

Data Download Instructions

Help

OCL.help@noaa.gov

Downloading multiple netCDF data files:

All the WOA **netCDF** files are uncompressed. Multiple netCDF files can be downloaded using the 'wget' command line tool.

Instructions by Operating System

- **UNIX USERS:** Download data files with the following command line:

```
'wget -N -nH -nd -r -e robots=off --no-parent --force-html -A.nc  
http://data.nodc.noaa.gov/woa[path to data files location]/'
```

For example, to get the WOA18 temperature files for 5564 decade, use the following command line:

```
wget -N -nH -nd -r -e robots=off --no-parent --force-html -A.nc  
https://data.nodc.noaa.gov/woa/WOA18/DATA/temperature/netcdf/556  
4/
```

- **WINDOWS USERS:** Download wget software for windows at [wget software for windows](#).

Downloading Individual Files

All the WOA ASCII output files are in [GZIP](#) compressed format. Each web browser handles GZIP compressed files differently. Mozilla Firefox automatically decompresses the data file during download, but maintains the file extension ('gz'). This will cause problems with programs such as "gzip" or "WinZip" because they will try, and fail, to decompress the already decompressed file. **Internet Explorer (IE)** downloads the file in compressed format and maintains the file extension ('gz').

Download Instructions by Browser:

- **MOZILLA:** There are two download methods: (1)
 - a. Hold the "shift" key and click on the link to the data file
 - b. Right-click on the link and select "**Save Link Target As ...**".
- **INTERNET EXPLORER USERS:** Copy the link location to your browser and then save the file in your local working directory.

- **FAST TRANSFER PROTOCOL (FTP) USERS:** Use the following URL to download from any browser <https://data.nodc.noaa.gov/woa/WOA18> or download the data directly via ftp.

Steps:

- A. *ftp* ftp.nodc.noaa.gov
- B. *login:* anonymous
- C. *Password:* your complete e-mail address
- D. *cd* pub/WOA18
- E. *bin* (to set binary transfer type)
- F. *get* filename.gz
- G. *bye* (to exit the ftp access)

Decompressing Data:

After downloading the file, unzip it using software that can handle zip-archives (WinZip, WinRAR, Stuffit, MacZip, UnZip, etc). The WOA18 [utilities documentation](#) describes how to use the [GZIP](#) tool on the DOS and UNIX platforms. After downloading and decompressing the file, view the data using any ASCII text editor.

Reading WOA18 Data Format:

The WOA18 data format description can be found in the [WOA18 documentation](#). For technical help or to report problems, please e-mail OCL.help@noaa.gov.