*Randy*

I normally don't use routes that follow the road as my GPS (176C) does not do autorouting. But out of curiosity, I turned on autorouting in mapsource. My new route (distance know to be 343 miles) showed 378 miles. A close examination of the route showed waypoints which were not precisely placed and as a result, there was some doubling back in order to go through the waypoint. In my route, a little work and zooming way in and moving the waypoints to be right on the road and the final rout from Mapsource was **** 343 miles ***.

As a retired computer operator/programmer/systems analyst, I still remember one of our favorite sayings.

"Unfortunately, computers do exactly what we tell them to do, NOT what we want them to do."