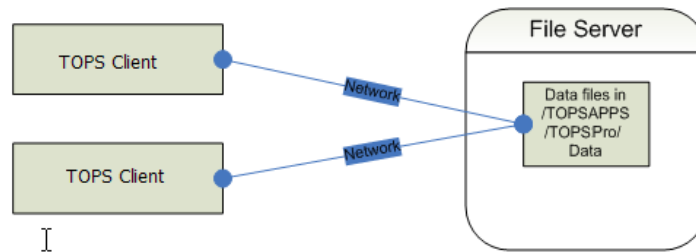


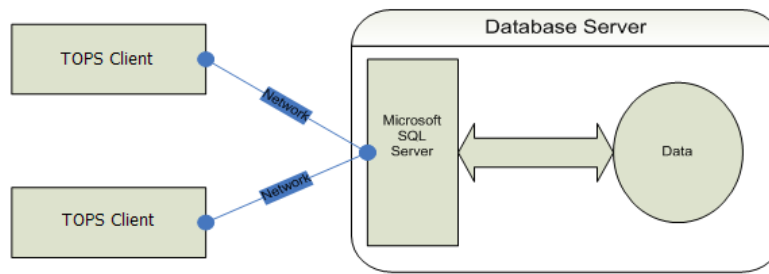
Introduction to TOPS Enterprise Version*

What is TOPS Enterprise Version?

In the standard version of TOPS Pro, all data and analyses are saved in a c-tree database and the program accesses the data files saved in the “DATA” folder. If the “DATA” folder resides on a network drive, each user needs to have “WRITE” permission to all data files. Additionally, each instance of TOPS requires a separate connection to the network server and handles its own data exchange with the database.



TOPS Enterprise version uses a Microsoft SQL Server database to manage data. Users have no direct access to files on the server, as the MS SQL Database Server handles all the data exchange between TOPS clients and the database.



Benefits of Using TOPS Enterprise Version

1. **Optimized Database**

For companies with lots of analyses, the database engine used by the standard TOPS version can result in data fragmentation overtime. The data files keep growing and reduce the software’s performance. The TOPS Enterprise version uses a SQL Database Server, which is optimized for large amounts of data with its internal file management function.

2. **Better Performance**

The SQL Server manages all connections between TOPS clients and the central database instead of having each TOPS user making a separate connection. The multiple connections coordinated by SQL can share resources and boost performance.

3. **Data Security**

The standard TOPS client version requires each user have an account on the file server, and each account must have write privileges to the DATA folder. The Enterprise SQL version uses the authorization mechanism of MS SQL Server. Client machines do not have direct access to any file on the server.

4. **Ease of Maintenance**

TOPS provides scripts to take advantage of the built-in functionality of MS SQL Server for periodically cleaning up old manifest data. MS SQL Server also has powerful tools to easily backup or duplicate your database.

5. **Expandability and Flexibility**

With minor changes, the SQL version of TOPS can support other popular databases like Oracle or IMB DB2.

Who could benefit from the TOPS Enterprise Version?

TOPS Enterprise version is designed for customers with at least five users doing collaborative work and who require a robust, enterprise-wide solution to their packaging and palletization needs. Companies with thousands of existing analyses will also benefit from the Enterprise version, which offers an interface table and allows for easy data export to other subsystems.

What do I get with the TOPS Enterprise version?

The TOPS Enterprise version can be installed over an existing standard installation of TOPS Pro or as a new installation. If you are upgrading from standard TOPS, you will receive:

1. The new executable to overwrite the existing TOPS program.
2. Scripts to help you create the database on MS SQL server or Oracle database.
3. Detailed instructions to import data from your existing TOPS database, if applicable.
4. The following additional features:
 - **Secured Single Sign-on** – Users can log into TOPS Pro using their Windows login name, eliminating a separate login when accessing TOPS Pro. This is a global setting that can be enabled via TOPS Configuration settings, accessed by system supervisor only.
 - **Secured User Roles** – TOPS Program supervisor can assign users with different user roles for different access rights to TOPS:
 - Viewer – Access to TOPS Viewer program only; this ensures selected users can only open and view existing analyses, but not making any modifications.
 - Standard User – This group of users will be granted rights to create analyses, but with no authority to change configuration settings, import/export, or define products.
 - Power User – These users can access all functionalities except for global configurations.
 - Supervisor – Supervisor has full access to all functions of TOPS.
 - **License Manager** – TOPS Enterprise version comes with a License Manager, which enables users to detach one license from the work group and place it temporarily onto a separate machine. If

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the detached license is not put back to the network within 30 days, it will expire automatically and the number of seats on the network will revert back to its original count.

- **Enhanced Analysis Management** – For better work collaboration, users can use the Check In/Check Out function to control work flow of analyses. A revision history is also available for each analysis to provide a timeline of changes made.
- **Shipcase Search** – This new function allows users to search through existing analyses for any shipcase bearing similar dimensions to the one being used in the current analysis. Users can also specify the amount of deviation from current shipcase when searching through the database or archived analyses.

System Requirements

TOPS Enterprise version supports Microsoft SQL server 2000 and above, Oracle server 9i and above.

Client Hardware Requirements

- Processor Pentium III 450 MHZ or better
- RAM 512 MB or more
- Hard Disk Space 50 MB
- Video Card 640 x 480 256-color, 800 x 600 16-bit color recommended

Client Software Requirements

- Operating System Windows NT / 2000 / XP / Vista / Windows 7
- DirectX 6.0 or above
- OLE DB Provider No additional component required for MS SQL Server
Oracle client full installation is required to setup the Oracle OLEDB provider if the database server is Oracle.
- Database component MDAC 2.8 or above. Available for download at the address below:

<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?DisplayLang=en&FamilyID=6c050fe3-c795-4b7d-b037-185d0506396c>

Please note this is already built into Windows XP, Vista, and Windows 7. It only needs to be installed for earlier version of Windows.

Note: TOPS Pro does NOT require Microsoft .Net platform. However, it can work on any PC with Microsoft .Net platform.