IT Requirement Ascent Software

License Level 2 + Network and Level 3

Overview

This document is intended to provide details to an IT engineer to enable the setup of an IT environment for the installation and operation Ascent software. Respective reference guides should be referred to for Ascent configuration and usage.

It is Commtest's recommendation that all users upgrade to latest Ascent version.

Products Covered

Product	License	Description
Ascent	All Levels	The Ascent application complements the vbSeries® family of vibration analyzing instruments and devices. It provides all of the functionality needed to store and analyze vibration data taken with a vb portable or online instrument.
AscentNetwork	Level 2+Net Level 3	Ascent with access to databases stored on the network
OnlineManager	Level 3	The OnlineManager program is responsible for reading the recording schedule you define and instructing the vbOnline device(s) to take the recordings
AscentWatcher	Level 3	The AscentWatcher program is used to monitor Ascent databases and provides automated notification of any changes in machine alarm state
AscentOPC	Level 3	The AscentOPC system makes information from an Ascent database available to OLE for Process Control (OPC) clients
AscentView	AscentView	The AscentView program allows users to monitor Ascent databases on the company intranet or LAN via a web browser.
vbOnline	Level 3	Network enabled, permanently connected Vibration data collector

Configuration Options

There are many ways to setup and configure vbOnline instruments with Ascent applications. Several options are detailed on "vbOnline System Configurations" page of the vbOnline Reference Guide. It is strongly suggested that this section of the reference guide be referred to in conjunction with this document.

Supported operating systems with Ascent Applications

- Windows XP SP2 / SP3 — 32 bit
- Windows Vista — 32 or 64 bit
- Windows 2000 SP4 — Excluding USB Plug N Play

Firebird Database

Firebird is an open source database engine developed from Borland's open source InterBase system. All Ascent applications utilise the Firebird 2 database for data storage. Firebird files can be identified by the .FDB suffix.

Caution

Do not install if another version of Firebird is already in use on the machine.

Requirement

- Installed with each Ascent Application
- Must be installed on the same machine as the database file (network installations)
- Network installations may require firewall exceptions for ports 3050 and 3051

Ascent

The Ascent application complements the vbSeries® family of vibration analyzing instruments and devices. It provides all of the functionality needed to store and analyze vibration data taken with a vb portable or online instrument.

Requirement

- Standard PC as detailed in Reference Guide - System Requirements
- Minimum Screen Resolution of 1024 x 768
- Microsoft .Net Framework Version 2 or Higher
- *During installation* - Administration Rights
- *Normal Usage* - Standard user level access
- Local or Network access to Firebird Database

Ascent Network

The network installation is the same package as Ascent. Network options become available when a network enabled license is installed.

Online Manager

The OnlineManager program is responsible for reading the recording intervals you set up and instructing the vbOnline device(s) to take the recordings.

Requirement

- 24 / 7 Operation
- Local or Network access to firebird Databases
- Network access to the vbOnline instrument(s)

Ascent Watcher

The AscentWatcher program is used to monitor Ascent databases and provides automated notification of any changes in machine alarm state.

Requirement

- Local or Network access to Firebird Database
- For Email Notification - Email address and SMTP server access
- For SMS Notification - Email to SMS Service, email address and SMTP server access.

Ascent OPC

The system is made up of the AscentOPC server program and one or more OPC clients (one for each user). The AscentOPC server 'publishes' any new recordings as soon as they are added to an Ascent database and updates all OPC clients that are connected. You can connect to the AscentOPC server via an OPC client and view the published data on your own computer.

OPC is an open protocol for industrial automation, full details on OPC can be found at http://www.opcfoundation.org/

Requirement

- Local or Network access to Firebird Database
- OPC Core Components 3.0 Redistributable http://www.opcfoundation.org/
- Network Configuration as detailed http://www.opcfoundation.org/
- Any third party OPC Client

vbOnline

The online system uses permanently mounted sensors to automatically collect data according to a user-defined schedule. After data collection the measurements are transferred via a TCP/IP based Ethernet network to a PC running the Ascent software.

Requirement

- Serial port (only required for IP address setup)
- Network connectivity to Online Manger
- Static IP Address
- 100Mb network connection (Cabled option)
- WiFi Coverage and Authentication (Wifi Option)
- Broadcast Port 11001
- Communications Port 10001

AscentView

The AscentView program allows users to monitor Ascent databases on the company intranet or LAN via a web browser. Any organization that is using the Ascent program to collect and store condition monitoring data can benefit from AscentView by being able to share this data with other users without requiring the Ascent software to be installed on every computer.

Requirement

- Windows XP SP2/3, Vista, Server 2003 or Sever 2008
- Local or Network access to Firebird Database
- Microsoft IIS 5.1 or Higher
- Microsoft .NET Framework 3.5 or Higher
- Microsoft ASP.NET
- Internet Explorer 5.5 or later (Client)

Licensing

Ascent view is licensed separately to other Ascent products, via a unlock file. To create the unlock file the MAC address of the AscentView machine is required. The license issued is machine specific.

Licensing via Commtest License Key

From the release of Ascent 2008, licensing has been in the form of a Commtest License Key (CLK).

- Each organisation will be issued one CLK
- The CLK will be loaded with level and quantity of licenses purchased
- Activations can be to the Machine (PC) or to Dongle
- License activation and removal is accessed from the Ascent application
- Clients with pre 2008 dongles can request a CLK License – See Legacy Dongles
- Commtest License Server records the following details during activation:

Machine Activation	Dongle Activation
Application(s) Licensed	Application(s) Licensed
"Windows Name" of PC	"Dongle"
MAC address of PC	Serial Number of Dongle

Requirement

If using a dongle

- Dongle Driver, installed with Ascent

During Activation

- Access to https://licensing.commtest.co.nz

Licensing via Legacy Dongles

Prior to the release of Ascent 2008, Ascent licensing was via Dongle

- Pre 2008 Dongles now referred to as Legacy Dongles
- Can be used will any version of Ascent. However some features of 2008 and later are only available with a CLK License
- Legacy Dongle users can request a CLK by installing Ascent 2008 or later and selecting "Request License Key" at start up. On receipt of the CLK they can "Transfer" their Dongle license to a CLK License.
- The CLK License can be removed from the PC and re-activated on a Legacy Dongle, if the customer wishes to do so. This will convert the dongle to a CLK dongle and all CLK features will be available.

Requirement

- Dongle Driver, installed with Ascent

During License "Transfer"

- Access to https://licensing.commtest.co.nz

Non Administrator Accounts

Ascent can be run without an administrator account, but some security permissions must be changed, as detailed in our FAQ:
http://commtest.com/support/category:frequently-asked-questions/ascent-with-non-administrator-account/