CARLSON POINT CLOUD

Carlson PC is built on the Carlson methodology.

It runs through CAD or IntelliCAD in its own window and menu.

I chose this program because of their excellent support for their other products. They have not failed that support with this module.

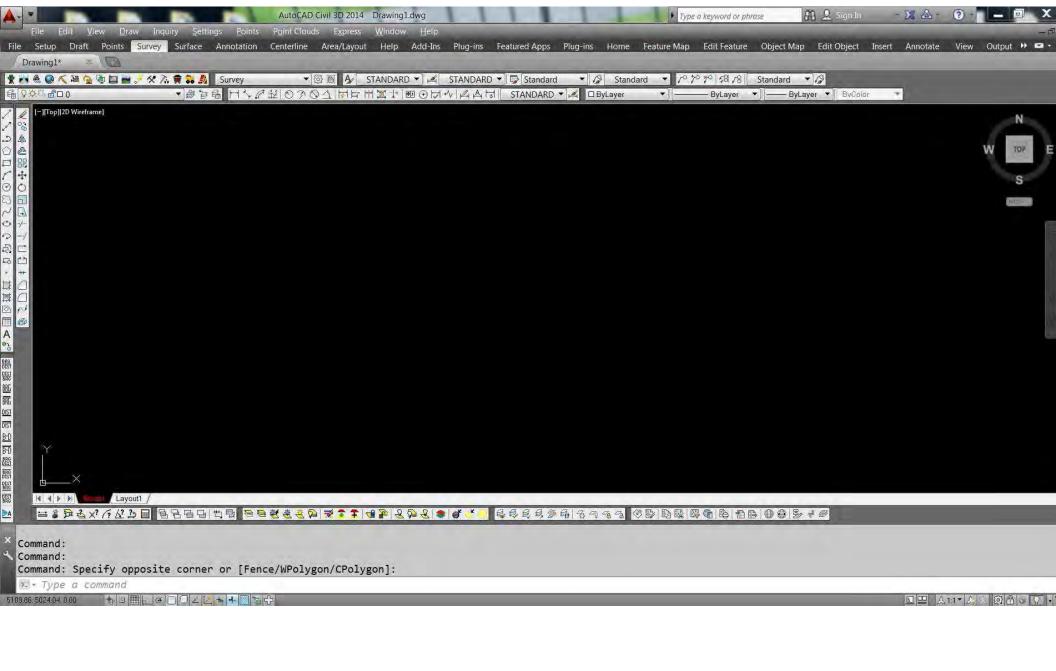


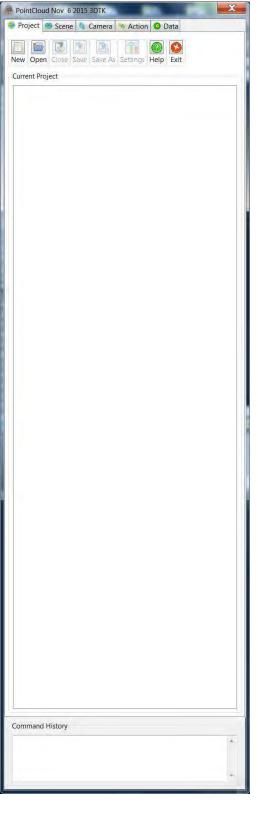
CARLSON POINT CLOUD

There are 3 engines available.

- Some Carlson engine that supports a small number of points.
- An older **Pointools** engine that supports up to One Billion Points.
- Finally there is a **3dtk** engine that has quite a bit of promise. I am not sure how many points 3dtk will take.

Don't plan on loading One Billion Points. Even the most powerful computer will become a snail.

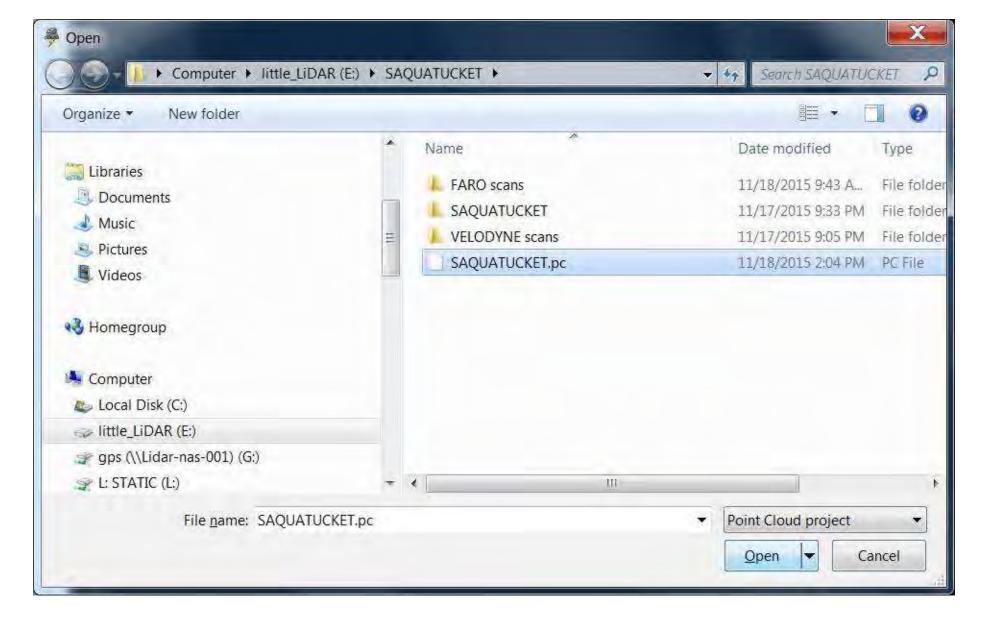




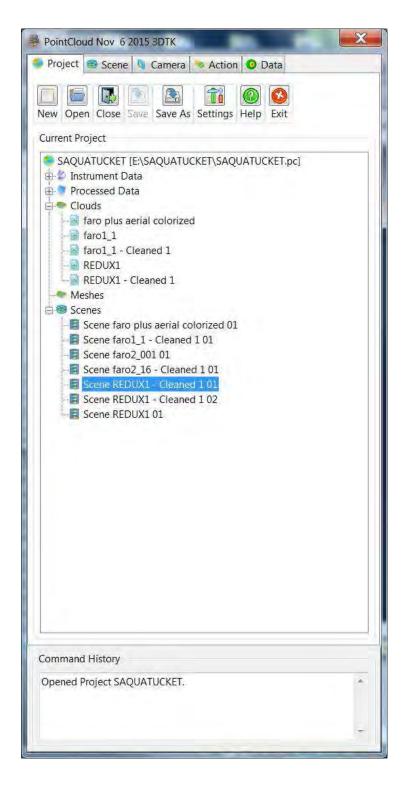
All point cloud functions are controlled through an independent manager.



I have not bothered even trying the Carlson Engine. I have some older projects based on the Pointools Engine and I aim for that 3DTK engine.



Conveniently, I have a project started.



The Manager:

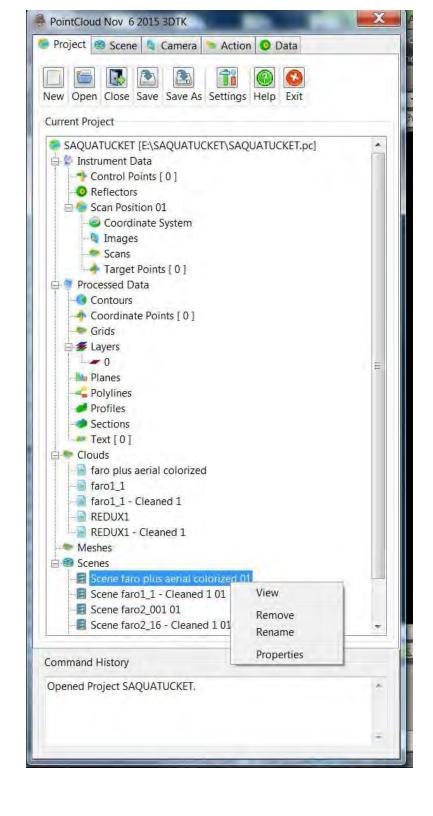
Here we see the clouds associated with the project and the Scenes associated with the clouds



Carlson Point Cloud will register some raw scans (never tried it as I have other softwares to cover those needs).

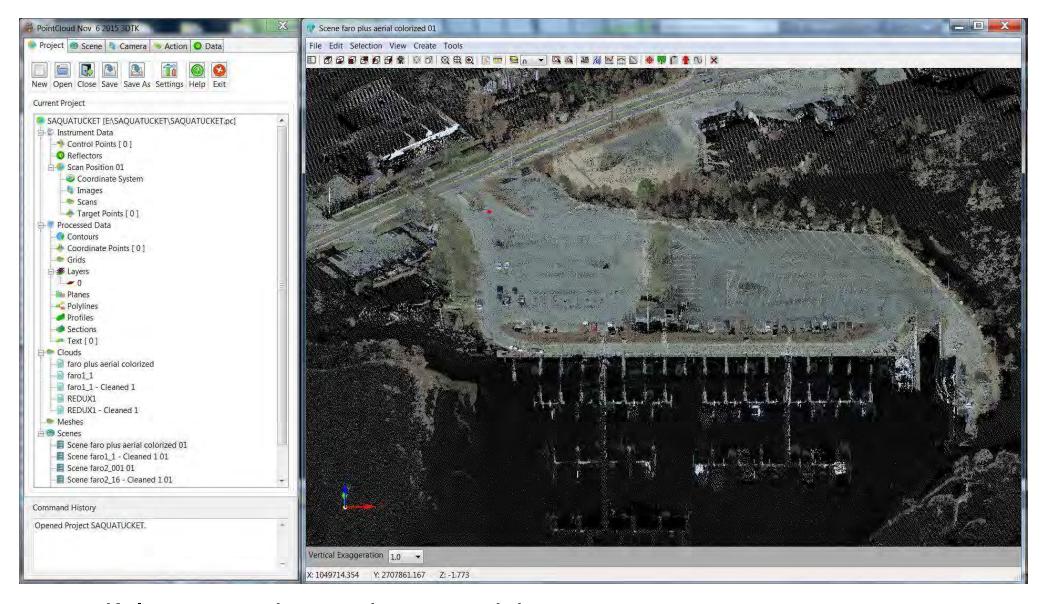
The Processed Data is what we have completed (not much yet):

- Contours these are extrated from meshes that are created from clouds. Similar to FUGRO.
- Coordinate Points Basically manually extracted.
- Grids like the meshes.
- Layers We can bring in the layers from a drawing.
- Planes Flat surfaces
- Polylines Extracted or imported from CAD
- Sections Sections
- Text Text objects



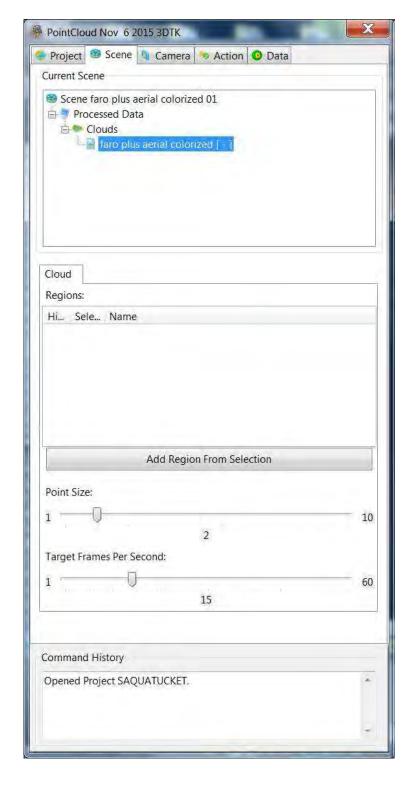
Scenes are created by viewing clouds. Since there are some options, it makes it easier to have some scenes setup to see the cloud the way you want to see it.

Carlson is not ready to change appearances on the fly.



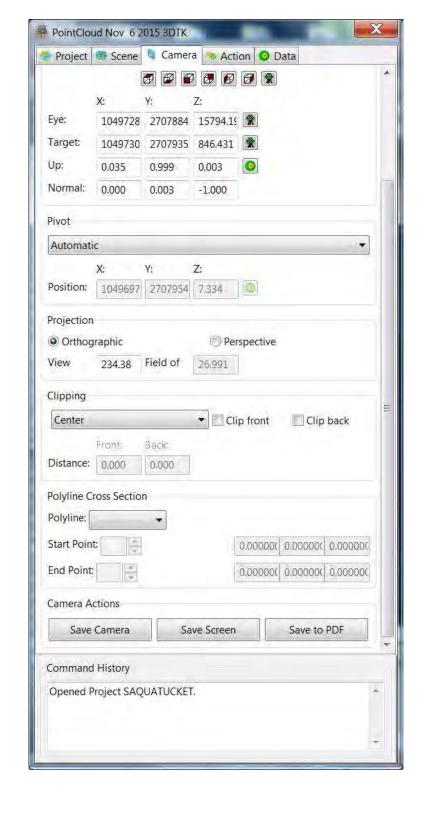
Beautiful Saquatucket Harbor, Harwichport, MA There is noise from the water.

This was colorized from 2014 Aerial Imagery (3" pixel) and it was scanned in the early Fall, 2015.



The manager has tabs

Scene will control different variables like the Point Size or the Intensity Ranging (When we have a cloud viewed by Intensity)



CAMERA

Oh the options....

Where are we? For the little it is worth, we get a readout.

The Pivot Point can be changed here – this is conventient for long routes.

Projections.

Clipping takes a bit of finesse and can add some frustration. It ultimately hides points outside of the range.

Polyline Cross Section (Beta)
This is awesome and this was one of
my requests that they implemented.
You show cross sesctions from a
polyline... we will see more



Finally some Action

Selection – a few tools to make selections

Edit – Show, hide, delete (mesh), image (mesh), smooth (mesh), Clean

Clean will strip out those lonely points. It will also reduce points where you have unnecessarily great densities (homogenize).

Transform – Need to relocate a cloud? We can do it.

Create -

- Point points with your F2F codes
- Polylines simple 3-d polylines
- Cloud Select an area and create a neww (smaller) cloud
- Mesh A surface
- Text Text
- Grid Grid

Extract -

- Breaklines from a mesh
- Contours from a mesh
- Profile & Section need a CL file in Carlson
- Bare Earth Creates a new cloud with the ground only
- Plane flat plane
- Intersections Intersects two planes
- Polyline Automatic extraction based on Intensity

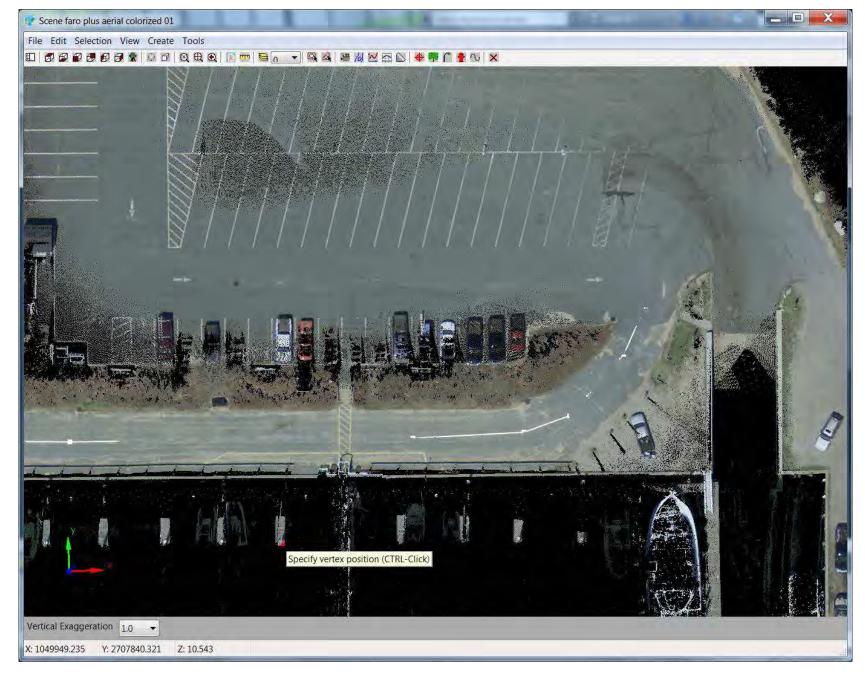


Data about a point. Hover over the point and you get some information.



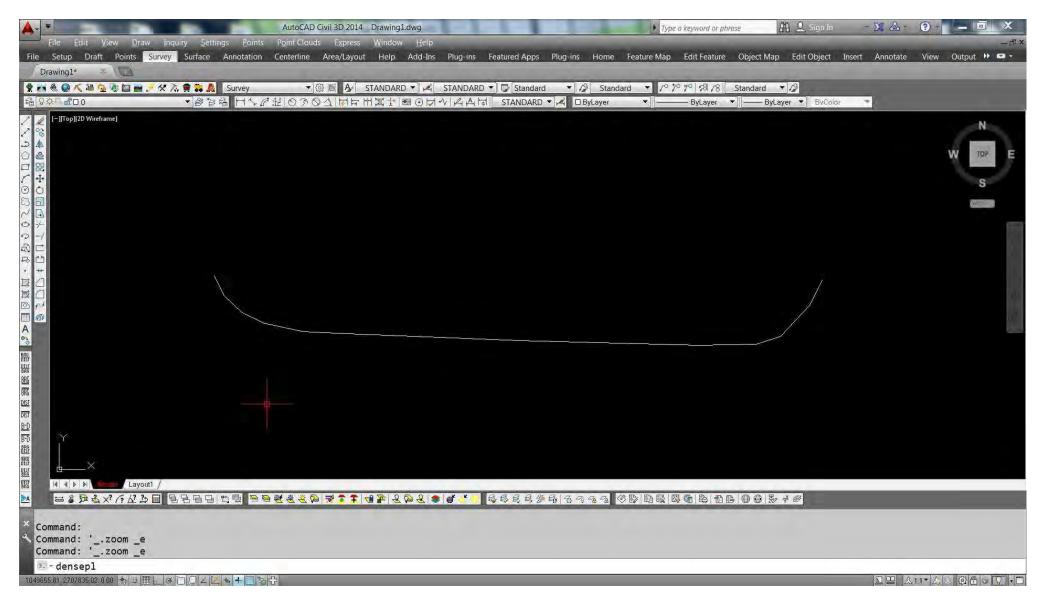
I started with a very rough centerline of a road in the scan.

Please note that I am using the 3d panoramics to see some objects and finishes.

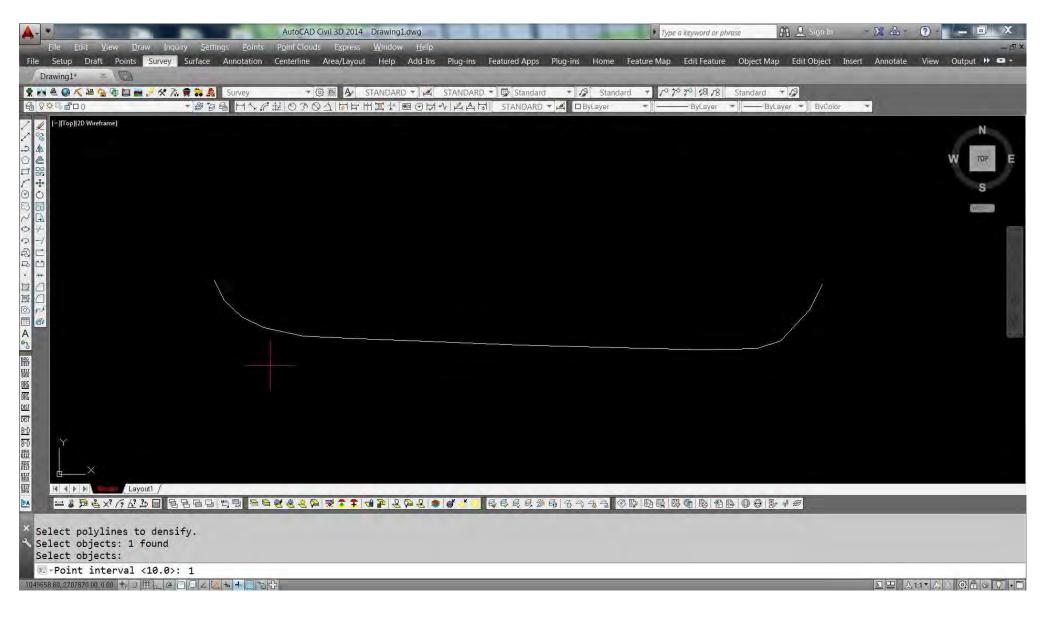


The Polyline is floating above and below the cloud.

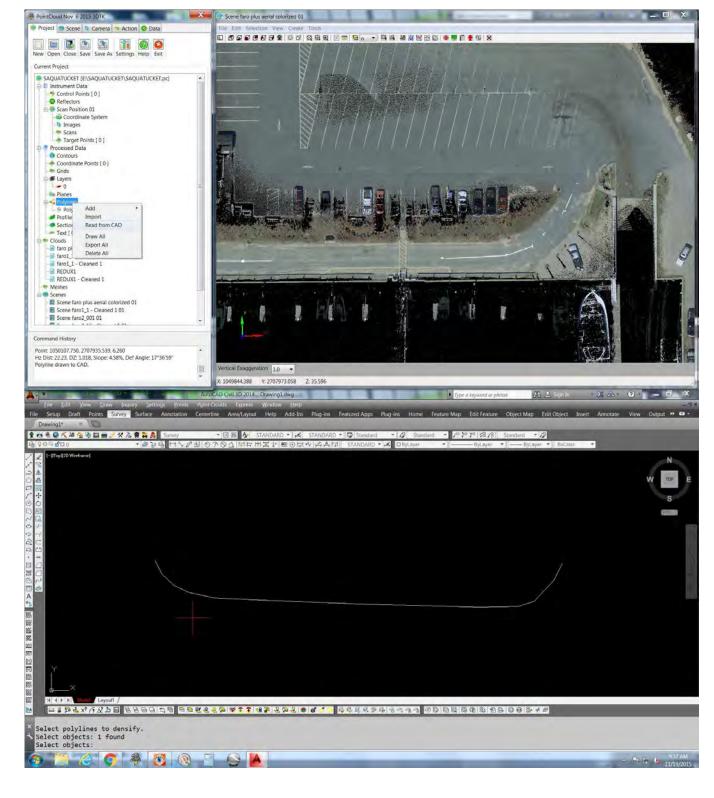
Nothing to be concerned about, it is all in the rendering and we will see that polyline again.



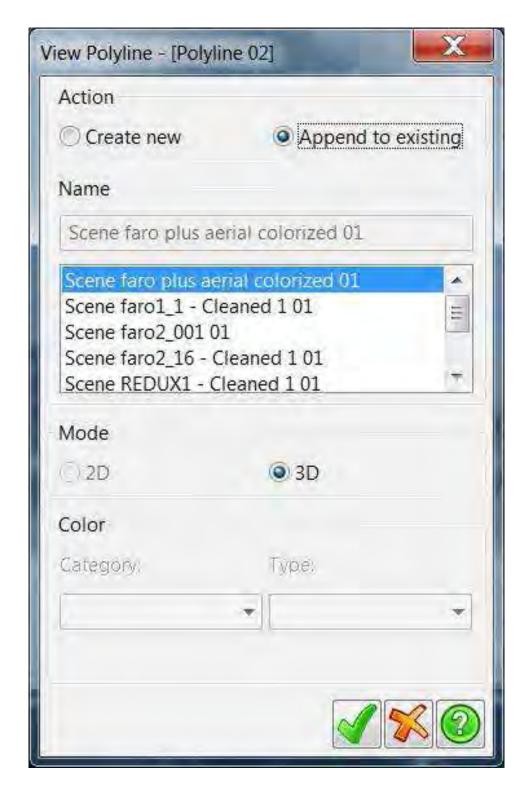
CAD is still open. We can draw that polyline into CAD without any issue. I am using the Carlson function DENSEPL to increase the number of vertices in the polyline. I am not sure where a button or menu items exists, I know I can type in DENSEPL and get what I need.



I am creating a new segment every foot.



Now I bring the Polyline from CAD back into CLOUD.



Those Scenes seem cumbersome. Why would you want a preset Scene?

Because we view more than just clouds. Sure there is usually a cloud in there, but we may also want to see Polylines or Points.

In this case, it is not essential to show the polyline in CLOUD, but there are times we want to see what is going on...

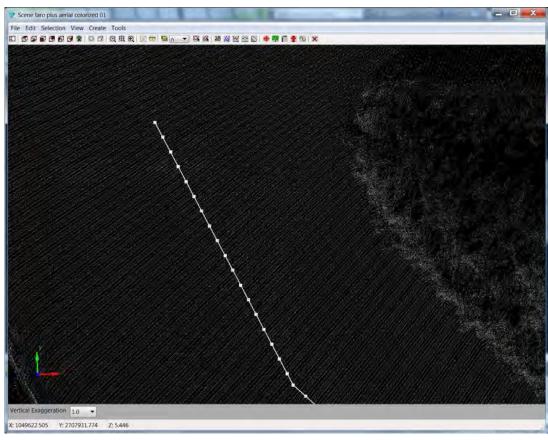


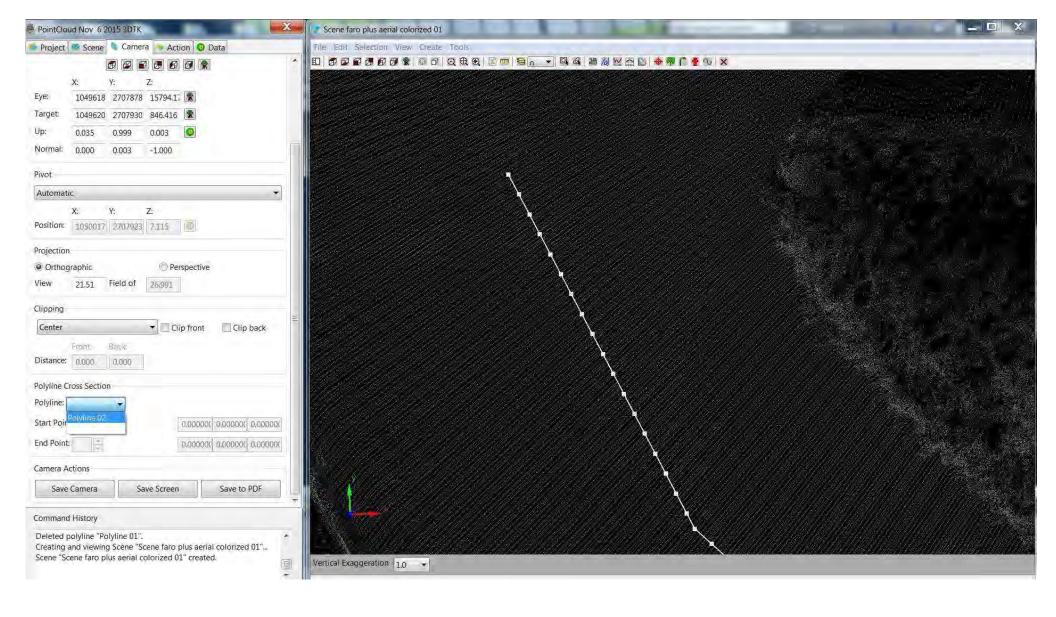
Zooming in brings back the visibility.

Oh what a lovely segmented polyline.

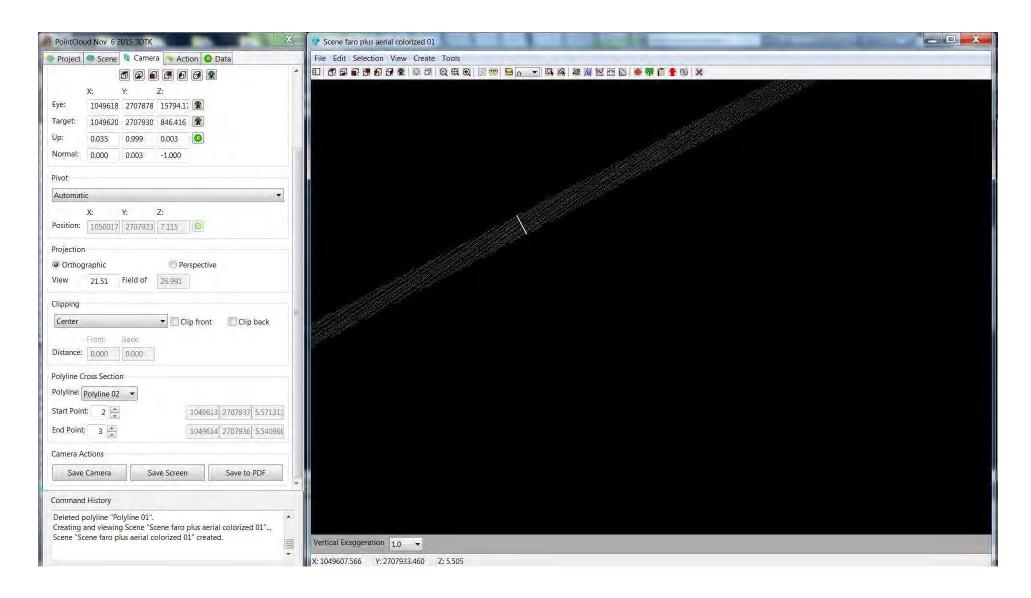
There it is.

The vertex sizes can be modified.

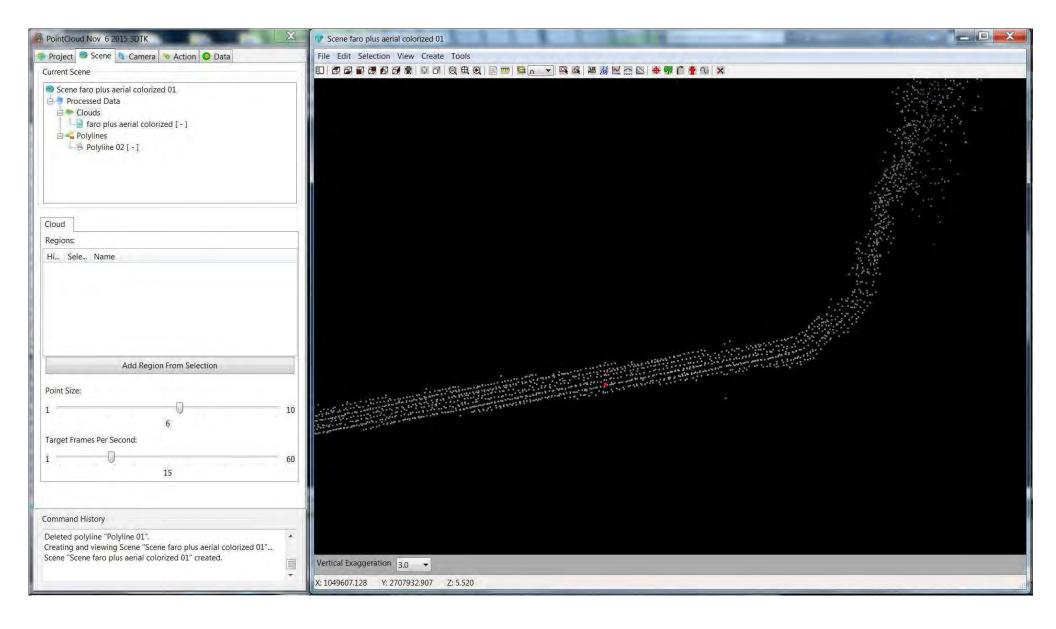




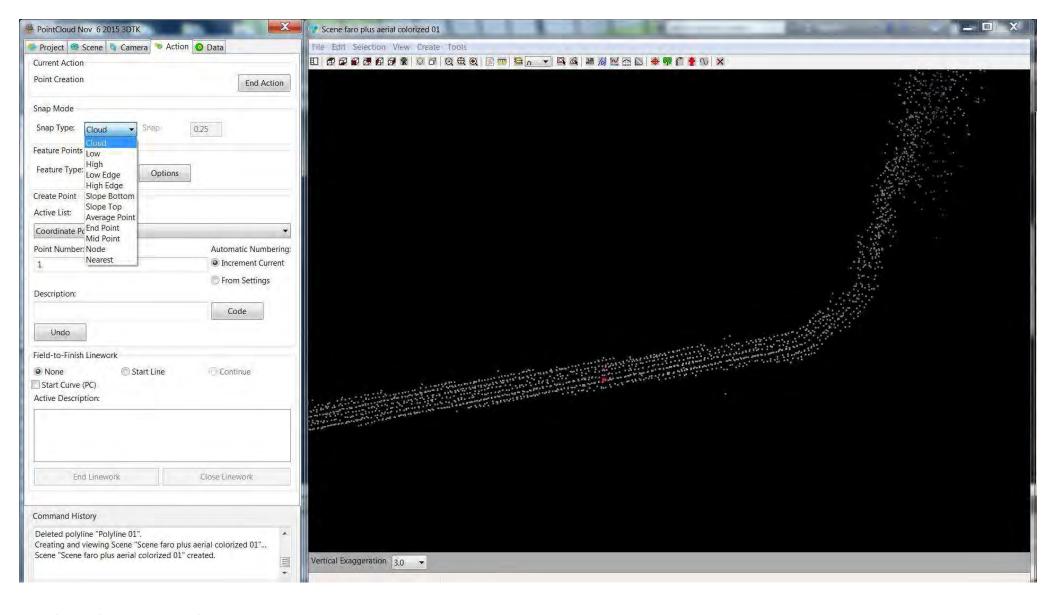
Now we can use this polyline for the CAMERA→ POLYLINE CROSS SECTIONS



Just a slice. All the other points are hidden. More importantly, they are not in the way.



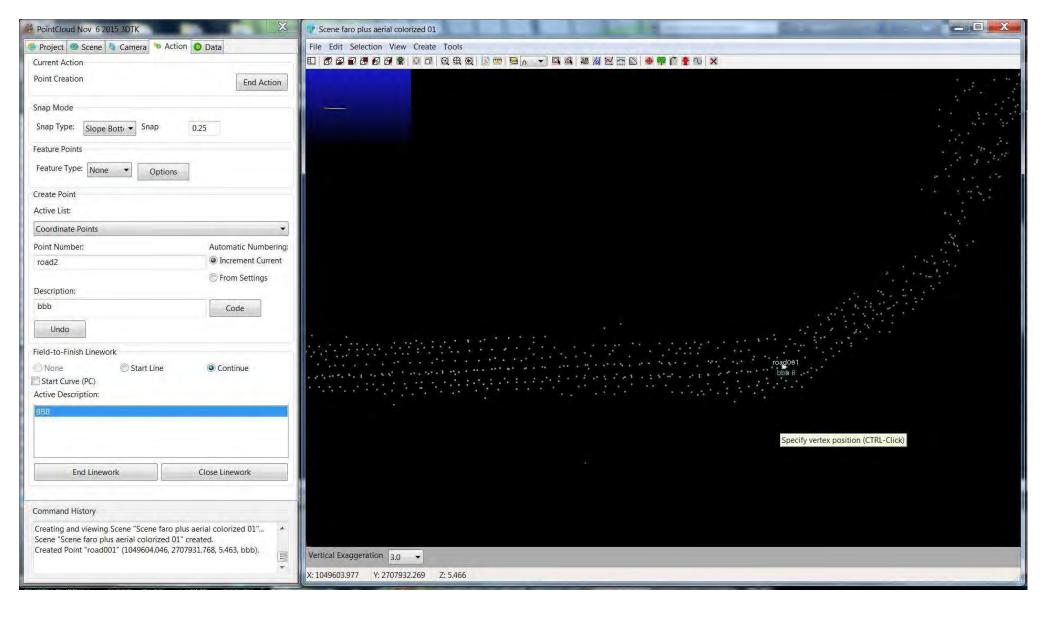
Exaggeration and viewing from the right angle helps to identify the Bottom of the Bituminous Berm (Yes I saw it in a panoramic and no I am not sharing the panoramic with you, sorry.)



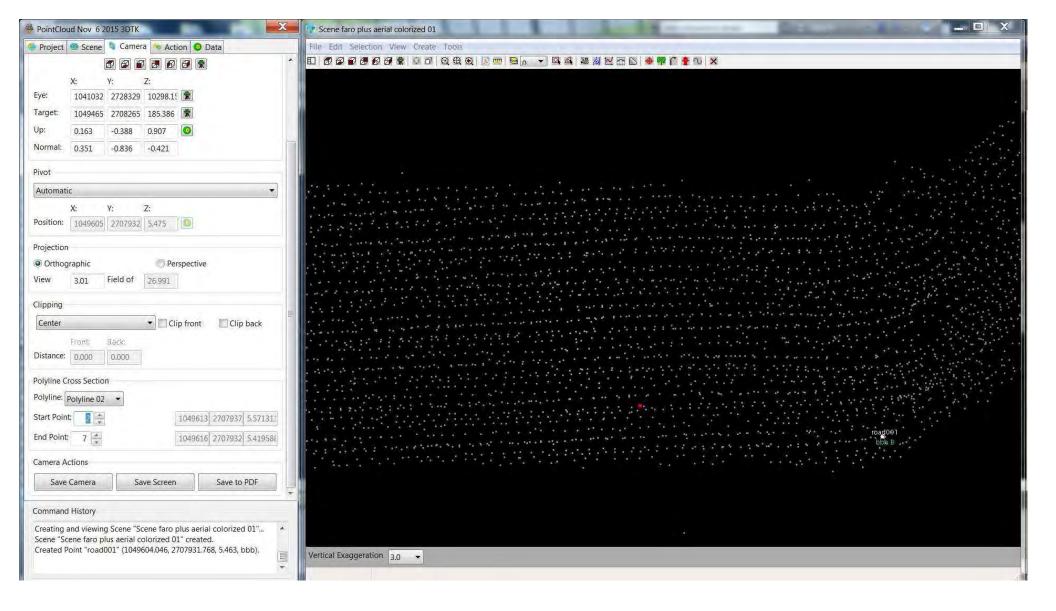
ACTION → POINT

We have some options of where to place a point. Cloud, Low, High, Low Edge, High Edge, Slope Bottom, Slope Top, Average Point, End Point, Mid Point, Node, Nearest

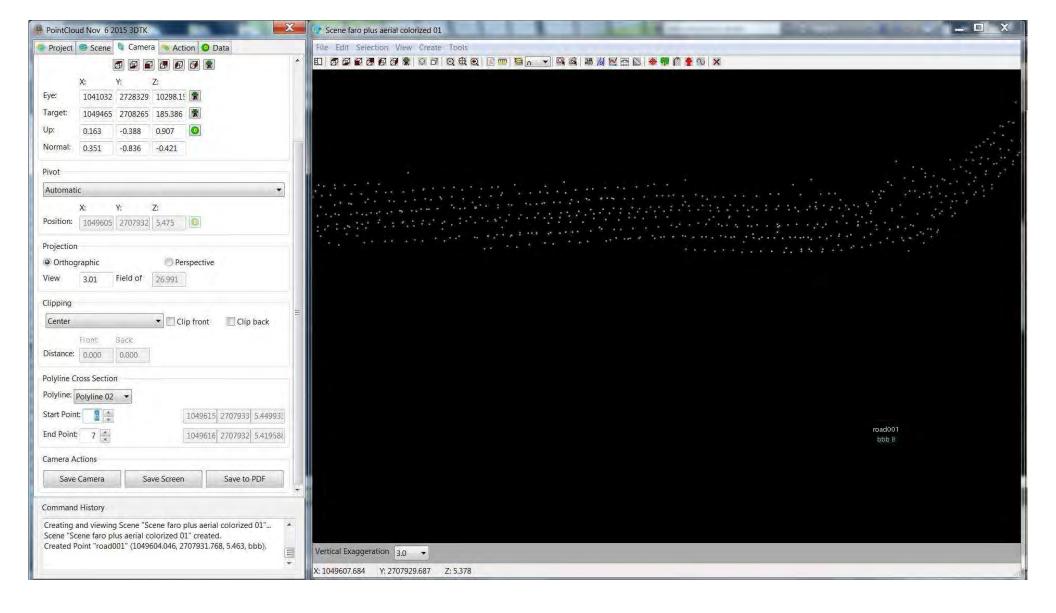
Each option has some options as well.



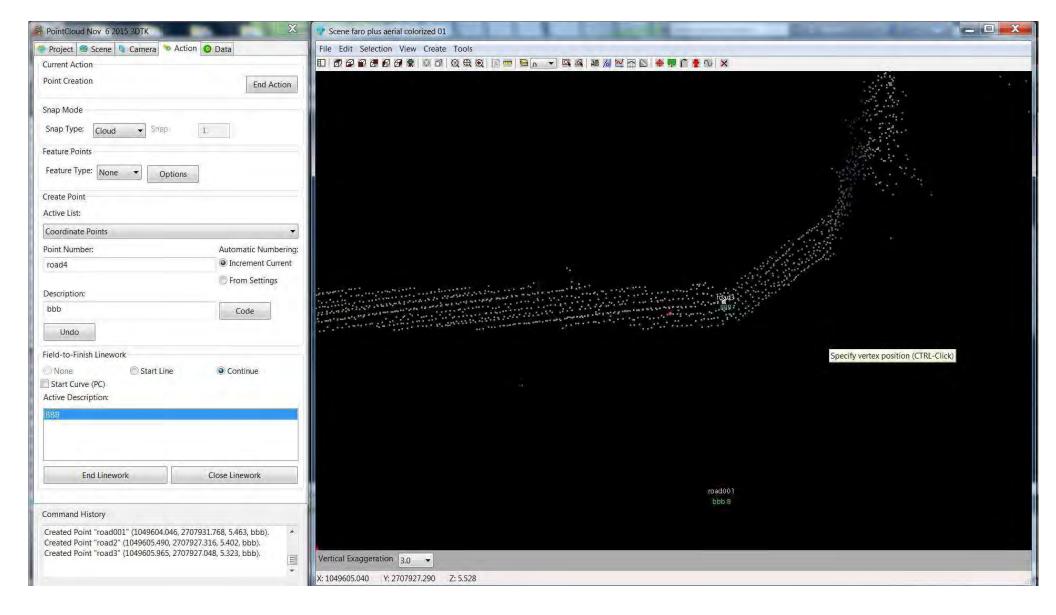
Using Slope Bottom with a snap radius of 0.25, a point can be placed at the Bottom of the Bituminous Berm (BBB).



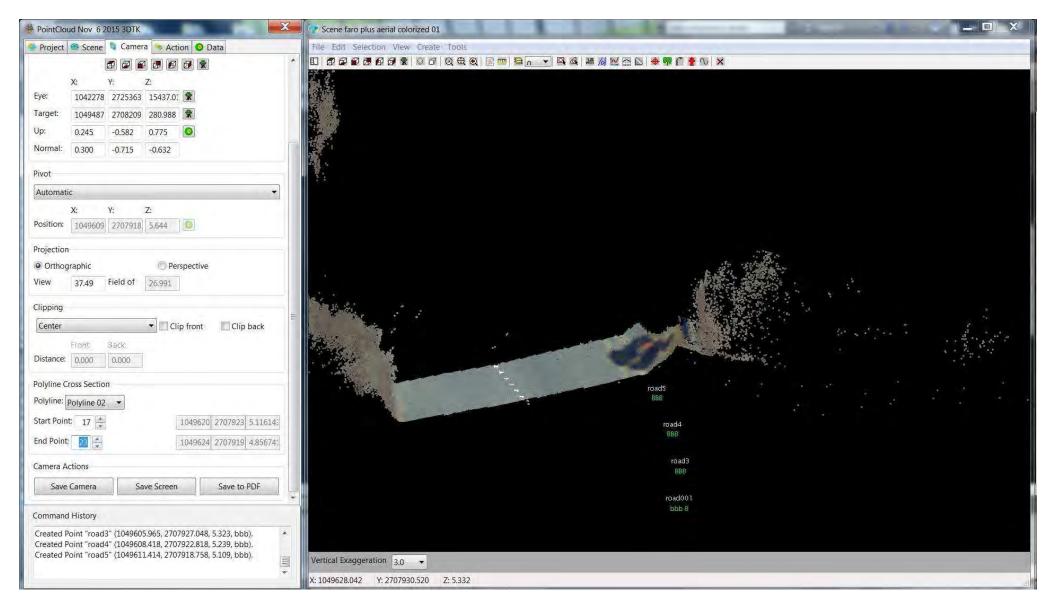
This is a new tool and is still a bit cumbersome. We have to advance segment by segment. They are working on streamlining this and they plan to include it in the next release. They will share Beta Versions if you ask the right people. This is ahead 5'.



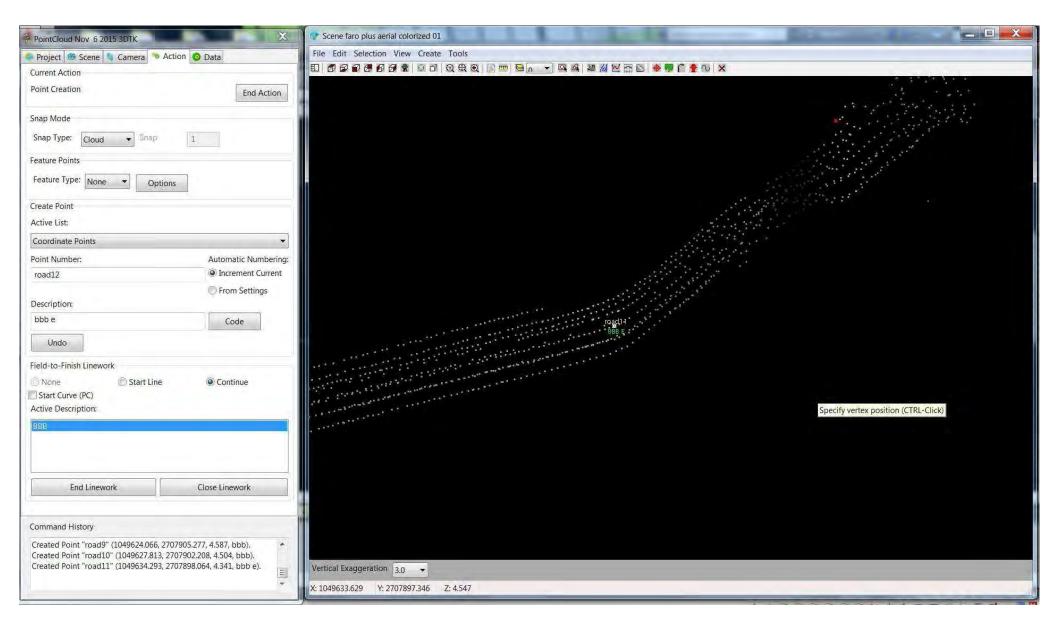
And we make the back catch up so we are viewing a 1' wide slice.



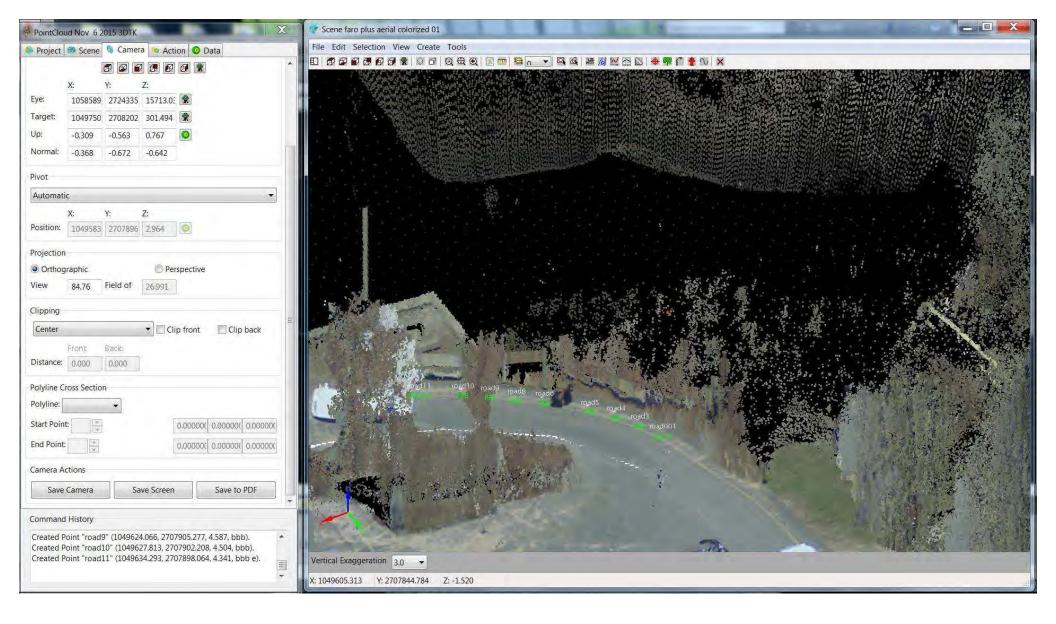
Now we can add the next point. Note, the section only controls the cloud, so we can still see the old point.



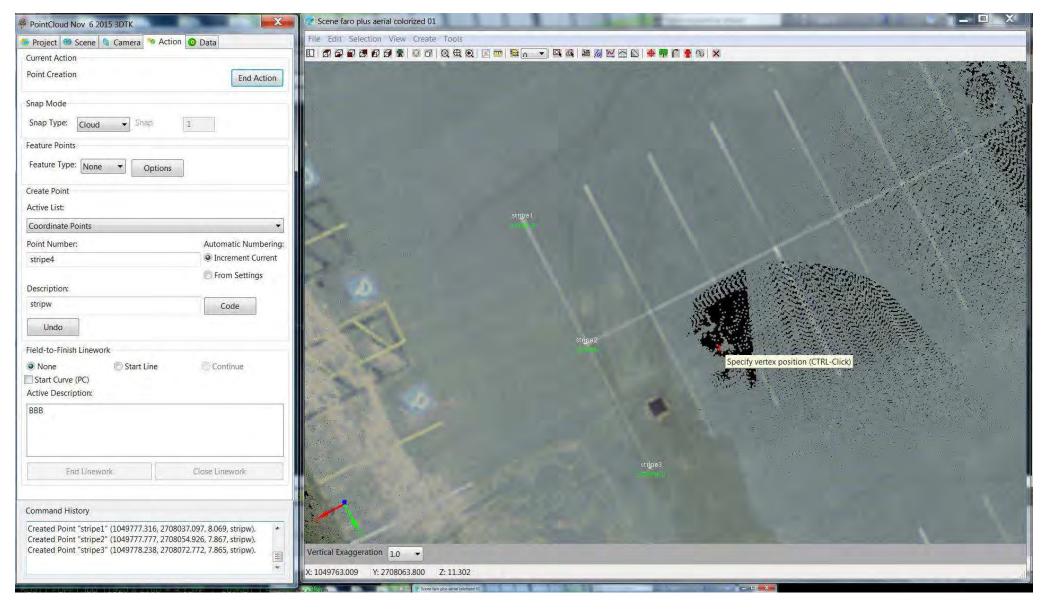
We can chug along our polyline and make our Virtual Survey.



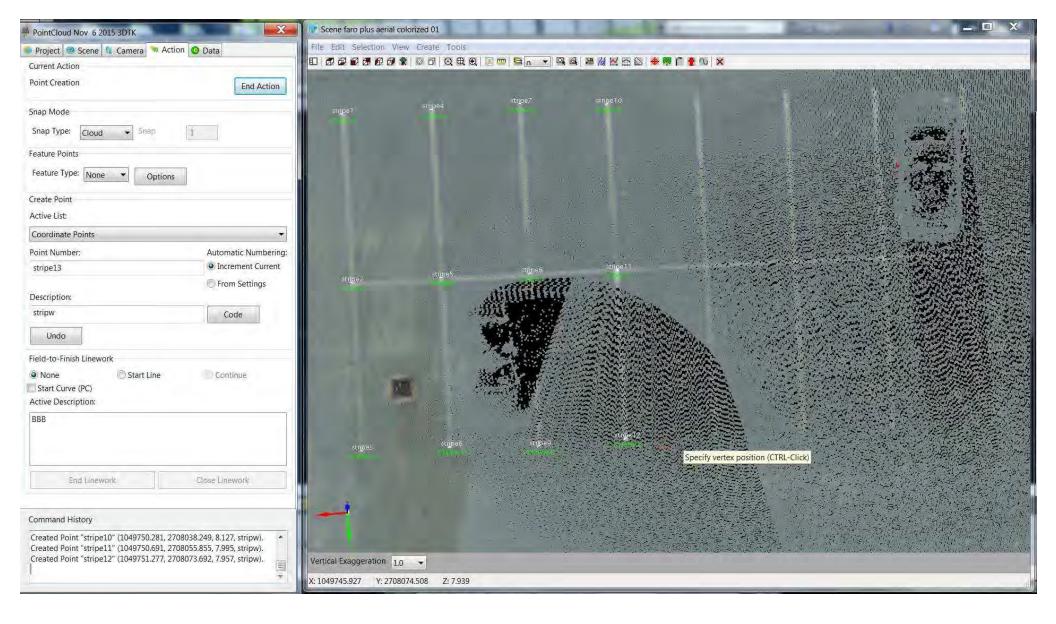
Ever forget to add the End Line code? We don't worry, we just press the End Linework button.



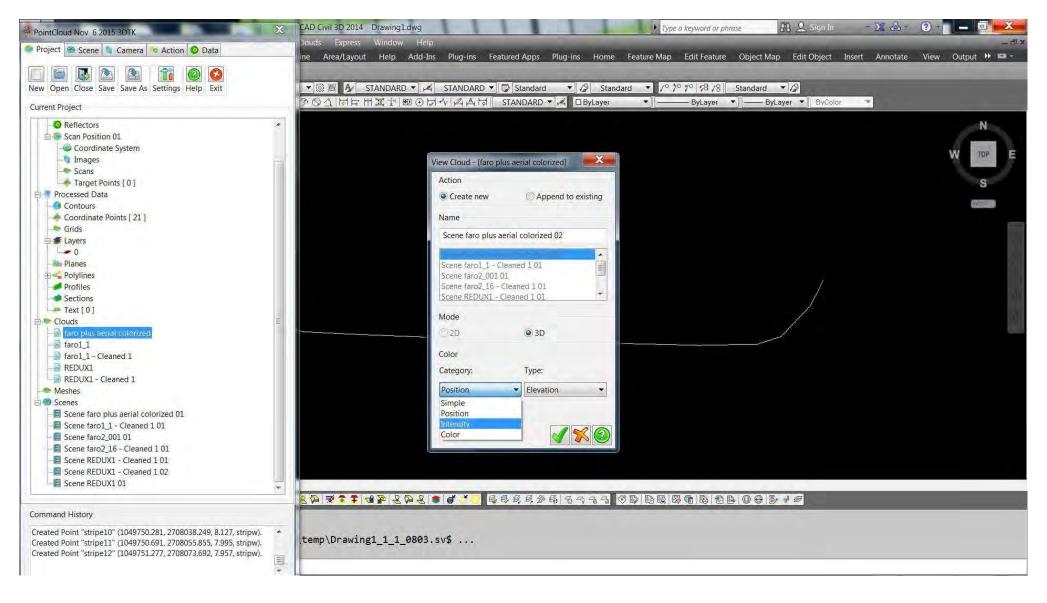
Maneuvering and checking is important. It is very easy to click on a rogue point.



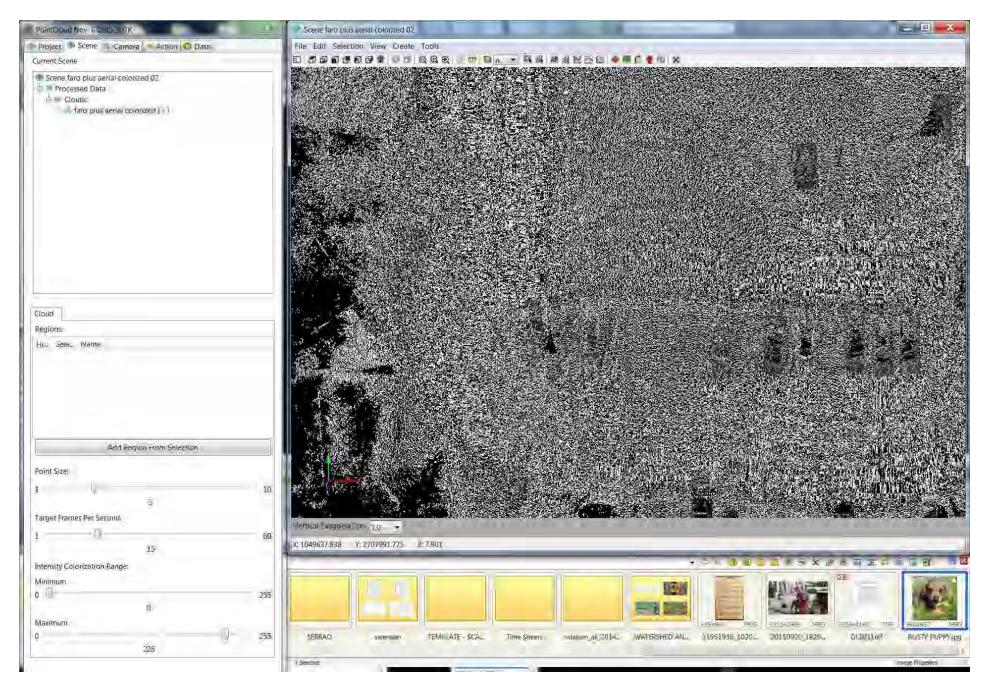
You can extract points based on the imagery. Yeah, you can do that in CAD too.



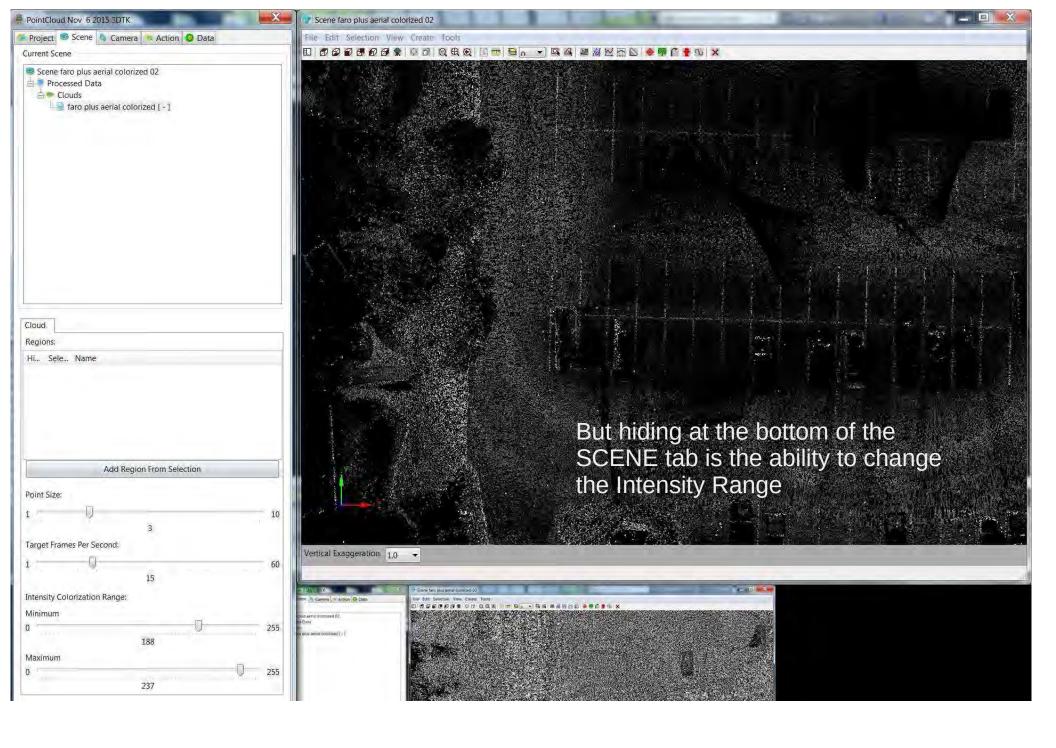
You can also forget that you changes the code STRIPW when you transitioned into Point Cloud... and how good was that imagery?

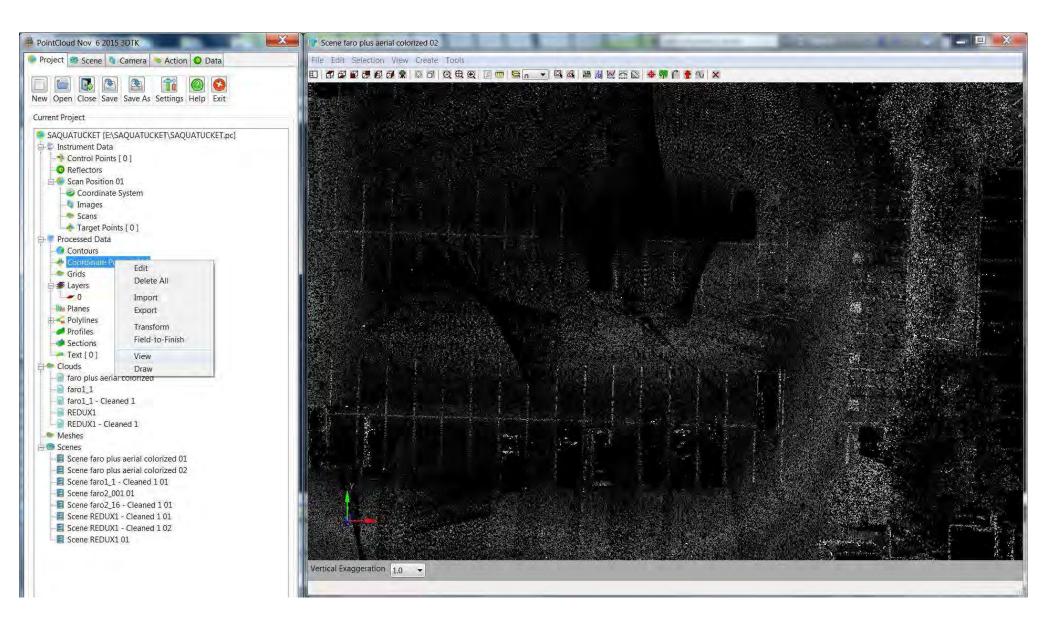


Some viewers will let you change the flavor of the cloud on the fly. Carlson is not geared that way.

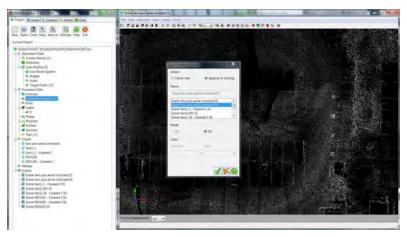


The initial intensity view is overwhelming. Yes this does look like static.

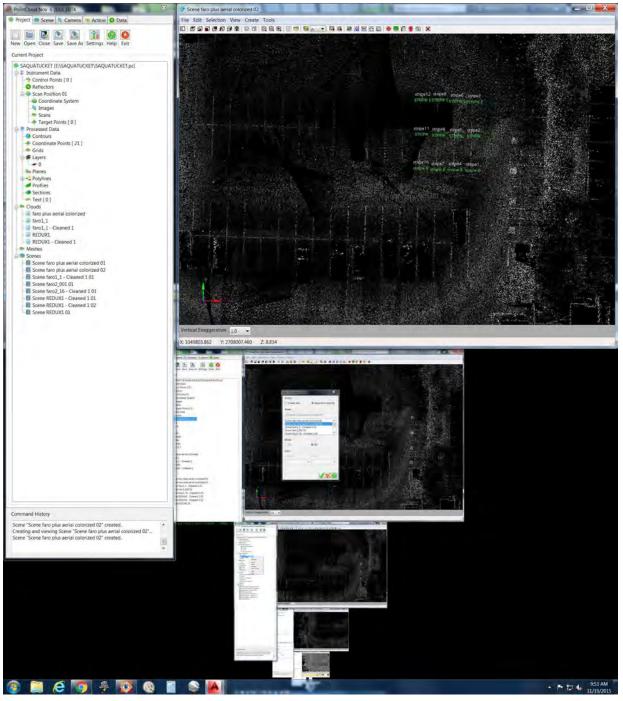


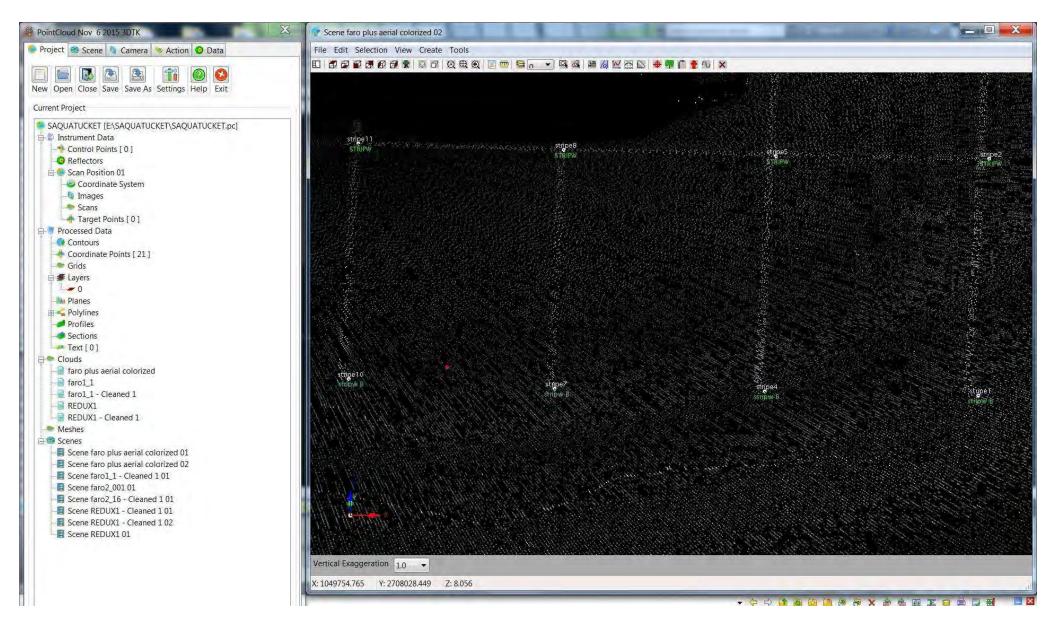


Now we can see the locations of the stripes.

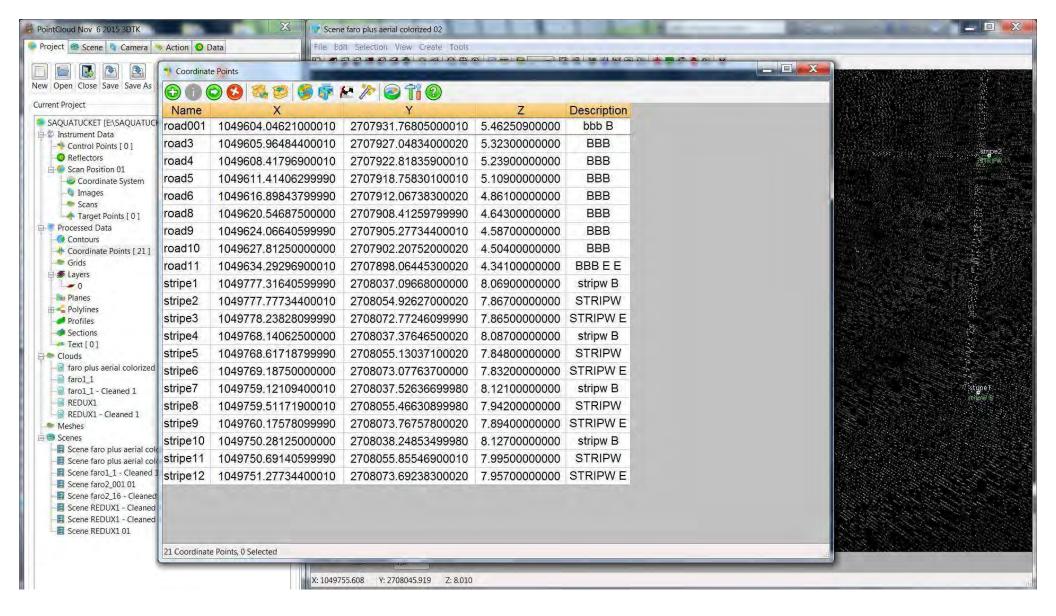


Because it is a new Scene, we do not have the same objects like those Points. We can bring them into this scene.

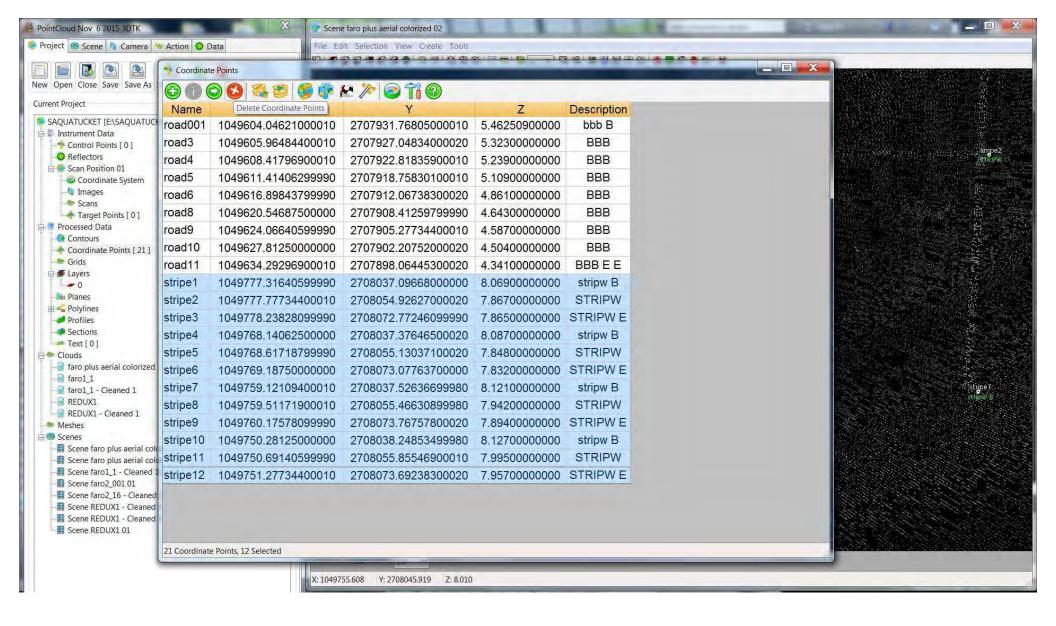




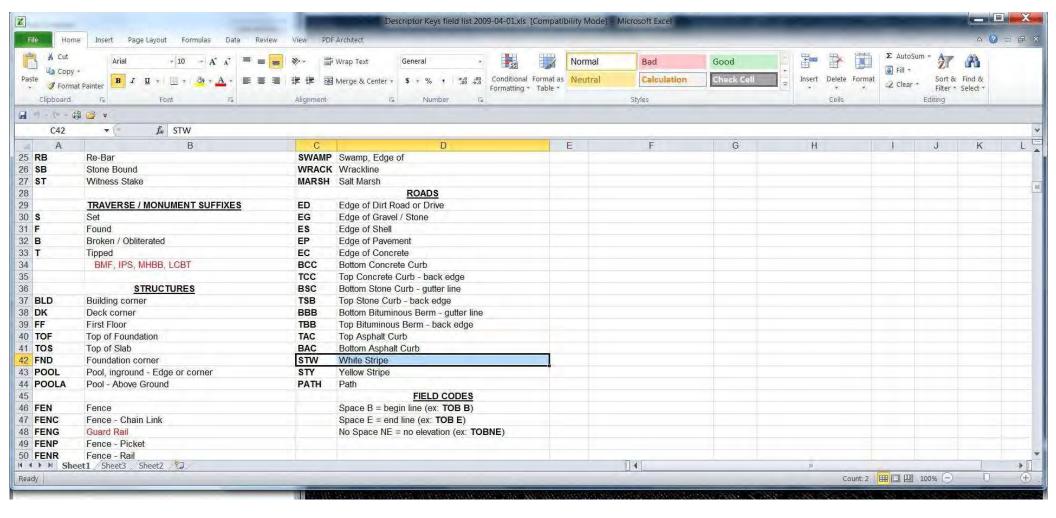
Those aerials are pretty close. Not perfect, just pretty close.



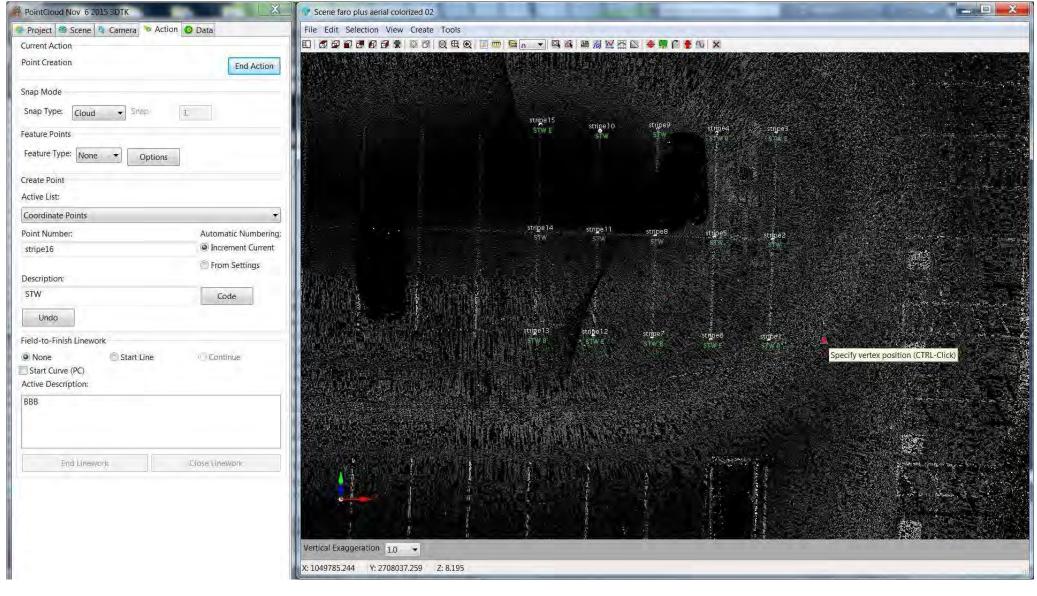
Back to the Processed Data section: We can review and edits the points.



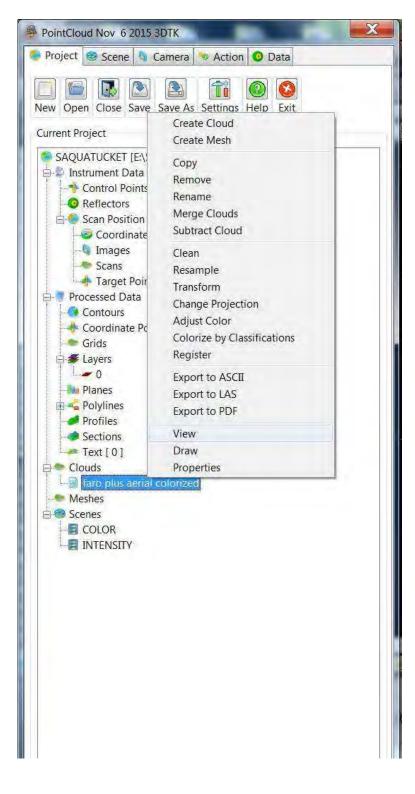
We could add points from elsewhere and we can delete points from this list.



Have your Field Codes on hand. STRIPW from my 2009 list became STW in my 2014 list... It is so obvious. We are revising our list to be as minimal as possible to speed up the extractions.



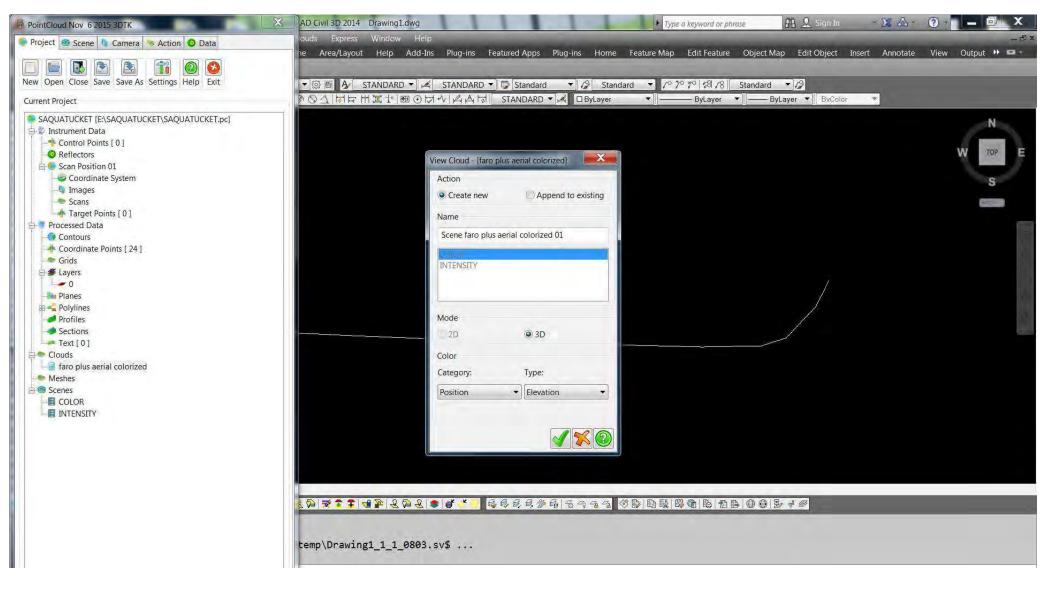
Stripes are easy. We can select the end of each stripe. We can quickly add the B and E (+7/-7) codes. We can extract all the parking spaces in a relatively short amount of time.



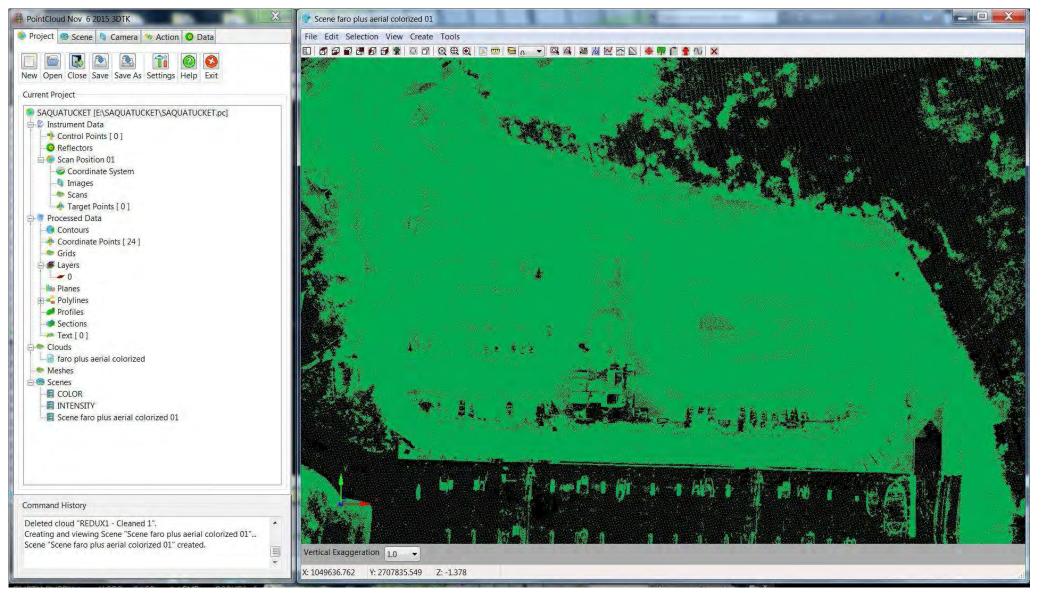
The project can get very confusing. There are automatic cloud naming conventions that are found in the settings. Even then, there can be quite a bit of unnecessary or confusing lists of clouds.

So, I find it important to clean the project several times throughout the day. Rename the Clouds, Scenes, Polylines and otherwise.

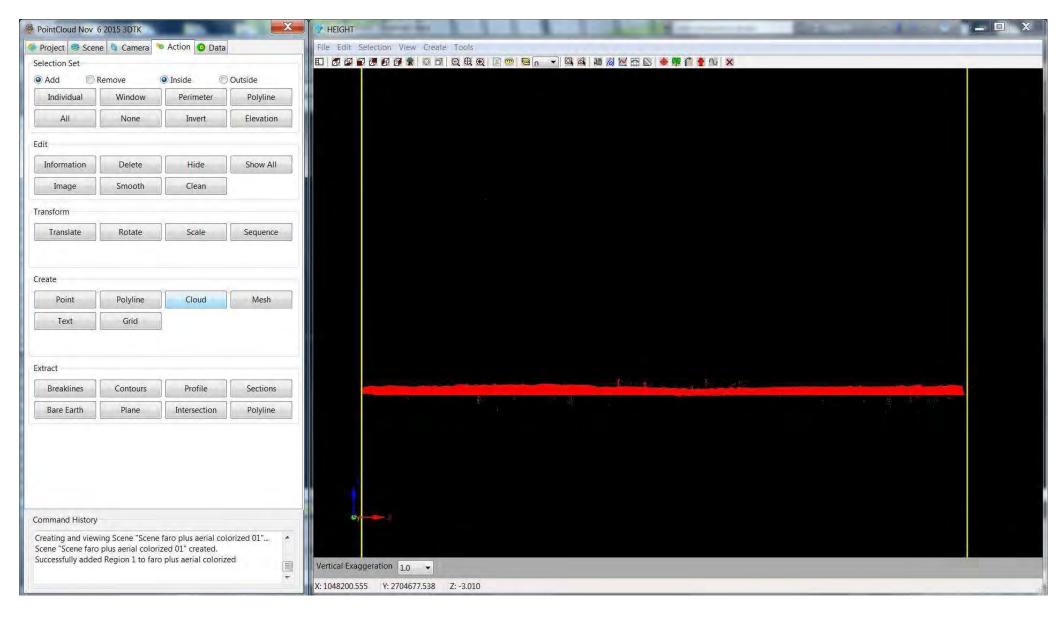
Imagine yourself opening the project in the future.



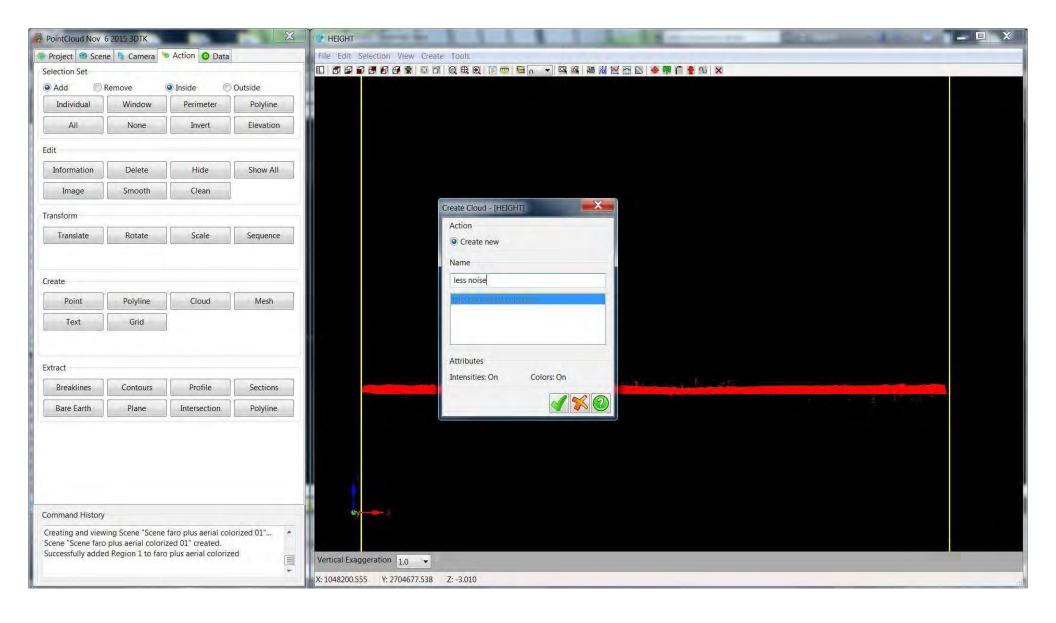
Create scenes to use later – COLOR, INTENSITY, HEIGHT of the whole cloud are rather simple names for clouds you may return to over and over again.



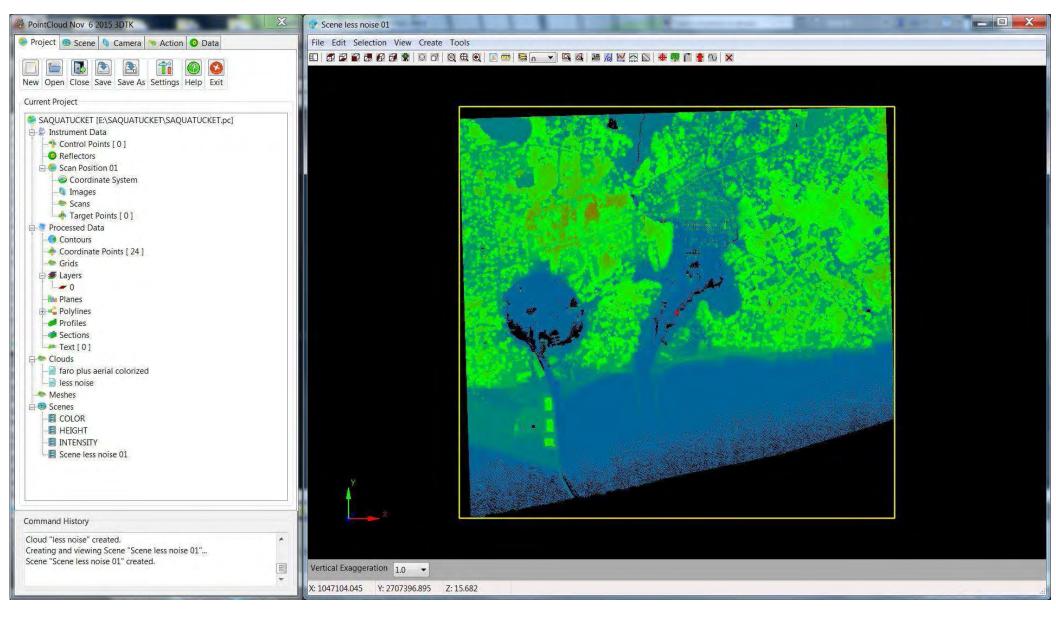
Cloud by height will soon have better controls for the elevation change for the colorization. This cloud has a bunch of Noise and the color banding is stretched from the low to the high points...



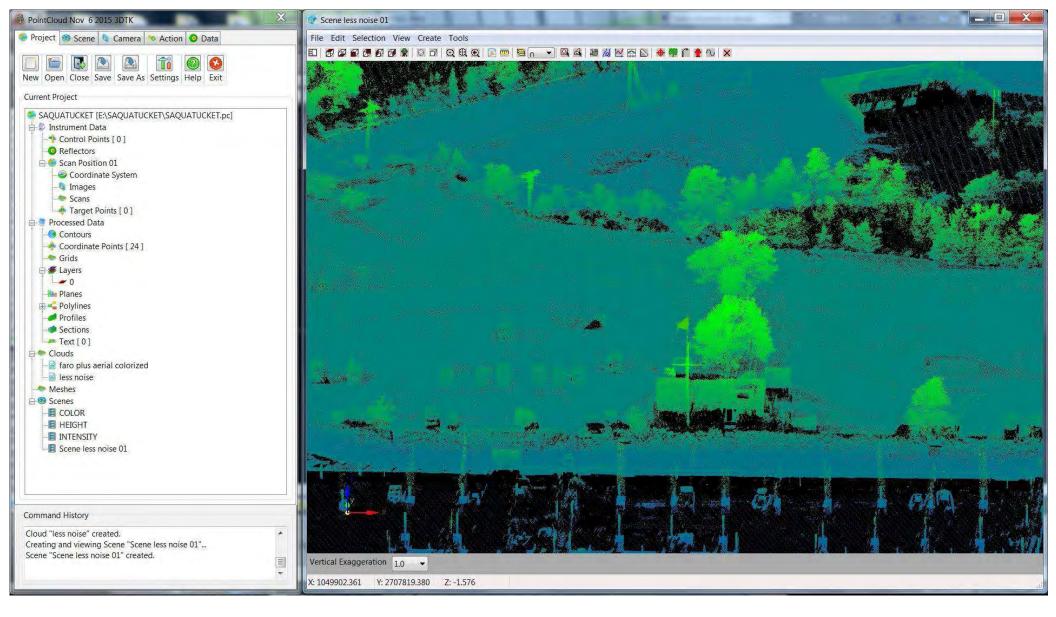
This is the same cloud viewed from a side. Someone with good eyes may pick out some points above and below the cloud (Noise). The points in red are the bulk of the cloud.



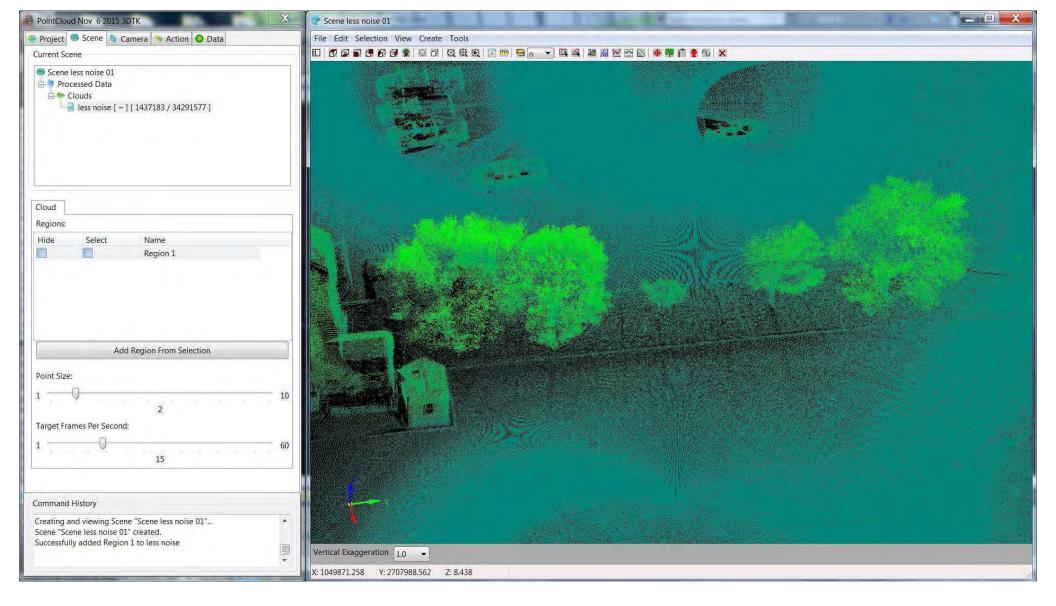
So we make a new cloud to eliminate the noise. Keep track of these extra clouds for when you perform your project clean up.



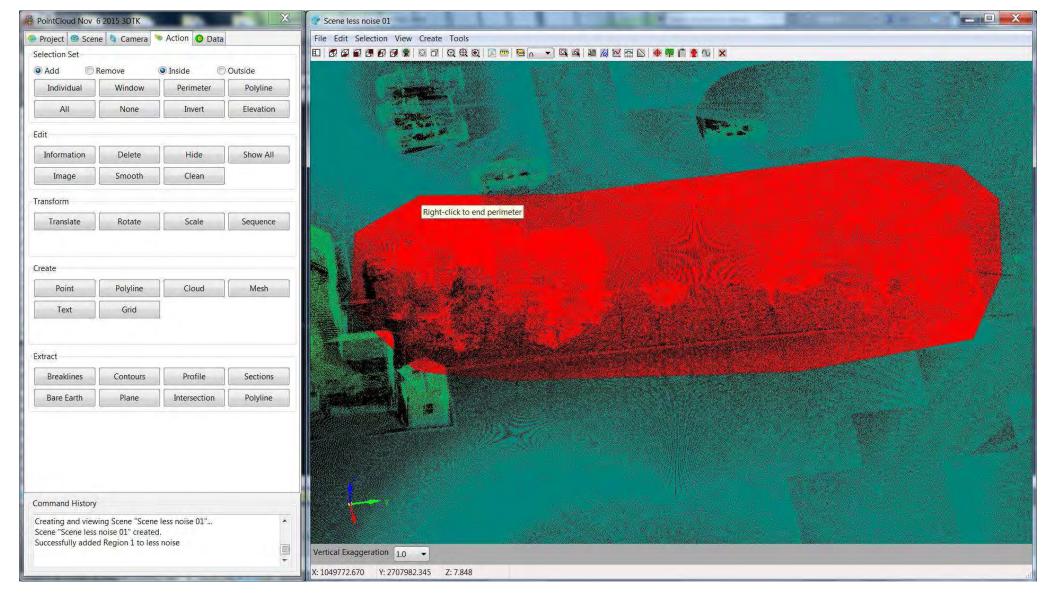
Now when we create a SCENE based on height we can see some colorization. This will get better.



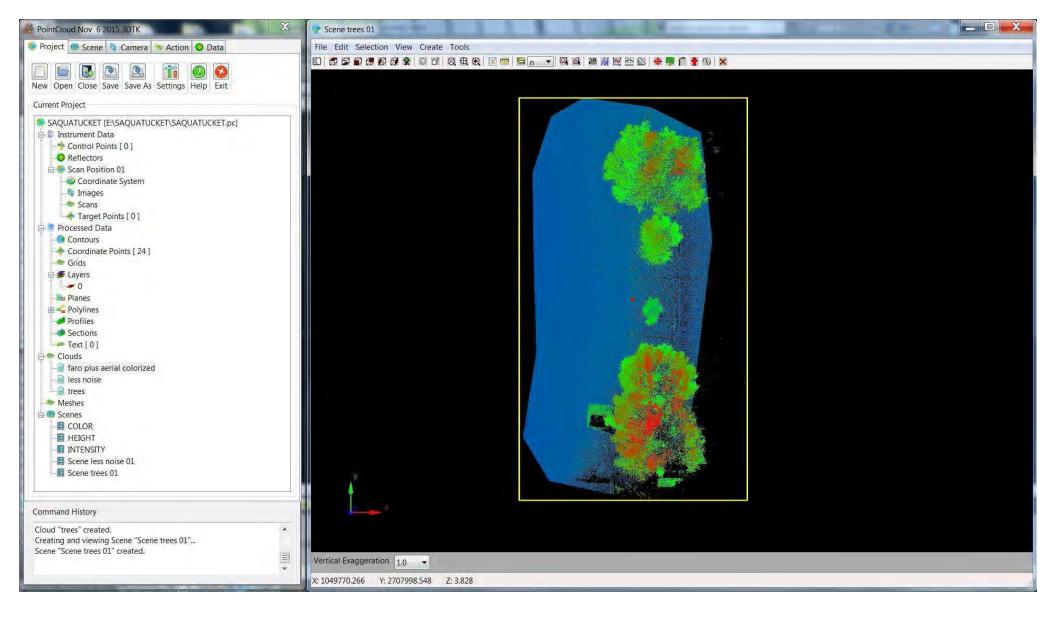
The trees are green, the parked cars show up.



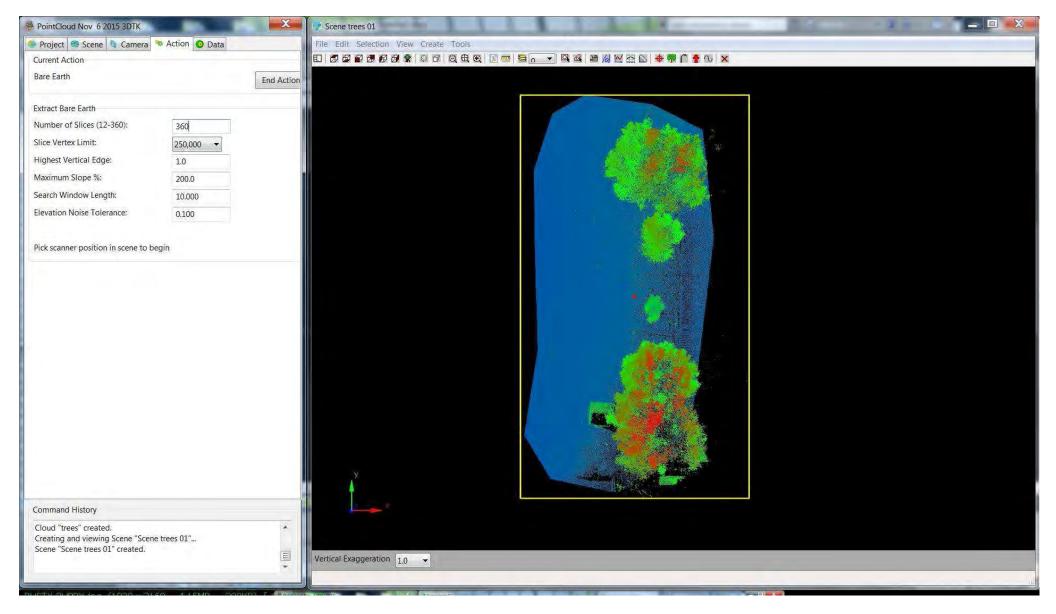
I want to extract some trees. We can see them, so let's get them.



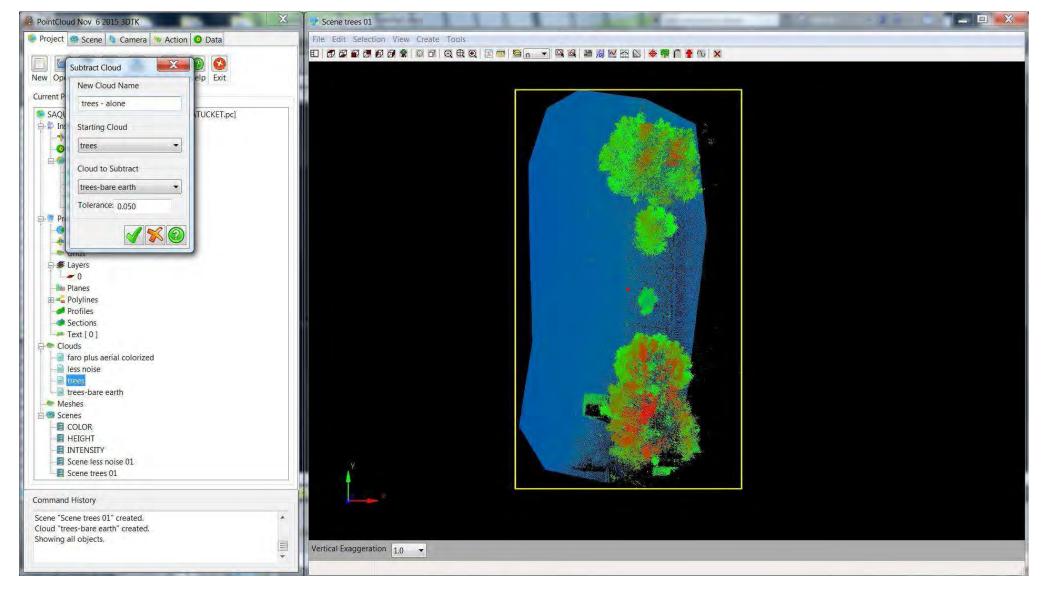
We can make the project messy again by selecting the area and extracting a little cloud. Little clouds are faster and easier with the tree extraction.



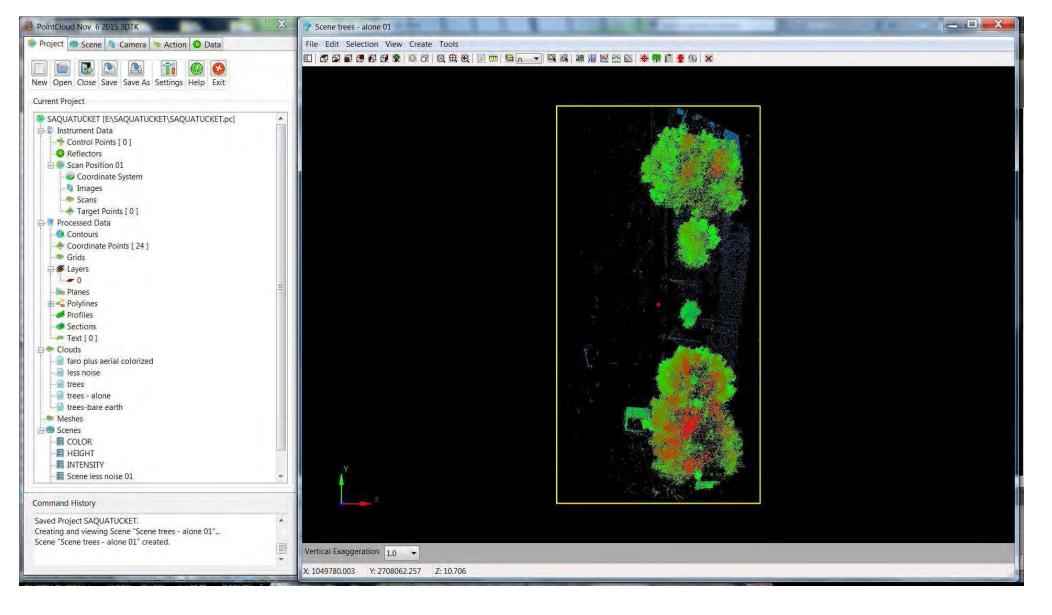
The new cloud has less noise and less range, the height view is even better.



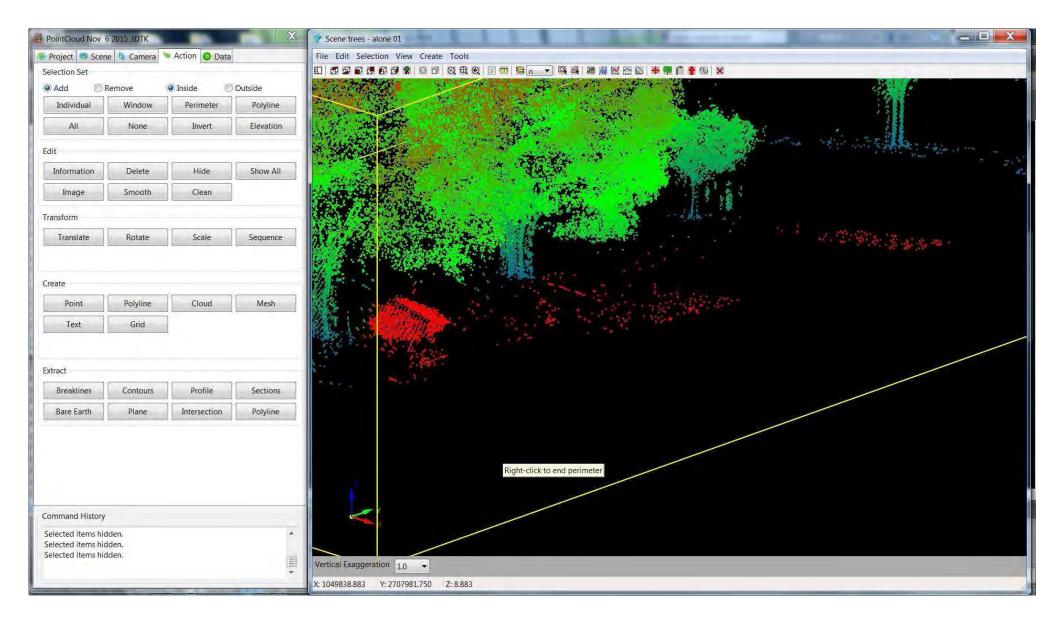
We can use the Bare Earth function to create a new cloud with the Ground. This function is based on some variables...



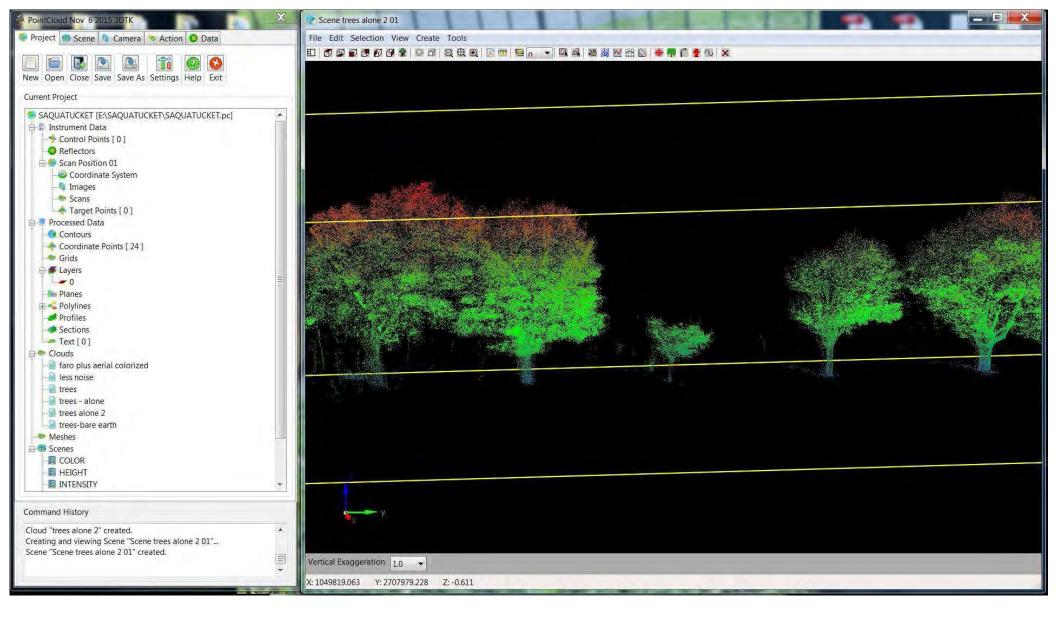
Here is another function I requested: SUBTRACT cloud. Carlson had MERGE CLOUDS for a while to put many into one, but what if you want to remove something? What if you cleaned all the trees and made little clouds for each? Then you could create something closer to Bare Earth by merging the trees into one cloud and subtracting that cloud from the big cloud.



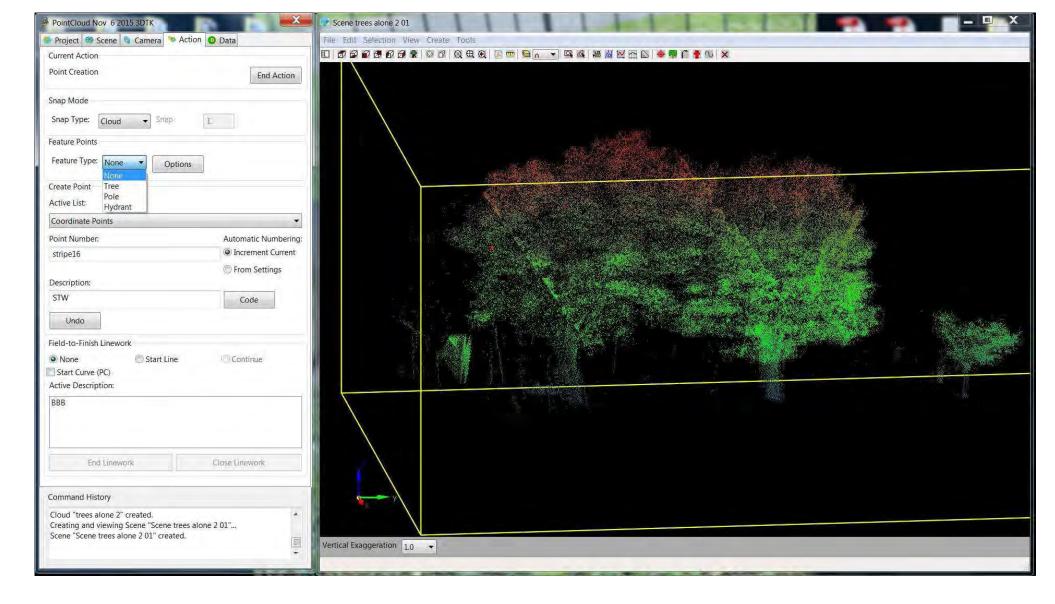
Not too bad, but we still have some points on or near the ground. We can select those and hide them, then select the visible and create a new cloud.



We can look from any angle, so we can grab points under the trees.

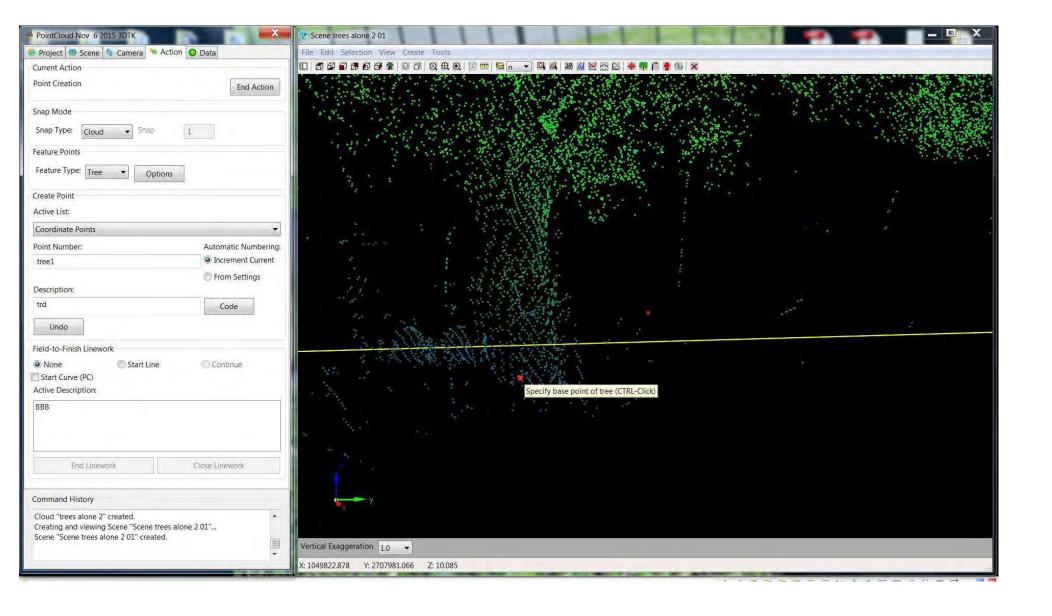


We now have a pretty clean cloud. We could do more to reduce the rogue points, but this is good enough for some tree extractions.

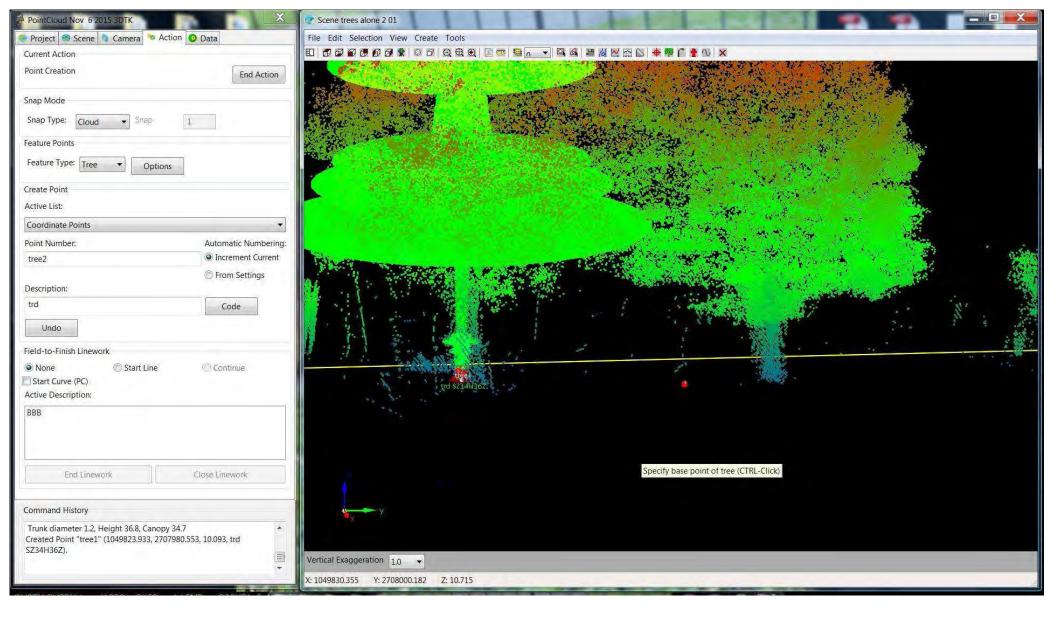


ACTION->POINTS

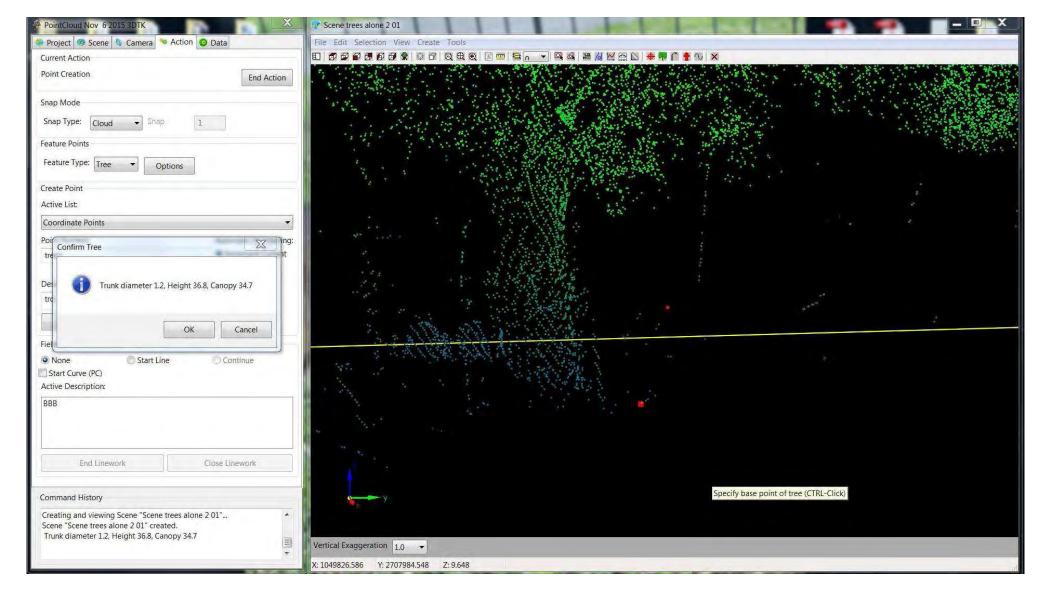
There are some Feature Types: Poles, Hydrants and Trees. We expect more in the future like Signs and I hope for Cars. Why Cars? Because if I can make little clouds from cars, I could subtract those from my main cloud.



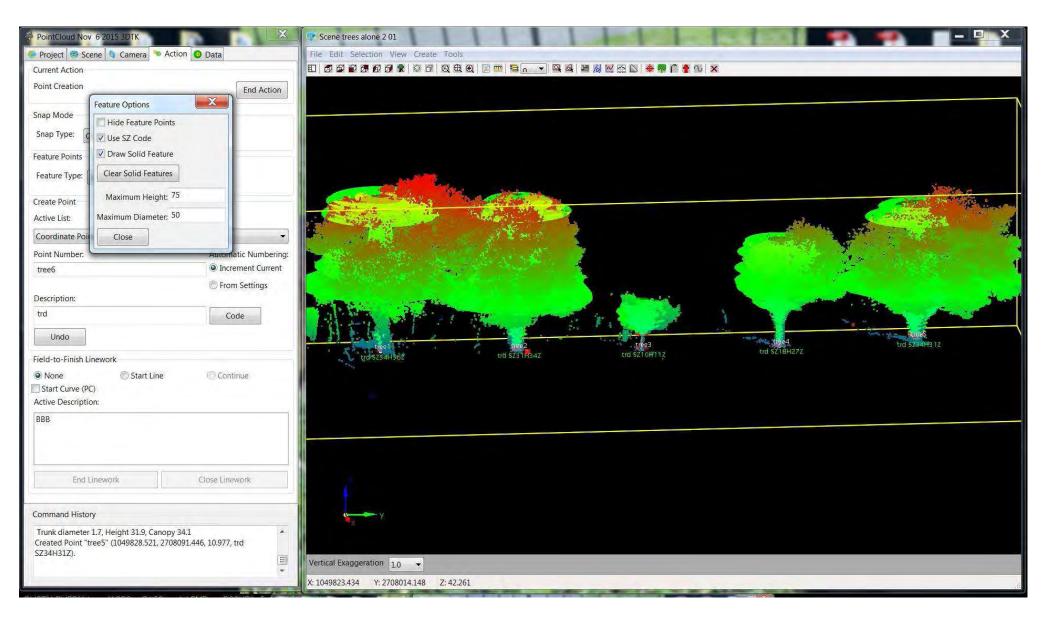
We use CTRL + LEFT CLICK to select a point or perform an action.



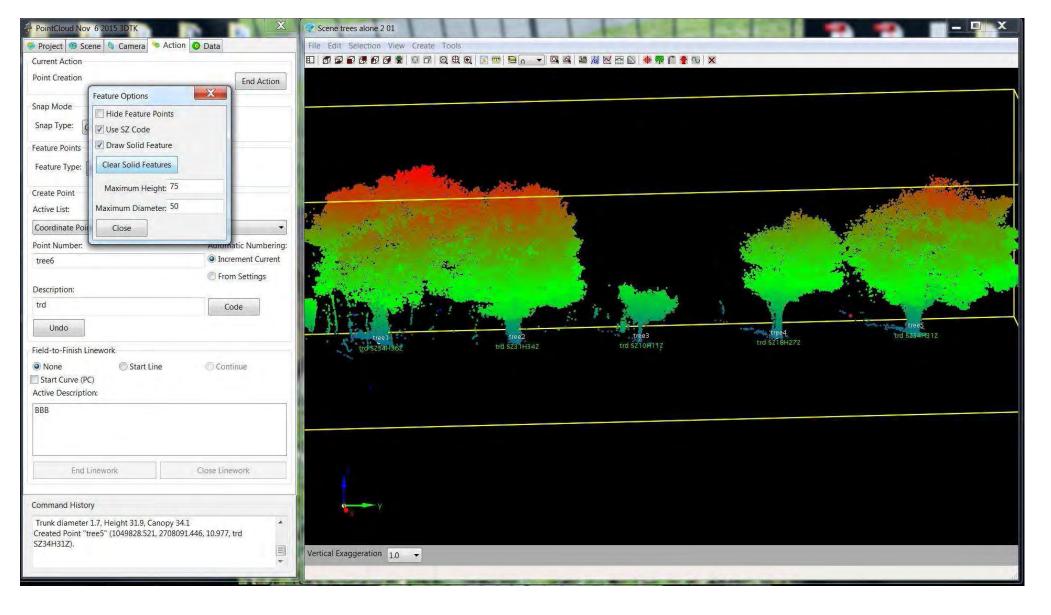
Huh, what is that? The program determines a Trunk Diameter, Height and Canopy of the Tree. Then it adds a weird solid feature based on those numbers.



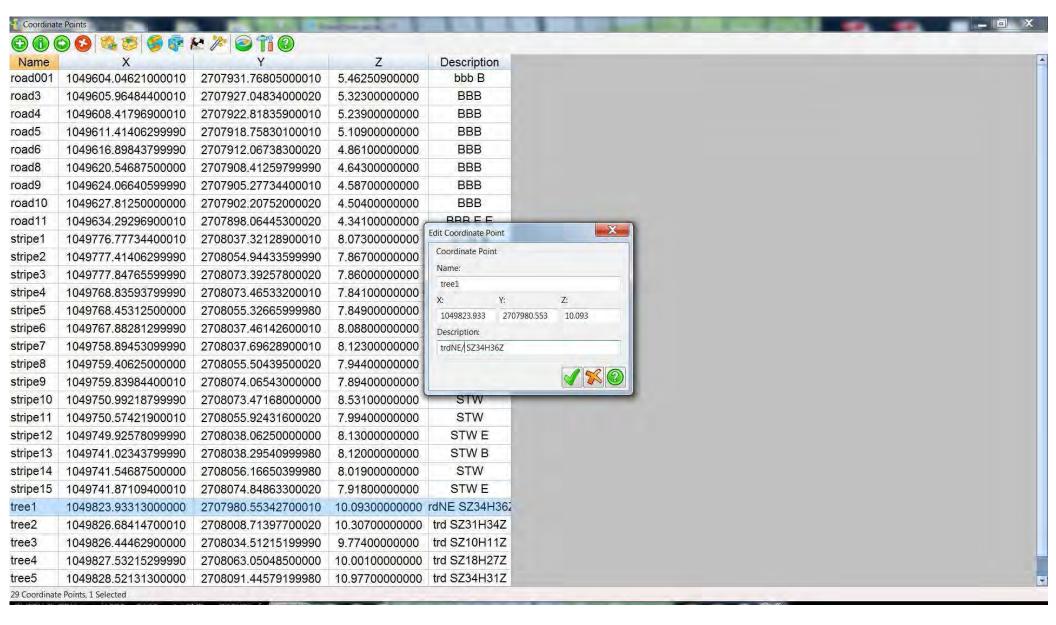
When you extract the tree, it pops up with the data. The descriptor can be aumented to include sizes.



This is why we spent a few moments cleaning out the cloud. We want the sampling to be quick and we want the program to avoid the confusion: Oh I thought that those points way over there were part of this tree.



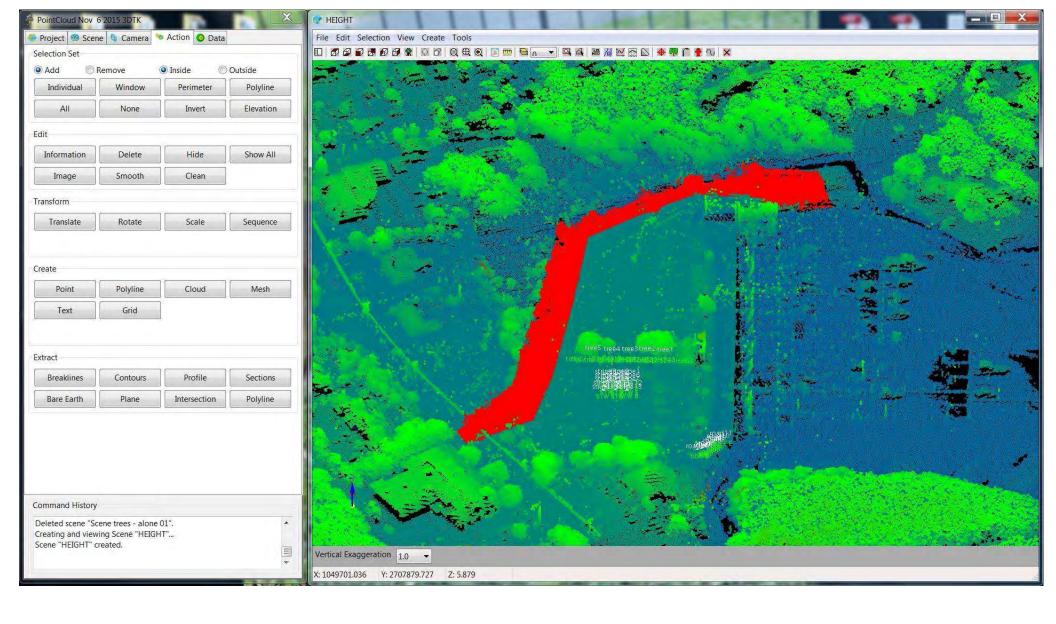
And poof! We can eliminate the weird solids. The points still show up.



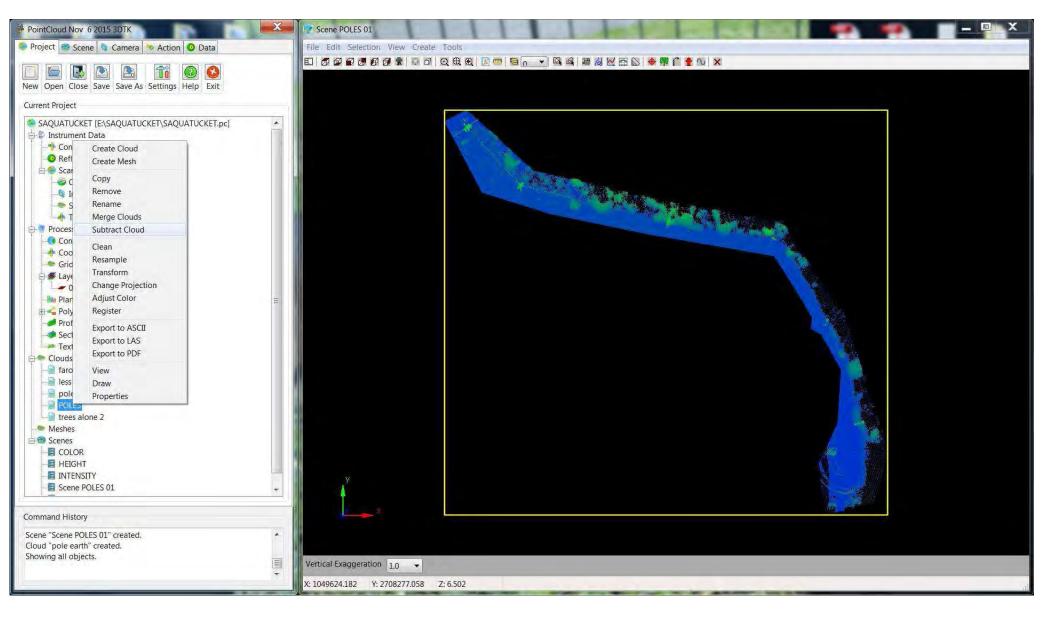
Your F2F codes can be augmented to eliminate points from surfaces. I doubled all my codes by adding an NE suffix, so TRD = Tree Deciduous topo point and TRDNE = Tree Deciduous non topo point. I send them to different layers so I can freeze the non topo points and create a surface.



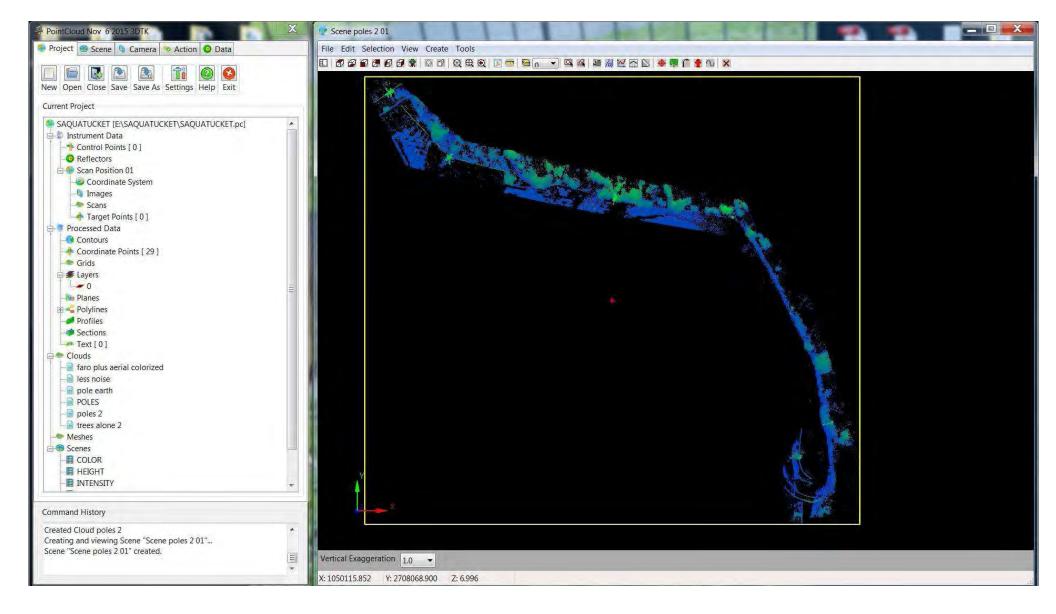
This is a good time to clean up the project. Eliminate the unnecessary clouds. Rename Clouds and Scenes you want to keep.



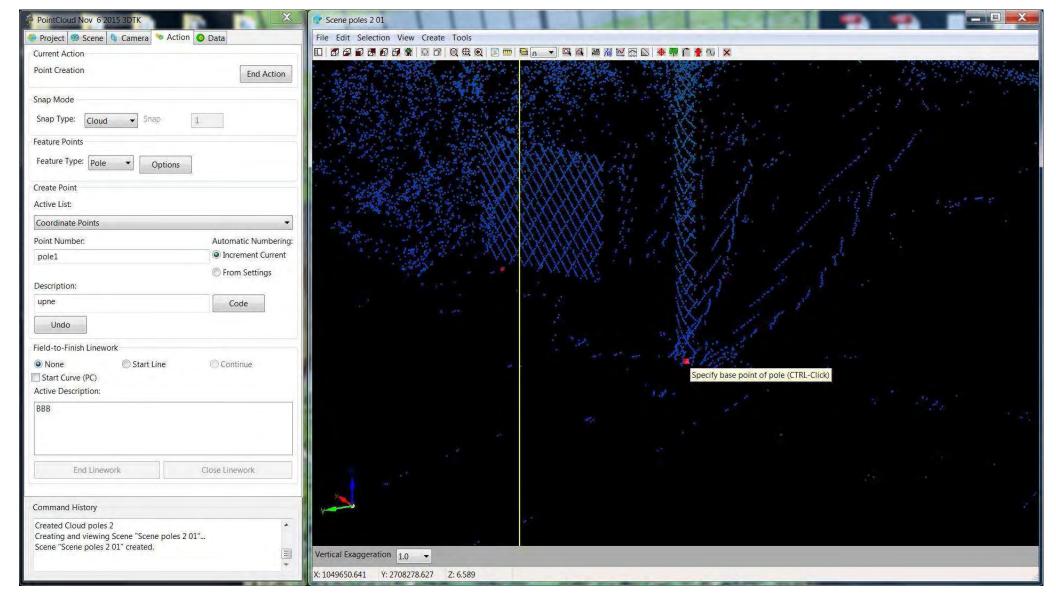
There are utility poles running in the red area. I selected an area that gets them all and some extra stuff.



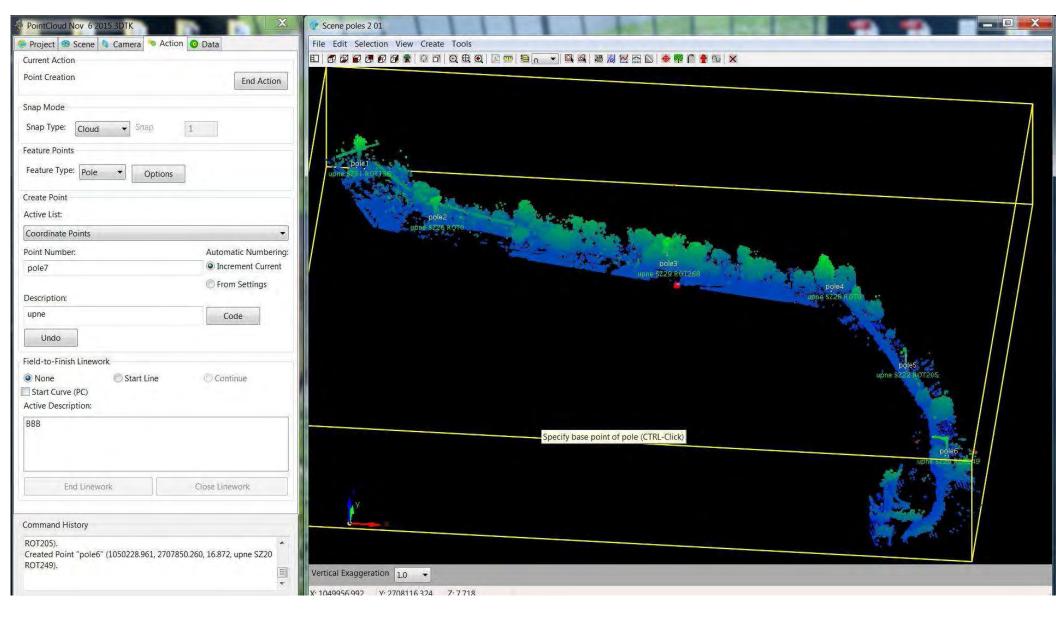
I can start a similar cloud cleaning frenzy.



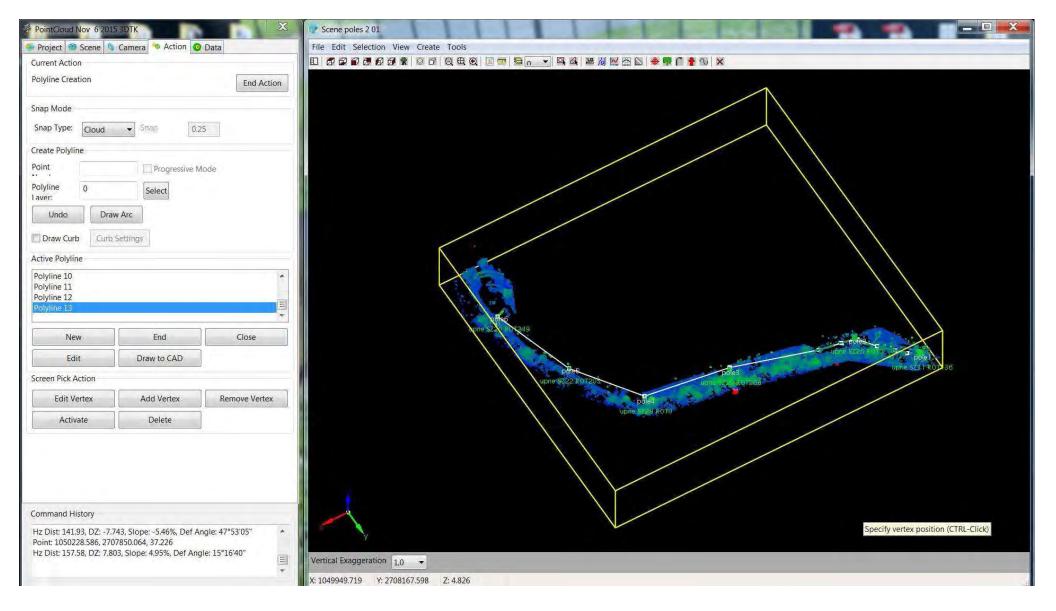
I extracted thre Bare Earth and subtracted it from the cloud.



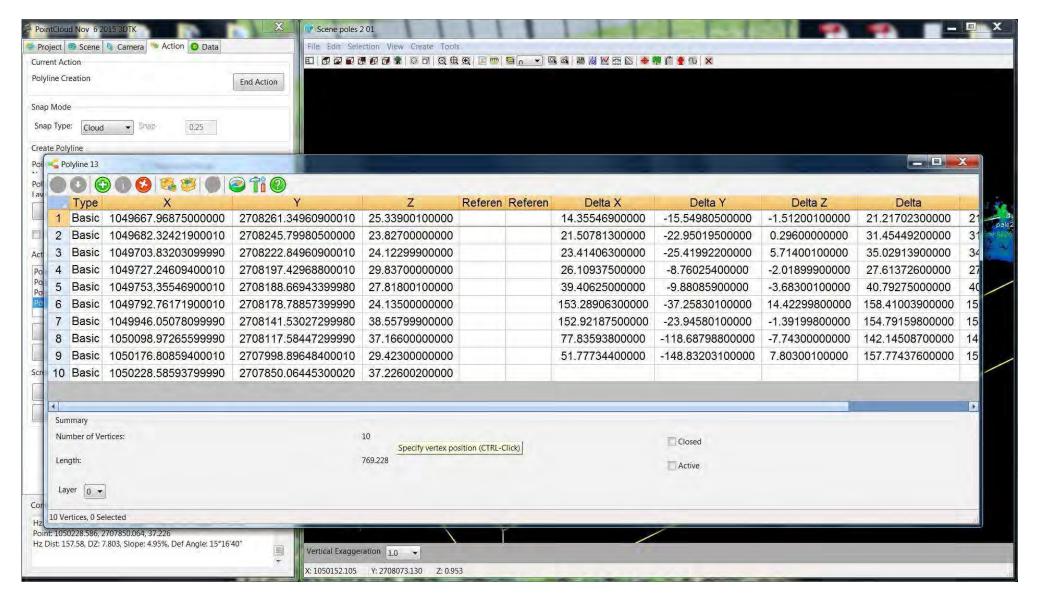
I have selected the Feature Type to be Pole and my code to be UPNE.



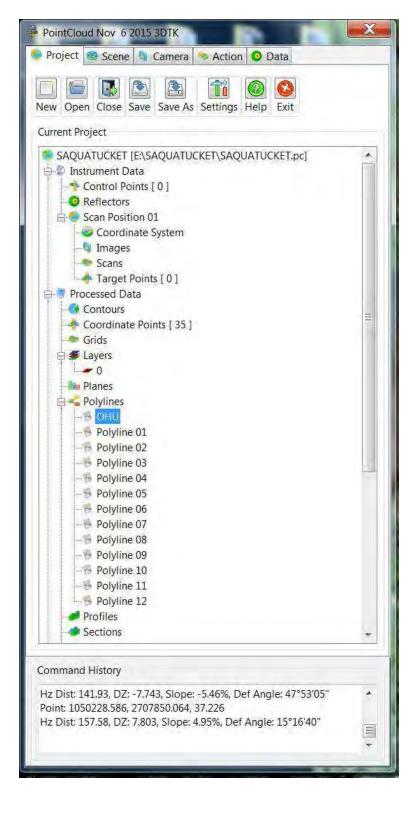
This feature creates some weird solids too. If nothing else, they let us see the poles pretty clearly.



I hastily onlyincluded the FARO data in this scan. After cleaning and with some noise and the aerials, we have 35 million points. As the Velodyne sees more of the sky, I would add that data to extract the overhead wires. For now, I used the bits of visible wire to figure out the line and added a Polyline.



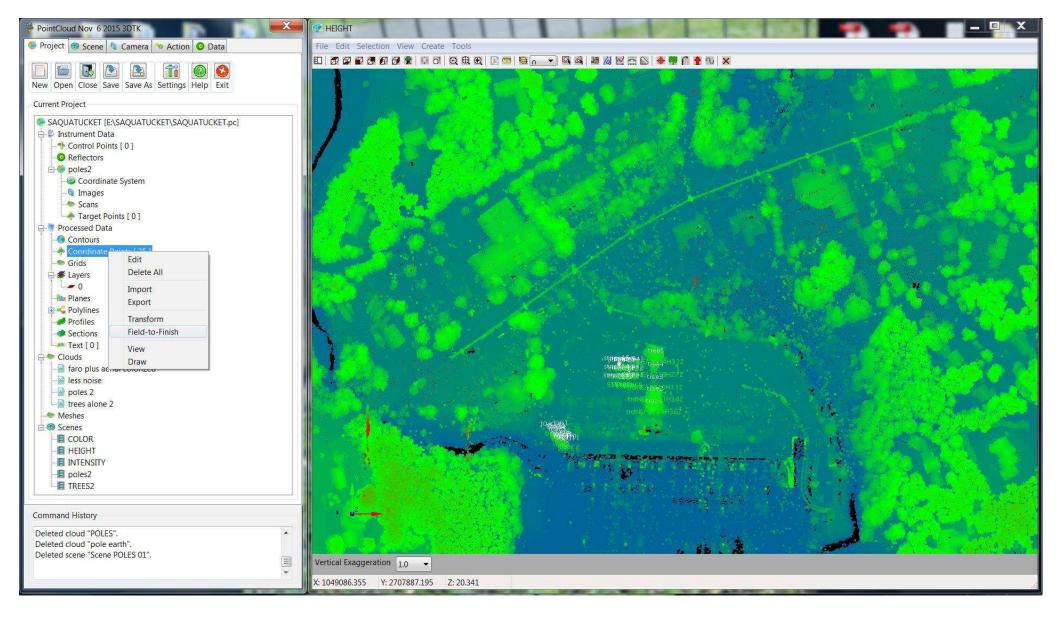
These are 3d polylines and you can get more data bout them than you ever wanted.



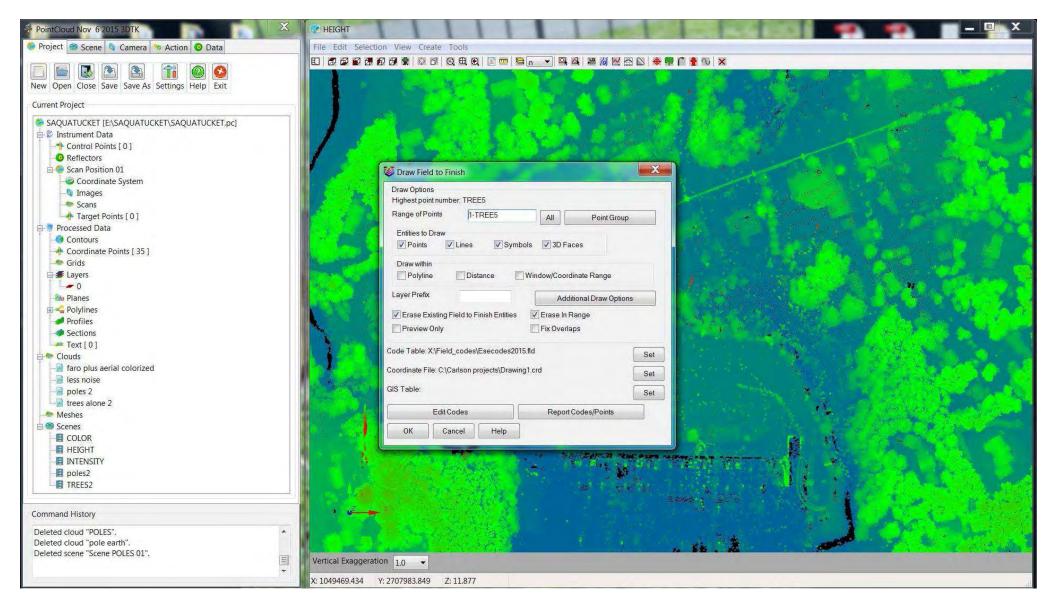
Housekeeping.

I renamed the wire polyline to OHU.

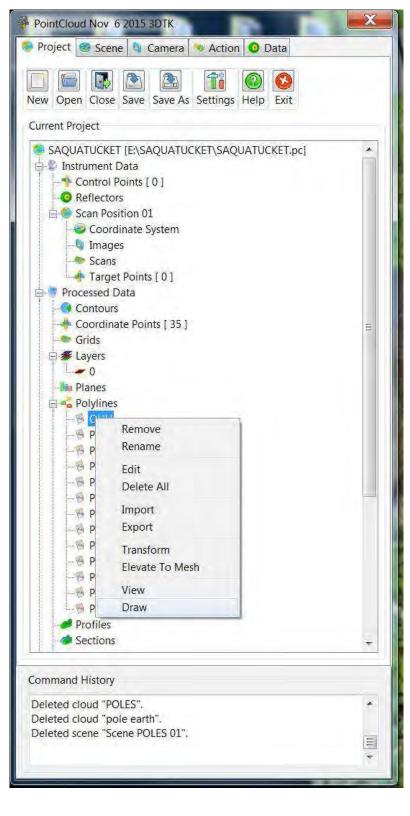
I have other polylines. I wonder what those are... One was a centerline. Some are remnants from the point creation. I could sort it out or remove them. Using my field codes means I do not need all these polylines.



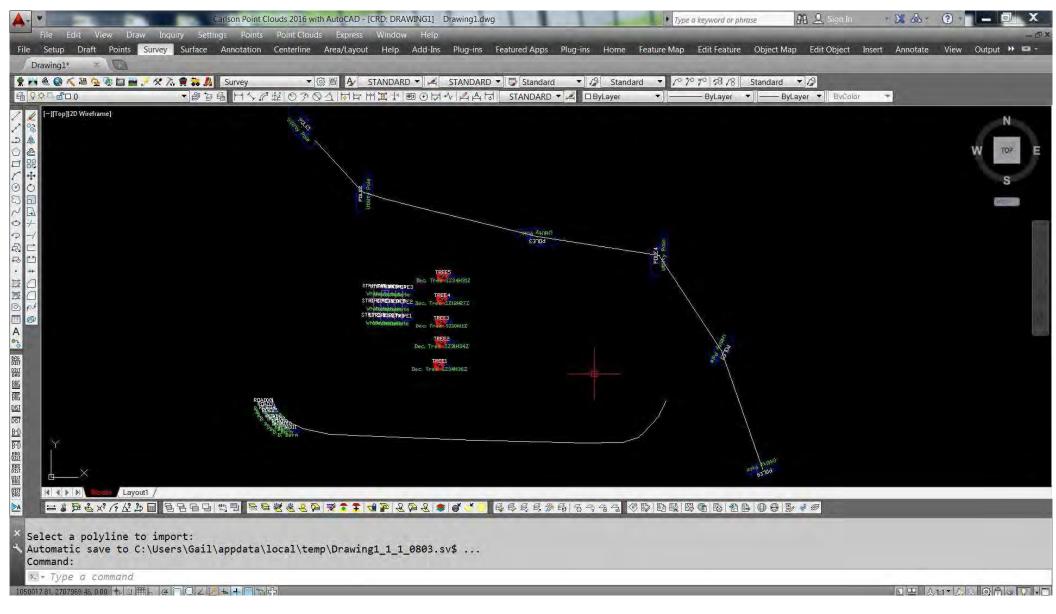
A Field to Finish option is right in the Manager. You can also export the points to edit them or just draw them in CAD.



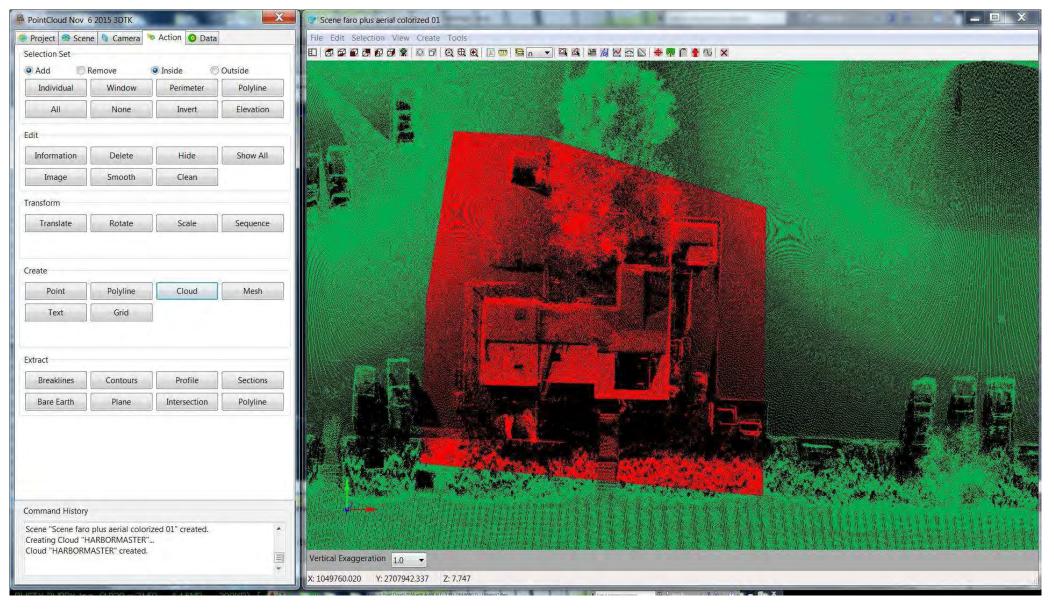
Alright! A familiar screen! (For the Carlson users in the group)



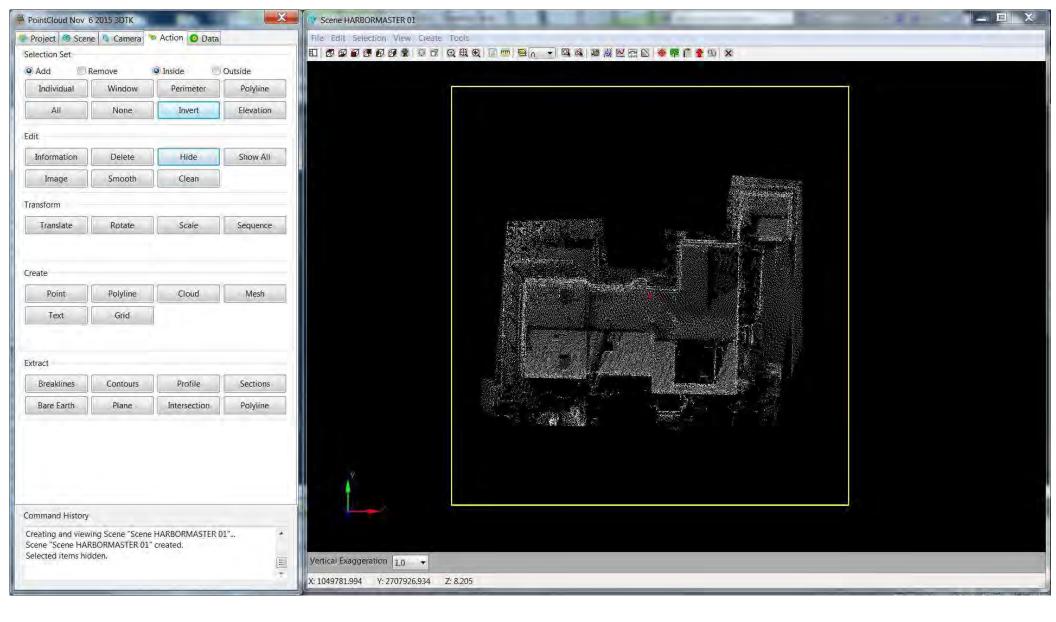
And if you were so bold as to draw polylines without points, you need to bring those into CAD as well.



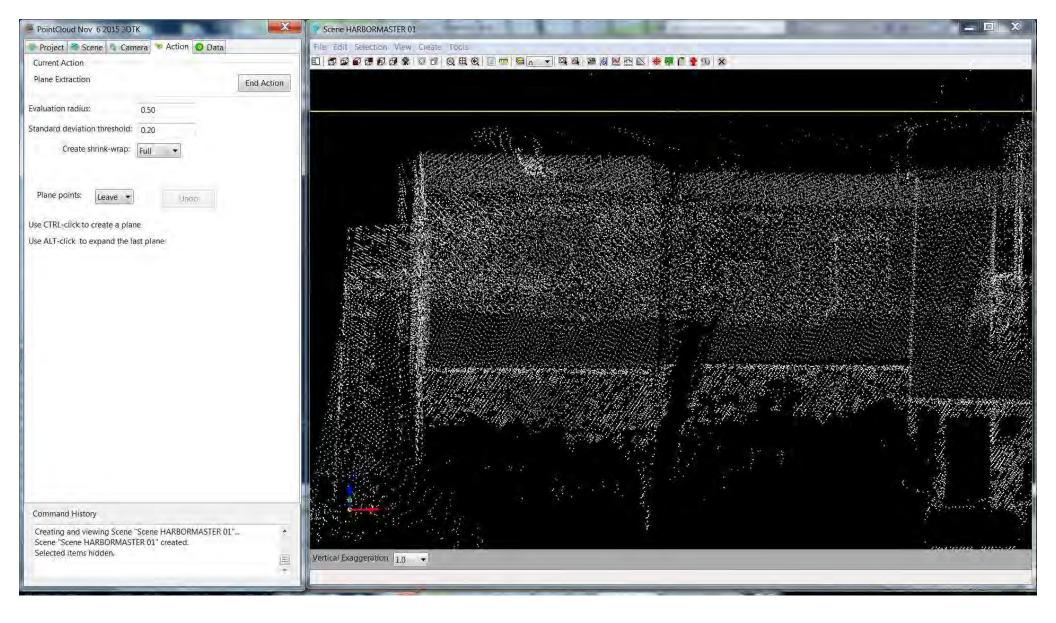
Here we are in CAD. I still have the rough CL of the road. We only extracted a hanful of features but they are all here.



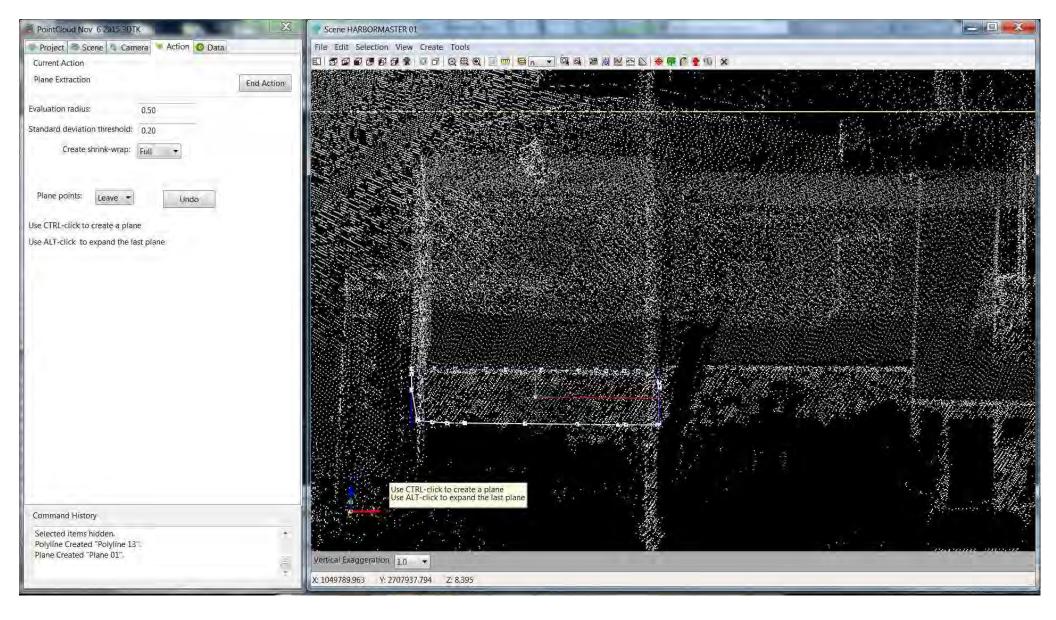
Back to Cloud for a moment. There was a building. The harbormaster's office. Let's see some ways to pull that from the cloud.



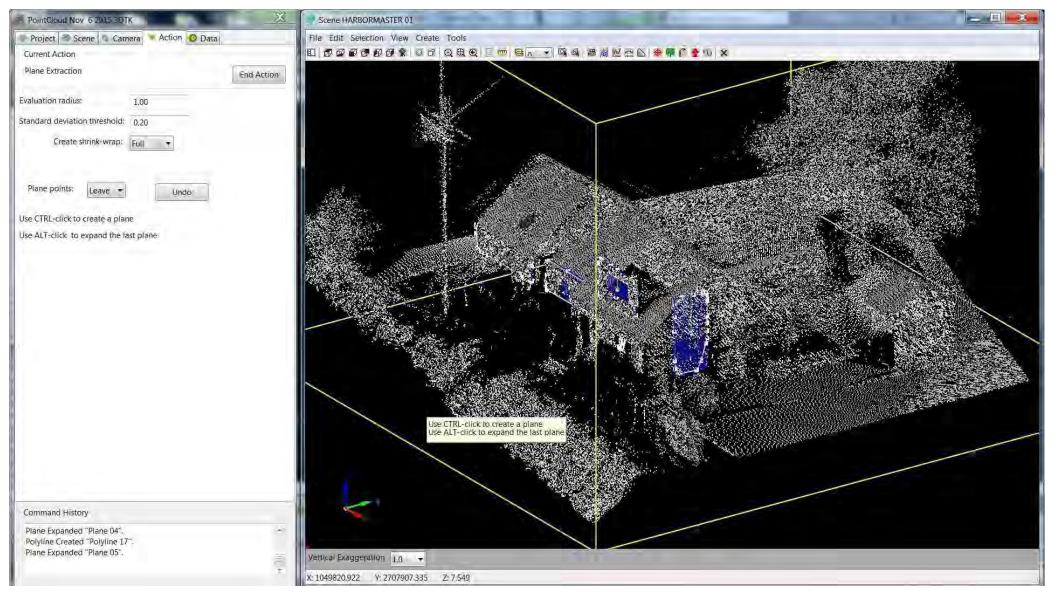
Yes, I created a new cloud of the building alone. I am looking by intensity. The color will not help here because I colored from the aerials.



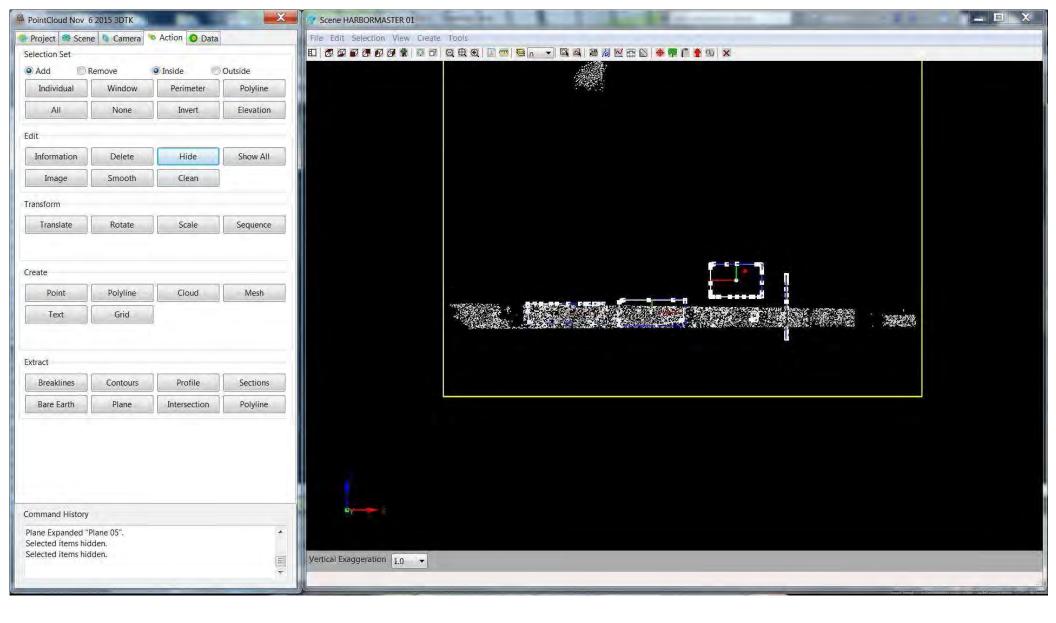
Carlson has included many of the rudimentary extractions: Planes being one of them. As we have cedar shakes on the side of the building, we can set a tolerance for the plane.



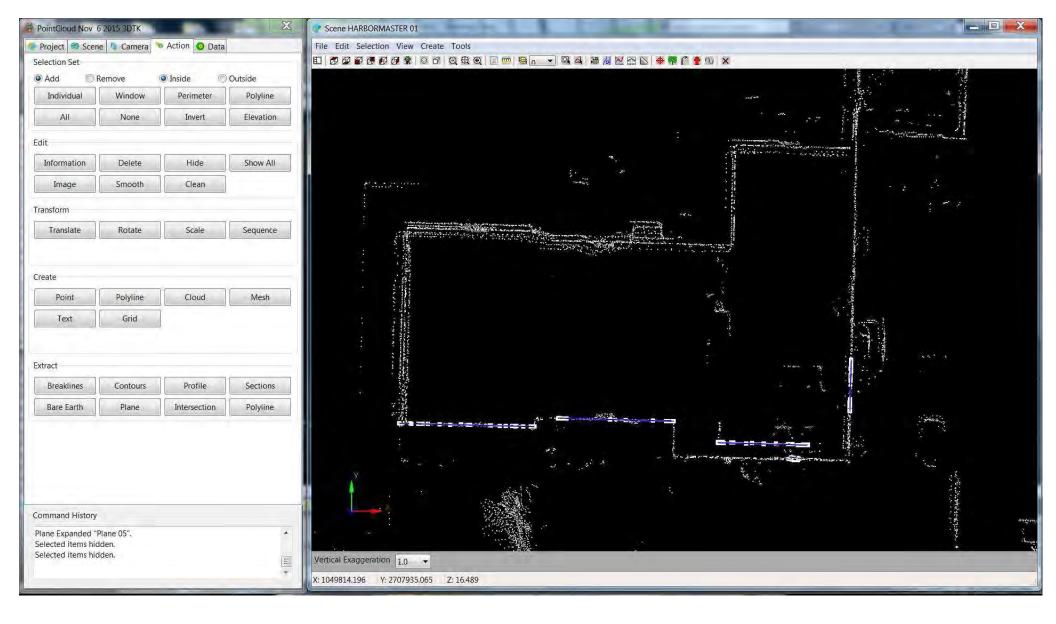
And Viola (or whatever her name was)! We have a plane. This will appear in the list as a Polyline and as a Plane. Either can be imported into CAD.



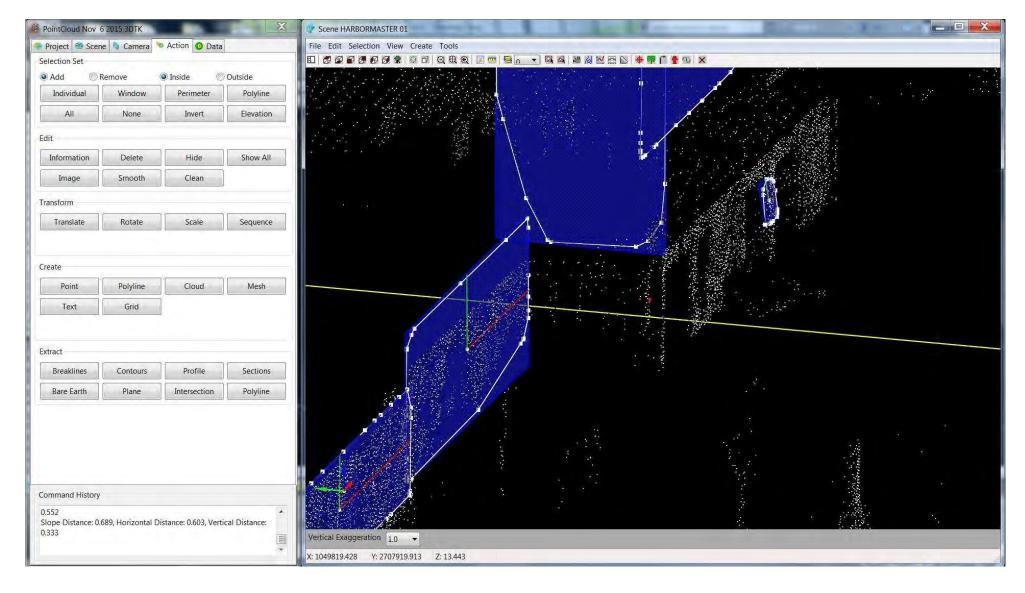
So, we can grab some planes here and others there. There is an intersect command to find corners.



We can also isolate a section of the building.



Then we look at it from the top. I see some faces for snapping.



We can view this from other perspectives.

FIELD TO FINISH

Some code lists are better than others...

Here are some ideas:

Short and sweet: 2 or 3 digits are easy

Change that +7 and -7 stuff to B and E

Double your codes:

I suffix all of mine with NE to put these points on a non-topo layer (location, loc)

EP = Edge of Pavement, PNTS-TOPO

EPNE = Edge of Pavement, PNTS-LOC

FIELD TO FINISH

While EP is a bad example because you usually can get an elevation on the edge of pavement, there are some other codes that are important:

FENCES

We can pick out the front of a fence, but picking the front of the fence at the ground is usually a challenge. Some extractions include the fence at the top of the fence.

And a bunch of other stuff.

WHERE DO YOU STAND?

Questions?