TUTORIAL 04
Analysing Energy Performance

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Introduction .......................................................................................................................... 7

Prerequisites ......................................................................................................................... 7

Step 1: Build an Energy Model ............................................................................................... 8

Step 2: Run an Energy Simulation .......................................................................................... 8

Step 3: Query the Simulation Result ....................................................................................... 9

Step 4: Run the Simulation .................................................................................................. 10

Step 5: Display the Simulation Result ................................................................................... 10
Introduction
Topologic enables the user to analyse the energy performance of a building with internal subdivisions. TopologicEnergy, which is part of Topologic, interfaces directly with Alliance’s and NREL’s OpenStudio and DOE EnergyPlus. TopologicEnergy is not designed to be a full energy simulation application, but as a demonstration of the power of non-manifold topology when combined with energy analysis. TopologicEnergy creates the necessary .OSM and .IDF files for your to conduct more sophisticated analysis in other applications. However, with TopologicEnergy, you can query the simulation results and display them as numbers, charts (using Excel or Mandrill), and coloured 3D geometry as you see below. To start, find and open the file called **Topologic-06a-Tutorial04.dyn**. This file already includes all the apertures. Please study how these apertures have been created and added to the CellComplex. Open this file and save it under a new name (e.g. **Topologic-06b-Tutorial04.dyn**).

![Screenshot showing the building model with apertures highlighted in different colors.](image)

Prerequisites
TopologicEnergy requires the following files to be installed:

1. **OpenStudio v. 2.8.0.** The topologic installer automatically detects and installs OpenStudio (which in turns includes EnergyPlus).
2. The minimal .OSM template. This template contains the minimal information needed to start building an EnergyModel. The file is called **OpenStudioTemplate280.osm**
3. Weather and DDY files. You can use your own weather (.EPW) files. In this tutorial, we will assume that you are using the files that we have included (Gatwick Airport in the UK).
Step 1: Build an Energy Model
From TopologicEnergy, drag and drop an EnergyModel.ByCellComplex node. Connect the output of Topology.AddApertures (i.e. the final CellComplex) to the building input parameter. Next, create a Code block and type the following lines into it:

floorLevels = 0..60..10;
bUILDINGNAME = "Multi-Storey Building";
bUILDINGTYPE = "Commercial";
DEFAULTSPACETYPE = "ASHRAE 189.1-2009 ClimateZone 4-8 MediumOffice";
coolINGTEMP = 25.0;
heATINGTEMP = 20.0;

Next, create three Dynamo File Path nodes. Connect each node to the following files:

1. The weather file: GBR_London.Gatwick.037760_IWEC.epw
2. The design day file: GBR_London.Gatwick.037760_IWEC.dly
3. The OpenStudio template file: OpenStudioTemplate280.osm

The energy model node should now look as the figure below.

Step 2: Run an Energy Simulation
From EnergySimulation, create an EnergySimulation.ByEnergyModel node. Connect the EnergyModel output parameter from EnergyModel.ByCellComplex to its energyModel input parameter. Create a Dynamo File Path node and Browse for the OpenStudio.exe file. This is usually found at C:\openstudio-2.8.0\bin\openstudio.exe. Next create a Dynamo Directory Path node. Browse for a folder of your choosing in your home folder to save the output energy files. Finally, create a Dynamo Boolean node and make sure it is set to False. Connect these nodes to their respective input parameters on the EnergySimulation.ByEnergyModel node. Your definition should now look like the figure below.
Step 3: Query the Simulation Result

From SimulationResult, create a SimulationResult.ByEnergySimulation node. Connect the EnergySimulation output parameter of the EnergySimulation.ByEnergyModel to the energySimulation input parameter of this node. Next, create a Dynamo Code Block node and type the following 5-line text into it. This is the SQL query to retrieve the Calculated Design Load of each thermal zone:

```javascript
EPReportName = "HVACSizingSummary";
EPReportForString = "Entire Facility";
EPTableName = "Zone Sensible Cooling";
EPColumnName = "Calculated Design Load";
EPUnits = "W";
```

Or, if you wish to get the thermal comfort data, try:

```javascript
EPReportName = "SystemSummary";
EPReportForString = "Entire Facility";
EPTableName = "Time Not Comfortable Based on Simple ASHRAE 55-2004";
EPColumnName = "Summer or Winter Clothes";
EPUnits = "hr";
```

Connect each line in order to the corresponding input parameter of the SimulationResult.ByEnergySimulation node. Your definition should now look like the figure below.
Step 4: Run the Simulation
Now is a good time to save your definition. Toggle to True the Dynamo Boolean node that is connected to the run input parameter of the EnergySimulation.ByEnergyModel node then press the Dynamo Run button in the lower left corner. After a few seconds, a black shell window will appear as you see below. This is the OpenStudio.exe application running the energy analysis. This window will close automatically after the completion of the analysis. Soon after the Dynamo run will complete as well. The model has now been analysed and the files written out to the output directory. In addition, the data has been read back into TopologicEnergy and we are now ready to display the results.

Step 5: Display the Simulation Result
From SimulationResult, create a SimulationResult.RGB node. Connect the SimulationResult output parameter of the SimulationResult.ByEnergySimulation node to its simulationResult input parameter. For now you can leave the minDomain and maxDomain input parameters unconnected. These control the colour range. If un-connected, it will use the minimum and maximum values from the simulation to determine the colour range to
use. TopologicEnergy is designed to work with another Dynamo package called Mandrill to display bar charts and a colour legend. Please explore that on your own.

Next, create a Dynamo `List.Transpose` node. Connect the `int[][]` output parameter of the `SimulationResult.RGB` node to its `lists` input parameter.

Next, create a Dynamo Code Block node and type the following 4-line text into it:

```
  a = 200;
  r = rgblist[0];
  g = rgblist[1];
  b = rgblist[2];
```

Connect the `lists` output parameter of the `List.Transpose` node to its `rgblist` input parameter.

Next, create a Dynamo `Color.ByARGB` node and connect each of the output parameters of the Code Block to their respective input parameters on that node.

Next, from `SimulationResult`, create a `SimulationResult.Display` node. Connect the `EnergySimulation` output parameter of the `EnergySimulation.ByEnergyModel` node to its `energySimulation` input parameter. Connect the `color` output parameter of the `Color.ByARGB` node to its `colors` input parameter.

Hide the `CellComplex` by right-clicking on the `GeometryColor.ByGeometryColor` node in the “Display Cell Complex” group and un-ticking `Preview`.

Finally, run the definition. You should see the colour of each cell according to its calculated cooling load as below.
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