Command Reference: RunDSSUTL()
Run the DSSUTL and other utility programs from the US Army Corps of Engineers
Version 09.03.00, 2009-04-10

The `RunDSSUTL()` command runs the Army Corps of Engineers' DSSUTL program and other utility programs, which are used with HEC-DSS files. See also the **HEC-DSS Input Type** appendix. This command formats the command line for the program, runs the program, and checks the exit value. A non-zero exit value will result in a failure status for the command.

TSTool internally maintains a working directory that is used to convert relative paths to absolute paths in order to locate files. The working directory is by default the location of the last command file that was opened. The location of the program being run (e.g., *DSSUTL.EXE*) is determined by the operating system using the `PATH` environment variable; therefore, use the `${WorkingDir}` property in the command line if the program location is not in `PATH`. Use `\"` in the command line or arguments to surround whitespace.

It is not clear whether DSSUTL and other program have limits on path or filename length, but if this appears to be the case, use shorter names. If a program is not provided with correct input, it may go into interactive mode, in which case TSTool may appear to stop when running the command. Currently there is no way to kill the process and TSTool must be stopped and restarted.
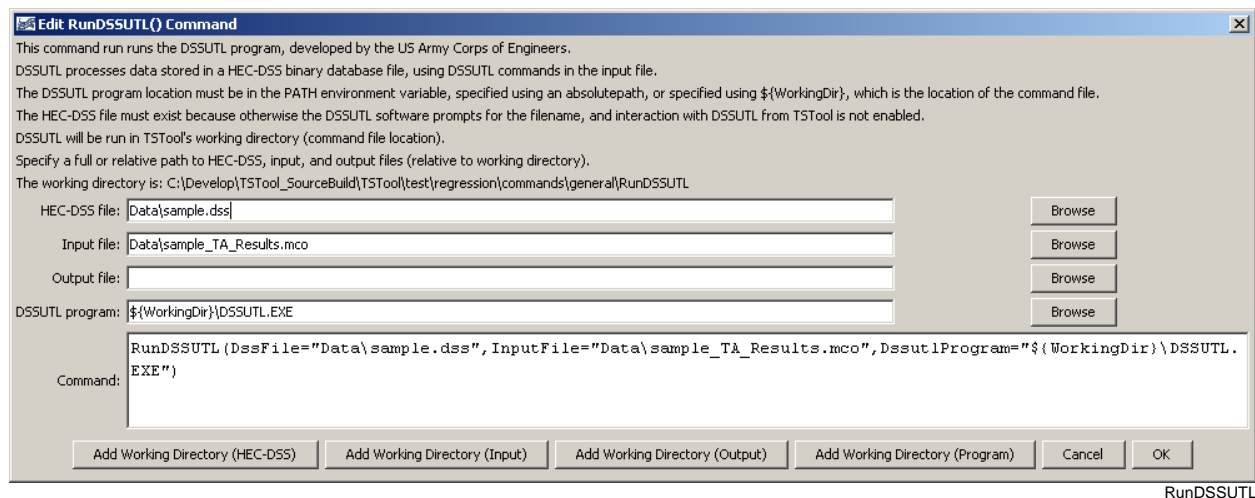
The following table summarizes how the command treats input for various utility programs. Required arguments are for the `RunDSSUTL()` command but may be optional if the program is run on the command line.

RunDSSUTL() Command Handling of HEC-DSS Utility Program Input

Progam	Description	DSSFILE= Argument	INPUT= Argument	OUTPUT= Argument
DSSUTL	Data Storage System Utility Program	Required	Required	Optional
DSPLAY	Data Storage System Graphics Utility	Required	Required	Optional
DSSMATH	Utility Program for Mathematical Manipulation of HEC-DSS Data	Not used – use OPEN() command.	Required	Optional
REPGEN	Report Generator – **not fully supported due to different command line argument conventions.**			
DSSTS	Regular Interval Time-Series Data Entry Program	Required	Required	Optional
DSSITS	Irregular Interval Time-Series Data Entry Program	Required	Required	Optional
DSSPD	Paired Data Entry Program	Required	Required	Optional
DSSTXT	Text Data Entry Program	Required	Required	Optional
DWINDO	Interactive Data Entry and Editing	This interactive program is not supported by `RunDSSUTL()` command.		
WATDSS	Watstore to DSS Data Entry Program – **not fully supported due to different command line argument**	Required	Required	Optional

Progam	Description	DSSFILE= Argument	INPUT= Argument	OUTPUT= Argument
	conventions.			
NWSDSS	National Weather Service to Data Storage System Conversion Utility – **not fully supported due to different command line argument conventions.**	Required	Required	Optional
PREAD	Functions, Macros, and Screens – **not fully supported due to interactive prompts.**			

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the command syntax. Note that the *DSSUTL.EXE* location is in this case not included in the PATH environment variable and is specified with the DssutlProgram parameter, using ${WorkingDir}. The HEC-DSS and input files are relative to the working directory.

RunDSSUTL

RunDSSUTL() Command Editor when Specifying Command Line

The command syntax is as follows:

```
RunDSSUTL(Parameter=Value…)
```

Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
DssFile	The HEC-DSS filename as an absolute path or relative to the working directory. The file must exist because TSTool does not interface with the program interactive mode prompts. The parameter is passed to the program using the DSSFILE= command line argument.	None – must be specified for most programs.
InputFile	The DSS utility program command file to run. The file must exist because TSTool does not interface with the utility program interactive mode prompts. The input file name is passed to the program using the INPUT= command line argument.	None – must be specified.
OutputFile	The DSS utility program output file, which contains logging information. This is passed to the program using the OUTPUT= command line argument. Specifying the argument will cause output to be printed to the file and not the screen. Note that some utility program commands write to other output files (controlled by the command file or other command line arguments), which should not be confused with the output file for this argument.	Not required – output will be to screen if command shell window is shown.
DssutlProgram	The DSS utility program to run. The PATH environment variable is used to locate the executable if a full path is not specified. Specify the specific DSS utility program to run if the default value is not appropriate.	If not specified, *DSSUTL.EXE* will be used and must be located in a directory listed in the PATH environment variable.

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