



The 2.30 version of TECHBASE introduced the new verb driven runlogs. Like the old key driven runlogs, they continue the tradition of automating any type of repetitive task. However, the new style of runlogs is much easier to read, edit and maintain. There are several important new features in the new-style runlogs. First, is that all TECHBASE programs will AUTOMATICALLY create a runlog in the TBMEM directory as the execution begins. When a program is executed from the Master Menu all the saved values are added to the runlog. Second, is that each menu is recorded only when  is pressed. Therefore, how each of the options is entered is irrelevant. This feature allows you to use any type of navigation including: pick lists, database reviews, and mouse control without cluttering your runlog. Lastly, all programs will continue to read the old-style runlogs, so no existing procedures will be lost.



Procedure:

All TECHBASE programs can create, update, and use runlogs. There are some techniques that make runlogs easier to use and maintain, and that is what will be discussed in this Technote.





Creating a runlog

Any time after entering a program, select the *Options* menu and then the *Runlog* choice. You will then be prompted for the runlog *Filename*. Any file name can be used, but using an extension of *.rlg*, for example *poster.rlg*, makes it easy to identify the file as a runlog. After you have pressed the , the automatic runlog will be renamed to the name provided. If you forget to save the runlog during the session, simply go to the *sYstem* menu and select *rename runloG* and rename the runlog, which was saved in your TBMEM directory.


Good habits make good runlogs

Enter each of the menu choices, even if you are taking the defaults. Then TAB though each of the choices to fill in the blanks with the defaults, and press . This will place all the menu items in your runlog, making it simple to not only see what the defaults are, but also to later modify them if you choose. If a  is used to cancel the menu, neither the menu nor any of its items will be saved to the runlog.

Add comments to the runlog to identify key steps.

- a. A comment may be added at any point in the runlog by typing  . A menu will appear, allowing a one line comment to be entered. This will appear in the runlog file, and is displayed in the TECHBASE menu when the runlog is processed. The comment serves as a message or instruction to the user when the runlog is processed.
- b. A comment may be entered using the *Timestamp* in the *Options* menu. This has the further advantage that the comment, along with the current date and time will be written into the program output file each time the runlog is processed.
- c. A comment can also be added to an existing runlog using a text editor. Simply place a **#** sign in front of the comment to be added. This comment will be displayed when the runlog is processed, if the **#** is in the first column.
- d. Stop points may be added to a runlog by typing  . The stop point should be placed at the points in the runlog most likely to need changes. When the runlog is processed interactively, (described below) it will stop at those points so that different parameters may be entered.

Using a runlog

To **use** a runlog with no interaction, you can either: Type the program name at the operating system prompt, with input redirected from the runlog with **<**. For example: *poster <poster.rlg*; or in the master menu, TAB to the appropriate program, then type the **<** key, enter the runlog name at the prompt, then .

To **use** a runlog interactively, you can either: Type the program name at the operating system prompt, with input redirected from the runlog with **-i**. For example: **poster -iposter.rlg**; or in the master menu, TAB to the appropriate program, then type the **-** key, followed by a **-i** and the runlog name, then **ENTER**.

A new-style runlog is shown below:

As the runlog is processed, each keyword is displayed in a menu box to the upper left of the screen followed by the value entered. You can then press **DEL** to prevent the keyword and value from being used, or **ENTER** to process through to the next **ENTER** in the runlog. You can also press the **<END>** key to process the remainder of the runlog or to the next stop point (which ever comes first) with no further interaction, or **F2** to allow interactive processing. The interactive use of the program will continue until **ESC ESC** is typed, which will return to processing the runlog file. It is important to make sure that you are positioned at the same point in the menu as when you typed the **F2** key.

Modifying a runlog

To **modify** a runlog, enter the program with **-i**, as discussed above.

Once in the program, type **F2** to allow interactive processing. Next go to the *Options* menu and select the *Runlog* choice. Give the new runlog a DIFFERENT NAME than the one you are processing! Finally, exit from the *Options* menu, and press **ESC ESC**. Now the new runlog will contain the combination of all instructions from the original runlog, along with any interactive additions. If you are simply modifying the old-style runlogs into new-style, the **<END>** key may be pressed after the **ESC ESC**, which will create the new runlog while processing the old.

Any text editor (such as *DOS Edit* on the PC or *vi* on a unix environment) can also be used to modify a runlog. For example to change the scale simply go into an editor and change the X-Scale= 100 to the new scale X-Scale= 200. It is very simple to edit any of the new-style runlogs!

Note: If you choose a word processor to edit your files, be sure to save the file as TEXT or NON-DOCUMENT!

The item which tells the program if it is a new-style or old style is the first line in the runlog. In the new-style runlogs the first line will contain a comment giving the name of the program, the date and time of creation. When editing a runlog do NOT delete this first line from the file!

```
#POSTER 1994/06/14;07:17
Database
  Open
    Name= BOLAND
    Password= ""
    <CR>
  eXit
Scaling
  Scale
    X-Scale= 100
    Y-Scale= " "
    <CR>
  eXit #comment undisplayed
#plot points (displayed)
Point
  Fields
    X-Coord= easting
    Y-Coord= northing
    "Value 1=" elevation
    "Value 2=" " "
    "Value 3=" " "
    "Value 8=" " "
    <CR>
  Draw
  eXit
  ~
  ..
```

For more information on creating and using runlogs, consult ["Runlogs" on page 0-19](#) and ["Runlog" on page 0x-50](#).