



Enforcer[®] Version 5

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The Command Column and the Command File

Most of the time it is not necessary to use the Command column ("Cmd" in the GUI editor) at all. Consider the following scenarios:

- a) The default MicroStation placement command is derived from the value of **Element** in the control file.

Examples:

If Element is 17 or +17, Enforcer will automatically start the *place dialogtext origin* command when that feature is either selected from the menu or graphically picked with the Draw tool (pencil).

If Element is 4 or +4, Enforcer will automatically activate the *place smartline* command.

- b) Some **special Element Types** have been introduced to give the Enforcer user more control over the default placement command.

Examples:

17F: place dialogtext fitted

17A: place dialogtext above

17O: place dialogtext origin (the default that is equivalent to 17 without a suffix)

33T: place note

33LL: label line

2P: place cell relative, for "normal" cells and cell type Placement

35P: place cell relative, for shared cells and cell type Placement

These special element types can be set by selecting different options with the T/Type (Text), C/Type (Cells) and D/Type (Dimensions) button to the right of the Element button in the GUI editor.

- c) The original purpose of the Command File was to define **override placement commands** that could not be controlled completely by element types. Typical examples are features that are placed with MicroStation Key-ins, User Commands, MDL's and Basic Macro's. The feature symbology is defined in the normal way and in addition, a special ID (maximum 11 characters, a-z, A-Z, 0-9) is entered in the Command column. This ID is used to look up the details of the command in the Command File. (Make sure your control file contains a +COMMAND_FILE statement that tells Enforcer the location and name of your Command File).

The Command File itself is just another control file that has its own special comma-separated column layout. The columns are:

- Code: The same ID that was entered in the Command column.
- Type: The type of command, eg Key-in, MDL, Basic Macro, UCM.
- Program: The location (optional) and name of the MDL or Macro to run. Leave blank for other command types.
- Key-in: The actual MicroStation key-in, or any commands or parameters required by the MDL or Macro.

- d) In Version 4.x, it isn't essential to use the Command File when you want to override the default placement command with a **MicroStation key-in**. Putting the key-in command directly in the Command column does this. (The GUI editor will automatically enclose the key-in in double-quotes. These should be added manually when using a text editor such as Notepad to modify the control file). A typical example of this type of override is where Element is 6 or +6. The default placement command is *place shape*. The operator may prefer to use the *place block* command in most cases. This means they have to reset out of *place shape* and start *place block* manually, which can be tedious.

The solution: Enter the words "place block" in the Command column in the control file. When the operator selects this feature, Enforcer sees the command in double-quotes and sends it as a key-in to MicroStation.

Note: If you are going to use the same key-in override command repeatedly, it is better to define the command in the Command File in the conventional way as described above, as it is much easier to maintain. Should it become necessary to change to the override key-in in future, it is much quicker to change one line in the Command File than to find all the occurrences in the control file(s) where the key-in had been hard-coded.

- e) The Command column and Command File are extremely useful and versatile when it is used to create **Utility Menus**, by making MDL's, Basic Macro's, User Commands and Key-In's easily accessible from a menu, especially when a specific MDL has a number of useful key-in commands. Function keys can be used for this purpose, but they are limited in number. It is much more efficient if special commands are visible and accessible from a menu. This is achieved through the use of element type 888 that was created especially for this purpose:

- Enter a Label and Description for this "feature".
- Set Element to 888 ("Enf Element" in the GUI editor).
- Set Command to ID.
- Choose the appropriate lookup ID.
- Make sure your control file contains a +COMMAND_FILE statement that tells Enforcer the location and name of your Command File.