

MODLER for Windows
Statistical Information and Modeling System

MODLER Support Files

Programs and Files Distributed With
MODLER for operational use

MODLER Information Technologies Press
Philadelphia and Cambridge

Information in this document is subject to change without notice and does not represent a commitment on the part of the publisher nor the manufacturer. The software this manual describes is furnished under a license agreement by explicit contract and any use other than on the basis of a written contract between the original vendor and the purchaser prima facia constitutes an infringement of the copyright. The manual and the software each may be used or copied only in accordance with the terms of that contractual agreement. It is against the law to copy this software or manual onto cassette tape, disk, CDROM, or any other medium for any purpose other than the purchaser's private use, or the personal use of the purchaser's employees.

© Copyright 2001-2003 Alphametrics Corporation. All Rights Reserved

All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner. This copyright covers not only the presentation of information in this manual, but also the program's human interface, MODLER command syntax and the way in which the commands are ordered to form the language as a whole.

LIMITED WARRANTY

Neither the manufacturer nor the distributors of the MODLER software shall have any liability or responsibility to the purchaser or any other person or entity with respect to any liability, loss, or damage caused or alleged to be caused directly or indirectly by this product, including but not limited to any interruption of service, loss of business or anticipatory profits or consequential damages resulting from the use or operation of this product. This product will be exchanged within twelve months from the date of purchase if it is found to be defective in manufacture, labeling, or packaging; but except for such replacement the license of this software is without warranty or liability.

The above is a limited warranty and the only warranty made by the manufacturer, publisher, or distributors of the MODLER software. Any and all warranties for merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose are hereby excluded.

Trademarks Acknowledged

MODLER, MODLER BLUE, MODLER MBA, DATAVIEW and their derivatives are trademarks of C.G. Renfro & Associates. LOTUS 1-2-3 and WordPro are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Quattro Pro and WordPerfect are trademarks of Corel Systems. Excel, MS-DOS, and Word are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. All other product names in this publication are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

Technical Support

Europe

Alphametrics Limited
Heath House
Princes Mews
Royston, Herts SG8 9RT
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 242 277
Fax: +44 (0) 1763 243 988
Email: Support@modler.com

North America and Elsewhere

Alphametrics Corporation
PO Box 2566
Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004-6566
USA

Tel: +1 (610) 664-0386
Fax: +1 (610) 664-0271
Email: Support@modler.com

Introduction

The MODLER support programs and files that are described in this guide are distributed with the Windows version of MODLER and, if you have recently obtained a CDROM copy of this program, are likely to be redundant. However, if you have been using MODLER for at least a year, these programs and files may include useful updates.

The contents of MWINSUP.EXE consist of files directly associated with the use of MODLER. They are in this sense *supporting* files. *Supplementary* programs and files are also available for use with MODLER, such as those described as Supplementary Programs for Data Base Management. The distinction is that these are used in conjunction with MODLER to perform particular operations, such as verifying that data bank files have not been corrupted or, if they have been, what the nature of the problem might be. Such programs and files are not normally used at the same time that MODLER is being used, although most of them could be if there was some purpose served by this.

The files described in this document are all contained in a self-extracting file called MWINSUP.EXE. When you download this EXE file from the MODLER website, www.modler.com, copy it to a temporary directory and then expand it. For best results, that temporary directory should contain only MWINSUP.EXE at the time of download, in which case it will be easy to see the individual programs and files extracted, whenever you subsequently execute and expand this file.

The executable programs contained in MWINSUP.EXE are distinguishable by their EXE Extents. They generally can be classified into two types, analytically oriented support programs and file conversion programs. The first type consists of the following programs in particular:

SIMSET.EXE - Solution File Editor

MODX11Q.EXE - Census X11 Quarterly Seasonal Adjustment Program

MODX11M.EXE - Census X11 Monthly Seasonal Adjustment Program

Associated with these are the following document files:

SIMSET.DOC - Operating Instructions for SIMSET.EXE

X11.DOC - Operating Instructions for both Monthly and Quarterly X11 Seasonal Adjustment programs

These documentation files are text files and should be readable using any word processing/text editing software. You will find on the website PDF files that are more attractively presented. However, the purpose of these DOC files is to provide you with document files that you can edit and adapt to your needs. The second type of program, the file conversion programs will be described in Chapter 1.

The second category of files are the demonstration Data Bank files, which are distinguished by their BNK extents. As data banks these have only a limited usefulness, but their existence means that you need not create a data bank before beginning to use MODLER. Generally the use of these data banks is illustrated in the MODLER User Guide and other documentation explaining how to use MODLER.

The third category of files are the Macro, Plot and Table Template files, which are distinguished by their MAC, PLT, and TAB extents. These generally consist of files used to demonstrate particular MODLER operations. Once a data bank has been opened for access the demonstration files associated with it can be “run,” in the process demonstrating some MODLER software capability. However, these files can also be inspected, using a text editing program, such as Notepad or Wordpad, should you wish to create files of these types as you use MODLER. In addition to permitting operations to be demonstrated, macro, plot, and table template (MAC, PLT, TAB) files have the additional characteristic of providing you with the capability to perform repetitive tasks on a regular basis, without requiring that you laboriously retype the commands they contain.

Finally, the fourth category of files are text files. These generally have a TXT extent are textfiles, and document various aspects of the use of MODLER, such as the program changes that have been made in the recent past, either in order to enhance MODLER’s capabilities or to correct some type of program malfunction. The files documenting changes have as a name CHANGES, plus some extent that indicates the relative age of the file: CHANGES.TXT is the most recent and CHANGES.001 is the oldest.

Chapter 1

Supporting Programs

Preliminaries

As mentioned in the Introduction, the executable programs contained in MWINSUP.EXE are distinguishable by their EXE Extents. They generally can be classified into two categories, analytically oriented support programs and file conversion programs. The first category consists of:

SIMSET.EXE - Solution File Editor

MODX11Q.EXE - Census X11 Quarterly Seasonal Adjustment Program

MODX11M.EXE - Census X11 Monthly Seasonal Adjustment Program

Associated with these are the following document files:

SIMSET.DOC - Operating Instructions for SIMSET.EXE

X11.DOC - Operating Instructions for both Monthly and Quarterly X11 Seasonal Adjustment programs

These documentation files are text files and should be readable using any word processing/text editing software. You will find on the website PDF files that are more attractively presented. However, the purpose of these DOC files is to provide you with document files that you can edit and adapt to your needs.

The Nature of Supporting Programs

Since 1981-82, MODLER has operated using supporting programs that are launched during the execution of MODLER and perform specific tasks. The seasonal adjustment programs are perhaps the best example. MODX11Q.EXE and MODX11M.EXE are programs written in 1966 or thereabouts, in Fortran, under the aegis of the US Bureau of the Census. These programs have been marginally modified so that they have the capability to exchange data with MODLER (as well as DATAVIEW, MODLER BLUE, and other "MODLER" family programs), but computationally they are the same programs as those originally written in 1966. The logic of this is very simple: if they were to be re-written, particularly using some other programming language, the resulting

updates might or might not produce the same results as the original programs. They would no longer be Bureau of the Census programs, they would be MODLER programs.

SIMSET, in contrast, is a “MODLER” program. It was written specifically to permit MODLER solution files to be edited and updated. These operations as interactive operations did not need to be included in MODLER itself, particularly in the DOS operating system environment, so that SIMSET was created as a separate program. Today, it can be operated as a standalone program, or it can be executed from within MODLER, as if it is a part of MODLER. At some point in time, the functionality of SIMSET will be incorporated into MODLER, but SIMSET is such a reliable program and can be executed independently of MODLER, so that it is difficult to foresee a time that it will cease to be distributed with MODLER.

The Installation of Supporting Programs

All supporting programs should be copied to the same directory (folder) as that containing the MODLER executable MODWIN.EXE. When this has been done, MODLER is able to find the programs and, as they are invoked by a user, is able to execute them appropriately. If you should put these programs in any other directory, they will not be found nor executed.

Documentation of Supporting Programs

As indicated earlier, one form of documentation for these programs are the DOC files that are included in the file MWINSUP.EXE. In addition, there are PDF files also included that provide a visually more attractive and more complete set of user guides for the above supporting programs.

Chapter 2

Supporting Programs