



TOPCAT USER MANUAL

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BECAUSE THE PROGRAM IS LICENSED FREE OF CHARGE, THERE IS NO WARRANTY FOR THE PROGRAM, TO THE EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW. I PROVIDE THE PROGRAM "AS IS" WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. THE ENTIRE RISK AS TO THE QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAM IS WITH YOU. SHOULD THE PROGRAM PROVE DEFECTIVE, YOU ASSUME THE COST OF ALL NECESSARY SERVICING, REPAIR OR CORRECTION. YOU SHALL NOT USE THIS PROGRAM FOR REAL-LIFE FLIGHTPLANNING.



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What is "TOPCAT"

TOPCAT is an acronym for Take-Off Performance Calculation Tool. It can be used to calculate the Maximum Allowed Take-Off Weight (MATOW) for a Boeing 747-400 with CF6-80C2B5F engines. The calculation includes allowances for different airports, runways, aircraft configurations, environmental conditions, etc.

It can be used for various 747-400 flightsimulator aircrafts (i.e. PMDG747 or PS1).

TOPCAT shall not be used for real-world aviation related operations

How much does it cost?

Nothing. TOPCAT is **NOT** a commercial product. However, if you like the program and use it regularily you may consider making a PayPal donation at http://topcat.ofplan.net.

Installation and system requirements

TOPCAT requires Microsoft® Excel® 2000 or higher.

Due to its complexity, TOPCAT uses VBA macros. To enable macros, open Excel® and go to Extras/Options/Security.

TOPCAT consists of the following files:

• **TOPCAT.xls** the main program

airports.datrunways.datcontaining all airports in .csv formatcontaining all runways in .csv format

eosids.dat containing EOSIDs ("Engine out standard instrument

departures") in .csv format

Special thanks to Olivier Steinberg for his EOSID data!

intsects.dat containing data for intersection take-offs in .csv format
 clrstpway.dat containing data for clearway and stopway lengths in .csv

format

• topcat.ini file created after first program launch; containing all user data

Unpack all files in one folder and run "TOPCAT.xls"



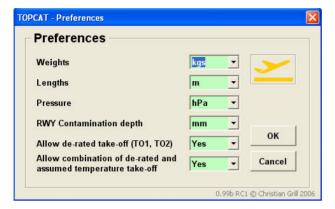
Registration

To use TOPCAT a registration code is required. A code is available free of charge at http://topcat.ofplan.net

The expiry date of the program is shown at the bottom of the main menu. After this date you have to get a new registration code.



Preferences



Weights

Can either be:

o **kgs** Kilograms o **lbs** Pounds

Lengths

Can either be:

o m Meterso ft Feet

Pressure

Can either be:

- ∘ **hPa** Hectopascal
- oinHg Inches of mercury

· Runway contamination depth

Can either be:

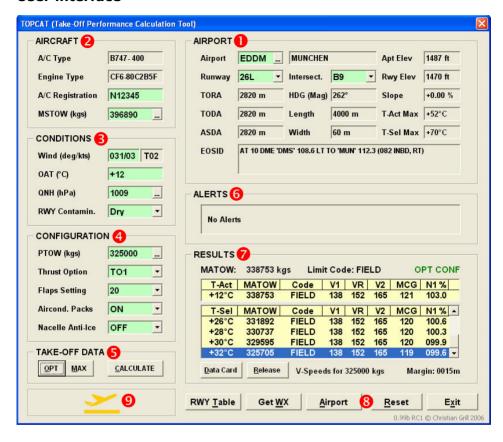
- mm MillimetersinHq Inches
- Allow de-rated take-off (TO1, TO2)

Can either be:

- Yes TO1 and TO2 take-offs are allowedNo Only full rated take-offs (TO) are allowed
- Allow combination of de-rated and assumed temperature take-off Can either be:
 - Yes TO1 or TO2 in combination with assumed temperature take-offs are allowed
 - \circ **No** Assumed temperature take-offs are only allowed with full thrust rating (TO)



User interface





AIRPORT 0

AIRPORT						
Airport	EDDM	MUNCHEN		Apt Elev	1487 ft	
Runway	26L <u></u> ▼	Intersect.	B9 <u></u> ▼	Rwy Elev	1470 ft	
TORA	2820 m	HDG (Mag)	262°	Slope	+0.00 %	
TODA	2820 m	Length	4000 m	T-Act Max	+52°C	
ASDA	2820 m	Width	60 m	T-Sel Max	+70°C	
EOSID	AT 10 DME 'DMS' 108.6 LT TO 'MUN' 112.3 (082 INBD, RT)					

Airport (ALT+A)

ICAO identifier of the departure airport (**VHHH** for Hong Kong or **KJFK** for John F. Kennedy).

① Click the [...] button to search the airport database by name and/or ICAO identifier.

Runway

Take-off runway

Intersect (Intersection)

Only enabled, if intersection data are given in the "intsects.dat" file. Select "<Head>" for take-off from the runway head (full length) or the desired intersection, if available.

TORA (Take-off run available)

The length of runway which is declared available by the appropriate Authority and suitable for the ground run of an airplane taking off.

TODA (Take-off distance available)

The length of the take-off run available (TORA) plus the length of the clearway, if provided.

ASDA (Accelerate-stop distance available)

The length of the take-off run available (TORA) plus the length of the stopway, if provided.

Slope

Percentage of change in runway elevation over a defined distance.

i) The maximum runway slope for take-off is +2% (up) and -2% (down).



• T-Act Max (Environmental temperature limit)

Maximum OAT (Outside air temperature) in degrees celsius (°C) for take-off on this runway at present conditions.

T-Sel Max (Assumed temperature limit)

Maximum assumed OAT (Outside air temperature) in degrees celsius (°C) for take-off on this runway.

1) Used for assumed temperature take-offs.

EOSID (Engine out standard instrument departure)

Procedure to be flown in case of an engine failure during take-off. If no EOSID is given ("N/A"), follow the standard EOSID. This normally means to climb on runway track to MSA (minimum safe/sector altitude) to a maximum of 25NM out.

(i) EOSIDs can be modified/added by editing the "eosids.dat" file.

Apt Elev (Airport elevation)

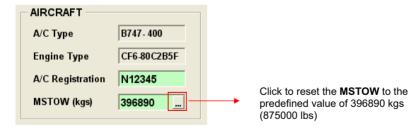
Elevation of the selected airport above mean sea level (MSL) in feet.

Rwy Elev (Runway elevation)

Elevation of the highest point of the selected runway above mean sea level (MSL) in feet.

① Airport elevation data is taken automatically, if no runway elevation is given in the "runways.dat" file.

AIRCRAFT 0



A/C Type (Aircraft type)

The aircraft type is B747-400 (Boeing 747-400) and can not be modified.



Engine Type

The engine type is CF6-80C2B5F and can not be modified.

1) This engine type is used in:

PMDG 747 http://www.precisionmanuals.com

o PS1 http://aerowinx.de

A/C Registration (Aircraft registration)

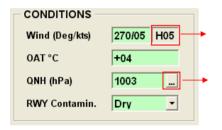
The registration of the airplane used (e.g. N12345).

MSTOW (Maximum structural take-off weight)

The maximum gross weight at the start of the take-off roll, due to design at which the aircraft is permitted to take off. This value must be between 332000 kgs (730400 lbs) and 415000 kgs (913000 lbs).

① Click the [...] button to reset the MSTOW to the predefined value of 396890 kgs (875000 lbs)

CONDITIONS 6



Calculated wind component in knots. ("T" for tailwind, "H" for headwind)

Click to toggle between hPa an inHg

Wind (Deg/kts)

Wind direction in degrees magnetic and wind speed in knots. To enter a wind from 270 degress with 5 knots, type "270/05" or just "27005". Leave blank for no wind.

1) Maximum wind speed is 70 kts.

Wind component (Calculated automatically)

Component of the wind along the longitudinal axis of the airplane. Can either be headwind (HW) or tailwind (TW).

① Maximum tailwind component (TWC) for take-off is 15 kts (T15).

OAT °C (Outside air temperature) in degrees celsius

Temperature at the take-off airport. Must be between -50°C and the environmental temperature limit (see Airport \bullet).

• QNH (hPa) or ALT (inHg)

Local station (=airport) pressure. Must be between 950 hPa (28 inHg) and



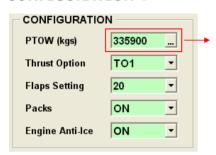
1050 hPa (32 inHg)

① Click the [...] button to toggle between hPa and inHq.

RWY Contamin. (Runway contamination)

From "Dry" (no contamination) to "13 mm" (0.5 inches) of water/slush or equivivalent.

CONFIGURATION 6



Type "**M**" (= MAX) or **leave blank** to calculate with maximum allowed take-off weight (**MATOW**).

PTOW (Planned take-off weight)

The weight of the aircraft at the start of the take-off roll. Must be between 200000 kgs (440000 lbs) and 415000 kgs (913000 lbs).

① Type "M" (= MAX) to calculate with maximum allowed take-off weight (MATOW)

Thrust Option

Can either be:

TO full take-off thrust

TO1 full take-off thrust minus 5% (if enabled in preferences)

TO2 full take-off thrust minus 15% (if enabled in preferences)

① In a VMCG limited take-off situation you can increase MATOW by decreasing take-off thrust.

Flaps Setting

Take-off is approved with either "Flaps 10" or "Flaps 20".

¶ Flaps 20 configuration allows take-off on shorter runways, but decreases climb-out performance due to increased drag.

Packs

Can either be:

ON all airconditioning packs on

10N one airconditioning pack on

APU one airconditioning pack on, supplied from the APU



OFF all airconditioning packs off

Engine Anti-Ice

Must be switched on in case of actual or expected icing conditions during take-off. Must be off at outside air temperatures (OAT) above 10°C.

TAKE-OFF DATA 6



CALCULATE (ALT+C)

Calculates take-off data for the actual configuration (see CONFIGURATION and RESULTS).

① The button is disabled if the PTOW exceeds the MATOW, or a take-off is not allowed in this configuration ("OVRWGT" warning)

• OPT (ALT+O)

Calculates the optimum flaps/thrust configuration for a given PTOW resulting in the **lowest N1%** under given conditions.

1) The button is disabled if PTOW is set to "MAX".

MAX (ALT+M)

Calculates the optimum flaps/thrust configuration resulting in the **highest MATOW** under given conditions.

ALERTS 6

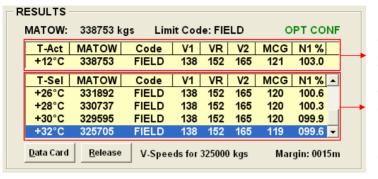


Alerts

Shows various error messages.



RESULTS 0



Take-off data for actual outside air temperature (T-Act)

Take-off data for assumed temperature (T-Sel), resulting in lower N1% and thus reducing engine wear and maintenance

MATOW (Maximum allowed take-off weight)

The maximum allowed take-off weight with selected aircraft configuration under present environmental conditions. If take-off is not allowed under present conditions an "OVRWGT" warning is displayed instead.

Limit Code

The most limiting condition for this take-off at selected aircraft configuration under given conditions. Can either be:

 MSTOW (M): Limited by the maximum structural take-off weight (MSTOW)

• FIELD (F): Limited by field length

• TIRE (T): Limited by the maximum rotation speed of aircraft tires.

• VMCG (V): Limited by the minimum speed required to maintain directional control in case of a sudden failure of the critical engine by use of the primary flight controls only, the other

engines remaining at takeoff power.

• VMBE (B): Limited by the maximum speed for brake energy

absorption capability.

- CLIMB (C): Limited by the maximum weight at which the aircraft can

meet the JAR/FAR part 25 climb gradient requirements for

takeoff (First, second, third and fourth)

Margin

Horizontal distance given in meters or feet to the DER (departure end of runway) when

- (a) Airplane comes to a complete stop after an aborted take-off at V1
- (b) Airplane reaches 35 feet above the take-off surface after an engine failure at V1

whichever is more limiting.

Details (ALT+D)

Generates take-off data for the selected configuration which can be entered



directly into the airplane FMC.

Release (ALT+R)

Generates text-based take-off data for the selected configuration and temperature ready for print-out.

• T-Act

Actual outside air temperature (OAT) in degrees celsius.

• T-Sel

Selected (assumed) outside air temperature (OAT) in degrees celsius. Must be higher than T-Act.

① Higher assumed temperatures give a lower take-off %N1, resulting in a lower MATOW, but also reduce engine wear and maintenance costs.

• V1

Decision speed, up to which it is possible to abort a take-off and stop safely within the remaining runway length.

① After reaching V1 the take-off must be continued.

• VR

Rotation speed, at which to raise the nose for take-off.

• V2

Is the takeoff safety speed. This minimum speed must be reached before the aircraft reaches 35ft above the takeoff surface with one engine inoperative.

MCG (=VMCG)

Is the minimum control speed on ground from which a sudden failure of the critical engine can be controlled by use of the primary flight controls only, the other engines remaining at takeoff power.

① On a VMCG limiting take-off, decrease the thrust setting to decrease VMCG and thus increasing MATOW.

• N1%

The rotational speed of the low-pressure compressor in a dual-spool gas turbine engine.

① The lower the N1 for take-off, the lower the engine wear and maintenance costs and the higher engine reliability.



BUTTONS 69



• RWY Table (ALT+T)

Generates an "Individual Runway Table" (IRT) for the selected runway in Adobe .pdf format.

① Be sure to select the desired MSTOW, thrust rating, flaps configuration, bleeds/packs setting and runway condition before generating an IRT.

Get WX (ALT+W)

Retrieves the latest METAR of the selected airport from the NOAA weather server.

Requires an internet connection.

Airport (ALT+A)

Opens a window to search the airport database by airport name.

• Reset (ALT+R)

Resets all data in TOPCAT to begin a new take-off calculation.

Exit (ALT+X)

Closes the TOPCAT window and returns to main menu.

DEBUG 9



Aircraft Symbol (in case of problems)

Click here to create a "debug.csv" file in the TOPCAT directory containing some technical informations in case you have troubles using TOPCAT. Send this file along with a short description of your problem to topcat@gmx.at.



Sample take-off scenario

This sample shows a step-by-step tutorial on how to perform all required calculations for a take-off at **HONG KONG INTL (VHHH)** airport.

The following units are being used:

kgs for weights

m for runway lengths

hPa for air pressure

mm for precipitation depths

The planned take-off weight (PTOW) is 345000 kgs

- Launch TOPCAT and click the "Reset" button or ALT+R.
- You are automatically taken to the "Airport" textbox to enter the ICAO identifier of the take-off airport.
 - If you don't know the identifier of an airport, click the [...] button or ALT+A to search the database by airport name (shown below).



As you now have entered an ICAO identifier (VHHH) you can use the "Get WX" (ALT+W) button to retrieve the latest weather at HONG KONG airport. Let's assume the following weather report:

VHHH 070900Z 27006KT 6000 NSC 22/14 01020 NOSIG

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As the wind is coming from the west with 6 knots (27006KT) you can expect either runway 25L or 25R for departure. Let's choose runway 25L for this example. We start take-off roll from the runway head ("<Head>").

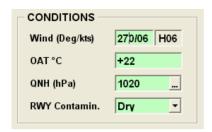


- Now continue in the "AIRCRAFT" section and enter the registration (e.g. N12345) and the maximum structural take-off weight (MSTOW) of your airplane.
 - ① Click the [...] button to reset the **MSTOW** to the predefined value of 396890 kgs (875000 lbs)



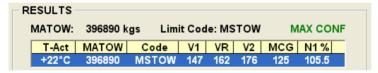
Next step is to enter the actual weather conditions in the "CONDITIONS" section. When entering the actual wind (270/06 or 27006) the headwind or tailwind component is immediately displayed (in this case "H06", which means 6 knots headwind). As the weather report shows no indications of rain or snow, select "Dry" in the "RWY Contamination" box.





Now go ahead with the "CONFIGURATION" section and select Packs "ON".
 As the temperature is 22°C, engine anti-ice is not required and you can switch it "OFF".

Now click the "MAX" button in the "TAKE-OFF DATA" section or ALT+M to calculate the flaps/thrust configuration resulting in the highest maximum allowed take-off weight (MATOW) for this take-off:



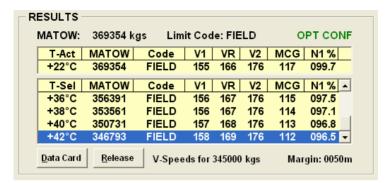
The MATOW is limited by the maximum structural take-off weight (MSTOW) of 396800 kgs. The %N1 in this case is **105.5%**. As the planned take-off weight (PTOW) of 345000 kgs is considerably lower than the MATOW there is a possibility to reduce the %N1 (=engine thrust) to increase engine life and reliability and to reduce maintenance costs (=derated take-off).

 Therefore you have to enter your planned take-off weight (PTOW) in the "CONFIGURATION" section at "PTOW". If a valid weight is entered, the "OPT" button in the "TAKE-OFF DATA" section is enabled.

Now click this button or **ALT+O** to calculate the flaps/thrust configuration resulting in the lowest possible N1% for a given planned take-off weight (**PTOW**) for this take-off:



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The optimum configuration in this case is "Flaps 10" with a "TO2" thrust rating resulting in a take-off %N1 of 96.5 at an assumed temperature (T-Sel) of +42°C. There is a runway margin of 50m.

• Use the "Release" or the "Details" button for detailed take-off data.



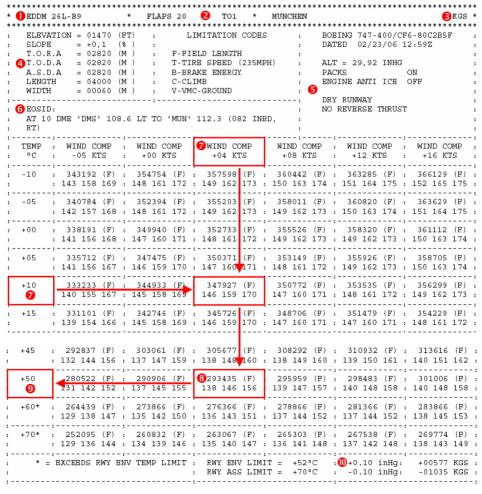
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How to use a runway table

This sample shows how to use a TOPCAT runway table for quick take-off calculations, where a computer is not readily available. Let's assume a takeoff at **EDDM** (München) from intersection **B9** under following conditions:

- Wind from 310° with 7 knots (310/07)
- Temperature +8°C
- Altimeter 30.12
- Drv runwav
- · Planned take-off weight (PTOW) 290500 kgs





B744 TOPCAT - User Manual

- Verify the correct runway ("26L") and intersection ("B9").
- Verify the correct flaps ("20") and take-off thrust ("TO1") setting.
- 3 Verify the correct weight units used ("KGS").
- Verify the correct elevation, slope, TORA, TODA, ASDA, runway length and width.
 - Runway 26L in EDDM is 4000m long. As we start the take-off roll from intersection B9, there is a take-off distance available (TODA) of only 2820m.
- Verify the packs ("ON") and engine anti-ice ("OFF") configuration and check runway condition ("DRY")
- Memorize the EOSID to be flown in case of an engine failure during take-off
- A wind of 310/07 gives a headwind component (HWC) of 6 knots on runway 26L. To be conservative, we start in the +4 knots column. Follow this column down to the outside air temperature of +8°C. Again be conservative and go to the +10°C row.
 - This gives us a MATOW of **347927 kgs** and V1=146, Vr=159 and V2=170. Correct this weight for pressure deviation from standard (0) which is **+577 kgs** per 0.1 inHg above standard (29.92) in this case.
 - A pressure of 30.02 inHg equals a correction of +1154 kgs ([30.12-29.92] x 577) and gives a corrected MATOW of 349081 kgs (347927+1154).
- If the planned take-off weight (PTOW) is lower than the MATOW, you can "assume" a higher temperature to decrease engine thrust. This is done by moving further down the column as long as the MATOW is higher than the PTOW of 290500 kgs.
- Move down vertically, as long as the MATOW is higher or equal than the PTOW, which is +50°C in our example. The new MATOW is 293435 kgs. Correct this weight for deviation from standard pressure again (+1154 kgs, see → and ⊕). Our corrected MATOW is now 294589 kgs and is still above our PTOW of 290500 kgs. The new speeds are V1=138, VR=146, V2=156.

Enter these speeds along with an assumed temperature (T-Sel) of +50°C in the airplane FMS or fill out a take-off data card before performing the take-off.



Sample take-off data

```
ACARS BEGIN - 02-27-06 06:58UTC
N12345
B744 CF6-80C2B5F
DISP - TOPCAT
TOPCAT 1.00
** NOT FOR OPERATIONAL USE **
    APT =VHHH
                RWY=251
    EI.EV=27ft
    WIND=270/06 CMP=H06
    TEMP=+22°C
                 ONH=1020
    DRY RUNWAY
    T.O.R.A - 4040m
     T.O.D.A - 4040m
    A.S.D.A - 4040m
    LENGTH
             - 3800m
    WIDTH
             - 60m
    FLAPS
          - 10
    ATR COND - ON
    NAC A/I - OFF
    MAX TOW - 346793
    ACT TOW - 345000
             - 396890
    MSTOW
    FIELD
             - 346793 LIMIT
    TIRE
             - 438430
             - 349897
    CLIMB
THRUST CONF: D-TO2 T=+42°C (096.5% N1)
    VMCG - 112
    V1
              158
    VR
              169
    V2
              176
    VREF30-
              170
    MARGIN- 50m
EOSID:
N/A
ACARS END
```



Sample take-off data card

 An empty Take-Off Data Card ready for printout is available in the TOPCAT directory ("TOPCAT DataCard.pdf")

