

Route algorithms: MapSource – V – 2610

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I am having problems with the route algorithms in both MapSource 5.2/ECN 6.00 and my 2610, V-3.50; or is it the mapping data sets?

I am experienced with GPSrs, as the 2610 is my third Garmin having bought a 75 in July 1996 and connected with Psions & wintels for moving map and waypoint etc management. I've also been in the PC business for 25, before I retired, and have sold commercial programs that I have designed and programmed. So I'm not a newby!

This week I produced 3 routes on my laptop for a day's three legged driving. On the first route from home to the first destination, I entered a via, to force MapSource to take a different route to avoid a known traffic congested road at that time of day. The main part of the route was to the east and at the via changed to a s-w direction.

On approaching the via point, I noticed that the route purple line branched into two lines. I followed the indicated route, which I knew quite well, without difficulty, but the other purple line was straight.

I soon realised that I would be late arriving, having found that the indicated arrival time has been quite good.

As I got closer to my destination, I saw that the straight line went to the destination, but the arrival time was very late and I realised that I was on time. At the destination, the route navigation continued, probably back in a straight line to the via point. I assumed that when I added the via point I had left it after my destination. But on returning home and looking at the route with MapSource, I had not made any error.

Has anyone seen this before?

I also noticed as I left home that the 2610 wanted me to take a few narrow roads before joining the main road a few miles away. This would add an extra few miles to the journey rather than using the close main road by the shortest distance and with wider roads. I have seen this many times and just took my normal route, so got a

'recalculating' message.

As I proceeded along the main road the 2610 kept telling me to turn left or right off the main road. Now why does this happen? (see my set options below)

The main road is shorter and faster and I have not set any road 'avoids'. I have found this odd behaviour many times and has caused me to lose confidence in its ability to provide good routes.

So on the third route, getting closer to home, I decided to follow the given route to see which way it took me. As I left the main trunk road, I would normally travel on one main very straight road for 8.9 miles (using MapSource) and then turn off for another 0.5 mile to home.

I was sent on a twisting route along narrow single track roads much of the time. A distance of 14.5 miles. I have the OS 1:25,000 map of this area which I know very well, but I was sent along single track roads that I've never used before. Fortunately I drive a Land Rover 4x4. At many junctions I knew of a shorter and therefore faster way home but continued to follow the indicated navigation.

Back home I checked the routes planned in MapSource and uploaded to the 2610. The strange route I was sent on by the 2610, was not the same as uploaded. This had only one 'diversion' off the main road. The route followed was not recalculated, so why does the 2610 change a route calculated on MapSource.

I can accept that the algorithm used by the 2610 is different to the algorithm in MapSource, especially as the preferences are completely different in each case.

I have also found that I am often directed onto unsurfaced roads that are sometimes not legal roads for vehicles – I have a number of years of experience with British Rights of Way and their legal use by vehicles and know the history of many of these local rights of way.

I've also in the past been sent along 3 sides of a square of roads rather than just using a single side of that square. Directing me into a residential area rather than staying on the main road.

I use custom, best route, major roads 10 – prefer, medium 4, minor 1 – avoid; on the 2610. I use faster time, car/motorcycle, avoid road tolls, speeds 58,58,40,30,20 mph in MapSource.

The algorithms or map data must have major errors. I am well aware of the fact that data sets have numerous errors in the road information, but this is much more than I've noticed in using computerised mapping data sets for over 8 years.

Anyone any thoughts on solving these types of problems. I am on a number of lists and too many folk are reporting similar problems.

Reg.