

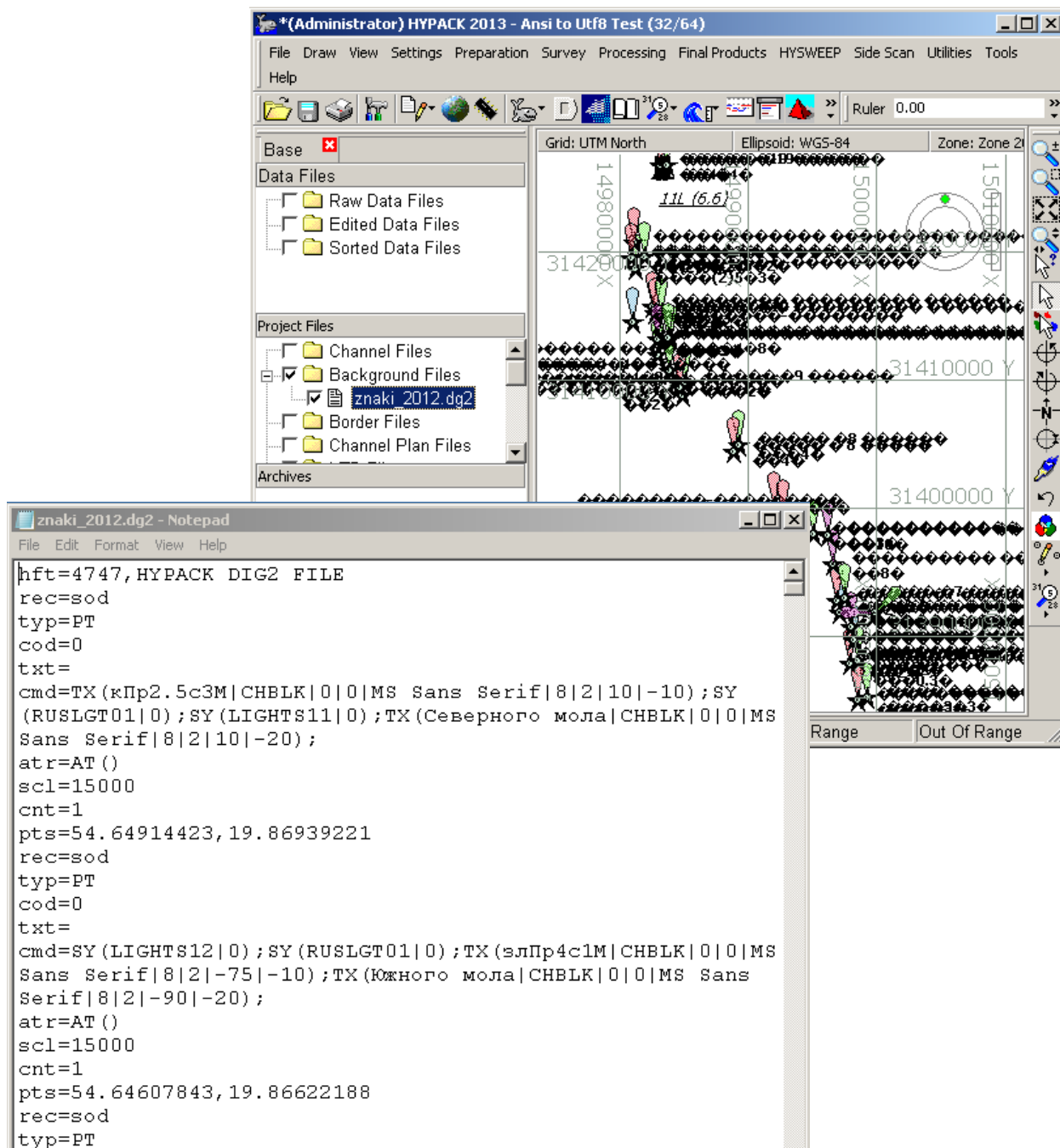


Converting Older HYPACK Data Files to Unicode

by Bill Bergman

The HYPACK® Shell and a fair number of the other binaries have been updated to use Unicode for text display and editing. This allows us to present project data in its intended form on all computers - as opposed to presenting correctly only on a computer with the proper code page support installed. e.g. So we don't end up with something like Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. *DG2 File Created With Embedded Cyrillic Text*

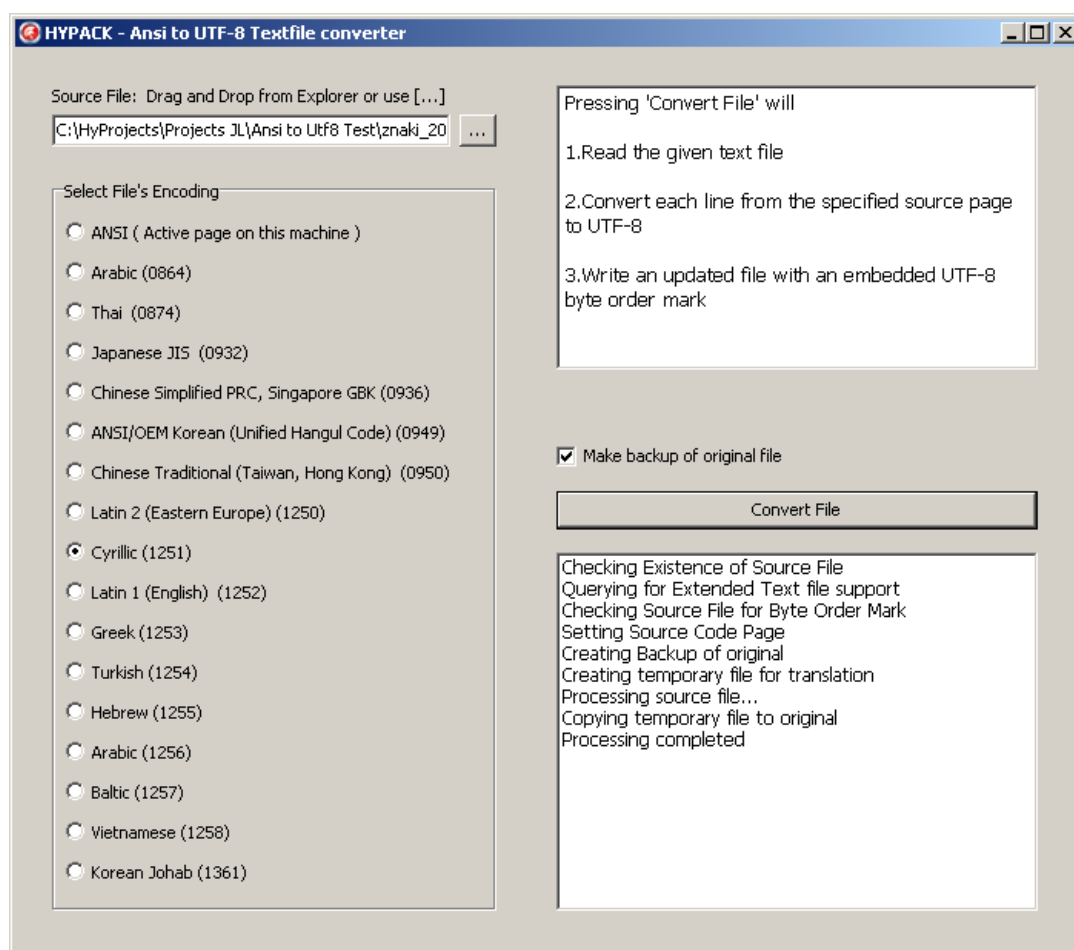


This is a DG2 file created with embedded Cyrillic text, stored in a local code page. It's not overly impressive on machines without Cyrillic code page support. This file also won't display correctly in the 2013 and forward releases which now use Unicode. My first suggestion was to have users edit their data files and reenter the text. This would be captured and stored in Unicode, solving the problem. Easy for the programmer (no code to write) but potentially a tremendous amount of work for the users.

THE SOLUTION: Ansi2UTF8

After considering the problem, I created a utility to convert such files to a usable form with the 2013 and later releases.

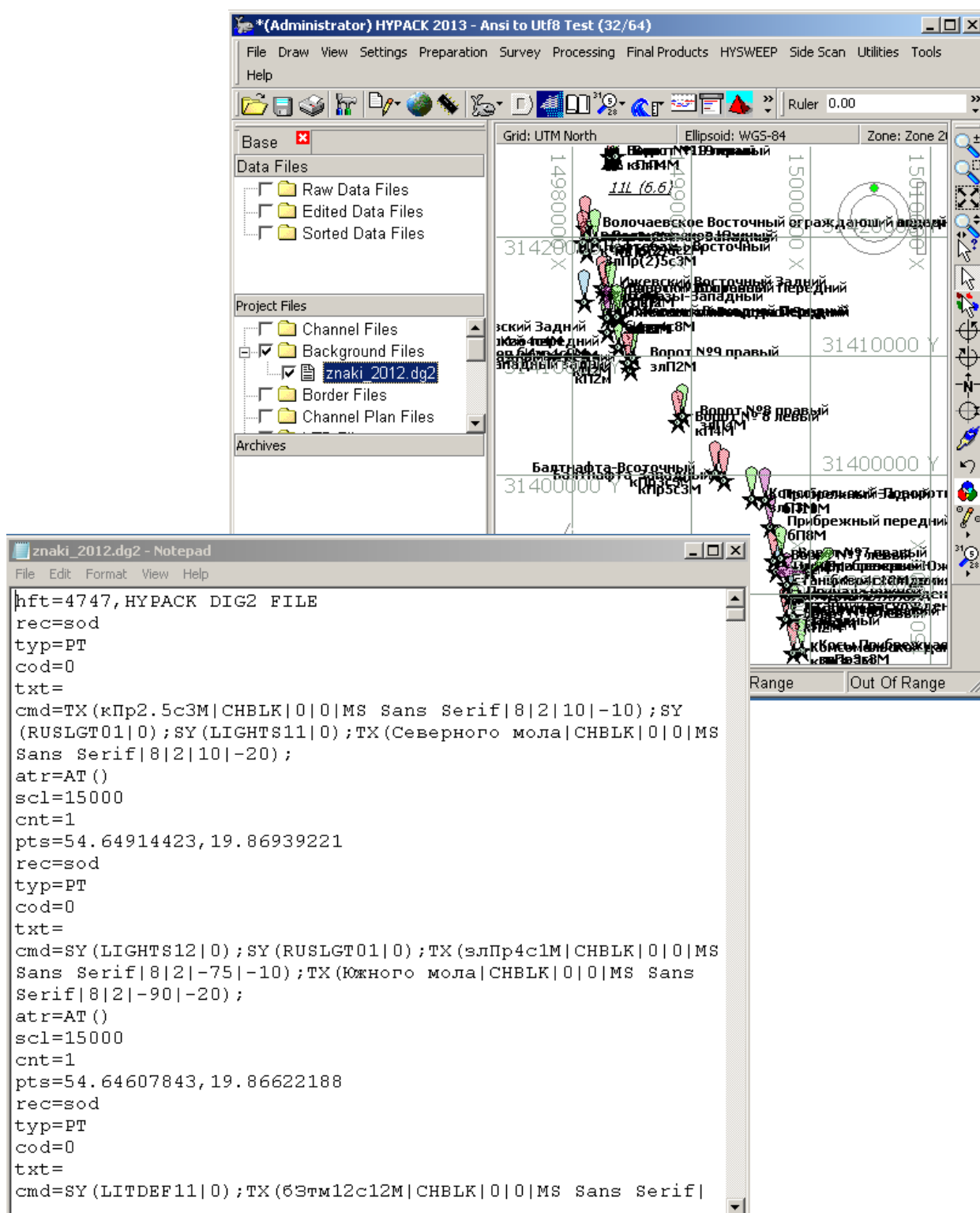
FIGURE 2. Ansi2UTF8 Interface



The usage is very simple:

1. **Launch the program.** (I would suggest adding it to the Tools menu in the HYPACK® Shell.)
2. **Select a text file.** You can drag file from the shell and drop on the converter interface.
3. **Press [Convert File].**

FIGURE 3. The Results



Notes

- The original file is updated. If the file is currently enabled in the HYPACK® Shell, do a disable/re-enable sequence to force a re-read of the file.
- A backup of the original is made by default.
- The tricky part is selecting the encoding of the original files. If you know for sure, you can specify it. Otherwise, if you are using the machine which created the file, you can select the ANSI option which will use the code page installed on the computer. This is what older versions of HYPACK® used anyway, so it should work for a majority of you.
- The converter program is placed in the HYPACK® install folder.
- Ansi2UTF8 requires coRtl.dll, version 13.0.0.13 or later, not just for the converter, but also for a completed Unicode update for DG2 files.