

November 2, 2012

To VoiceFlight Systems Customers and Dealers

On October 16, 2012, Garmin released a Software Version 5.0 update for the GNS 400W/500W Series units. The primary features of this update are support for copying flightplans from GTN 650/750 units to the GNS 400W/500W series units (but not in the other direction) and changes to support ADS-B operations on Garmin's upcoming GDL 88 unit as well as on the GTX 330 ES transponder.

Unfortunately, Garmin has also included other changes which we believe could have no other plausible explanation than to interfere with third-party access to the crossfill link.

VoiceFlight Systems has confirmed that the GNS 400W/500W Series Software Version 5.0 update does indeed preclude VFS101 flightplan transfers and Aspen Avionics has separately reported that Connected Panel operations are similarly affected by this Software Update.

Garmin's Aviation Service Document Notification indicates that this update is Optional for Fixed Wing Aircraft and is not warranty reimbursable. Furthermore, Garmin Field Service has indicated that this update "currently is not STC approved for install in certified applications".

VoiceFlight Systems recommends that GNS 400W/500W users refrain installing this update and joins Aspen Avionics in urging Avionics manufacturers to embrace a more open integration philosophy for the common good of general aviation.

If the GNS 400W/500W Software Version 5.0 update is eventually STC approved for installation in certified aircraft, VoiceFlight Systems will further evaluate the VFS101 changes necessary to successfully interoperate with the Version 5.0 Software.

Best regards,  
VoiceFlight Systems Customer Support

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