That CAD Girl

Frequently Asked Questions

Which Topcon / MAGNET software do I need for the office?

Note: With the v2026.0 release, Topcon returned its office and field software to the MAGNET name. Topcon Office is now MAGNET Office, Topcon Field is now MAGNET Field and version numbers now follow the year (for example, MAGNET Office 2026.0).

Topcon offers five primary office software options designed around distinct workflows in survey processing, CAD production, modeling and construction takeoff:

- **Topcon Tools** is a lightweight, standalone desktop tool for file conversions, GNSS and total station processing, QA/QC, adjustments, localization, visualization and reporting. It is often used as a preprocessing step before Topcon Office or other CAD workflows.
- **Topcon Office Base** is the core desktop environment for import/export, data prep, basic QA/QC, reporting, and light drafting. It is the foundation product for adding Survey and or Site Prep modules.
- **Topcon Office Base + Survey** adds survey-grade computation, adjustments, GNSS processing, richer COGO, drafting, and professional survey delivery workflows. Topcon Survey includes all the functionality of Topcon Tools.

- **Topcon Office Base + Site Prep** adds modeling and construction takeoff capabilities for surfaces and corridors, volumes, and file prep tools for GPS-guided machine control systems.
- **Topcon Office Base + Survey + Site Prep** is the complete office suite that unifies survey computation and adjustment, drafting, surface and corridor modeling, quantities and volumes, and machine-control data prep. Topcon Survey includes all the functionality of Topcon Tools.

Side by side selection guide

This overview highlights how each office product aligns with different responsibilities. Many organizations start with Office Base then add Survey and or Site Prep as their needs expand. :contentReference[oaicite:0]{index=0}

Selection factor	Topcon Tools	Topcon Office Base	Office Base + Survey	Office Base + Site Prep	Office Base + Survey + Site Prep
Primary focus	Survey data processing, QA/QC, localization, visualization, and reporting. A Swiss Army knife for converting file formats from one to another.	Core import/export, coordinate management, basic QA/QC, reports, light drafting	Survey-grade computation: GNSS processing, adjustments, robust COGO and survey deliverables	Modeling and takeoff: surfaces, corridors, volumes, machine control file prep	Full suite: survey computation + modeling, takeoff, design, and machine control prep
Typical users	Survey techs/processors, survey managers or PLS doing QA/QC and adjustments	CAD/BIM techs, party chiefs/field techs prepping stakeout lists, owner-operators	Survey manager/PLS, party chief or office survey lead handling control and deliverables	Estimators, takeoff specialists, surface modelers, CAD techs supporting grading and machine control	Survey leads, CAD/civil designers, site modelers, project engineers/PMs managing end-to-end workflows

Common office use	Import and QA GNSS/TS data, run closures and least-squares, apply localization/datum transforms, export reports, import and export files of different formats for outside project partners	Import field data, validate, set coordinate systems, cleanup linework/points, basic volumes/areas, export to field/clients	Control, traverse and least-squares adjustment, GNSS baseline checks, robust COGO, stakeout prep, record mapping and reporting	3D surface/corridor modeling, quantity takeoffs from PDF or CAD, volumes, machine-control data prep, as-built comparisons	Corridor and site design, road rehab workflows, utilities/trenches, pads and grading models, takeoffs and QC across survey + construction
Common project types	Control and boundary surveys, GNSS/TS network processing, survey QA/QC prior to CAD/civil handoff	Small site development, utilities, topo mapping/updates, as-built checks, change orders	Boundary and ALTA, subdivision and land development, utility and ROW survey and mapping	Site development, roads/corridors, subdivisions, industrial pads, mass grading	Highways and overlays, airports and logistics pavements, commercial/industrial site development, design-build heavy civil
Licensing approach	1- or 3-year subscription. Includes Enterprise check-in/check-out convenience	1- or 3-year subscription. Includes Enterprise check-in/check-out convenience	Subscription (1 or 3 year) or perpetual. Includes Enterprise. Subscription supports check-in/check-out convenience	Subscription (1 or 3 year) or perpetual. Includes Enterprise. Subscription supports check-in/check-out convenience	Subscription (1 or 3 year) or perpetual. Includes Enterprise. Subscription supports check-in/check-out convenience

How to choose the right office software

- **Select Topcon Tools** when you need a standalone “Swiss Army knife” for help converting to/from an expansive variety of filetypes, survey processing, QA/QC, least-squares adjustment, localization, and reporting without CAD production, modeling, or takeoff.
- **Select Topcon Office Base** when you need a core office hub for import/export, coordinate setup, cleanup, reports, and light drafting
- **Select Office Base + Survey** when your office delivers survey-grade computation including control, traverse, GNSS processing, adjustments, and robust COGO deliverables
- **Select Office Base + Site Prep** when your focus is surfaces, corridors, volumes, takeoffs, and machine

control data prep
- **Select Office Base + Survey + Site Prep** when your team needs the complete suite for survey delivery plus modeling, takeoff, design, and machine control workflows

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