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Caution

The default or operating values used in this manual and in the program of the AccuLoad.net are for factory testing only and should not be construed as default or operating values for your metering system. Each metering system is unique and each program parameter must be reviewed and programmed for that specific metering system application.

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Introduction to TCP/IP Communications and Basic Networking

It is not necessary to become a skilled network administrator to successfully communicate with the AccuLoad.net via TCP/IP. However, some basic networking knowledge will be quite helpful in establishing and maintaining reliable communications with devices such as the AccuLoad.net that can be connected via Ethernet and TCP/IP. Some of the following terms may be encountered while configuring or maintaining your device connections:

TCP/IP (Transfer Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) is the widely accepted standard protocol for Internet and World Wide Web communications. Many other Internet standard protocols – HTTP for Web browsing, FTP for file transfers, etc. – use TCP/IP as the underlying control protocol.

Ethernet: A low-level protocol that implements the hardware link between two or more host devices. TCP/IP is often used over an Ethernet connection.

MAC Address: A fixed, permanent 6-byte hardware address assigned to an Ethernet device by the manufacturer.

IP Address: a four-byte (32 bit) number, usually displayed as 4 separate *octets* (8 bit numbers) i.e. **192.168.0.1**, that uniquely identifies a host and network.

IP address ranges are grouped by *class*; the first few bits determine the class. Class 'A' networks have a value from 0-127 in the first octet; class 'B' networks start with 128-191; class 'C' from 192-223. The special values of 224-239 are reserved for class 'D' (multicast) addresses, and the values 244-255 are reserved (class 'E') addresses.

Net Mask: The number of bits in the IP address that is used to specify the *network address*. The remaining bits specify the host address. A Class 'C' network has a net mask of 24 (the first 24 bits are common to all machines on the network, the last 8 bits are the host id and are unique for each machine on the network). Therefore, a class 'C' network can have up to 254 hosts (host numbers 0 and 255 are reserved by the standard for special features such as broadcasting.) A very large class 'A' network has an 8 bit net mask – leaving 24 bits to specify the host. Hence this type of network can have a huge number of host machines - 2^{24} = over 16 *million* computers – but there can only be 255 of those types of networks in existence since there are only 255 unique network IDs that can be made from 8 bits. So why specify a net mask if it's implied by the network class? The reason for a net mask is clear when it is realized that some networks need to have many more hosts than 255, and that there would not be very many networks if we only allowed Class 'A' networks. Net masks are often written out in octet form... 255.255.255.0 is the same as saying the net mask is 24 bits. It can also be specified with the network address using a backslash, i.e. **192.168.0.0/24**. So, if we have a machine on that network with the IP address 192.168.0.23 (A class 'C' network), the network address is 192.168.0 and the host address is 23.

There are some network addresses that are reserved by the standard as 'local network' addresses. These network addresses are allowed only behind a router that 'hides' the local network from the Internet. Many internal internet networks use these addresses: all the class 'C' networks starting with **192.168.xxx.xxx/24** and the class 'A' network **10.xxx.xxx.xxx/8**. Since most organizations do not require a full class 'A' network, often a subsection of the address space is used, i.e. **10.0.xxx.xxx/16**. This is called '*sub-netting*'. Alternatively, sometimes two or more class 'C' networks are combined thus: **192.168.0.xxx/23**. This is known as '*super-netting*'.

Gateway: a *gateway* address specifies where outgoing messages addressed to other networks should be directed. This allows devices like routers, hubs and switches to be specified as the interface to anything external to the physical network.

Information on TCP/IP and networking can be found on the World Wide Web. One example of a more detailed description can be found at <http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc1180.html>. This is one of an entire series of RFCs (Request For Comments) that make up the documentation on networking standards.

Configuring the AccuLoad.net for Ethernet Communications

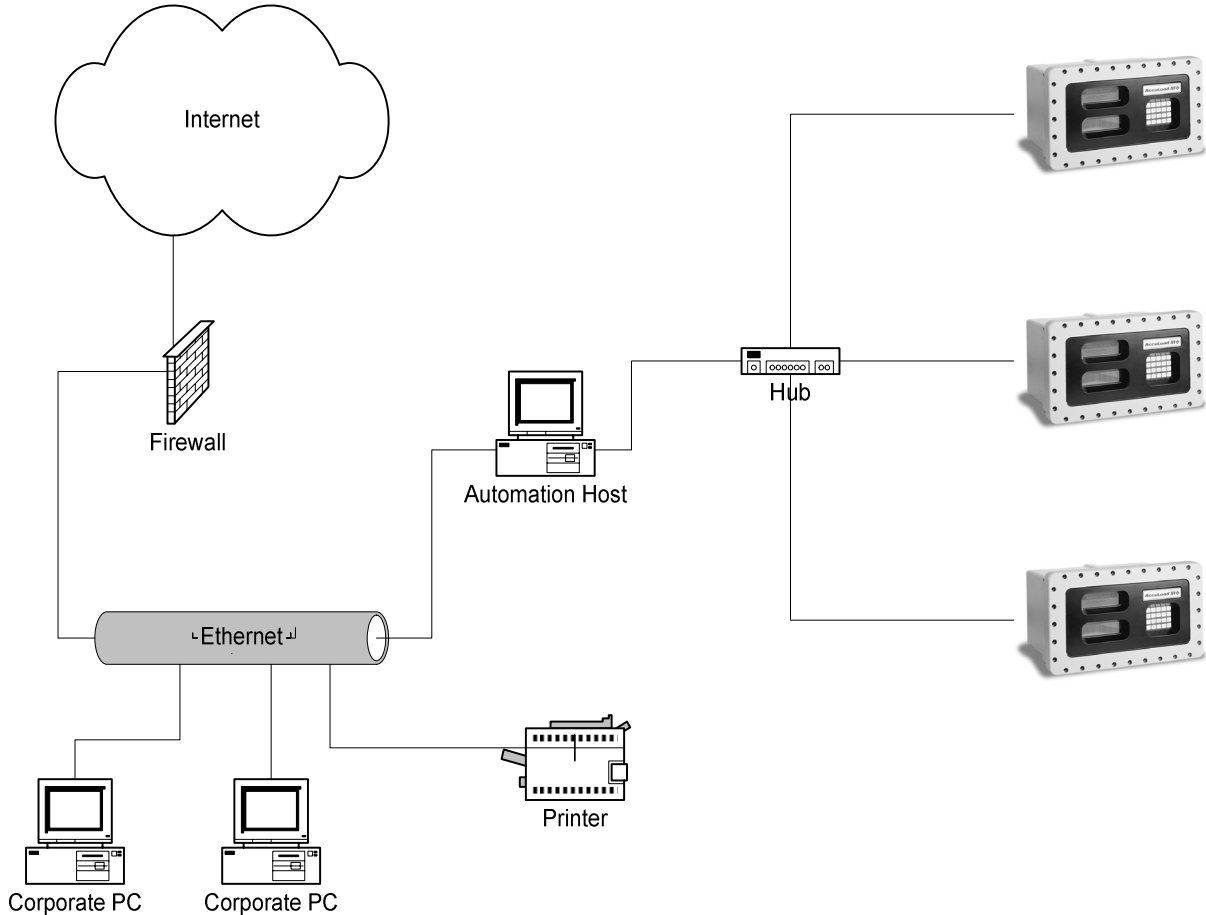
- Power up the AccuLoad (wait for AccuLoad to complete initialization)
- Press <Enter> at the Ready screen to access the Main Menu
- From the Main Menu, select Program Mode Menu and press <Enter>
- Enter the Access Code when prompted and press <Enter>
- From the Program Mode menu, select System Directory then Press <Enter>
- From the System Directory, select 700 Communications Directory
- Select Host Interface and press <Enter>
- From the Host Interface Menu set the following items:

IP Address: 192.168.0.1
Net mask: 255.255.255.0
Gateway: 192.168.0.10
Ethernet Control: Poll and Program
Com Link: Level 3

- Return to the Main Menu using the <Clear> key

Note: If using the AccuLoad.net's Ethernet port, make sure that none of the AccuLoad.net serial communications ports are configured to the 'SLIP (TCP/IP)' function – configuring a SLIP connection will disable the Ethernet connection.


It is recommended that the AccuLoad.net be installed to a private network (not connected directly to the rest of the corporate LAN). This is best implemented by adding a second network interface card to the PC that will be interfaced to the AccuLoads. This dual-interface PC can be set up as a 'bridge' allowing all the other PCs in the corporate environment to reach the AccuLoad devices (given permission to do so) but will prevent all other corporate LAN traffic from interfering with the AccuLoad.net communications.



Configuring Windows 2000/XP for Ethernet Connection to AccuLoad.net

Requirements:

- A Network Interface Card (NIC) installed in the PC and either:
 - a CAT-5 'crossover' cable;or alternately
 - two regular CAT-5 cables, and an Ethernet hub/switch/router such as those manufactured by D-Link, LINKSYS, 3Com, et. al.

Your PC has a NIC interface if there is an Ethernet port (CAT-5 connector) present on the back of the computer. Most modern PCs have the Ethernet hardware integrated on the motherboard. Typically these ports are labeled with a network icon: . If there is no Ethernet hardware in your PC you can add one – they are relatively inexpensive and easy to install. Another option is to use a SLIP connection (see the section later in the manual on SLIP).

There are two ways to connect the AccuLoad to your PC using Ethernet – either machine-to-machine, using a crossover cable; or connecting both the PC and the AccuLoad to a multi-port network device such as a hub, switch or router.

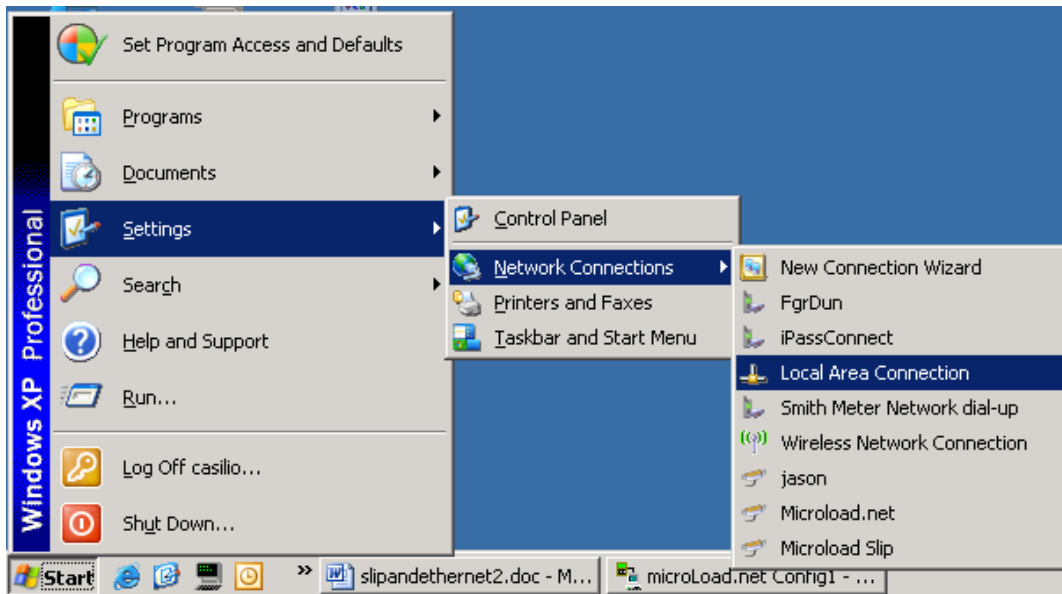
If using a crossover cable, plug one end of the cable into the Ethernet port on the PC. If using a hub, connect the PC's Ethernet port to one of the router's ports using a standard cable.

At the AccuLoad.net, remove the cover and find the CAT-5 connector (CN16) on the KDC board (the main board, attached to the cover). Plug the other end of the crossover cable in here, or if using a hub connect the second standard CAT-5 cable between the AccuLoad.net and another port on the hub. The AccuLoad has two LEDs near CN16 – the green LED will light if the physical connection is established properly. The yellow LED will blink when traffic appears on the network.

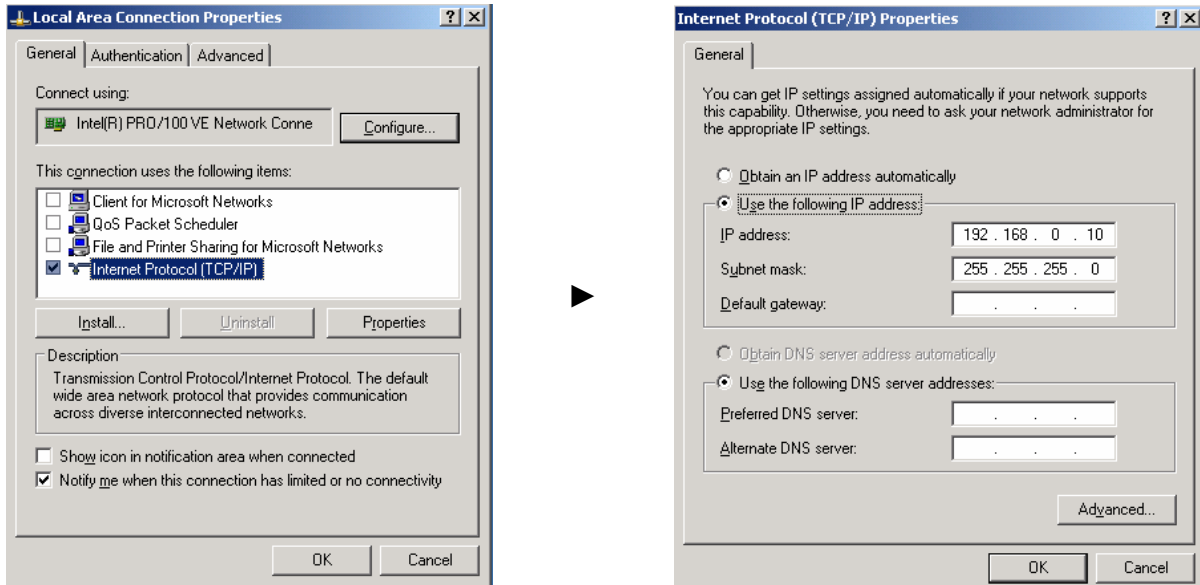
Note: *If the system is currently on a network, be sure to record all values prior to changing the connection settings so the network connection can be restored to the original state.*

Configuring the PC's settings for Ethernet communications with the AccuLoad.net:

- Click on **Start Menu > Settings > Network Connections > Local Area Connection**



Section I – Connecting via Ethernet



Uncheck all of the boxes **EXCEPT** the check box for “Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)”
Make sure that the “Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)” line is selected then click ‘**Properties**’

Select “Use the following IP address”
Enter an IP address on the same network as the AccuLoad, i.e. **192.168.0.10**
(Make sure the host address is different than the AccuLoad.net!)
Enter the subnet mask: **255.255.255.0**
Click **OKAY** when finished

Click **OKAY** again to exit the Local Area Connection dialog

Continue with the section titled Establishing and Verifying a Successful Connection

Configuring SLIP Communications (Available with Windows 2000/XP Only)

If an Ethernet connection is not available or distances prevent the use of Ethernet, the AccuLoad.net can also support TCP/IP communications over one of the serial ports. This is implemented via SLIP (Serial Line Internet Protocol) support in the AccuLoad.net.

Note: *Skip this section if using Ethernet. Continue with the section titled Establishing and Verifying a Successful Connection*

Remove cover and connect the AccuLoad communications port to the PC serial port using a serial communications line. (AccuLoad.net Comm 1 is used in the example.) Wire the serial connection as for any other serial protocol. (For instructions on connecting the AccuLoad to the PC via serial communications please refer to the installation manual for the AccuLoad.)

AccuLoad.net Settings for SLIP Communications

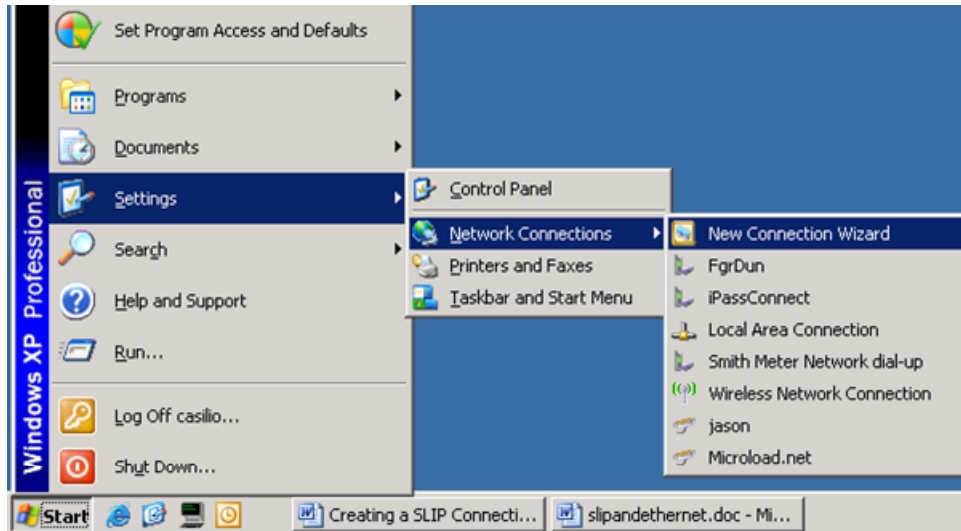
- Power up the AccuLoad.net (wait for AccuLoad to go through its initialization period ie. RAM and ROM test)
- Press <Enter> from the ready screen to access the Main Menu
- Once in the Main Menu screen, select Program Mode Menu and press <Enter>
- Enter the access code when prompted and press <Enter>
- Select System Directly, then press <Enter>
- Select Comm. Directory and Press <Enter> from the Program Mode Menu
- From Comm. Directory select the Comm. Port Config and press <Enter>
- Select Comm. 1 and press <Enter>
- From Comm. 1 Directory, select the following items and set as indicated below:
 - Function: SLIP (TCP/IP)
 - Baud: 38,400
 - Data Parity: 8/None
 - Timeout: 0
 - Mode: RS232

- After ALL items from above are set, press <Clear> twice to return to the Communications Directory Menu
- Select Host Interface and press <Enter>
- From the Host Interface Menu set the following Items as indicated below:
 - IP Address: 192.168.0.1
 - Network: 255.255.255.0
 - Gateway: 192.168.0.1
 - Ethernet Control: Poll and Program
 - Com Link: Level 1

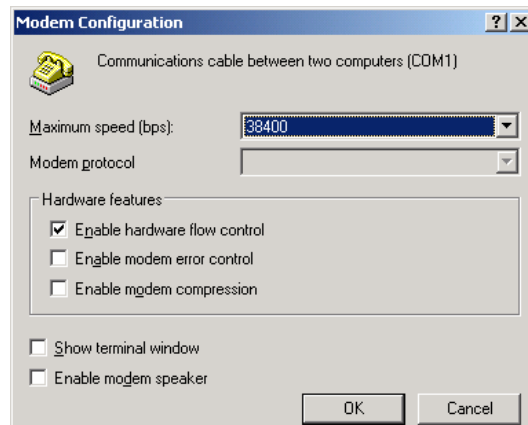
Note: *SLIP is a point to point protocol and is not intended for multi-dropped serial networks. It is possible to utilize a SLIP connection in a multi-drop environment for special features such as firmware upgrades, but any additional AccuLoad III.net devices on the communications line must have the serial port functionality disabled before attempting to connect to any one unit.*

PC Settings for SLIP Communications

- Click on **Start > Settings > Network Connections > New Connection Wizard**:

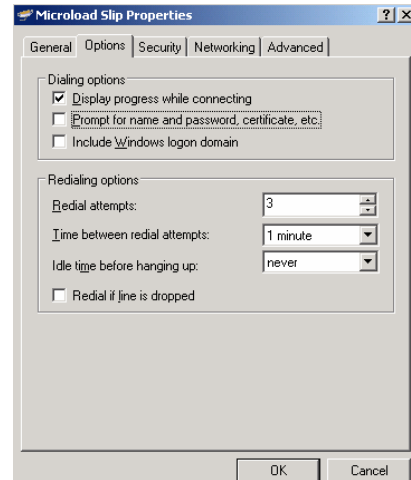


- In the New Connection Wizard, perform the following steps:
 - Select <Next> on the “Welcome to the New Connection Wizard” page)
 - Select “Set up an Advanced Connection”, from the list then click <Next>
 - Select “Connect directly with another computer”, then click <Next>
 - Select “Guest”, then click <Next>
 - In the text box, type in “AccuLoad via SLIP” or something identifiably unique
 - Select “Communications cable between two computers (Com 1)” when the wizard prompts for a device selected. Click <Next>
 - Click on “Anyone’s Use” for connection availability. Click <Next>
 - Click <Finish> on the Confirmation page of the Wizard
- Upon completion, a new screen will pop up automatically with the title “Connect to AccuLoad via SLIP”
- Click <Properties>
 - In the **General** tab, select “Communications cable between two computers (COM n)”. Verify the selection corresponds to the desired port.
 - Click on the <Configure> button located on the same screen (below the selected device). Set the baud rate to 38400. In the hardware features verify that all boxes are unchecked. Click <OK> to return to the Properties dialog.

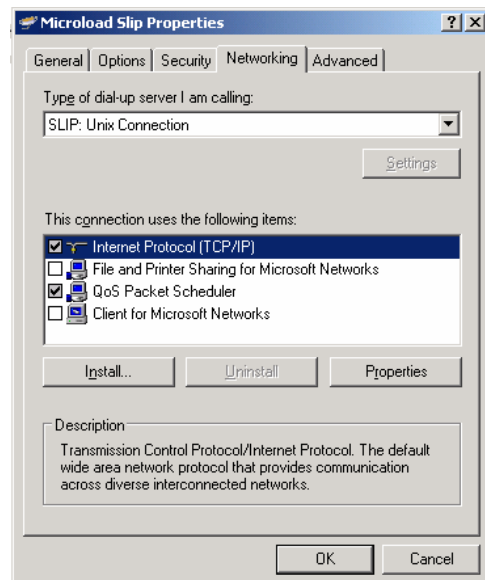


Section II – Configuring a SLIP Connection

- Click on the **Options** tab. Un-check the “Prompt for name and password, etc.” box. The other options can be left the same.

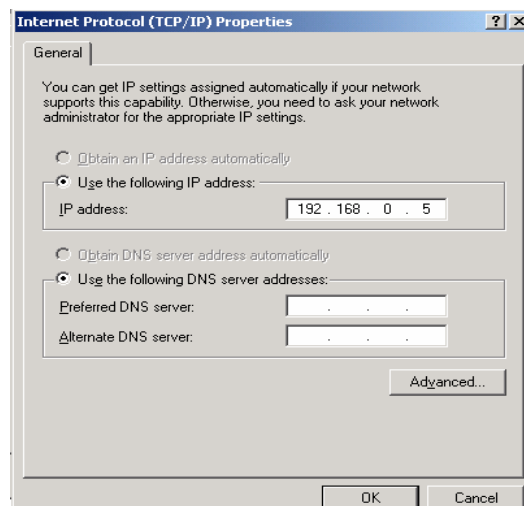


- Click on the **Networking** tab.
 - From the drop down menu for the type of dial up server I am calling, select “SLIP: UNIX Connection”
 - Clear all checkboxes except for Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) and QoS Packet Scheduler.
 - Select “Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)” in the list box and click <Properties>



- A new window will appear that is labeled “Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) Properties”
 - Select “Use the following IP address”
 - Specify an address that is **DIFFERENT** from but on the same subnet as the AccuLoad you are using

For example, if the AccuLoad is configured for 192.168.0.1, set the PC to 192.168.0.5, or 192.168.0.10, etc.



Click <OK> to exit the dialog then click <OK> at the bottom of the AccuLoad SLIP Connection Properties window. If all is configured correctly, the dialog should report 'connected' and the link will be established successfully.

Using the TCP/IP Link

Checking the TCP/IP Connection

Install the latest version of the AccuMate.net software. This can be found on the World Wide Web – go to <http://info.smithmeter.com/accumate/>. It is recommended that the installation defaults be used, resulting in the program being installed to the directory *C:\Program Files\Smith Meter\AccuMate for AccuLoadIII.net*.

After installation, perform the following steps to check the connection you established:

- Launch the AccuMate application from the Start menu
- Select Options | Options for this AccuLoad from the AccuMate menu.
- Enter the IP address you programmed into the AccuLoad III.net (i.e. 192.168.0.1)
- In the 'Port' combo box, choose TCP/IP. (This selection is at the top, above Com 1)
- Click "OK". If communications is established, the status bar at the bottom of the AccuMate window should indicate a successful connection with the word "ONLINE". (Note: the status may appear as "Read Only", which also indicates the connection was successful; this will occur if the AccuLoad III.net is in program mode via the keypad, or configured so that Program Mode access through communications is disabled.)

If the AccuMate application times out and fails to connect, consult Appendix II – Troubleshooting for assistance with debugging the connection.

With the AccuMate you can read and write program codes, use the Terminal Emulator to send any of the available commands to the AccuLoad, read transaction and event logs, and upload special features like user configured reports, displays, translations, and equations. See the online help file for the AccuMate application for help on utilizing all of the AccuMate features.

Also available via the TCP/IP link is a very simple Web interface. By launching your browser and entering the IP address of the AccuLoad III.net for a URL (i.e. <http://192.168.0.1>), you can access this interface.

In addition, the AccuLoad III.net had built-in FTP support. This is the mechanism used to perform firmware upgrades, transfer configuration items such as user equations and translations, and add additional custom HTML pages. The FTP implementation is complete enough to work satisfactorily with a command line FTP utility.

4. If a valid .A3Key file is found in the C:/Program Files/Smith Meter/AccuMate.net directory, then the following open file dialog box will not appear. Otherwise, if a valid key is not automatically found in the AccuMate directory, then this window will require that the location of the key be specified. Shown in Figure 3 is the open file dialog box for the .A3Key file.

Note: If another firmware upgrade is performed in the future, the last used file path (for the .A3key file) will be used. The default location is in the AccuMate.net directory.

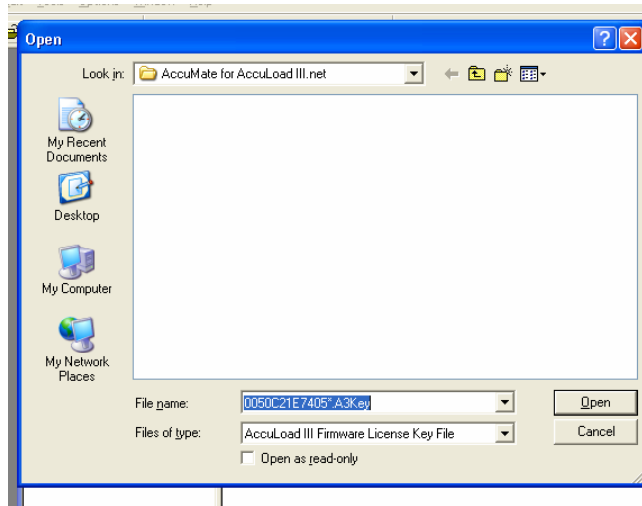


Figure 3

5. Now enter the access code. This code will be the highest level of security that has been set on the AccuLoad III.net. If no security is used on the AccuLoad, then simply click OK (clicking cancel will abort the upgrade firmware procedure). The window used to enter the access code is shown in Figure 4.

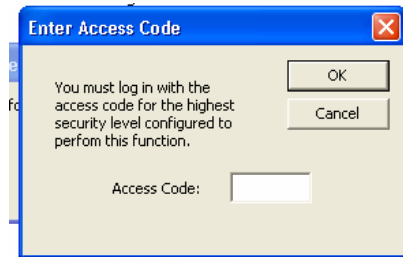


Figure 4

6. Notice that the AccuLoad will restart after clicking OK for the access code. Next, the AccuLoad will go to the boot loader and the process will begin. If at anytime the process stops or times out, simply repeat step 2 (Tools | Upgrade Firmware) and the process will continue from wherever it stopped.
7. Last, the AccuLoad will restart and verify the firmware.

A Few Troubleshooting Tips

- Make sure that AccuMate is upgraded. If revision 11.01 firmware is being loaded then AccuMate.net 11.01 should be installed on the PC. Otherwise the upgrade will not work.
- If when the AccuLoad restarts (after the firmware upgrade process has completed) and a message is displayed stating that the “Expected CRC Failed” then this means that the firmware did not completely load. In this case, the firmware upgrade procedure must be restarted.
- If the wrong key is loaded, then the upgrade firmware process will not even begin. In this case, you must obtain the correct key.

Appendix II – Troubleshooting TCP/IP Communications

Troubleshooting an Ethernet Connection

- **LED Indicators**

The Link indicator on the Ethernet port (the green LED in top corner of AccuLoad.net main [MNET] board) is a simple indication of the correct wiring of the physical connection. Most PC and router ports also have a visible indicator when the connection is wired properly. If the Link light does not illuminate, either the cable is the wrong type (i.e. a standard CAT-5 cable was used when a crossover cable is needed or vice versa), the cable is faulty, or one of the RJ45 connector plugs is not inserted completely into the jack. It is also possible but unlikely that one of the device ports has failed. Eliminate the simplest first: double-check that the plugs are inserted fully; and that the cable type is correct. You can often verify that a cable is standard (or not) by holding the two connectors from each end of the cable together and viewing the wire colors within (most RJ45 connectors are clear plastic). If the color pattern on the wires is identical on both ends of the cable, it is a standard cable.

- **PING Utility**

To check the connection, Windows and most other network-able computers provide a low-level utility called PING that issues a simple ICMP message to a remote device and awaits a response. To use this utility in Windows, open a Command Prompt (DOS box) and type the command:

```
C:> PING 192.168.0.1
```

If the connection is successful, PING will report the total time from command to response. If it fails, a timeout message will be displayed.

- **Advanced – Ethernet Diagnostic (Packet Sniffer) Utility**

A useful tool for troubleshooting network communications is a *packet sniffer*. This type of utility provides a mechanism to display the traffic being sent/received from the Ethernet port, and to dig down to the lower levels to view MAC addresses and IP packet data.

An open source implementation of a packet sniffer utility, Wireshark (formerly Ethereal), is available and can be downloaded from the Web at <http://www.wireshark.org/>. There are versions for Windows, Linux and other platforms as well.

Troubleshooting a SLIP Connection

- **Using the Comm Monitor Diagnostic**

The AccuLoad.net has a built-in diagnostic that displays traffic on the serial communications ports. To access the Comm Monitor diagnostic, select Diagnostics Menu from the Main Menu, then scroll using the arrow keys until the Comm Monitor selection is highlighted and press <Enter>. Then select the communications port (1-3) that was configured for the SLIP connection. By examining the traffic it is possible to determine if data is being received from the PC end, and whether a response is being issued. You can ‘freeze’ the display, and scroll back and forth, and toggle ASCII and hex mode views of the last 255 characters in the communications buffer.

- **CLIENT/CLIENTSERVER Handshake**

When establishing a SLIP connection between two devices, Windows uses a non-standard handshake to verify the device on the other end of the connection is compatible. Windows opens the port and immediately sends the text “CLIENT” out the port, then waits for a response. Only the response “CLIENTSERVER” will be accepted by Windows and allow the connection to be made. This handshake should happen quickly and it will be visible on the Comm Monitor at least briefly if all is functioning properly. If the Comm Monitor shows repeated CLIENT messages with no CLIENTSERVER response, it is possible you have the IP addresses incorrect on one side or the other. The host PC’s IP address should be different than the AccuLoad.net, but again both addresses must be on the same network.

Checking the PC Serial Port Settings

If when viewing the Comm Monitor diagnostic there appears to be data arriving at the AccuLoad but it seems illegible or garbled, perhaps there is a mismatch in the baud rate/parity settings. You can verify the port settings by examining the properties in the SLIP connection settings. You can also check them via the command line. Shut down the SLIP connection, then from a command prompt, type the following command:

```
C:> MODE COM1:
```

This command will display the current port settings for the COM port specified. You can also modify the port settings using this command:

```
C:> MODE COM1:38400,N,8,1
```

This utility may can be useful for troubleshooting AccuMate serial communications as well.

Troubleshooting the Firmware Upgrade Process

- **Locating New Firmware Image and Key**

The AccuLoad III.net is a flash-based device, which allows you to perform firmware upgrades in the field. When new features are added, firmware upgrades will be offered (pricing determined by extent of new features, the currently installed revision, etc.)

Firmware upgrades now require a factory supplied license. A license key is unique to each particular AccuLoad III.net (tied to the MAC address). You will need a unique license key for each AccuLoad you upgrade. The firmware image will be the same for all units that are upgraded (if they are all the same revision) which will only require a single .bin firmware image file.

In order to perform upgrades you must use a key created and originated by FMC Technologies. If you have a problem locating or processing a key or firmware image for upgrading purposes, contact your local distributor, the FMC Technologies service, or customer service departments. You can reach the FMC Technologies service department by email at smithmeter.fieldservice@fmcti.com and the customer service department by dialing 814-898-5000.

- **Automated Upgrade Process Fails – Unable to Locate Firmware Image**

This message will be displayed if the host PC running AccuMate does not have Internet access or if for some other reason the FMC Technologies server or firmware image file is unavailable. This message can be ignored if the firmware image has been received via email or other means and manually placed in the application directory.

- **Automated Upgrade Process Fails – Other Message Indicated**

If it is desired to install an OLDER revision of firmware than that currently installed (not recommended), or if the AccuLoad fails to go into the “Waiting for Firmware Upgrade” state when commanded remotely to do so by AccuMate, it can be forced to power up into the boot loader/ RAM executive by performing the following steps:

- Remove the cover from the AccuLoad and find switch S1 (1-8) as illustrated below
- Move switch S1-1 (the second DIP switch from the top) to the **ON** position.
- Power cycle the AccuLoad. The display will then read “Waiting for Firmware Upgrade”
- Perform the upgrade procedure as described in Appendix I
- Return switch S1-1 to the OFF position

The specifications contained herein are subject to change without notice and any user of said specifications should verify from the manufacturer that the specifications are currently in effect. Otherwise, the manufacturer assumes no responsibility for the use of specifications which may have been changed and are no longer in effect.

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