

# This Week's Wisdom:

## MapInfo Print Templates - SmartText

SmartText is a new feature for MapInfo v17 Layouts which automatically populates textboxes with variable data. Add textboxes which show today's date, the current time, or perhaps the name of the user making the map. You don't need to be a coding geek to get to grips with it; you just need to be able to copy and paste!

The following are the default aliases already placed in MapInfo for your benefit. Copy and paste this code into a text box on your Layout Window to apply the expression:

<code>\${Date}</code>	Default date format
<code>\${Time}</code>	Displays hours, minutes and AM/PM
<code>\${ShortTime}</code>	Displays hours, minutes in 24-Hour notation
<code>\${LongTime}</code>	Displays hours, minutes, seconds and AM/PM
<code>\${Copyright}</code>	Current copyright notice
<code>\${MIProVersion}</code>	Full version number of the currently running MapInfo Pro
<code>\${Page}</code>	Display the current Layout page number
<code>\${Pages}</code>	Display the total number of Layout pages
<code>\${ItemName}</code>	Display the frame's Name property
<code>\${Author}</code>	Originator's name (Says "Your Name" until you edit the SmartTextAliases.xml)
<code>\${User}</code>	Current user's name
<code>\${Computer}</code>	Computer name
<code>\${Company}</code>	Company name (Says "Your Company Name" until you edit the SmartTextAliases.xml)

You can edit these and or create your own by altering the file found here:

`..\AppData\Roaming\MapInfo\MapInfo\Professional\1700\SmartTextAliases.xml`

You can also code directly into your layout text box using MapBasic expressions: `$mb{mapbasic expression}`

For example, the following expression:

```
Scale 1 in = $mb{MapperInfo(LayoutItemWinID(CurContext(1), "Frame Name", 1), 2)}
$mb{MapperInfo(LayoutItemWinID(CurContext(1), "Frame Name", 1),12)}
```

Will display the map scale as SmartText ( eg, **Scale 1 in = 1.456 mi** )

**MapperInfo attribute 2** Displays the Map window's current scale (MapBasic uses 'miles' as the default unit)  
Here is the statement to switch this to kilometres = **Set Distance Units "km"**  
You can issue this statement from the MapBasic window in MapInfo Pro.

**MapperInfo attribute 12** Displays the map's abbreviated distance unit name eg, 'mi'

### LayoutItemWinID

**CurContext(1)**  
**"Frame Name"**

**1**

Returns the Window ID for the Layout window with the text box (Specific for SmartText)  
Tells MapBasic which Map frame to look at (User defined name)  
Defines the frame type (Where 1 = Map Frame, 2 = Browser Frame, 3 = Legend Frame)

**Keep a lookout for version 17.0.2 due in December which will include lots of new SmartText aliases!**