HymnSoft: Old and New

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What is HymnSoft?

1. HymnSoft is a software program based on *Christian Worship: a Lutheran Hymnal* (NPH ©1993).
2. The program was created to allow users (especially pastors) to sample the hymns, psalms, and liturgical songs of the new hymnal.
3. It was programmed by Pastor David Arndt and his father Dallas Arndt, and released in 1994, shortly after the introduction of CW.

How was the original created?

1. The program uses a database program, SuperBase, originally owned by Software Publishing Corporation.
2. The original edition was written for PCs with 386 processors and Windows 3.1.

What editions were available?

1. Home and Professional editions were available.
2. The Professional edition included a database for keeping track of the hymns used and an organ library. It also allowed search the hymns by topic, scripture text, and word or phrase.

When was the first revision?

In 1997, HymnSoft 2.0 was released for 486 processors and Windows 95.
It came in three modules:
1. Professional Edition (base module)
2. Planner Edition
3. Player Edition

Professional Module

Retained the entire search and listening capabilities of the original version.

Planner Module

1. This was created as an electronic version of *Christian Worship: Planning* (© 1995 NPH).
2. It gives the lectionary readings for the three-year series, notes on the readings, and hymn suggestions, for each of the Sundays and festivals of the church year.

3. Note: a revision of *CW: Planning* is in the works and will include materials prepared by the WELS Commission on Worship based on the revised lectionary found in *Christian Worship: Supplement* (©2008 NPH).

Player Module

1. This popular addition to HymnSoft allows the user to play all of the musical elements of a service using a computer through the use of scripts.
2. A script is a listing of the musical parts of the liturgy, the psalms, and hymns for a service.
3. When scripts are created, the user chooses which elements to add, including how many stanzas of a hymn.
4. When the script is played, the user uses the computer to start each musical segment of the service. Hymns stanzas can be set up to play continuously without prompting.
5. A unique feature of the psalms is that the reciting tone can be played as long as needed, and then the user activates the cadence (final notes of the phrase) and then the refrain.
6. Tempos of the script elements can be adjusted while creating/editing the script.
7. External MIDI files can also be played in a script. These can include other hymns and parts of the liturgy, as well as service music for organ, piano, or any other MIDI file.

Latest Revision?

In 2003, HymnSoft version 2.05a was released.

What changed?
Actually, the program is the same. Instead, this was released to correct problems from the change in Windows operating systems.

What happened?

1. MS Windows removed the "MIDI-mapper" from the Control Panel, so you cannot change the device for MIDI-output. This resulted in restricting the sound of HymnSoft to piano only.
2. The new release was able to fix this for Windows XP machines with the addition of a free download called "HymnSoft Helper." Along with another program, MIDI-OX, you can now choose the sound for HymnSoft.
3. Note: This also allows you to send the MIDI signal to an external MIDI device like a sound module or electronic keyboard—piano or organ.

Running HymnSoft on newer Windows operating systems

Windows 95 and 98
    Install HymnSoft Version 2.05 as is.

Windows XP
    Install HymnSoft Version 2.05a as well as the HymnSoft Helper files:

1. HymnSoft "Helper"
   hh_setup.exe (249.9 KB)
2. Midi-Ox
   myokent.exe (44.5 KB)
3. XP Player Fix
   player_xp.exe (2117 KB)
4. Yoke & HH Installation Notes
   yoke_hh_install.pdf (903 KB)

Windows Vista
Install according to instructions on handout.

Windows 7 (32-bit processor)
Install according to handout.

Windows 7 (64-bit processor)
1. Acquire Windows 7 Professional.
2. Download the Windows XP Mode with Virtual PC from the Microsoft web site.
3. Install HymnSoft in the XP mode as you would on an XP machine.

New update for HymnSoft?

In 2005, a proposal was made to NPH to redo the HymnSoft product line.

Planned features included—
1. Inclusion of all the CW products (Altar Book, Occasional Services, Supplement)
2. Improved Player module for variety of instruments and use with latest operating systems
3. Improved Planning module to include Supplementary Lectionary and related materials

What happened?

The Supplement publication slowed down the revision of HymnSoft in order to release the various editions.

Also, after discussion with the Commission on Worship, it was decided to only redo the Player module of HymnSoft.

Professional Module?

To replace the HymnSoft Professional Module, we recommend using the following:
1. CW Supplement Electronic Pew Edition (#03N3034) and CW Electronic Edition (#03N3038)
2. Both of these have text and graphic files of the hymnal and supplement liturgies, psalms, and hymns for use in service folders and presentation software.
3. They also include PDFs of both books for search on words and phrases.

Planner Module?

To replace the HymnSoft Planning module, NPH is working on an electronic version that will include:
1. A PDF of the previous CW Planning binders.
2. A PDF of the revised CW Planning by Jonathan Schroeder (WELS web site).
3. A database for planning worship that will track hymn use and other information for the service.

Player Module?

A new programmer was contracted to create a new version of the Player.
Some of the features:
1. All the musical elements of the CW, the Supplement, the Altar Book, and the Occasional Services book.
2. MIDI files for all of the music in an open format for use in HymnSoft as well as other MIDI player (including Windows Media Player, iTunes, Cakewalk, and other stand alone music programs).
3. MP3 files of the music created with a virtual organ playable in various media programs.
4. An updated Player for both Windows and Mac operating systems.

Restrictions:
1. The MIDI and MP3 files may be copied to the hard drive of one computer.
2. Additional computers will require a site-license.

DEMONSTRATION