MFTR is a program used to "translate" TECHBASE graphics metafiles into graphical output for printers, plotters, or video displays. Unlike most TECHBASE programs, *MFTR* has a number of command line options available. A dash "–" must precede any of the command line options in *MFTR.*

This **Technote** does not cover all the options in *MFTR* but does highlight several options commonly overlooked.

Procedure:

–d*destination*
The **–d***destination* option allows you to specify the **hardware device** or a **filename** to which the translated metafile should be directed. If the destination is a hardware device, such as a COM port, then the information is sent directly to that device. If destination is a filename, the information is written to that file. The file can then be used with other programs or sent to the device without using *MFTR* again.

Using the check.met as the example, a command for sending the plot directly to a device may be:

mftr –wpostscript –dlpt1 –m check.met

The **–w***postscript* option translates the metafile to the postscript language, the **–d***lpt1* sends it to the printer, and the **–m** monitors the translation.

If instead of sending the file to the printer, you want to make a file, simply change the **–d***lpt1* to **–d***filename* as in the following example:

mftr –wpostscript –dcheck.ps –m check.met

–w*mo*
The **–w***mo* option, (**M***etafile* **O***utput*) produces metafiles. When merging metafiles, all the necessary offsets can be used to place and size the files being combined. The following example combines three metafiles:

mftr –wmo –dall3.met –m check –x.25,0 colors –x0,.3 patterns

The resulting combination is in the metafile *all3.met*.

–w*picture*
The **–w***picture* option translates metafiles into picture files. The resulting picture file can be used as annotation, such as logos, legends, or title blocks in other graphics. The following example translates a metafile into a picture file called *check.pic*:

mftr –wpicture –dcheck.pic check.met

As with all metafile translations, any of the parameters needed to size and/or place the picture file correctly may be added to the command.

–w*stat*

The **–w***stat* option provides information about any metafile, or combination of metafiles. It is a very quick way to check whether the plot will fit your device. The output displays the name of each Metafile, the comment line, and the output range, as well as the colors, linestyles, fonts, markers, and patterns used to generate the metafile. An example of how the command would look is:

mftr –wstat –dcheck.sta check.met

The output received would be:

```
Metafile= check.met
 Comment= 1993/01/27;05:57 POSTER

Total of 201 items processed from 1 metafiles.
Output range in X =   0.0127 to   0.2159 m;    (  0.50 to   8.50 in)
                Y =   0.0127 to   0.2667 m;    (  0.50 to  10.50 in)
Colors used:
   Color 1: BLACK       Color 2: RED         Color 3: GREEN
   Color 4: BLUE        Color 5: PURPLE      Color 6: ORANGE
   Color 7: YELLOW      Color 8: BROWN
Linestyles used:
   Style 1: SOLID       Style 2: DOTTED      Style 3: MIXED
   Style 4: DASHED      Style 5: WIDE
Fonts used:
      1      2      3      4
Markers used:
      1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9     10
     71     72     73     74
Patterns used:
      1:HOLLOW      2: INSET      3: SOLID     21
```

The following examples would produce different output ranges:

mftr –wstat –s.50 check.met

mftr –wstat –r–90,0,0 check.met

mftr –wstat –x–.2286,0 –r–90,0,0 check.met

Try the **–w***stat* command option in place of the **–w***mo* option in the **M**etafile **O**utput example.

For more information on *MFTR* see **"Mftr – Display and print graphics" on page gr-35**

