

## Batch Conversion from FLX to DWG

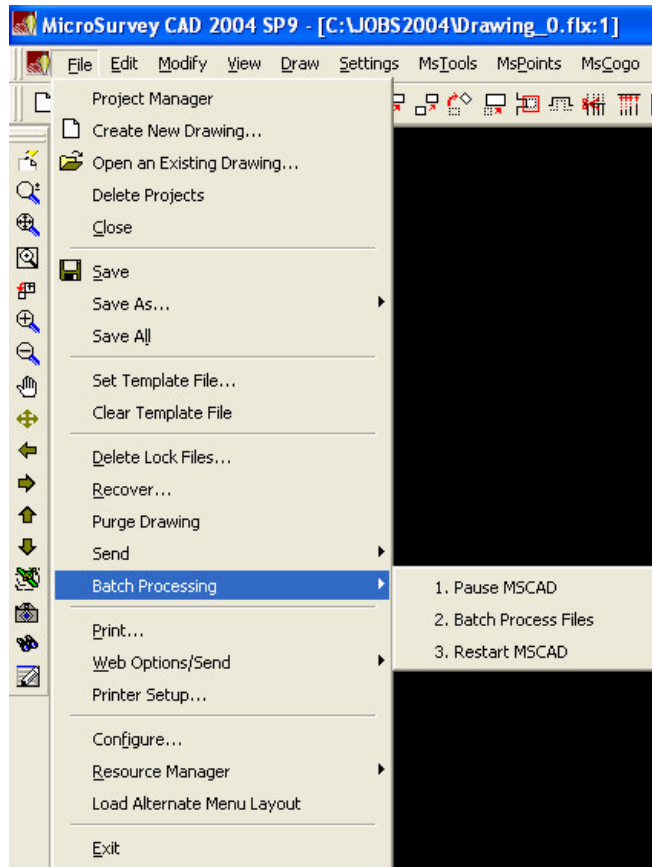
MSCAD2004, by default, saved all of its drawings in a FLX file format. This FLX format can not be used by any other programs.

MSCAD2005 uses the industry standard DWG file format.

To get all of your old FLX files converted into DWG files, MSCAD2004 includes a Batch Conversion Utility.

Start MSCAD2004 – when the Project Manager comes up on screen, allowing you to pick a job to open – hit the Cancel button to exit from this dialog.

Go under the File menu -> Batch Processing.



There are 3 steps that Must be done to complete the process.

Pause MSCAD – this removes our Survey routines so the CAD batch process routine can run.

Batch Process File – this will permit you to do the actual conversions.

Restart MSCAD – this will reload our Survey routines, so you could continue to work in MSCAD2004. If you are simply exiting the program after the conversions are done – then this step can be ignored.

Now that you know the steps to do – let's do them:

Pause MSCAD – pick on this command from the menu.

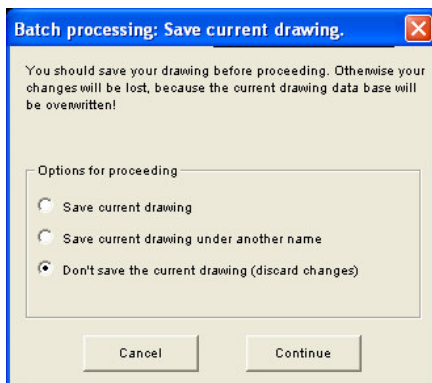
You won't see much happen – the command line will display the following:

```
> (setq mscadpause 1)
```

```
1
```

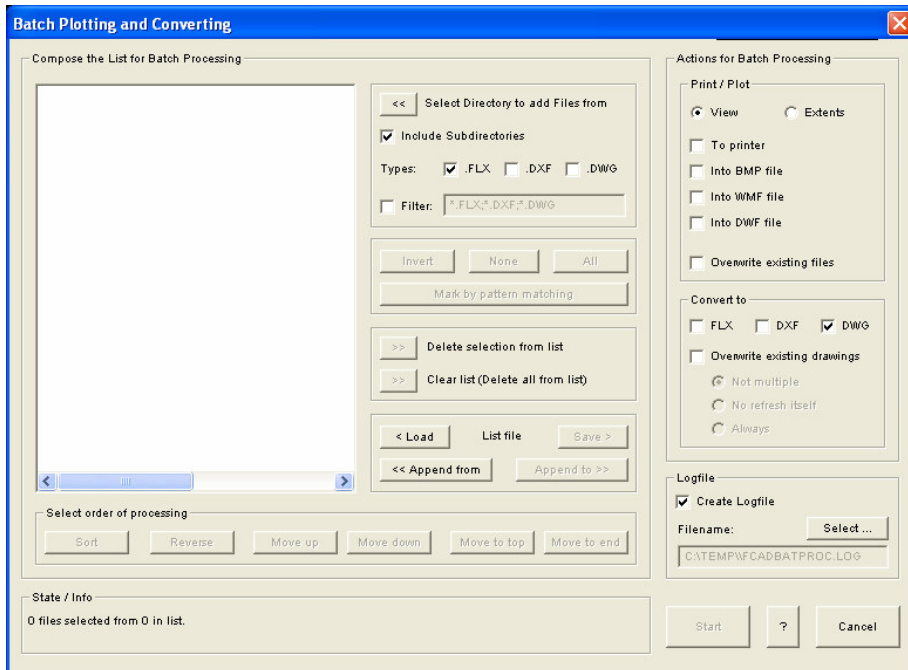
Batch Process File - pick on this command from the menu.

You will see this dialog:



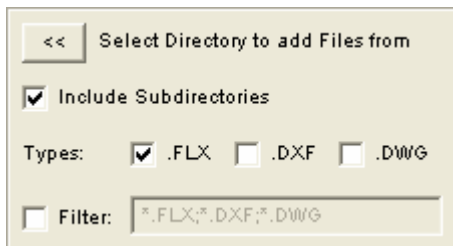
Being we have exited the project manager – the drawing you have open is the default, drawing\_0, and we do not need to save it. Pick on the third button then hit Continue.

You will now see the main conversion dialog:



There are two main section of the dialog that will be of concern to do the conversion from FLX to DWG files.

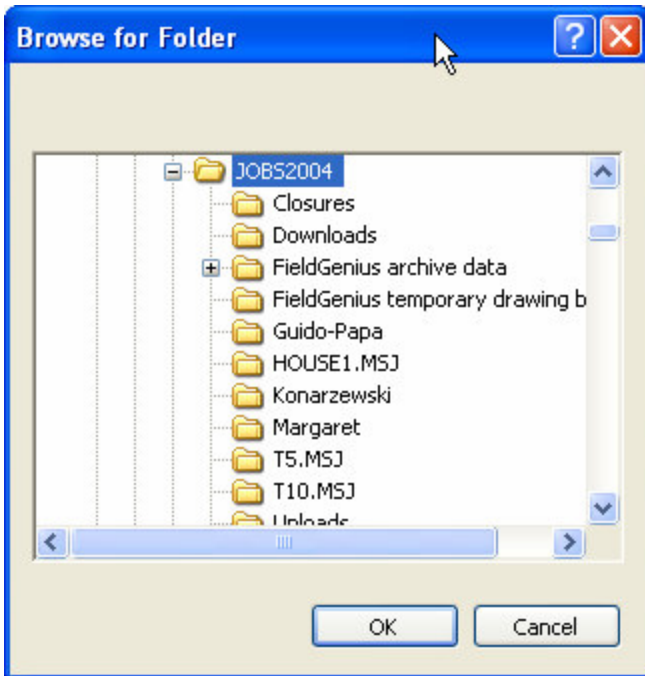
Choosing what to select to convert.



This section allows you to decide if you wish to list FLX, DXF or DWG file formats. In this case you only need FLX selected.

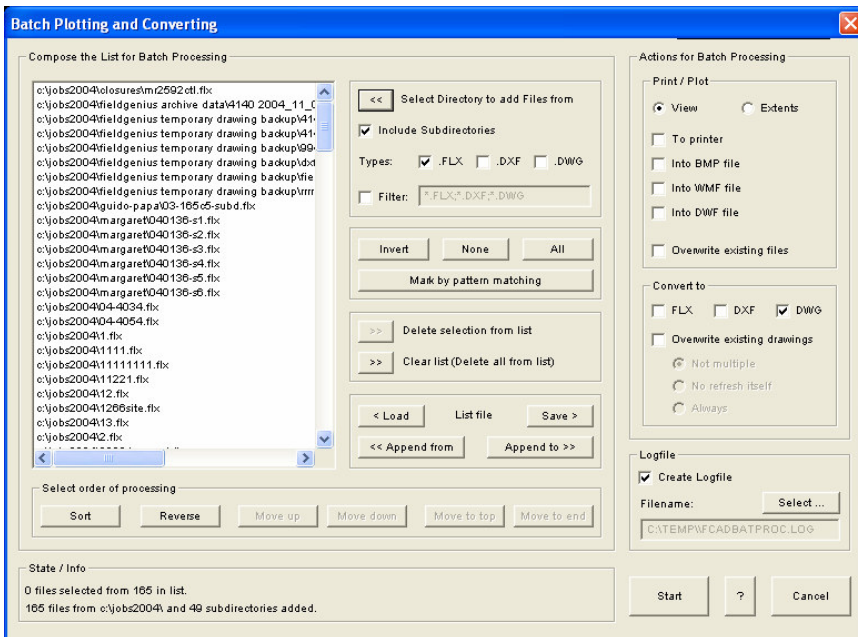
The Include Subdirectories option is up to you. It will automatically look in all subdirectories of any folder you select and grab all of the FLX files in any of those subdirectories as well as the main directory you pick.

The first button with the << on it, allows you to pick which folder you wish to grab the FLX files from. Pick this to select the desired folder. When you do, you will see the following dialog:



Using the mouse, pick on the + or – signs to expand and collapse the folders to find the desired location on your computer. Once there, pick on the folder name to process. Pick on OK and you will return to the previous dialog.

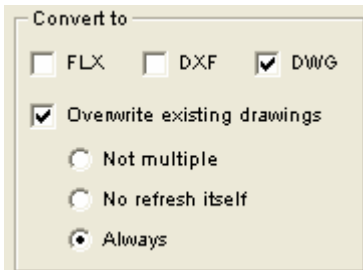
All of the FLX files in the folder you selected – and the subdirectories (if turned on) will now be listed in this dialog.



You can repeat this process to choose additional folders to process at the same time.

Choosing what to convert to.

The next section of the dialog to be concerned with is Convert To:

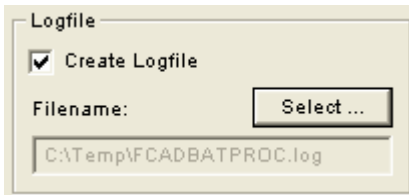


Select DWG to tell it you wish to create DWG files from the FLX files.

You have the option to Overwrite Existing Drawings. If selected, then if a DWG file is already on the computer, it will be replaced with the new one being created. If you do not turn this on – if a DWG file already exists then the save option is skipped for that FLX and it proceeds to the next FLX automatically.

Once you have set these features as desired – pick the **START** button in the bottom right – and sit back while the computer does the work for you. The DWG file will be saved in the same folder as the original FLX. The original FLX is not modified or erased. The same database files are used in both programs so nothing needs to be worried there.

A Log file is created, if you have this option turned on.



It will look something like this:

```
Starting batch processing of 151 files...
=====
Creating temporary database for Batproc: C:\TEMP\FCATBATPROC$.FLX
Preparation done
=====
File 1: "C:\JOBS2004\GUIDO-PAPA\03-165C5-SUBD.FLX"
-----
Opening ... done.
Saving File as "C:\JOBS2004\GUIDO-PAPA\03-165C5-SUBD.DWG" ... File already exists. -> skipped.
=====
```

The FLX processed above already had a DWG file for it – and the over-write option was off – the DWG was Skipped.

Below you can see the FLX files are all being saved as DWG files as it processes through the list of FLX files you selected.

```
Starting batch processing of 149 files...
=====
Creating temporary database for Batproc: C:\TEMP\FCATBATPROC$.FLX
Preparation done
=====
File 1: "C:\JOBS2004\VOL2.FLX"
-----
Opening ... done.
Saving File as "C:\JOBS2004\VOL2.DWG" ... done.
=====
File 2: "C:\JOBS2004\VOL1.FLX"
-----
Opening ... done.
Saving File as "C:\JOBS2004\VOL1.DWG" ... done.
=====
File 3: "C:\JOBS2004\TTT1.FLX"
-----
Opening ... done.
Saving File as "C:\JOBS2004\TTT1.DWG" ... done.
=====
```

Depending upon how many FLX files you have selected to convert – and the size of each – this entire process may take some time.

Restart MSCAD – This would allow you to continue working in MSCAD2004 by reloading our Survey routines. The command line will show the following:

```
> (setq mscadpause nil)
nil
```

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