DATAMINE

MINEMAX

Minemax Scheduler 7.8

Release Notes

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Overview

Minemax Scheduler is a best-in-class mine schedule optimization software solution designed for strategic and long-term mine planners in open-pit operations. It simultaneously optimizes mine schedules, processing, blending, waste dump sequencing, trucking, and capital expenditure decisions to deliver optimal strategic mine plans that meet all project constraints. With its flexible decision modelling and powerful optimization capabilities, Minemax Scheduler maximizes net present value (NPV) and supports sound capital investment decisions. Trusted for over 25 years, it helps mine planners be productive and deliver feasible strategic plans by incorporating all aspects of mining into a single optimization process.

Further Information

This document includes release notes for Minemax Scheduler 7.8.

Release notes for other versions of Minemax Scheduler are available via the Support Portal https://www.dataminesoftware.com/support/.

Minemax Scheduler 7.8.1 Patch (October 2025)

Defect Fixes

Project Cloning Defects

- Per-period min-if-mined constraint values missing when cloning a project.
- Foreign key error when cloning a project that has a bench attribute multiplier defined.

Minemax Scheduler 7.8 (October 2025)

Capital Expenditure Modelling

Capital Expenditure Constraint Expansions

Capital expenditure (CAPEX) definitions can now be used to expand minimum, cumulative, difference, and capacity constraints in addition to maximum constraints. This enables more accurate modelling of capacity increases driven by capital investments. For example, the expansion of a cumulative constraint can represent increased storage capacity in a tailings storage facility (TSF) as a result of investing in its expansion. Similarly, expanding a minimum constraint allows for scenarios such as requiring a guaranteed minimum mill throughput after investing in a mill upgrade.

Capital Expenditure Distribution

Capital expenditures can now be distributed over a user-defined number of periods, enabling more realistic financial planning and phased investment modelling.

Operational Constraints

Bench Mining Rate

Users can now limit the maximum number of benches mined per period for each pit group. This enhancement provides better control over the vertical rate of advance (VRA) which is critical in managing geotechnical risk, resource exposure, and operational sequencing.

Period-Specific Minimum Mined Constraints

Minimum amount-if-mined constraints can now be defined per period, offering greater flexibility. Especially useful when scheduling periods vary in length.

Haulage Enhancements

Fastest Path Distances

New import functions to calculate the distances of haulage paths with the fastest cycle times. These haulage distances can be used to determine total haulage distance per period to support more accurate cost modelling, especially for contract mining scenarios where pricing is tied to distance travelled.

User Interface & Usability Improvements

Bulk Colour Editing

Users can now efficiently update the colours of multiple items simultaneously using the new bulk colour editor, which supports colour interpolation between a defined start and end colour for smooth, consistent gradients.

Open Project After Cloning

A new option allows users to automatically open a cloned project upon creation, reducing steps and improving usability.

Quick Scenario Clone Comments

A comment field has been added to the scenario cloning popup, allowing users to annotate and track the purpose of different scenario variants.

Multi-Period Creation with Prefixes

Users can now add multiple time periods with a user-defined prefix in a single step, simplifying schedule setup.

Scenario Selection Dropdown

A redesigned dropdown improves scenario selection and provides additional information.

Copy & Paste for Lookup Constants

Lookup constants in import configurations can now be copied and pasted, easing the reuse of reference values across different models or import configurations.

Reporting and Export Enhancements

Export to Datamine Format

Users can now export tabular reports and schedules in the Datamine file format, ensuring compatibility with other Datamine products.

Datamine Block Model Update

It is now possible to update an existing Datamine Block Model with scheduling results from Minemax Scheduler.

Support for .dmx Format

The new Datamine Extended File format (.dmx) is now supported.

Schedule Table Report Options

Added reporting fields for:

- First period mined
- Last period mined
- Majority period mined

These additions improve understanding of material timing in the schedule.

Allocated Stockpile Group Reporting

The allocated stockpile group is now included in Schedule Table reports, enhancing traceability of material movement and stockpile utilization.

Attribute Chart/Table Quantity Reporting

Attribute Charts and Tables now allow reporting values as quantities, not just weighted averages, for improved clarity.

Schedule Exporting Performance

Improved performance when exporting schedule and back-schedule reports.

Defect Fixes

Attribute Dropdown Errors–Fixed incorrect attribute displayed in dropdowns within the Attribute and Attribute Ratio Charts in Dashboard Designer.

Decimal Formatting for Attributes–Attribute label values and values in the Movement Table now correctly respect user-defined decimal settings.

Expression Editor Display Issues–Addressed sizing problems in the expression editor popup to improve editing experience.

Lookup Validation–Fixed issues related to validation of lookup keys and values to prevent user errors and improve data integrity.

Stockpile Attribute Limits–New validation checks ensure that stockpile attribute limits do not have identical minimum and maximum values.

Re-block Range Pasting–Duplicates are now ignored when pasting re-block attribute ranges, preventing duplicate entries.

Re-block Range Deletion Performance–Improved performance when deleting large numbers of re-block attribute ranges.

Region Settings Issue–Resolved issues with importing CSV files that use regional settings where commas are used as decimal separators.

CSV Importing–If the last line of a CSV did not contain a carriage return, the last line was read twice.

Minemax Scheduler 7.7.2 Patch (February 2025)

Defect Fixes

Pit Group Open/Close–A critical error occurred while optimizing an existing schedule that had not utilized pit group open/close options, starting from a non-first period.

Excluded Strings in Haulage–Associated excluded strings were not removed when haulage string files were removed from the haulage configuration. Excluded strings are now supported when pasting configuration into the "ramp strings and exclusions" grid.

Report Exporting Progress Dialog–Clicking the report exporting progress dialog's close button did not cancel report exporting. Close button has been removed.

3D Visualization Selection–Fixed selection of elements in the 3D visualization that stopped working after updating the drivers of certain video cards.

Minemax Scheduler 7.7.1 Patch (November 2024)

Defect Fixes

Opening/Closure Costs Discounting–Discounting was not correctly applied to location opening and closure costs.

Minemax Scheduler 7.7 (October 2024)

Documentation

Documentation for Minemax Scheduler has been refreshed to use the Datamine branding. In addition to being available in the Minemax Scheduler software application, the help and release notes are online at https://docs.dataminesoftware.com/Minemax/.

Constrain the Maximum Number of Pits and Pit Groups Open at the End of Each Period

A new feature has been introduced that allows users to limit the number of pits and pit groups that remain open at the end of each period. With this enhancement, you can control whether pits should be completely mined before new ones are started and ensure that all pits are fully mined by the end of the schedule. This leads to more practical strategic mining schedules.

Pit and Pit Group Opening and Closure Costs

Minemax Scheduler now models the financial requirements needed to initiate mining operations in a pit through opening costs. Additionally, closure costs are accounted for, covering the expenses incurred to close a pit after it has been fully mined. This feature allows the optimizer to consider these costs, resulting in more robust strategic mining schedules.

Bulk Export Reports for Multiple Scenarios

Users can now export reports for all or a selected subset of scenarios simultaneously, rather than exporting them one at a time. This enhancement saves time and significantly improves efficiency in report generation.

Report Exporting Progress Indicator

A real-time progress indicator has been added to the report exporting process. This feature keeps users informed about the status of their report exports, enhancing the overall user experience.

Ability to Cancel Report Exporting

Users now have the ability to cancel report exports if needed. This new functionality provides greater control and flexibility over the report exporting process.

Spatial Constraint Table Report

A new report has been introduced that provides detailed insights into how the schedule is impacted by spatial constraints. This report offers a comprehensive view of spatial constraints and actuals.

Bench Table Report Renamed to Pit Table Report

The Bench Table report has been renamed to the Pit Table report, with added options to report at both the pit and block levels. This enhancement provides more granular reporting options, enhancing data analysis capabilities.

Improvements to the Dump Table Report

Several improvements have been made to the Dump Table report to enhance its usability. These enhancements allow for more detailed reporting of on-dump movements.

Batch Optimizer Reporting

The Batch Optimizer now includes a feature that reports the periods (windows) being optimized during batch processing. This addition provides better insight into the progress of batch optimization.

Exclude Roads from Haulage Network

Users now have the option to exclude roads from the haulage network for each pit and dump. This functionality allows users to exclude haul ramps that are not available when specific phases are mined, leading to more accurate cycle times.

Review Downstream Process Quantities

A new feature has been added that allows users to review downstream process quantities for import mappings and reserves within the decision tree diagram. This improvement makes it easier to validate import mappings for downstream processes.

Bulk Update Paths of Haulage String and Triangulation Files

Minemax Scheduler now supports bulk updating of paths for haulage string and triangulation files. This feature saves time and improves efficiency in managing haulage data.

Material Imbalance Warnings

A new warning feature has been introduced to alert users of potential material imbalances when zero values are merged with non-zero values during reblocking for split destination processes. This helps prevent errors and ensures data integrity during reblocking.

Filter Decision Tree Diagram Report by Location

Users can now filter the Decision Tree diagram report by location, allowing them to easily view downstream process values for specific pits and dumps, all pits and dumps, or all locations.

Defect Fixes

Invalid Horizontal Dump Cell Precedences–A defect was identified where dependency loops could occur under certain circumstances when auto-generating horizontal dump cell precedences. This issue has been addressed to prevent such loops.

Earliest Start for Waste Dumps–The earliest start model pruning of waste dump cells was not as effective as intended. This defect has been corrected to ensure proper pruning.

Microsoft OneDrive Corrupting Project Databases–It was discovered that Microsoft OneDrive could corrupt the Microsoft SQL Server databases used to store Minemax Scheduler projects. As a resolution, warnings have been added when a Microsoft OneDrive folder is used as a project repository to prevent potential corruption.

Poor Performance when Exporting Large Reports–Performance issues were identified when exporting large tabular reports to Microsoft Excel, resulting in sub-optimal performance. These performance issues have been resolved to improve the export process.

DATAMINE

MINEMAX

Datamine enables efficient and sustainable mining through the application of world-leading technology and services.

Read the Docs

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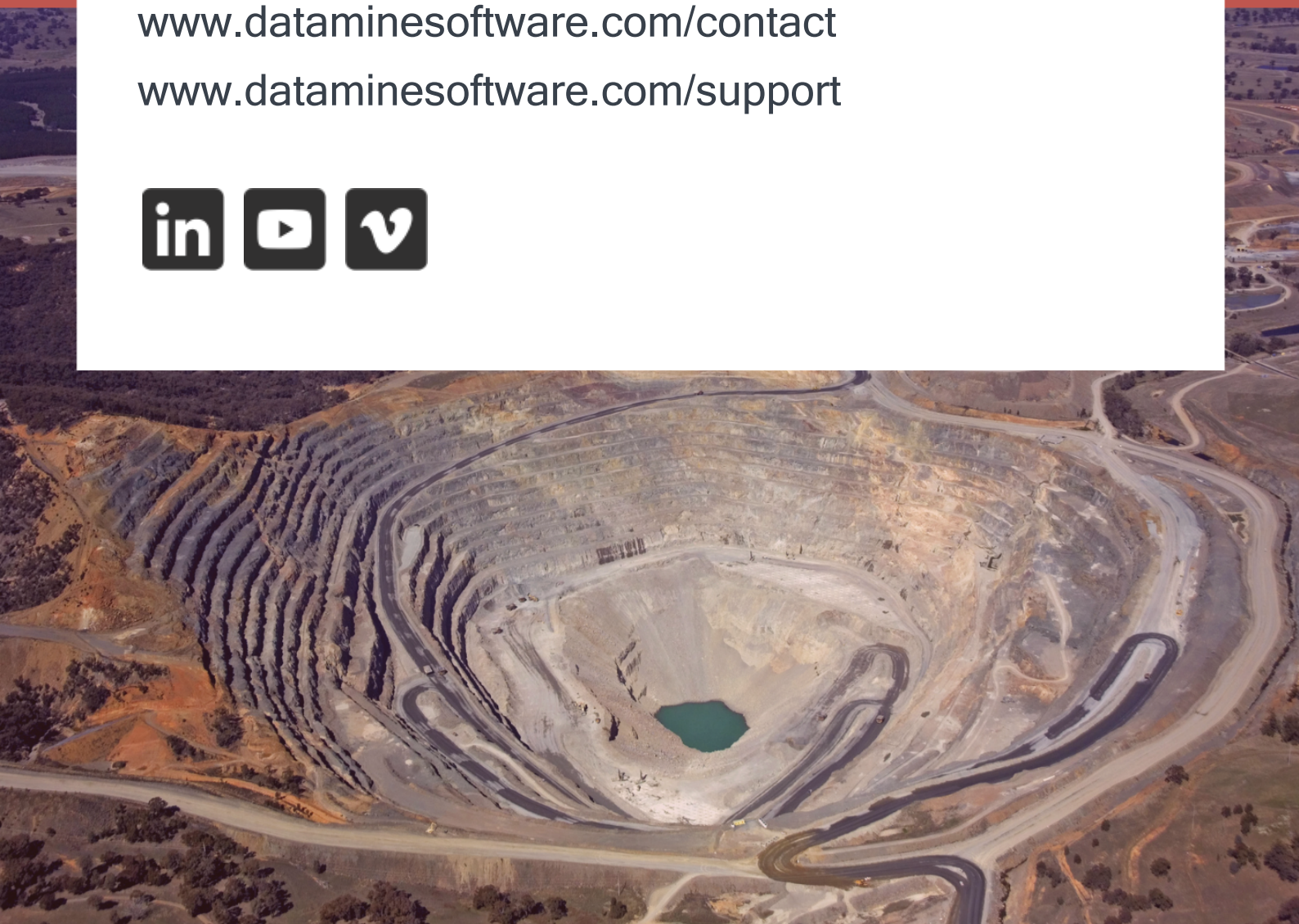
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