

Batch Plotting in MicroStation

Presented by: Paul Hentschke, TranSystems

Script File

Your script file is set up so that when you open your batch plot job, it automatically knows where to look to get the tools to make your plot file. It will also know where to place your plot file, once it has been created.

Printer. You set your printer up to look at different plot drivers, page sizes and orientation

Plot Area. You set this up to look at a shape, view or a cell, within your .dgn file that you want to use as your plotting boundary. It is important when setting up your plot area and using shape and it is referenced into your drawing you put in your ref names as well. You can also set up several different plot area options in your script file.

Layout. This is very basic option. You can adjust the output of the scale if you wish. You can also adjust the units and the origin.

Display. This is where you tell the script file what pentable you want to use and where to find it. You also tell it how to handle each display option it gives you.

Once you have all this information setup you want to make sure you keep your script file read only. This prevents people from making changes without knowing that they are making changes and it will help maintain consistency with your batch plotting

Getting MicroStation to look at the Script File

The script file is found through your client.pcf file. You should never modify this file without permission. You will want your script file located in your clients directory, make sure to direct your .pcf file where to find it.

Batch Plotting your Drawings

Once you are ready to make your plot files we need to set up a batch plot job. To do this open up batch plot and do a save to create a new job. Once you have a job created then hit your add button to add the files you want to plot. Before you print you can check the specifications of each option by hitting the green button, then setting them to what you want. Then hit print. Now you can go to your output directory to see all your plot files.

Making your Adobe .PDF files

- 1) After running your Batch Plot job.
- 2) Go to your Plot files, open Adobe Distiller. Select all of your Plot files with the .ps extension and drag and drop them onto the Adobe Distiller. This will make your .pdf files.
- 3) Grab the “All.pdf” file. Select all your .pdf files and drag and drop them into your All.pdf. This will create an “All.pdf” file that contains all your plots within one document.
- 4) Open the document and delete the first page that says, “delete”.
- 5) Go to “window” to “show all thumbnails”
- 6) Right click on the thumb nails, go to create all thumb nails
- 7) Drag and drop the thumbnails and put them all in order. You can zoom in on the page number to help you put them all in order.
- 8) You can also select your .pdf files one at a time and put them into the “All” file in the order you want them.