



Introduction & Overview

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1.1 Introduction

Most of the installation and configuration tasks for MSC/PATRAN products are managed by an automated utility. This manual is designed to supplement the `mscsetup` (`setup.exe` on Window NT systems) automated installation utility.

1.1.1 Who Should Read This Guide

MSC has designed this manual to guide system administrators and users through the installation of MSC/PATRAN. The installation instructions assume that you have a basic knowledge of UNIX and/or Windows NT. Root (administrator on Windows NT) level access is required for installation of the licensing system, and will likely be necessary to access centralized installation directories.

This manual also provides instructions for setting up individual user environments and for customizing individual user's access to MSC/PATRAN.

1.2 Overview of the MSC/PATRAN System

The MSC/PATRAN software system consists of several components. The term, MSC/PATRAN, refers both to the pre- and postprocessing components, and to the system as a whole. For the basic MSC/PATRAN installation procedure, see [Installing MSC/PATRAN on UNIX](#) (Ch. 3) and [Installing on Microsoft Windows NT](#) (Ch. 4).

1.2.1 The MSC/PATRAN PDB Database

As of MSC/PATRAN v8, the MSC PDB database has replaced InterBase. This change should be largely transparent to the user. For additional information see [The PDB Database System](#) (p. 81).

1.2.2 Modules and Translators

MSC/PATRAN is designed as an open, expandable system. Additional components provided on the CD-ROM include analysis modules such as MSC/PATRAN THERMAL, CAD access software such as MSC/PATRAN Unigraphics Access, and analysis preferences such as the ABAQUS Preference.

The `mscsetup` utility handles the installation for all of these add-in modules, but each is licensed separately.

1.2.3 FLEXlm

MSC/PATRAN Version 7 and later (as well as MSC/NASTRAN v70 and later) uses the FLEXlm licensing system. FLEXlm functions as a stand-alone nodelock license server or as a distributed license system. Earlier versions of MSC/PATRAN used the Gradient NCS/NetLS licensing system.

This guide no longer covers the NSC/NetLS licensing system. To install and maintain versions prior to Version 7, consult the Installation and Operations Guides appropriate to those releases.

This manual provides basic FLEXlm installation instructions (see [Installing FLEXlm](#) (App. A)). For other issues and questions, please consult the Globetrotter documentation at their web site, <http://www.globetrotter.com>.

1.2.4 Frameviewer On-Line Help System

MSC/PATRAN on-line help uses Adobe FrameViewer. The installation CD includes FrameViewer 5 as part of the core in MSC/PATRAN installation.

1.2.5 Year 2000 Compliance

To ensure the viability of MSC/PATRAN operational integrity, security, and authorization systems as they relate to Year 2000 compliance, we have conducted tests on Version 8 for the supported UNIX environment. Full official certification will be sought from the results of these tests after the release of Version 8.

The results of the tests we have completed indicate that:

- MSC/PATRAN is authorized to operate over a supported date range extending from before January 1, 2000 and encompassing a time period reasonably suitable for the intended use of the product. This includes the critical moment of February 29, 2000. This is applicable to both nodelock and network licensing.
- MSC/PATRAN reads and transfers dates correctly, for example, in print files, message files, and results.
- Date stamping, although not four characters, is correct, valid, and will not lead to ambiguity in interpretation of data. In efforts towards certification the specific locations and files will be documented for those instances that are limited to 2 digit year format.
- MSC/PATRAN does not perform date calculations.
- Databases created before the critical Year 2000 dates can be opened or converted after the critical Year 2000 dates. This includes databases that require the use of InterBase in the conversion process.

Once the testing is complete, we will post a notice of compliance to our corporate Web Site at URL <http://www.macsch.com>. This will include the 2 digit year format locations. In the unlikely event the certification testing against V8 identifies problems, the next release of MSC/PATRAN will contain all corrections necessary to ensure compliance.

Please note that MSC/PATRAN V7.5 and prior versions are not Year 2000 compliant. Therefore, you must upgrade to avoid problems once the year 2000 is reached. The supply of this upgrade is covered under the terms of a standard MSC maintenance agreement.

1.3 Documentation Conventions

This guide uses the following font styles to denote computer file names, system messages, and user input:

- File names appear in a plain Courier font (e.g., `/usr/netls`).
- System messages or prompts also use a plain Courier font and appear on a line by themselves:

```
-r--r--r--  1 bin      bin          40 Nov  2  1991 .pwrshd
```
- User inputs are in a bold Courier font and are usually set off on a line by themselves:

```
# openwin -dev /dev/cgtwelve0 defdepth 24
```
- The “#” command prompt signals that someone with root or superuser access must enter the command.
- The “%” command prompt signals that a common user can enter the command.
- Since the UNIX operating system is case sensitive (i.e., lowercase vs. uppercase), the computer output and user input appears in the correct case. Command parameters shown in *italics* indicate where you must substitute an appropriate item or text string.
- This guide uses input conventions as shown in this table.

Description	Text String	Definition
Return Key	<cr>	The return key is not usually shown in the commands. Assume that you must press the return key after typing a command or other input to the system, unless instructed otherwise.
Control Key	<Ctrl-z> <Ctrl-c>	This means you must type the letter while holding down the Control (Ctrl) key. For example, <Ctrl-z> means hold down the Control key and type the letter z.
Bracketed Items	[]	Any parameter enclosed in square brackets is optional.
Ellipses	. . .	A vertical ellipsis indicates that part of the format or example has been omitted.

1.3.1 Directory Path Convention

Enclosing a descriptive name in angle brackets indicates a reference to a user-defined path, such as the directory chosen for product installation. Additionally, product directories may include an “x” in the place of decimal version numbers. For example,

```
<installation_dir>/patran8x/bin
```

or for Windows NT,

```
<installation_dir>\patran8x\bin
```

For example, if you chose the default installation directory for MSC/PATRAN v8, the above paths would be equivalent to:

```
/msc/patran80/bin
```

or for Windows NT:

```
C:\msc\patran80\bin
```

Also note that UNIX path names are case sensitive while Windows NT path names are not.