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DISPLAY - How Do I?

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Active Display Overview

Background...

Active Display (AD) was designed to overcome some of the limitations of the Basestation software, particularly from the enthusiasts' view on the data front. We looked at ways we could improve SBSPopulate to cover things that we'd like, and which users had suggested. It was also apparent that the Auto-Populate function was being heavily used but it too suffered from BS limitations.

The program...

AD is essentially an extended SBS data viewer and editor which uses the SBSPopulate engine.

It is also an alternative **Aircraft List** combined with an alternative **Reporter** combined with functionality not currently included in Basestation software.

There are currently 3 main program components...

1) The **Active Display** which lists and edits all aircraft received in the current session together with data for each extracted from basestation.sqb and, optionally, GAS (or your own DB when mobile/offline).

In addition, the display includes new, derived data like Radio Callsigns and Routes and additional elements like Sub-Operator.

It is capable of displaying sub-divisions of Active data, eg Alerts, Military, Interested etc.

2) The **Aircraft Display** which is a Basestation.sqb editor and uses a similar format and functionality to that of the Active display.

3) The embedded **SBSPopulate** function



Data extensions...

Two new tables are added to **Basestation.sqb**

- 1) **Active** – hold the Active aircraft data (single session, deleted when a new Basestation session is recognised). This is equivalent to the Basestation Aircraft List.
- 2) **Alerts** – an infinite list of user-defined alerts.

Alerts may be set on full or partial Mode S Code, Registration, ICAO Type, Callsign or ICAO Operator.

A completely new DB is added called **Reference.sqb**

This currently has 4 tables

- 1) **Airline** – details of airlines by code
- 2) **Airports** – details of world airports by code and text
- 3) **Routes** – Origin and Destination by code for Flight Numbers
- 4) **Pocket** – a user loadable slimline database for populating when not internet connected.

Each of these is user-editable. The first three are provided pre-populated, but users may choose to alter for their own purposes or preferences.

The Pocket table is provided empty together with a load facility where any available text file may be used to create it. Examples are the Aerodata and the Yahoo ModeS Group PQR files, both available for online download.



Folders

Flags

AD has been built with the extended Countries.dat file in mind. In order to display flags correctly, it requires them to be present in the Basestation [BMPFlags] folder and named consistently as follows...

[ModeSCountry.bmp]

Example...

[France.bmp]

This is in line with Basestation but in order to accept the extensions, any spaces in the [ModeSCountry] field must have a corresponding name with the spaces replaced by an underscore.

Examples...

United Kingdom needs a flag called [United_Kingdom.bmp]

Isle of Man needs a flag called [Isle_of_Man.bmp]

United States Mil needs a flag called [United_States_Mil.bmp]

Modified folders with a selection of Flag formats can be downloaded from Bones' website.

Logos

AD can display bitmap Operator Logos and/or Aircraft Silhouettes. These should be placed in the Basestation [OperatorFlags] folder and conform to the following naming convention...

[ICAOOperator.bmp] or

[Sub Operator.bmp]

Where [ICAOOperator] and [Sub Operator] can be any alphanumeric value.

Example

[BAW.bmp] would display the British Airways logo.

Although AD has a standard of using the correct ICAO Operator code for both fields, you can in fact use other values by editing them manually.

For example, you may wish to record the Operating Unit of a military aircraft.

Example

[60AW.bmp] would display the US Air Force Air Mobility Command 60th Air Wing logo, if present.



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Note A value in the [Sub-Operator] field will override any in the [ICAO Operator] field.

Photographs

AD requires a Folder to hold aircraft photographs for display.

The default name used by AD is [JPGPhotos]. However, this can be changed after installation via the Settings>> Set Photo Path menu option.

The filename to be used for each picture is [Registration].jpg (e.g. G-EZEA.jpg).

Photographs may be any size up to a maximum of 1200 pixels wide.



Installation

Step 1

Uninstall any previous version of AD using Control Panel.

Note that SBSPopulate Beta v12-13 are separate programs and are NOT affected by AD installation. There is no need to uninstall SBSPopulate in order to install AD.

Step 2

Unzip the downloaded file into a Folder of your choice. (Suggest c:/Program Files/GAS)

Step 3

Ensure Basestation is NOT running and click [Setup.exe] in the unzipped Folder.

Step 4

Follow the Microsoft Application Install dialogue, clicking [Install] on the Security Warning window.

Step 5

Note When the License Key window is displayed, the AD program itself is actually installed. However, there follow some necessary setup actions before it will work properly.

Enter your License Key in the box when requested and click [Activate]. Then click [OK] to the 'Thank-you' message.

Step 6

Read the explanatory message, make sure you have your [Basestation.sqb] backup and double-check Basestation is NOT running. Click [OK].

Step 7

On the Installation window make the appropriate selections.

If you have never installed AD on the machine before click the [First Time Install] button, otherwise click [Upgrade Install].

First Time Install

AD will look at the default Basestation location by default.

Note The default Basestation location is [c:\Program Files\Kinetic\Basestation] but read the Vista notes on the Kinetic forum for Vista anomalies.

If you have Basestation installed elsewhere, untick the [Install in Default Folder] box.

Leave the [First Time Install] Button selected.

Click [Install].



Subsequent Installation (i.e. new version or a re-install)

AD will point to the default Basestation location by default.

If you have Basestation installed elsewhere, untick the [Install in Default Folder] box.

Select the [Upgrade Install] button.

Your existing Alerts and Reference tables will be retained. However, if you wish to replace with new ones (empty in the case of Alerts), tick the appropriate [Replace] Boxes.

Click [Install].

Step 8

Follow the subsequent dialogue boxes asking you to select folders as appropriate. These should be self-explanatory.

Step 9

The [Start Basestation] window will now be displayed.

After doing this, click [OK] .

AD is now configured on your PC and the primary screen is displayed in 'Paused' mode. The program Status message, top centre, will read [CLICK START].

A program message will show 'Installation Complete' and the Database Path it will reference. This path can be altered if required at any time by selecting [Settings>>Set SBS Database Path] from the drop-down menu.



Operation

Active Display


General


When the Active Display is started, it will read in all data from the current BaseStation session. If Basestation has been running for a while, AD will immediately switch into [CATCHING UP] mode until such time as it has processed all existing records in the current Basestation session. It will then switch to {REAL TIME} mode and continue.

Therefore, AD may be completely closed down at any time. It will automatically catch up after a restart and no flights are lost. However, it is not recommended to stop AD for more than say a 24hour period (if Basestation is running 24/7 on a single session) as it may take quite a while to catch up with all the data.

One possible special use of this feature is to start AD in the evening and, using the filtered listings, get a picture of what has happened during the day while Basestation has been running , for example new or interesting movements.

Starting and Pausing

To **Start** the Active Display (equivalent of the Basestation Aircraft List), click the [Start]  icon on the bottom icon row. The program Status message, top centre, will change to 'RUNNING'.

To **Stop** the Aircraft Display at any time, click the [Pause]  icon.

In the initial version, there is little you can do while the Active Display is running apart from view it.

For most functions (detailed later), it is necessary to 'Pause' before proceeding. In some cases, however, this is done automatically.

Note When the Active Display is restarted it immediately switches into [CATCHING UP] mode until it regains [REAL TIME] state.

The Active Display shows all aircraft received by default in [Last Modified] sequence.



Alternative Filtered Displays

The program has the capability of filtering the received aircraft into the following categories....

A *Alerts*

P *Populated*

U *Unknowns*

I *Interested*

M *Military*

The *Alerts* category results from the instructions the user has entered after clicking [Set Alerts] from the dropdown menu.

The *Populated* and *Unknowns* categories are defined automatically by AD if [Autopopulate] is selected - see later.

The *Interested* category is defined by the user and lists all aircraft received which have their [Interested] flag set in the [Basestation.sqb] Aircraft table. This can be edited in AD – see later.

The *Military* category is set up automatically by AD and will list all aircraft which are identified as such on the [Basestation.sqb] Aircraft table.


To switch the display, click the appropriate [**APUIM**] icon on the second icon row. Depending on what the program is doing at the time, a double-click may sometimes be necessary.

Once displaying a filtered category, clicking the icon again will toggle the display back to the complete unfiltered listing which will then be in [PAUSED] mode.



Aircraft Display



AD also displays the [Basestation.sqb] Aircraft Table in a similar manner to Basestation Reporter.

To switch to the Aircraft Display, click the [Kinetic]  icon on the top icon row.

The Status message 'LOADING SBS' will then appear top centre before a full listing in exactly the same format as the Active Display.

However, only the *Interested* and *Military* filter categories are relevant to this display, the others being Active-related only.

While viewing this display, the underlying Active Display is in [PAUSED] status.

To switch back to the Active Display, click the [Active Display]  icon on the top icon row. To regain real time state, you must then click [Start] .

SBSPopulate

All the functions of SBSPopulate v13 are included in AD with the exception of Autopopulate which is fully incorporated into AD itself.

To switch to SBSPopulate, pause AD and then click the  icon. The presentation is unchanged.



Alerts

Alerts can be set in AD to highlight selected flights both visually and Aurally.

To set an Alert, select [Set Alerts] from the dropdown menu. A new window will be displayed.

Alerts can be set using the following fields...

ModeSCode

Registration

ICAO Type

Callsign

ICAOOperator


Select the required field from the dropdown box and enter your alert in the adjacent text box.

Click [Add] and the Alert will be displayed above in the appropriate category.

Entries can be removed by highlighting them with a left-click and the clicking the [Remove] button.

The [Deselect] button merely cancels a highlight.

After Alerts have been set, whenever AD is running the Active Display and a corresponding flight is detected, the row will be highlighted in Red (default colour).

All alerts may be viewed together by pausing AD and clicking the Alert  icon.

The Alert may also be annunciated by setting the sound option. To do this, select [Settings>>Options] then the [Sound] tab.

Click the Alert Sound Radio button followed by [Set] to enable.




Reference Data

Airlines, Airports and Routes

AD holds a certain amount of Reference data in database tables. This is used as an aid to deriving some of the Active Display information.

Some, like the Routes information is built up by AD and some is static. However, all this data can be manipulated manually by the user.

The editing functions are found under the [Data] drop down menu. They all work in a similar way, providing Read, Update and Delete operations.

If a field has a small [Search]  icon next to it, it means that if you enter data in this field and click the [Get] button, the database information will be displayed. You may edit this and click [Save] to change it. Alternatively, you can enter a completely new record. All fields are updateable.

Pocket

The pocket table can be constructed to load an abbreviated set of Aircraft data to provide an alternative method of populating to that of the GAS database.

This is especially useful when the SBS is used in a mobile situation when internet connectivity is not available.

The data can be loaded from text files by selecting [Data>>Load Pocket DB] from the dropdown menu and following the instructions. The data required is ModeSCode, Registration and ICAO Type.

Text files containing this information are available from sources on the Internet, Aerodata and the ModeS Yahoo Group being two examples.

AD is supplied with an empty database.

To switch between the GAS database and the Pocket one, select [Settings>>Set Lookup Database] from the dropdown menu, followed by clicking the appropriate Radio Button and then the [Set] button.

The Autopopulate function then switches to the selected data if it is enabled.

Switching can be done at any stage, provided Active Display is Paused.



Display Settings

Reordering and resizing

Columns can be re-ordered and resized merely by dragging them (or their margins) with a left-click.

Note When dragging a column, it is sometimes tricky to pick up the drag box. Trial and error can be applied. However, a failure will result in the column becoming the sort column. So, once the drag is completed, merely sort on the Last Modified column to reset.

Sorting

A single click in the header of the column to sort will redraw the grid in the new sequence.

All other display settings are managed from [Settings>>Display Settings>>{TableName}] in the drop down menu as follows.....

Suppressing

Ticking or unticking the columns specified, allows you to specify whether a column is visible or not on your display.

Column Headers

Similarly, it will also allow you to rename the column header name.

Active Record Limits

A limit can also be placed on the number of entries in the Aircraft Display by setting a record count. This can improve performance when a large number of aircraft have been received in the current session.

Note This only affects the Displayed records. **No records are deleted** from the Active Table when using this option. If you subsequently want to display all records, merely reset the value to one greater than the current Active Record Count.

Silhouettes


For users who wish to have a silhouette displayed automatically when no ICAO Operator or Sub-Operator is specified, they can be automatically inserted by setting the [Silhouette = ICAO Type] option. As its name implies, AD will determine the silhouette from the ICAO Type instead. In this case there are NO database updates. It only applies to the display.

All these settings are persistent meaning that they will be remembered between shut-downs and start-ups.



Toggle Settings


Autopopulate

Autopopulate can be turned ON and OFF by clicking the Autopopulate  icon on the second icon row.

If Autopopulate is ON, all major fields in both the Active and Basestation Aircraft Tables are updated with the data recovered from the selected lookup database.

Note Any existing data in these fields is overwritten.

Route Lookup

Route Lookup can be turned ON and OFF by clicking the Route Lookup  icon on the second icon row.

Note This is to allow the user to use alternative Route lookups without conflict.



Editing

Entries in both the Active and Aircraft displays can be edited. Facilities are quite extensive but note that the Active Display can ONLY be edited when in 'PAUSED' mode.

Explanations of each function are displayed if you place the cursor over individual cells.


Manual editing

Each cell can be manually edited by Left-Clicking the relevant cell and then updating the entry.

In the case of the **Country** field, the Flag is also refreshed after editing.

Important Note It is important to left-click with the cursor on a DIFFERENT row to make the edit permanent. This is a function of the grid processor. The suggestion is to always click on an image field like Flag or Logo to avoid inadvertently entering Edit mode on the clicked cell.

Repopulate

Left-clicking the [Pop] icon  column results in all major fields in the selected entry being repopulated from the selected lookup database.

Acknowledge Alert

Left-clicking the [Ack] icon  column will cancel an Alerted entry.

Invoking AD editing functions

Using the **Right-Click** after positioning the cursor over the relevant cell invokes a variety of AD functions depending on the cell in question.

These are...

ModeS

Displays a Photo window. If your Basestation folder contains a sub-folder called [JPGPhotos], and there is a photograph of the aircraft in question with the Registration as its name, that photograph will get displayed in the window.

For example, your Basestation folder is the standard [C:\Program Files\Kinetic\Basestation] and you have a sub-folder [C:\Program Files\Kinetic\Basestation\JPGPhotos] containing a photograph [C:\Program Files\Kinetic\Basestation\JPGPhotos\G-EZDA.jpg], then this photograph will be displayed in a sub window, automatically sized.

Photographs can be either jpg or gif format sized up to 1200pixels wide.

Note The Photograph folder Path can be changed via [Settings>>Set Photograph Path] from the dropdown menu.



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Links to Photo sites are also included. These Links and their Titles can be changed in [Settings>>Options] under the [Photos] tab -see later.

Flag

Resets the Country name and flag for the selected aircraft.

Registration, Type, ICAOType, C/N, Operator

Repopulates only the relevant field from the selected lookup database.

ICAOOperator, Sub-Operator

In addition to being repopulated, the Logo for the selected entry will also be reset if it exists in the Basestation [OperatorFlags] folder.

Note An entry in the Sub-Operator field will override one in the ICAO Operator field.


Country

Resets the Country name and flag for the selected aircraft.



DISPLAY - How Do I?


Display my currently active aircraft?

These are displayed in the primary window after you have clicked the 'Start'  icon. The default sequence is [Last Modified] ie last one received is at the top.

Display my SBS Basestation.sqb database?

Click the [Kinetic]  icon on the top icon row.

Display all the Aircraft which have triggered an Alert?

Click the [Alerts]  icon in the second icon row.

Display only Aircraft which have been Populated in the current session?

Click the [Populated]  icon in the second icon row.

Display all the Unknown aircraft in the current session?

Click the [Unknowns]  icon in the second icon row.

Display all the aircraft I have marked as 'Interested' ?


Click the [Interested]  icon in the second icon row.

Display only Military Aircraft?

Click the [Military]  icon in the second icon row.

Display the function of each Icon?

Place the cursor over the icon and help text will be displayed to tell you the function.

Note AD has to be [Paused]  for this to work.

Display a picture of an aircraft in the list?

Position the cursor over the [ModeS Code] field on the appropriate line and right-click.

If you have a picture of the aircraft in your [JPGPhoto] folder and have set the path to this folder, the picture will be displayed in a new window. This window also allows you to display pictures from certain internet sites which you can specify – see later.

The window will automatically adjust to the picture size.

Display the Operator Logo?

If the [ICAO Operator] field has a value and your [OperatorFlags] folder contains a logo corresponding to this code, the logo is displayed automatically. See also the 'Logo naming rules' section.



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Display a Sub-Operator Logo?

Enter a value into the [Sub-Operator] field. If there is a corresponding logo in the [OperatorFlags] folder, this logo will be displayed INSTEAD of the ICAO Operator logo.

Display silhouettes?

Silhouettes are an alternative to Operator Logos and the same rules apply.

However, you can display silhouettes where there is no [ICAOOperator] or [SubOperator] data. This allows you to have every line displaying an image.

To enable this facility select [Settings>>Set Display Formats>>Active] from the dropdown menu and then tick the Silhouette = ICAO Type check box. Then click the [Set] button to enable.

The setting will apply to both the Active and Aircraft displays.

Display User Fields?

Click [Settings] on the main drop down menu followed by either [Active] or [Aircraft] depending on which display you are configuring.

The User Fields will be shown. To add a field to the display, click the [Visible] box against the appropriate field(s) and enter your own heading title. This title will replace the Basestation field name in your display only.

Click the [Set] button to activate. When you next display the list, the activated field(s) will be shown at the end of the columns. You can then drag into the required position. This position will be remembered on shutdown/restart.

Change the number of flights displayed in the Active Display?

You can decide how many flights are in the Active Display list. The default is 1000. As a rule, you can marginally improve performance by having lower values. If you wish all flights to be displayed, then use a large number.

To change the setting, select [Settings>> Set Display Formats>>Active] from the dropdown menu, click the Radio Button against [Record Count] and then enter the number you require.

Click the [Set] button to enable.

Note This does NOT delete any records. It merely gates the display limits. You can increase or decrease this value at any time within the session.

Display a different Route format?

The default format is the IATA 3 character code. This can be changed to either the 4 character ICAO code or a text description.

To change the format, select [Settings>> Set Display Formats>>Route] from the dropdown menu and click the appropriate Radio Button.

Click the [Set] button to enable.



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It is advisable to do this before starting AD. However, if you change it during a session, AD will reset every flight from the beginning which takes a few minutes.

The format you choose will also be that used in the Basestation Radar display providing you have changed Basestation settings accordingly.

Sort the display into a different sequence?

Left-click the column heading and the sequence will change to using that column as the sort field. Click it again and the sequence will be reversed.

Change the column sequence?

Left-click the column heading and, while holding down the mouse button, drag the heading along the list until it is positioned where you want it. You will notice the vertical separation bar highlighted as you move the heading. This indicates where it will be placed when you release the mouse button.

The heading's box is also highlighted when you have successfully acquired the its handle.

Change the colour of the Highlight bars?

There are different highlight bar colours for each of the [APUIM] filters.

These colours can be changed if required by selecting [Settings>>Options] from the dropdown menu and clicking the [Filter Colours] tab.

Two columns of Radio buttons are displayed, one for the background colour, the other for the foreground text.


To change, click the appropriate Radio button followed by the [Set] button. The standard colour picker is displayed where you can select your preference.

If you ever wish to reset them all to the defaults, just click the [Defaults] button.




OPERATION – How Do I?

Start AD?

Click the [Start]  icon.

Pause the Active Display for editing?

Click the [Pause]  icon.

Edit a record?

Before you edit any field in the [Active Display], you should pause it.

You can edit any cell in any record. Position the cursor over the cell and left-click. The cell will be highlighted. Type in your changes and then left-click on any field* ON A DIFFERENT LINE.

If you are editing the [Active Display] both the [Active] record and the [SBS Aircraft] record will be updated.

*It is a good idea to click on a picture field such as the [Logo] to prevent starting a second edit.

Populate a field?

The major fields can be populated individually from the selected database. To do this, position the cursor over the appropriate field and right-click.


Populate a whole record?

Position the cursor over the [Populate]  icon on the appropriate row and left-click.


Use SBSPopulate?

Click the 'Populate' icon  on the top icon row.

Return to look at my currently active aircraft when looking at my SBS Basestation.sqb database?

Click the 'AD'  icon on the top icon row.


Search for an entry in the list?


Just above the list is a Search  icon. Select the Search Type from the drop down box to the left and enter the Search String in the other box. Click the icon and the requested entry will be displayed at the top of the grid (unless it is on the first or last page).





Navigate the Lists?

Page navigation icons are displayed on the second icon row, far right.

To go to the **top** of the list, click the  icon.

To go to the **bottom** of the list, click the  icon.

To move one page **up** the list, click the  icon.

To move one page **down** the list, click the  icon.

The standard Windows keys and scroll bars may also be used.

Reset the Country name or Flag?

Position the cursor above the [Flag] or the [Country] field and right-click.

Manually editing the [Country] field will also reset the [Flag] field.

Note that you must have a flag with the correct name in your [BMPFlags] folder.

Turn off Autopopulate?

Autopopulate is set ON by default and the Autopopulate icon is coloured green.

Left-click this icon to toggle Autopopulate OFF and it will turn red to identify its new setting.

Clicking the icon when it is red, toggles Autopopulate back ON.

Turn off Route Lookup?

Route lookups are set ON by default and the Route icon is coloured green.

Left-click the icon to toggle Route Lookups OFF.

Copy a cell to the clipboard?

Place the cursor in the appropriate cell and left-click. The cell contents will be highlighted. Click the [Copy Cell] icon and the cell contents are transferred to the clipboard.

Alternatively, if you are familiar with Windows shortcuts, use the [Ctrl-C] operation.

Copy a complete line to the clipboard?

Click the [Copy Line] icon and then place the cursor in the appropriate line. The line contents will be highlighted. Click the [Copy Line] icon again and the cell contents are transferred to the clipboard.

To copy multiple lines, follow the same procedure but drag-highlight all lines.

Alternatively, if you are familiar with Windows shortcuts, use the [Ctrl-C] operation.



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Choose the online lookup services for route information?

To selectively, turn on or off the services used for Route lookups click [Settings>>Options] followed by the [Online Services] tab.


Click the appropriate check box(es) to toggle the services on and off followed by the [Set] button to enable your choice.

Note1 All Route processing can also be toggled on and off – see relevant instructions.

Note 2 Initial Route lookups are performed from the AD Routes table. If the route is found on this table, NO online lookup is performed.

Use the Interested field?

The Basestation [Interested] field can be set either in the Active Display by ticking the box and then clicking on another line.

The meaning of this field is defined by the user. However, when set, AD will highlight the aircraft on the list whenever it is received (Active Display List) or viewed (Aircraft List). The Interested fields can all be viewed together using the [Interested]  filter icon.



SETUP - How Do I?

Map User Fields to Basestation for Radar Display?

Left-click [Settings>>Basestation Field Mapping] from the drop down menu.

Two columns are presented.

On the left is a list of the fields in AD which can be mapped on to the Radar. On the right is a list of the fields in Basestation which can be used for Radar display purposes.

Enter an identical number in each column to match the fields. Start at 1 and use sequential numbers.

Click [Set] to enable the mappings.

The defaults are displayed so that...

[Radio Callsign] will be mapped to the Basestation [GenericName] field.

[Route] will be mapped to the Basestation [GenericName] field.

[SubOperator] will be mapped to the Basestation [GenericName] field.

Note To display the mapped fields on the Basestation Radar, you will need to adjust your Basestation programs accordingly (see Basestation documentation).

Set up AD for Continuous 24/7 Running of Basestation?

To ensure satisfactory performance during 24/7 running of AD and Basestation, the size of the Active table should be controlled.

This can be done by setting the number of hours data which you wish to remain in the Active table and available in the Active Display.

The default is 24 hours. To change this, select [Settings>>Options] and the DB size tab. Enter your selected number of hours in the text box and click [Set] to enable.

Once set, any records on the Active table which are older than the set number of hours will be physically deleted from the table and will not be viewable any more.

Show photos from a website of my choice?

Apart from displaying personal photographs, it is possible to display them from any one of 3 internet sites. These sites can be specified according to your needs.

There is also a fourth link which you can set to any other site of interest.

To change the defaults, select [Settings>>Options] and the Photos tab. The links and their titles are all listed. Enter your selections in the relevant field together with a Title of your choice.

On completion, click [Set] to enable.