



Scenario Generation in MACS

Jeff Homola



Outline

- Introduction
- Traffic scenario generation
 - Getting started
 - AC Table Editor
 - Scenario Editor
- Going forward and final notes

Scenario Generation

- The scenario generation and editing functions in MACS are the primary means by which traffic scenarios are created for use in simulations and testing
- The scenario generation tools allow for a great deal of flexibility in what can be tested
- To date, a variety of traffic situations have been created that simulated current day operations both in the terminal and en route domains as well as far-term environments with 2-3 times current traffic levels and different levels of aircraft equipage

Typical questions that guide the process

- What is the airspace of concern?
- What are the targeted traffic loads for that airspace?
- What is the duration and scope of the problem?
- What are the equipage assumptions?
- How structured does the traffic need to be?
- What, if any, are the desired interactions of the traffic?

Setup

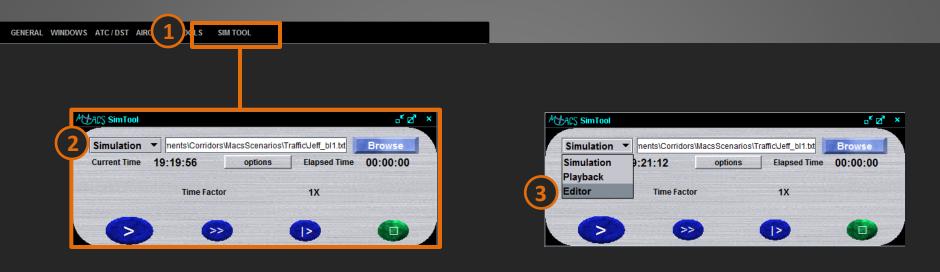


Traffic

- Base traffic can come from a variety of sources
- Often requires cleanup and some interpolation
- Does not need to come from alternate source

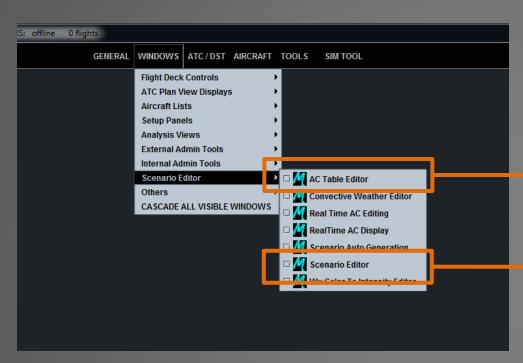
callsign	timeToEnter			e altitudeTarge			filedRoute	route	startPointN				cruiseSpeed		flightRules	inMach		d acSectorId	atcType	in∀nav	inLnav		
0742000					ORD	LGA			412240N/0				0.75937474		TFR	true	ZOB_59		A319	true	true	true	true
UAL6			39000.0		SF0		SF0./.KG7		423001N/0						TFR	true	ZOB_66		B752	true	true	true	true
UAL604			37000.0		ORD	DCA	ORD./.OTE		415604N/0		211.4997			0.40342212		false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL661			38000.0	38000.0	LGA		LGA./.COA		410104N/0		241.0527	0.7578999		0.46841636		false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A320	true	true	true	true
UAL667			38000.0	38000.0	LGA	ORD			414259N/0		246.72119	0.7521466	0.7521466		TFR	true	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL672			39000.0		ORD	LGA	ORD./.ADI		415851N/0				0.75937474		TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL680			39000.0		ORD	LGA	ORD./.ADI		415851N/0		0.0	250.0	0.75937474		TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL698			39000.0		ORD	PVD	ORD./.HAA		420320N/0			0.688	0.75937474		TFR	true	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL756			38000.0	38000.0	LGA	ORD			421442N/0		237.0	0.7521466			TFR	true	ZOB_79	ZOB_79	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL773			38000.0	38000.0	LGA	ORD			414946N/0		237.0					true	ZOB_79	ZOB_79	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL874			38000.0	38000.0	LGA		LGA./.STW		404940N/0			242.0		0.63781446		true	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UPS2049			34000.0		MHT	SDF	MHT./.PSB		423457N/0		228.72191		0.7990948	0.48856476	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B752	true	true	true	true
VRD012	0	37000.0	37000.0	37000.0	SFO	JFK	SFO./.KG7	KG75MD	423032N/0	KG75M	242.22469	0.75051314	0.75051314	0.7511465	TFR	true	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A320	true	true	true	true
VRD203	0	34000.0	34000.0	34000.0	YYZ	SF0	YYZ./CEF	CRLRBS	425157N/0	CRL	258.34814	0.73379546	0.73379546	0.7479774	TFR	true	ZOB_26	ZOB_26	A320	true	true	true	true
WJA1147	0	36000.0	36000.0	36000.0	FLL	YYZ	FLL./.DKK	DKKLIN	374905N/0	DKK	241.24628	0.7403725	0.7403725	0.7483875	TFR	true	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA1169	0	39000.0	39000.0	39000.0	MCO	YYZ	MCO./.EKN	DKKLIN	393126N/0	DKK	234.0	0.75937474	0.75937474	0.75937474	TFR	true	ZOB_66		B737	true	true	true	true
WJA1278	0	38000.0	38000.0	38000.0	YOW	MCO	YOW./.PSB	YOW./.PSB	404829N/0	LOONS	237.0	0.7521466	0.7521466	0.7521466	TFR	true	ZOB_59	ZOB_59	B737	true	true	true	true
UAL679	20	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	LGA	ORD	LGA./.COA	COATE.J3	404637N/0	COATE	0.0	250.0	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
WJA1920	266	0.0	40000.0	40000.0	YYZ	MSY	YYZ./.THO	THORLE	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	225.85341	0.76654875	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
UAL678	292	700.0	37000.0	37000.0	ORD	LGA	ORD./.ADI	ADIMEG	415851N/0	ADIME	0.0	250.0	0.7448694	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL674	480	700.0	39000.0	39000.0	ORD	LGA	ORD./.ADI	ADIMEG	415851N/0	ADIME	0.0	200.0	0.75937474	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
WJA2536	642	0.0	36000.0	36000.0	YYZ	MUSC	YYZ./.THO	THORLJ	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	235.03288	0.7403725	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
UAL673	758	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	LGA	ORD	LGA./.COA	COATE.J3	404637N/0	COATE	0.0	200.0	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
UAL638	1049	700.0	37000.0	37000.0	ORD	EWR	ORD./.HAA	HAAKKD	415851N/0	HAAKK	0.0	250.0	0.75051314	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A320	true	true	true	true
UAL549	1058	0.0	36000.0	36000.0	PHL	ORD	PHL./.RAV	RAV.J64	395220N/0	RAV	0.0	250.0	0.7459039	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A320	true	true	true	true
WJA2650	1100	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	YYZ	MMPR	YYZ./.ANC	ANCOLY	434038N/0	ANCOL	0.0	250.0	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA2624	1376	0.0	37000.0	37000.0	YYZ	MUHG	YYZ./.THO	THORLJ	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	203.37582	0.74769264	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA2668	1443	0.0	37000.0	37000.0	YYZ	MBPV	YYZ./.THO	THORLJ	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	220.56451	0.74769264	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
UAL610	1811	700.0	39000.0	39000.0	ORD	DCA	ORD./.TOP	TOPHRA	415851N/0	TOPHR	0.0	250.0	0.7623088	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A320	true	true	true	true
UAL608	2086	700.0	39000.0	39000.0	ORD	DCA	ORD./.OTE	OTENSA	415851N/0	OTENS	0.0	250.0	0.75937474	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	A319	true	true	true	true
WJA1244	2089	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	YYZ	TPA	YYZ./.THO	THORLE	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	225.71767	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA1232	2289	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	YYZ	FLL	YYZ./.THO	THORLE	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	229.57602	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA2754	2402	0.0	39000.0	39000.0	YYZ	MYNN	YYZ./.THO	THORLJ	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	220.0454	0.75937474	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA1140	2517	0.0	38000.0	38000.0	YYZ	MIA	YYZ./.THO	THORLE	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	224.72813	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA576	2669	400.0	38000.0	38000.0	YOW	MCO	YOW./.PSB	PSB.J78	451920N/0	PSB	0.0	250.0	0.7521466	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB_66	ZOB_66	B737	true	true	true	true
WJA2506	2743	0.0	37000.0	37000.0	YYZ	MDPC	YYZ./.THO	THORLJ	434038N/0	THORL	0.0	220.83073	0.74769264	0.0	TFR	false	ZOB 66		B737	true	true	true	true
M/1A2720	2044	0.0	20000.0	20000.0	VV7	MDLB	VV7 / THO	THORI I	424020NI0	THORI	0.0	226.4070	0.75027474	0.0	TED	folco	70B 66	70B 66	D727	truo	truo	truo	truo

Getting Started

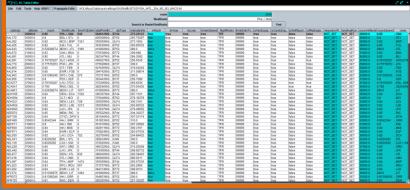


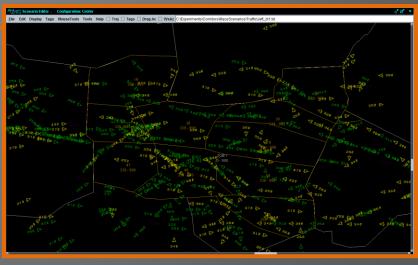
- 1 MACS initializes in Simulation mode by default. Editing can only be done in the Editor mode. To switch modes, first enable the SimTool by clicking on its item in the title bar.
- 2 Click on the SimTool's drop-down menu that is currently set to Simulation.
- 3 Select Editor from the menu to enter the Editing mode.

Common Tools

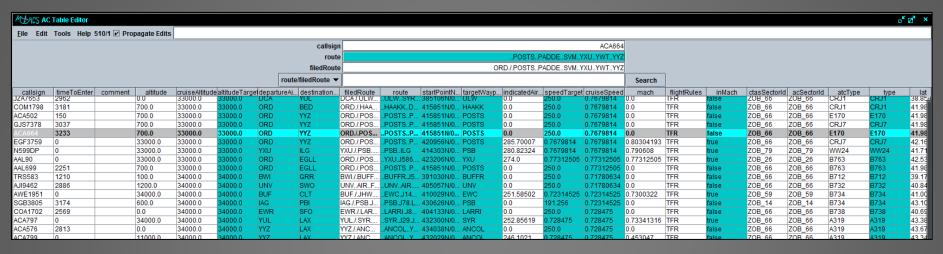


- The two most common tools used for traffic development and editing are the AC Table Editor spreadsheet and the graphical Scenario Editor.
- They are often used in tandem and interface with one another, so it is useful to have them both up together.





AC Table Editor



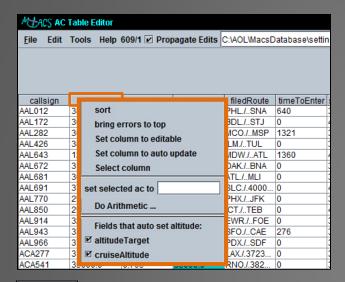
- The AC Table Editor displays the loaded traffic file as a spreadsheet and can be used as such.
- To load a file, simply go to File → Open, which will open a browser for file selection.
- Once loaded, the columns of values can be arranged according to preference by clicking and dragging the heading cell of a column to its desired location. This is a useful feature as it is often helpful to group certain columns together for review.

AC Table Editor



- Selecting a single aircraft in the table will display its associated text in **bold** for reference.
- Its callsign, route, and filedRoute will be displayed in the respective text windows as shown.
- •The callsign, route, and filedRoute can be edited from the upper windows without the need to do so in the individual table cells.
- •The AC Table Editor has a search function that allows the user to search the entire file for specific callsigns, certain strings within a route/filedRoute, or strings within comment entries.

AC Table Editor: Column Headings



Each column has a fly-out menu that can be accessed by right clicking the column's heading cell.

Selecting each option will have the following results:

sort

Sorts the file in ascending order of the column's values.

bring errors to top

The editor has error checking for each field, with errors displayed in red text. Selecting this will bring all rows with errors in the selected column to the top.

Set column to editable

Changes made in other columns will not affect values in this column.

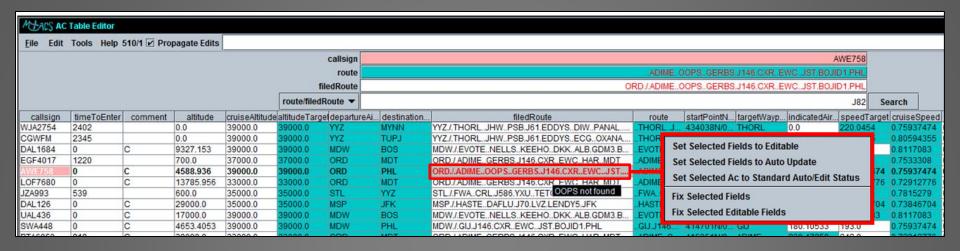
Set column to auto update

Changes made within an associated column will propagate to the column set to auto update. For example, setting the altitude Target or cruise Altitude to 35000 will update the corresponding altitude cell to 35000.*

set selected ac to

Sets the column value of all selected aircraft to the text box entry.

AC Table Editor: Error Checking



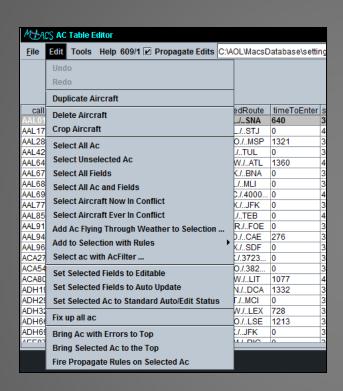
AWE758 Each aircraft with an error in any field has its callsign highlighted.

ORD./.ADIME. Text in the field(s) containing errors are shown in red.

The filedRoute and route fields have tool tips displayed when hovered over that identify what is causing the specific error.

Selecting this option from the flyout menu will "fix" the error. Exercise some caution when using this feature as some changes may not reflect your intent.

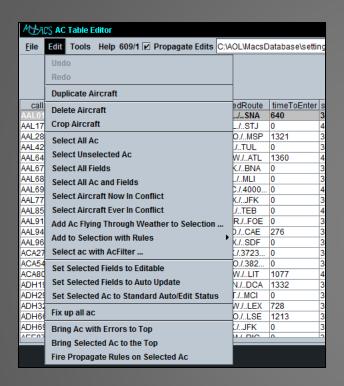
AC Table Editor Features



MEACS AC Table Editor										
	Edit			MacsE	atabase\sett					
callsi	gn	Jiaale	Lat/Lo	ong by up to			oute	timeToEnter		
AAL012				de by 2000 Fe	SNA	640				
AAL172				e Altitude by 2			STJ	0		
AAL282			MSP	1321						
AAL426		UL	0							
AAL643		.ATL	1360							
AAL672		Jiggle		BNA	0					
AAL681		/ILI	0							
AAL691		000	0							
AAL770		JFK	0							
AAL850		Auto :	Space	Aircraft by Tir	ne		EB	0		
AAL914		Move	Select	ed Aircraft to	Departure Ai	rport	FOE	0		
AAL943							CAE	276		
AAL966		Delete	Selec	cted Aircraft II	n Conflict		SDF	0		
ACA277			723	0						
ACA541			382	0						
ACA801		119 10	wake	All Callsigns (unque		LIT	1077		
ADH195	5	Selec	ted Ac	Weather Inte	raction		DCA	1332		
ADH294			MCI	0						
ADH321		wove	AC WII	th Negative Ti	meroEnter		LEX	728		
ADH664	ļ	38000	.0	0.82	38000.0	MCO./.	LSE	1213		
ADH693	3	35000	.0	0.82	35000.0	LAX./	JFK	0		
AFF076		32000	^	0.05	22000.0	MEM /	DIC	٥		

For the purposes of these slides, the Edit and Tools functions are too numerous to go into detail. It is recommended to simply try these out and get a feel for how the different options will best suit your needs. The following are a small selection of frequently used features in each of the menus.

AC Table Editor: Select Edit Functions



Undo Redo Undo returns to the previous state prior to the last change. Redo reincorporates the previous change.

Duplicate Aircraft

Makes exact duplicates of selected aircraft with the exception of new, unique callsigns. Can be performed on one or multiple selections.

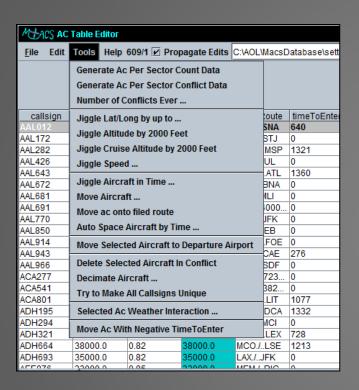
Delete Aircraft

Removes the selected aircraft from the scenario file.

Crop Aircraft

Removes all non-selected aircraft. Only the selected aircraft remain following this action.

AC Table Editor: Select Tools Functions



Generate Ac Per Sector Count Data

Displays the predicted sector load counts based on the traffic. Requires the *Load Graph Window* to be properly setup and displayed.

Move Aircraft ...

Activates a pop-up window through which an aircraft's position can be moved forward or backward along its route according to a specified time (in seconds).

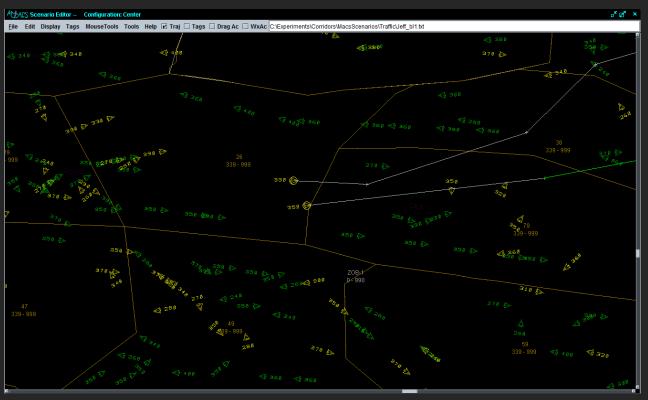
Move ac onto filed route

Occassionally changes can force an aircraft off of its route, which would mean it would be "free track" during the run. This feature attempts to place all selected aircraft back onto their route.

Decimate Aircraft ...

Activates a pop-up window through which the user can specify a percentage of the selected aircraft to remove from the file.

Scenario Editor

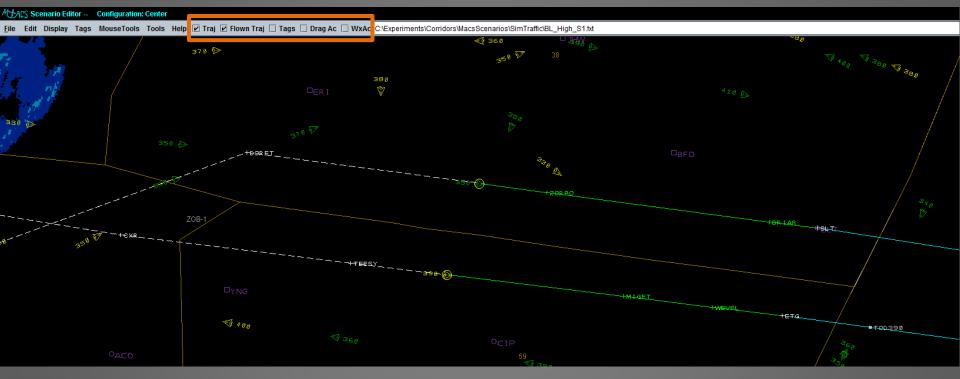




- The Scenario Editor allows the user to load and graphically manipulate aircraft within the file.
- It is often used in conjunction with the **SimTool**.
- Dragging the SimTool's time slider will update the aircraft positions to reflect their predicted positions at the given time.

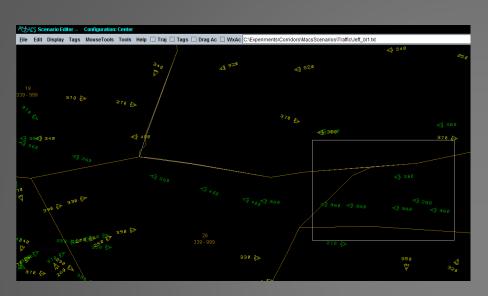
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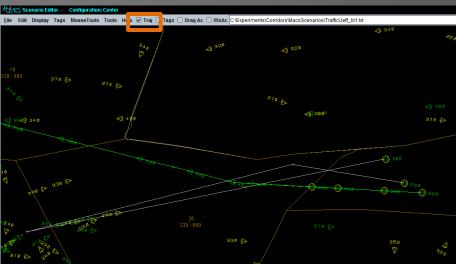
Scenario Editor: Display



- Displays a solid line for the selected aircraft's trajectory to be flown from scenario start.
- ☑ Flown Traj
 Displays a dashed line for the "flown" portion of the aircraft's trajectory.
- Tags Displays the data tags for selected aircraft (dependent upon data tag rule settings).
- Drag Ac Allows aircraft to be dragged anywhere, regardless of route. Sets editor time to zero.
- □ wxAc Displays the points at which an aircraft will penetrate convective weather.

Scenario Editor: Aircraft Selection

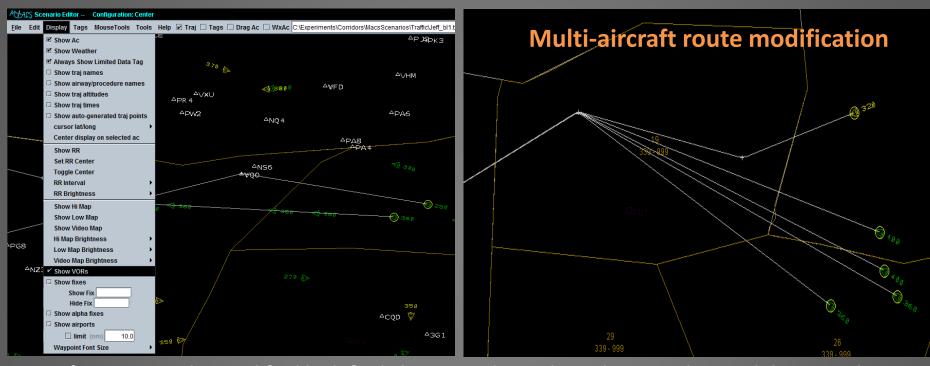




- Individual aircraft can be selected in the Scenario Editor by left-clicking on the target symbol.
- Multiple aircraft can be selected together by left-clicking and dragging a box around the desired aircraft (as shown on the left).
- To add aircraft to the selection, hold down the Shift key and left-click on the additional aircraft or draw another box.
- To remove aircraft from the selection, hold down the Shift key and left-click on the selected aircraft.
- Routes for selected aircraft can be displayed (see right panel) by selecting the Traj checkbox in the menu bar.

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Scenario Editor: Route Modifications



- Aircraft routes can be modified by left-clicking anywhere along the route line and dragging the point to the desired location. Multiple routes can be modified by selecting overlapping/common points.
- If VORs or Fixes are not displayed, or if the point being moved is placed in an unnamed location, that point will be defined by a lat-long position.
- Dragging a point to a named location will snap it to the location and the name of the VOR or Fix will appear in the aircraft's route.
- To display named locations, check the Show VORs or Show Fixes boxes in the **Display** menu.
- To remove a point on the route simply right-click the point.

Scenario Editor: Aircraft Properties

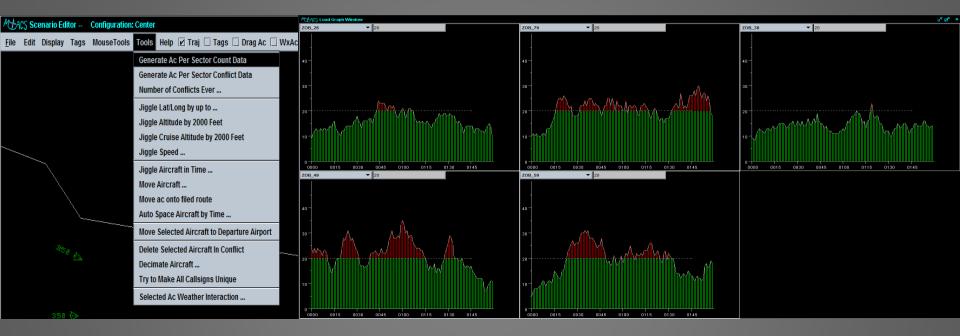


- Right-clicking on an individual aircraft will open a flyout menu.
- The menu options displayed can be updated through additional menu options by dwelling the mouse pointer over the desired field.



- The position of one or more selected aircraft can be moved forward or backward along the route by navigating to the **Tools** menu and selecting *Move Aircraft...*
- The desired time and direction can be entered into the resulting window.
- A shortcut is to select the aircraft and then hit any number between 1-9 and it will move forward that number of seconds * 100 (e.g., 5 = 500 seconds). To move backward, hold the Ctrl key down while pressing the number.

Scenario Editor: Load Assessment



- The traffic loads for particular sectors can be viewed through the Load Graph Window.
- To display the window: in MACS' main menu bar navigate to **Windows** → **Analysis Views** → and select **Load Graph Window**.
- The sectors to view in the Load Graph and the specifications for the window must first be defined in the traffic load setup file.
- To view the loads, in the AC Table Editor or Scenario Editor select *Generate AC Per Sector Count Data* in the **Tools** dropdown menu as shown above.

Going Forward

- The preceding slides covered a small subset of the scenario development capabilities available in MACS.
- The best way to learn is to just try out the different tools and develop your own style and strategy.
- The scenario development tools are a work in progress. Let us know of serious errors that you uncover or any ideas for improvement that you may have.

Final Note

- Scenario development is an iterative process.
 Using the editing and development tools offline only gets you part of the way to the final product.
- It is critical to play the scenarios in Simulation mode, in real-time, in exactly the same way that the final study will be conducted. There are always differences that arise due to a variety of reasons that will only be noticeable when doing so.



Generating Convective Weather with the Convective Weather Editor

Jeff Homola
Slides by Matt Mainini

Outline

- What is the goal?
- What is the Convective Weather Editor?
- What are the capabilities and assumptions of the Weather Editor?
- What is the general process?
- Overview of Convective Weather Editor features

What is the goal?

The main goal of the Convective Weather Editor is to generate realistic convective weather to display on the DSR or TSD in which the operator may view and interact with.

What is the Convective Weather Editor?

The Convective Weather Editor is a tool within MACS that enables the user to sequentially combine convective weather images that appear as realistic weather formations in real time.

What are the capabilities and assumptions of the Weather Editor?

Capabilities

- Generate realistic weather cells
- Multiple simultaneous weather cells
- Weather looping
- Predicted future weather
- Displayed on DSR and/or TSD
- Weather probe

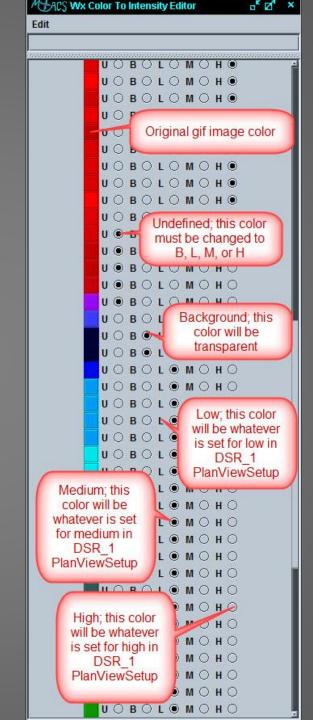
Assumptions

- Weather images have been prepared for MACS read-in
- The general location, size, direction, and number of cells have been considered

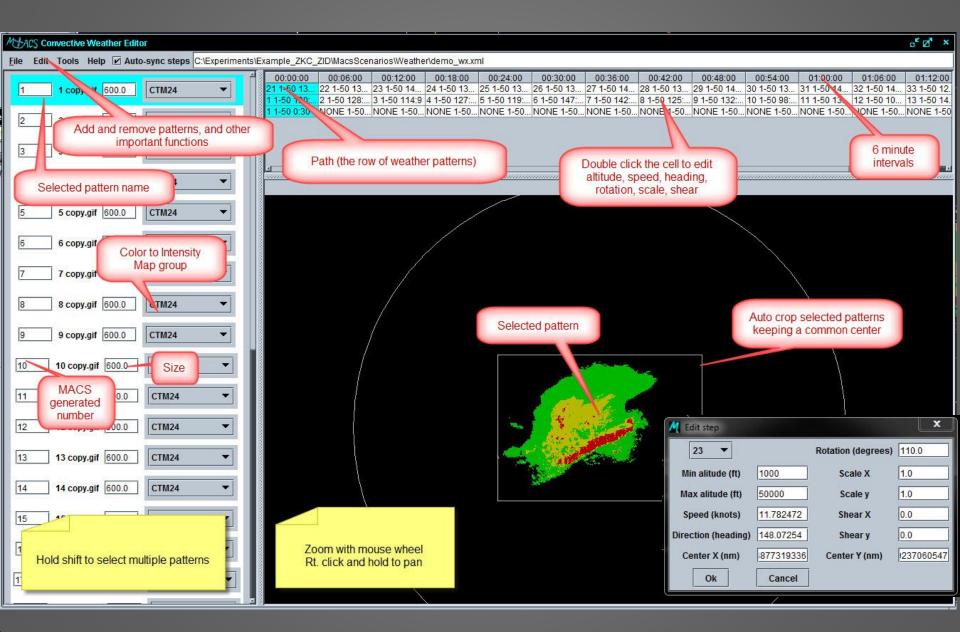
The process of generating MACS weather

- The basic process
 - Weather images are captured from NOAA
 - Images are prepared for MACS with Photoshop
 - Images are loaded in Convective Weather Editor window
 - Images, or "patterns," are stitched together and edited in time, or "steps," to create morphing convective weather cells, or "paths"
 - The "paths" are saved as an .xml and are played back as realistic weather cells on the DSR or TSD

Wx Color to Intensity Editor

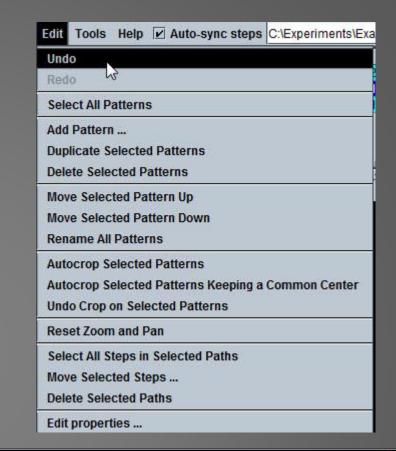


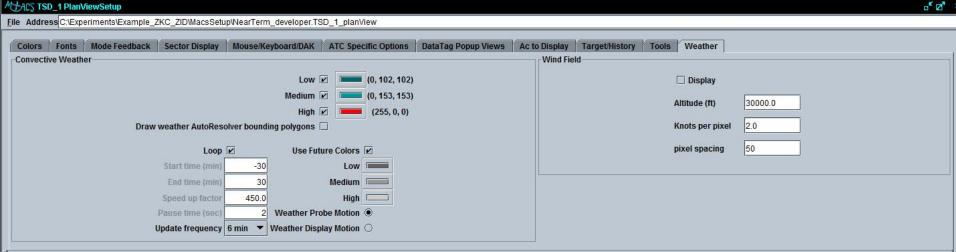
Convective Weather Editor Window



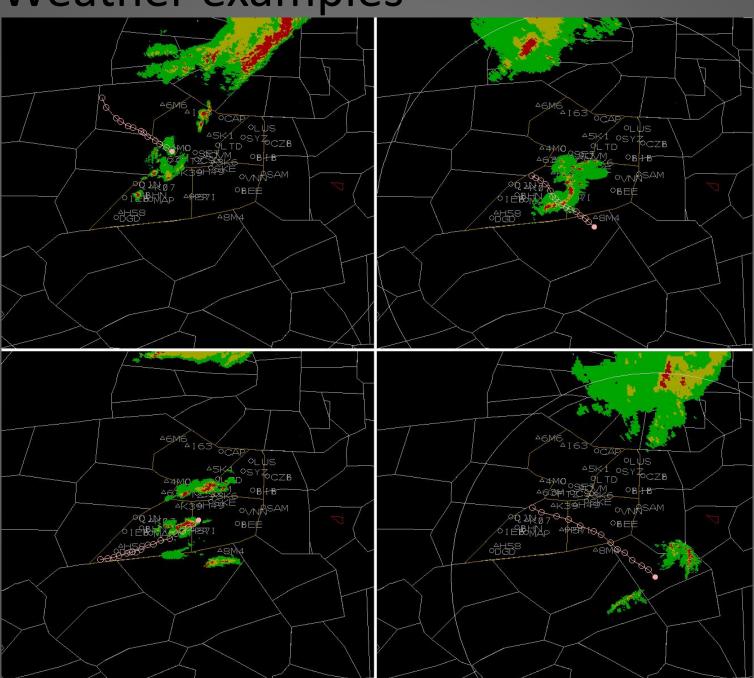
Other Important Menu Options







Weather examples



Contacts and References

Jeff Homola: jeffrey.r.homola@nasa.gov (650) 604-4603

Hwasoo Lee: hwasoo.lee@nasa.gov (650) 604-0764

Related guides on the MACS wiki:

Traffic generation:

https://aol1.arc.nasa.gov:8443/display/macs/Scenario+Editor+User+Guide

Convective weather generation:

https://aol1.arc.nasa.gov:8443/display/macs/Weather+1+-+Overview+and+how+to+create+weather+patterns+to+be+loaded+in+MACS

https://aol1.arc.nasa.gov:8443/display/macs/Weather+2+-+How+to+Photoshop+weather+images+prior+to+MACS

https://aol1.arc.nasa.gov:8443/display/macs/Weather+3+-+How+to+use+the+MACS+Convective+Weather+Editor