

3.0 Using References

Elements in a reference file display as though they are geometry in the active design file. Although you cannot manipulate the elements in a reference, you can snap to them and even copy them into the active design file.

The most common usage of references is in the creation of design compositions. Engineers and other technical professionals use design compositions to communicate through the visual content of their designs.

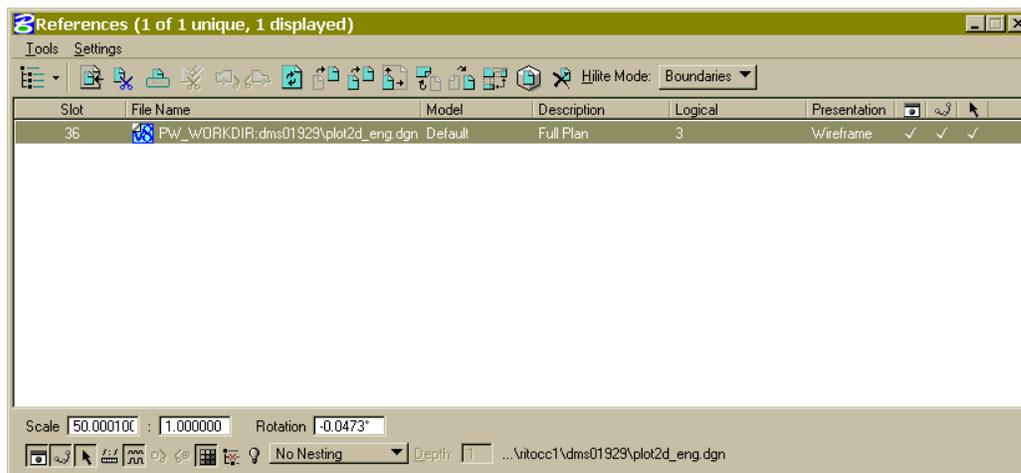
To create a **design composition** using MicroStation, you build a design file consisting of a working collection of references used in the performance of particular engineering tasks. For example, you may attach as references a collection of survey points as a guide for placement of additional geometry.

 It is sometimes convenient to refer to one part of a design file while drawing in another area by attaching the active design file to itself.

3.1 References dialog box

The References dialog box provides users with a listing of all the files that are referenced to the active design file as well as all the tools necessary to attach reference files, detach reference files, affect the display and interaction for reference files, or manipulate reference file settings.

The References dialog box can be accessed by clicking on the References icon in the Primary tool bar at the top of the MicroStation screen.



The References dialog can also be accessed by clicking on the small down arrow next to the References icon. This method causes the References dialog to act like a drop down menu and it will only remain accessible as long as the cursor is within the dialog.

To go along with the File and Settings menus at the top of the References dialog box, MicroStation V8 also employs a series of icon driven tools.

The first icon toggles a hierarchy listing along the left side of the References dialog box.



The next series of icons can be used to attach, detach and manipulate reference files. Descriptions of these tools are shown in the table below.

To	Select in the Reference tool box
Attach a reference file to the active file.	 <i>Attach Reference</i>
Change a reference clipping boundary.	 <i>Set Reference Clip Boundary</i>
Mask (cover) part of a reference that is inside the clipping boundary.	 <i>Set Reference Clip Mask</i>
Selectively delete a reference's clipping mask(s).	 <i>Delete Reference Clip</i>
Set the back clipping plane for a 3D reference.	 <i>Set Reference Back Clip Plane</i>
Set the front clipping plane for a 3D reference.	 <i>Set Reference Front Clipping Plane</i>
Reread and redraw a reference to see recent changes made to it.	 <i>Reload Reference</i>
Move a reference.	

	 <i>Move Reference</i>
Copy a reference.	 <i>Copy Reference Attachment</i>
Scale a reference.	 <i>Scale Reference</i>
Rotate a reference.	 <i>Rotate Reference</i>
Mirror a reference about a horizontal or vertical axis.	 <i>Mirror Reference</i>
Sets the rendering mode of the reference.	 <i>Set Reference Presentation</i>
Detach a reference from the active file.	 <i>Detach Reference</i>

The References dialog box also provides a “Hilite” function for users. By selecting the desired option from the Hilite Mode drop-down menu the user can choose to display a highlighted boundary around selected reference files, display the geometry within any selected reference files as highlighted, a combination of these two, or no highlighting at all.



Located along the bottom of the References dialog box are additional icons that control the attachment settings for the different reference files.

<p>Toggles the display of a reference file on or off.</p>	 <i>Display</i>
<p>Toggles the ability to snap to elements within a reference file.</p>	 <i>Snap</i>
<p>Toggles the ability to identify (or select) elements within a reference file for construction purposes.</p>	 <i>Locate</i>
<p>If on, units in the referenced file align one to one with units in the active file.</p>	 <i>True Scale</i>
<p>If on, custom line style components (for example: <i>guardrail new</i>) are scaled by the Scale factors. If off, custom line style components are not scaled.</p>	 <i>Scale Line Styles</i>
<p>Sets the back clipping plane for a 3D referenced file.</p>	 <i>Clip Back</i>
<p>Sets the front clipping plane for a 3D referenced file.</p>	 <i>Clip Front</i>
<p>If on, raster references will display in the active file.</p>	 <i>Display Raster Reference</i>
<p>If on, this ensures that if the current attachment becomes a nested reference, it will be ignored.</p>	 <i>Ignore Attachment When Live Nesting</i>
<p>If on, the source lighting cells present in the active file are considered during processing for rendering.</p>	 <i>Use Lights</i>

3.2 Identifying References



Identifying a reference on which to operate is an alternative to selecting the reference in the References dialog box's list box; the identification technique is typically used with tools in the References tool box.

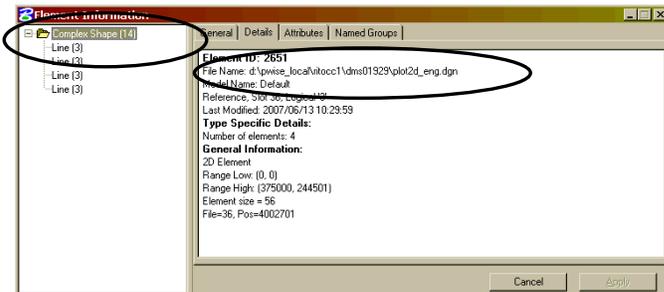
To identify a reference

In a view window, identify an element in the reference with a single data point click. The reference information will be displayed with-in the Message Center of the Status Bar.



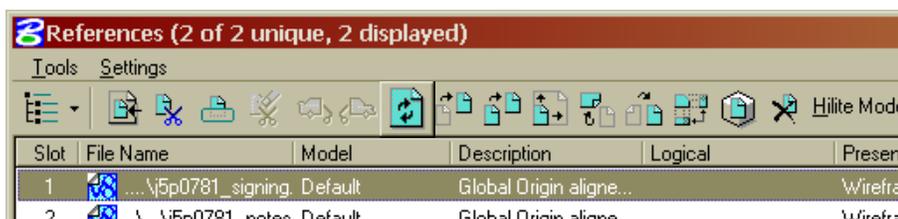
or

Accept the data point and receive more information on the location and name of the referenced design file.



Clicking on the Details tab of the Element Information dialog box will show information on the referenced design file location.

3.3 Reload Reference



Used to reread and redraw a referenced design file.

To reload a reference

1. Select the reference in the list box in the References dialog box.
2. Select the *Reload Reference* tool.
or
From the Tools menu, choose Reload.
The reference is redrawn.

 Reloading a reference lets you see changes that have been made to the reference by a co-

worker on the network since the reference was last attached or reloaded.

To reload all attached references

1. Select the reference in the list box in the References dialog box.
2. Select the *Reload Reference* tool.
or
From the Tools menu, choose Reload All.
The reference(s) is redrawn.
3. Select the reference in the list box in the References dialog box.
4. From the dialog box's Tools menu, choose Reload All.
The references are read from the disk and redrawn.