

Tecplot 360 2024 Release 1

Tecplot, Inc.

Command Line

The general form for running Tecplot 360 from the command line is:

tec360 [options]

The available options include:

-addonfile filename	Supply a custom list of addons via the tecplot.add file.
-b macrofile	Run in batch mode.
-c cfgfile	Use cfgfile for the configuration instead of the default configuration file, tecplot.cfg.
-convert	Loads all the specified data files, and runs specified macros in a restricted batch mode in which the only permitted options are reading data files (in any supported format) and writing SZL files. Does not use a license key. See also -o.
-display computername	Display on computer computername (Linux only). The target system must have X-server capability with the GLX extension.
-datafile filename	Load data file filename.
-debug dbugfile	Send debug information to the file dbugfile. Information is displayed to aid in debugging a new configuration file, macro file, or binary data file. You may specify the minus sign ("-") for dbugfile to send the debug output to the "standard output" (Mac/Linux only).
-f fontfile	Use fontfile instead of the default font file, tecplot.fnt.
-h homedir	Use homedir for the home directory instead of the default home directory.
help	Open help message for command-line flags.
-loadaddon addonname	Load an add-on named addonname.
-m colormapfile	Use colormapfile as the initial color map file.
max-available -processors numprocs	Restrict the number of processors (processor cores) employed by Tecplot 360 to the numprocs specified. Some tasks can be performed in parallel, so using all available processors greatly increases performance of those tasks. By default, Tecplot 360 uses all processors available on the machine to provide the best performance in most cases. Assign a value less than the total number of available processors to limit the number of processors used by Tecplot 360 to the assigned number.

mesa	Linux Only
-mesa (deprecated)	Use a version of the OpenGL rendering library which uses software rendering (using CPU) rather than hardware rendering (using the GPU and installed/native drivers). Use this flag in situations when a graphics card and/or driver do not exist or it is not working. For assistance troubleshooting see the Troubleshooting Appendix in the User's Manual. Mesa libraries are used for both on- and off-screen rendering, if you are only working in batch useosmesa. Mesa may be slower and lower quality on-screen rendering than hardware rendering (using the GPU) but will be reliable.
	For Windows
	Copy the opengll32.dll from the bin/mesa directory to the bin directory in order to use mesa rendering.
mesa-swrast	Linux Only
osmesa-swrast	Use when the standard versions of mesa and osmesa libraries conflict with default libraries. Use these options only as a last resort. They cannot be used with regularmesa orosmesa commands.
-nobanner	Do not show the opening banner (i.e. splash screen).
-nobatchlog	Suppress creation of the file batch.log during batch mode operation.
-nostdaddons	Do not load the add-ons listed in the tecplot.add file.
-nowelcomescreen	Do not display the Welcome Screen at startup (it may still be opened after launch from the View menu)
-o outputfile.szplt	Writes the specified SZL file from the data loaded from other files (including macros) specified on the command line, then exit. Does not require a license key. See also the -convert command.
osmesa	Linux Only
	Use a version of the OpenGL rendering library which is designed for off screen export using software rendering (using CPU) where there is no X server connection. OSMesa is automatically used when running in batch mode without an X server connection. Also use this flag if Tecplot 360 or PyTecplot crash in batch mode.
-p scriptfile	Play the macro commands in the file scriptfile.mcr.
-q	Use quick playback mode. Ignores delay and pause commands.
-qm quickpanelfile	Place the macro functions in quickpanelfile in the Quick Macro Panel, instead of using the macros from the default file, tecplot.mcr.
-quiet	Turns off all standard-out messages (Linux only).
-r printfile	Set the filename for routing Print Files to printfile.
-s stylefile	Use stylefile as a stylesheet for the first frame (*.sty).

-showpanel	Open the Quick Macro Panel upon startup.
use-sys	Use the libraries from the bin/sys sub-folder below the tecplot home directory when running Tecplot. The sys sub-folder contains the version of libstdc++ that was used to build Tecplot and may be required when running older Linux systems. (Linux only).
- V	Display the version number.
-y exportfile	Set the filename for export files to exportfile.

Mouse & Keyboard Shortcuts

3D Rotate Tools

Alt-Click-and-drag	Rotate about the viewer position using the active Rotate tool.
Middle-click-and-drag	Smoothly zoom in and out of the data.
Right-click-and-drag	Translate the data.
Control-right-click-and-drag (Mac OS X: Command-right-click-and-drag)	Rotate about the rotation origin (any tool may be active).
С	Move the rotation origin to the probed point, ignoring zones.
0	Set the center of rotation.
R	Switch to Rollerball rotation.
S	Switch to Spherical rotation.
T	Switch to Twist rotation.
X	Switch to X-axis rotation.
Y	Switch to Y-axis rotation.
Z	Switch to Z-axis rotation.

Contour Add Tool

Alt-click	Place a contour line by probing on a streamtrace, slice, or iso-surface.
Click	Place a contour line.
Control-click	Replace the nearest contour line with a new line.
Click-and-drag	Move the new contour line.

- Switch to the Contour Remove tool.

Contour Remove Tool

Click	Remove the contour line nearest to the probed location.
+	Switch to the Contour Add tool.

Geometry Polyline Tool

A	Allow translation of polyline segments in all directions.
Н	Restrict translation of the current polyline segment to horizontal.
U	End the current polyline at last clicked point and start a new one.
V	Restrict translation of current polyline segment to vertical.

Probe Tool

Click	If the pointer is over a single valid cell, the interpolated field values from all nodes in the cell are returned. If multiple cells are candidates, the action is dependent upon the plot type: • For 2D, the cell from the highest number zone is used. • For 3D, the cell closest to the viewer is used.
Control-click	If the pointer is over a single valid cell, the field values from the nearest node in the cell are returned. If multiple cells are candidates, the action is dependent upon the plot type: • For 2D, the cell from the highest number zone is used. • For 3D, the cell closest to the viewer is used. If the pointer is not over any cell, then the field values from nearest data point (as measured in distance on the screen) are returned.
Shift-Control-click	The field values from the nearest point on the screen are returned (ignoring surfaces, zone number, and depth of the point). This is useful in 3D for probing on data points that are on the back side of a closed surface without having to rotate the object. In 2D, this is useful for probing on data points for zones that may be underneath other zones.

Alt-click	Probe only on streamtraces, iso-surfaces, or slices. If multiple cells are candidates, the action is dependent upon the plot type: • For 2D, the cell from the highest number zone is used. • For 3D, the cell closest to the viewer is used.
Alt-Control-click	Probe only on streamtraces, iso-surfaces, or slices. If multiple cells are candidates, the action is dependent upon the plot type: • For 2D, the cell from the highest number zone is used. • For 3D, the cell closest to the viewer is used. If the pointer is not over any cell, then the field values from nearest data point (as measured in distance on the screen) are returned.
Alt-Control-Shift-click	Probe only on streamtraces, iso-surfaces, or slices. The field values from the nearest point on the screen are returned.
X, Y, T, R	When probing, press X or Y in XY Line to switch dependencies, or R or T in Polar Line.

Slice Tool

+	Turn on start/end slices, or increment the number of intermediate slices.
-	Turn off start/end slices, or decrement the number of intermediate slices.
Click	If no slices are displayed for the current slice group, place the primary slice. Otherwise, move the closest displayed start, end, and primary slice from its current position to the clicked position.
Alt-click	Place the start, end, or primary slice (whichever is closer to the click position) on the nearest derived object (streamtrace, slice or iso-surface).
Control-click	Place the start, end, or primary slice (whichever is closer to the click position) on the nearest data point.
I, J, K	Switch to slicing constant I, J, or K-planes, respectively. Available for ordered zones only.
X, Y, Z	Switch to slicing constant X-, Y-, or Z-planes, respectively.
A	Switch to arbitrary slice mode.
1-8	Switch between slice groups.

Streamtrace Placement tools (3D Cartesian plots only)

D	Change the streamtrace style to streamrods.
R	Change the streamtrace style to streamribbons.
S	Change the streamtrace style to surface lines.
V	Change the streamtrace style to volume lines.
1-9	Change the number of streamtraces to be added when placing a rake of streamtraces.

Translate Tool

-	Reduce the magnification of the data.
+	Increase the magnification of the data.
Drag	Translate the data.
Shift-drag	Translate the paper.
Shift	Reduce the magnification of the paper.
Shift -	Increase the magnification of the paper.

Zoom Tool

Click	Center the zoom around the location of your click.
Control-click	Center the zoom around the location of your click and zoom out.
Drag	Draw a box to set the frame view.

Selector Tool

Click	Select the frontmost object at the clicked location.
Control-click	Select the next object behind the currently selected object ("dig").
Shift-click	Multiple selection. Click the first object, then shift-click subsequent objects to add them to the selection
Alt-click	Ignore zone objects when selecting.

Selected Object Options

-	Reduce the size of the object. If multiple objects are selected, all object
	positions will be shifted towards the first object selected.

+	Increase the size of the object. If multiple objects are selected, all object positions will be shifted away from the first object selected.
Delete	Delete selected object(s).
Control-C	Copy selected object(s) to the clipboard.
Control-V	Paste selected object(s) from the clipboard.
Control-X	Cut selected object(s) to the clipboard, deleting them from the plot.

Time Navigation

Home	Jump to start.
Left Arrow	Step backward.
Space bar	Play or pause animation.
Right Arrow	Step forward.
End	Jump to end.

Other Keyboard Operations

Control-F	Fit Surfaces (3D Only) - Resize plot so that all surfaces are included in the frame, excluding any volume zones. Fit to Full Size (2D, XY, Polar, Sketch) - Fit the entire plot into the frame (including data, text and geometries).
Control-E	Fit Surfaces (3D Only) - Resizes plot so that all data points, text, and geometries are included in the frame.
Control-L	Last - Restore the last frame view.
Control-O	Open a layout file.
Control-P	Print.
Control-Q	Exit.
Control-S	Save the current layout to its file.
Control-W	Save the current layout to a specified file.

Macro Variables

Variables	Notes
AUXDATASET:Auxname	Retrieves auxiliary data named Auxname from a dataset. For example, AUXDATASET:Reynolds retrieves auxiliary data "Reynolds".

Variables	Notes
AUXFRAME: Auxname	Retrieves auxiliary data named Auxname from a frame: AUXFRAME:MyFrame retrieves auxiliary data "MyFrame" from the active frame.
AUXZONE: Auxname	Retrieves auxiliary data named Auxname from a specific zone. For example, AUXZONE[3]:BC retrieves auxiliary data "BC" from zone 3.
AXISMAXn	Maximum value of the n -axis range, where n is one of: A^* , R , X , Y or Z .
AXISMINn	Minimum value of the n -axis range, where n is one of: A^* , R , X , Y or Z .
BYTEORDERING	Returns the byte ordering (INTEL or MOTOROLA).
DATASETFNAME[nnn]	Contains full path to loaded data file. If multiple data files have been loaded, use e.g. DATASETFNAME[2] to specify the desired path (indexing by load order).
DATASETTITLE	Returns the title of the dataset, or "No Data Set" if a dataset does not exist.
DATE	Returns the date in the form of dd Mmm yyyy.
ENDSLICEPOS	Returns the position of the end slice.
EXPORTISRECORDING	Returns YES/NO to help macros complete record commands in the proper order.
FRAMENAME	Returns the name of the active frame.
INBATCHMODE	Returns 1 if in batch mode, 0 if in interactive mode.
ISDATASETAVAILABLE	Returns 1 if a dataset exists, and 0 otherwise.
ISOSURFACELEVEL	Returns the current iso-surface's iso-value.
LAYOUTFNAME	Returns the current layout file name.
L00P	Innermost loop counter.
MACROFILEPATH	Returns the path to the directory containing the most recently opened macro file.
MAXB	Maximum value of the blanking variable.
MAXC	Maximum value of the contour variable.
MAXK , MAXJ , MAXK	[I, J, K]-dimension of the first active zone. For finite-element zones, MAXI is the number of nodes, MAXJ is the number of elements, and MAXK is the number of nodes per element (cell-based) or total number of faces (face-based).
MAXn	Maximum value of the variable assigned to an axis: A (theta, i.e. Angle), R, X, Y, Z.
MAXS	Maximum value of the scatter sizing variable in the active zones.
MAXU , MAXV , MAXW	Maximum value of the variable assigned to the [X, Y, Z]-vector component of the active zones.

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value indicates the first zone associated with the nnn th active field map. STARTSLICEPOS Position of the first slice. STREAMSTARTPOS Streamtrace starting position in X, Y, Z coordinates.	SOLUTIONTIME	The current solution time.
STREAMSTARTPOS Streamtrace starting position in X, Y, Z coordinates.	SOLUTIONTIME[[ACTIVEOF FSET=]nnn]	
	STARTSLICEPOS	Position of the first slice.
STREAMTYPE Returns the streamtrace type such as "Surface Line" or "Surface Ribbon".	STREAMSTARTPOS	Streamtrace starting position in X, Y, Z coordinates.
	STREAMTYPE	Returns the streamtrace type such as "Surface Line" or "Surface Ribbon".

Variables	Notes
TECHOME	Path to the home directory.
TECPLOTVERSION	The product version number.
TIME	The current time in the form of hh:mm:ss.
VARNAME	The name of a specified variable.
ZONEMESHCOLOR[nnn]	Returns the color of the mesh for zone nnn.
ZONENAME[nnn]	Returns the name of zone nnn.

 $^{^{\}ast}$ Where A represents the theta (or angle) axis variable in Polar Line plots.

Dynamic Text

Variables	Notes
&(AUXDATASET:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to the dataset.
&(AUXFRAME:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to the frame.
&(AUXPAGE:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to the page.
&(AUXVAR[nnn]:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to variable <i>nnn</i> .
&(AUXLINEMAP[Q]:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to linemap Q, where Q is either nnn or ACTIVEOFFSET=nnn and nnn is the linemap number. If ACTIVEOFFSET= is used, the integer value indicates the first linemap associated with the nnn th active fieldmap.
&(AUXZONE[Q]:name)	The value of the named auxiliary data attached to Q, where Q is either nnn or ACTIVEOFFSET=nnn and nnn is the zone number. If ACTIVEOFFSET= is used, the integer value indicates the first zone associated with the nnn th active fieldmap.
&(AXISMAXn)	Maximum value of the current n -axis range, where n is one of: A^* , R , X , Y , or Z .
&(AXISMINn)	Minimum value of the current n -axis range, where n is one of: A^* , R , X , Y , or Z .
&(BYTEORDERING)	Displays the platform's byte ordering (INTEL or MOTOROLA).
&(DATE)	The current date, in the format <i>dd Mmm yyyy</i> .
&(DATASETFNAME[nnn])	Filename of the nnn th file associated with the current dataset. If nnn is omitted, then all dataset filenames are shown, separated by new lines.
&(DATASETTITLE)	The current dataset title.
&(ENDSLICEPOS[nnn])	The position of the ending slice plane where nnn is the slice group or active offset.

Variables	Notes			
&(EXPORTISRECORDING)	Returns "YES" if recording is active, otherwise returns "NO".			
&(FRAMENAME)	The frame name.			
&(INBATCHMODE)	Returns a value of 1 if the software is in batch mode, 0 if interactive.			
&(ISDATASETAVAILABLE)	Returns a value of 1 if a dataset exists for the current frame, 0 if nonexistent.			
<pre>&(ISOSURFACELEVEL[grp][nnn])</pre>	The value of the contour variable on the nnn th iso-surface where grp is the iso-surface group or active offset.			
&(LAYOUTFNAME)	The name of the current layout file.			
&(LOOP)	Innermost loop counter.			
&(MACROFILEPATH)	Path to the folder containing the most recently opened macro file.			
&(MAXn)	Maximum value of the n variable, where n is one of: A^* , R , X , Y , or Z . For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from all active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.			
&(MAXB)	Maximum value of the blanking variable for the first active constraint. For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from the active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.			
&(MAXC)	Maximum value of the contour variable for contour group 1. For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from the active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.			
&(MAXI), &(MAXJ), &(MAXK)	[I, J, K]-dimension of the first active zone. For finite-element zones, MAXI is the number of nodes, MAXJ is the number of elements, and MAXK is the number of nodes per element (cell-based) or total number of faces (face-based).			
&(MAXS)	Maximum value of the scatter sizing variable of the active zones.			
&(MAXU), &(MAXV), &(MAXW)	Maximum value of the variable assigned to the [X, Y, Z]-vector component of the active zones.			
&(MAXVAR[nnn])	Maximum value of variable nnn.			
&(MINn)	Minimum value of the n variable, where n is one of: A*, R, X, Y, or Z. For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from all active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.			
&(MINB)	Minimum value of the blanking variable of the first active blanking constraint. For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from all active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.			

Variables	Notes
&(MINC)	Minimum value of the contour variable of contour group 1. For 2D or 3D Cartesian plots, the value is calculated from all active zones. For line plots, the value is calculated from the zone assigned to the first active linemap.
&(MINS)	Minimum value of the scatter sizing variable for the active zones.
&(MINU), &(MINV), &(MINW)	Minimum value of the variable assigned to the [X, Y, Z]-vector component for the active zones.
&(MINVAR[nnn])	Minimum value of variable nnn.
&(NUMFRAMES)	Number of frames.
&(NUMPAGES)	Number of pages.
&(NUMPROCESSORSUSED)	Number of processors used. This may be different than the total number on the machine because of the \$!Limits MaxAvailableProcessors configuration file command, or because of a product limitation.
&(NUMVARS)	Number of variables in the current dataset.
&(NUMXYMAPS)	Number of XY-linemaps assigned to the current frame.
&(NUMZONES)	Number of zones in current dataset.
&(OPSYS)	Displays the current operating system. 1 = Linux/Macintosh, 2 = Windows.
&(PAPERHEIGHT)	The paper height (in inches).
&(PAPERWIDTH)	The paper width (in inches).
&(PLATFORM)	The platform type (e.g. LINUX or WINDOWS).
&(PLOTTYPE)	Plot type of the current frame: 0 for Sketch, 1 for XY Line, 2 for Cartesian 2D, 3 for Cartesian 3D, and 4 for Polar Line.
<pre>&(PRIMARYSLICEPOS[grp])</pre>	The primary slice position where grp is the slice group or active offset.
&(PRINTFNAME)	The name of the current print file.
&(SLICEPLANETYPE[grp])	The type of the slice plane (X, Y, Z, I, J or K-planes) where grp is the slice group or active offset.
&(SOLUTIONTIME)	The current solution time.
&(SOLUTIONTIME[Q])	Solution time of Q, where Q is either nnn or ACTIVEOFFSET=nnn and nnn is the zone number. If ACTIVEOFFSET= is used, the integer value indicates the first zone associated with the nnn th active fieldmap. $\$(SOLUTIONTIME[5])$ displays the solution time of the 5^{th} zone. $\$(SOLUTIONTIME[ACTIVEOFFSET=3])$ displays the solution time of the first zone in the 3^{rd} active fieldmap.
&(STARTSLICEPOS[grp])	The position of the starting slice plane where grp is the slice group or active offset.
&(STRANDID[x])	The strandID of a zone in dynamic text.

Variables	Notes			
&(STREAMSTARTPOS[nnn])	Starting position (X, Y, Z)` of the nnn th streamtrace.			
&(STREAMTYPE[nnn])	Type (Surface Line, Volume Line, Volume Ribbon, Volume Rod) of the nnn th streamtrace.			
&(\$string)	The value of the system environment variable string.			
&(TECHOME)	Path to the home directory.			
&(TECPLOTVERSION)	Displays the version number.			
&(TIME)	The current time, in the format <i>hh:mm:ss</i> .			
&(VARNAME[nnn])	The variable name of variable nnn.			
&(ZONEMESHCOLOR[Q])	Color of the mesh for zone Q, where Q is either nnn or ACTIVEOFFSET=nnn and nnn is the zone number. If ACTIVEOFFSET= is used, the integer value indicates the nnn th active zone for field plots or the zone associated with the nnn th active linemap for line plots.			
&(ZONENAME[Q])	The zone name of zone Q, where Q is either nnn or ACTIVEOFFSET=nnn and nnn is the zone number. If ACTIVEOFFSET= is used, the integer value nnn indicates the nnn th active zone for field plots. For line plots, indicates the zone associated with the nnn th active linemap that will be defaulted to upon deactivation of a previous zone.			

^{*} Where A represents the theta (or angle) axis variable in Polar Line plots.

Additional Resources

For detailed information on any of the topics discussed in this guide, refer to the User's Manual included in your installation package. The same information is available in the help system available from the product's Help menu or the Help buttons throughout the product.

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