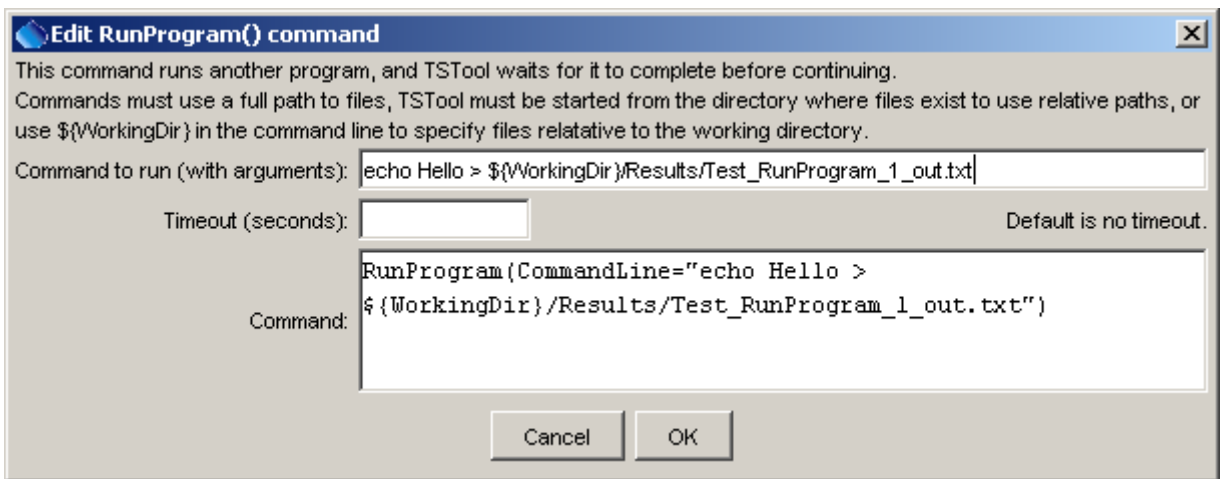# Command Reference: RunProgram()
Run an external program
Version 08.16.00, 2008-06-25

The `RunProgram()` command runs an external program, given the full command line, and waits until the program is finished before processing additional commands. It is therefore possible to call an external program that reads and/or writes recognized time series formats and perform processing that TSTool cannot. Another use of this command is to create a calibration environment where a model is run and then the results are read and displayed using TSTool.

TSTool internally maintains a working directory that is used to convert relative paths to absolute paths to locate files. The working directory is by default the location of the last command file that was opened. However, the external program will generally recognize the working directory as the location from which TSTool software was started (the installation location if started from a menu). Therefore, it may be necessary to run TSTool in batch mode from the directory where the external software's data files exist, use absolute paths to files, or utilize the `${WorkingDir}` property in the command line.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the command syntax.

RunProgram() Command Editor

The command syntax is as follows:

```
RunProgram(Parameter=Value…)
```

Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
CommandLine	The program command line, with arguments. If the program executable is found in the PATH, then only the program name needs to be specified. Otherwise, specify an absolute path to the program or run TSTool from the same directory. The ${WorkingDir} property can be used in the command line to indicate the working directory (command file location) when specifying file names.	None – must be specified.
Timeout	The timeout in seconds – if the program has not yet returned, the process will be ended. Zero indicates no timeout.	No timeout.