To start with, you may have received a file called “Slope-1.RENAME\_ZIP” or something similar. Rename the “RENAME\_ZIP” portion to “zip” so that you end up with a file named “Slope-1.zip”. You may now unzip (decompress) the file. Modern versions of Windows Explorer should have built-in support for zip files: simply right-click the file, choose “extract all”, and follow the prompts. In the event that your version of Windows Explorer does not support zip files, there are many programs (many of which are free) that can work with zip files.

Once you have extracted the compressed files, locate the folder they were extracted to and run “SETUP.EXE”.

When you install PSSlope, it is important to remember that the user must have full read/write/delete privileges in the install directory; otherwise, the program will not run properly. To avoid potential installation issues, it may be best to simply install the program under “C:\PSSlope”. If you have problems getting PSSlope to work for the first time, this is likely the culprit and you may try copying the PSSlope folder to a new location and running it from there.

PSSlope project files have a .stm extension. PSSlope is particular about where these files reside when running them. Our experience has been that the software will not run a project file that has been saved on a network drive. Always make sure the file you are working on is on a local drive.

STM files are plain text files and can be edited with Notepad or any other text editing software. Keep in mind that the formatting of the file is very specific. Most of the lines are required to be exactly 80 characters long, but there are a few that are shorter.  Basically, if you highlight the text and notice a “bump” on the right margin, then that line needs to have spaces added or deleted from the end so it lines up.  The exceptions are the section headers (PROFIL, SOIL, WATER, MBISHOP, PILE, and FAILURE SURFACE), the first line of the SOIL section (it specifies the number of soils and the hammer efficiency, and contains an extra 5 characters in the line), and the entire sections of MBISHOP, PILE, and FAILURE SURFACE.

The third line in the save file gives the total number of boundaries and the number of surface (top) boundaries.  If you use Notepad to add or subtract a boundary, be sure to change  those two numbers to match the new totals or PSSlope will not load the file correctly.

Whenever you make changes to the input in PSSlope, always hit the “UPDATE SCREEN” button before running the analysis. In some cases it is necessary to hit “Update Screen” to populate the input boxes. This is true when you change the “Number of Soil Types” or the “Total number of boundaries”.

The manual may be accessed from the top menu (“Manual”). If for some reason PSSlope cannot find the manual, it will crash; however, the manual should be located in the installation folder and should be called “manual.pdf”.