

IT Requirement for Ascent Software

Handheld Instrument Communications

Overview

This document is intended to provide details to an IT engineer to enable the setup of an IT environment for communications between a Commtest handheld instruments and Ascent software. Respective reference guides should be referred to for Instrument and Ascent configuration and usage.

Important Note

It is Commtest's recommendation that all users upgrade to latest Ascent version and firmware. Users who have been experiencing issues with USB on Ascent 2008 should consider utilising Ethernet communications during the upgrade and Proflash of their instrument, after which they can choose to continue using Ethernet communications or use USB PNP.

Products Covered

Product	Description
vbX000 Range (vb Classic)	Hand held vibration analyser/data collector – Blue or Black instruments Includes vb1, vb1000, vb2000, vb3000
vbX Range	Handheld Vibration analyser/data collector – Red instruments Includes vb5, vb6, vb7, vb8 & vbBalancer
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 instrument

Supported operating systems with Ascent

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

Version & Communication Options

Instrument - Firmware	Ascent 2008 R2	Ascent 2009	USB via IP	USB via PNP	Ethernet	Serial RS232
vbX000 – All	√	√				√
vbX - 3.1.12	√	√	√		√	
vbX - 3.2.63		√	√	√	√	

Serial Communications

All vbX000 (vbClassic) instruments utilise serial communications. No special setup is required for serial communications.

A few useful tips:

- Most USB to Serial adaptors work without issue
- Windows Vista users may need to use Vista specific serial port drivers
- On faster PCs "Rush Data" may need to be turned off

USB Communications via IP

Supported by all vbX instruments and Ascent 2008 / 2009, USB IP communications has proved reliable for the majority of users, however a number have experienced communication issues.

Requirements:

- Utilises "Ethernet over USB" (RNDIS) driver, installed with Ascent
- vbX default Static IP Address 223.0.0.2
- PC default Static IP address 223.0.0.200 (Adaptor configured by Ascent on runup, not on installation)
- The PC must have a firewall exception for Ascent (MASVB32.EXE)
- Any other security software must also have an exception for Ascent
- Firewall and security software often have to be configured to allow communication on the 223.0.0.x subnet
- Broadcast Port 30718
- Communications Port 13000

USB Communications via Plug N Play

Introduced with Firmware 3.2.63 and Ascent 2009, USB PNP resolved issued many customer have experienced with USB, by not requiring firewall or security software changes.

Requirements:

- Utilises USB Plug N Play driver, installed with Ascent 2009
- Security software changes are not expected.

Ethernet Communications

Supported by all vbX instruments and Ascent 2008 / 2009, Ethernet communications has proved to be fast and reliable.

Requirements:

- No driver required
- vbX and Ascent PC must be on the same LAN
- vbX supports Dynamic (DHCP) or Static IP Addressing
- The PC must have a firewall exception for Ascent (MASVB32.EXE)
- Any other security software must also have an exception of Ascent
- Broadcast Port 30718
- Communications Port 13000