

User's Guide and Reference Manual

E-DAS Ambient for Windows Portable Data Retriever

Version 5.50

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Using the Portable Data Retriever

Portable Data Retriever Overview

ESC's Portable Data Retriever software is often referred to as the "data milker." The Portable Data Retriever retrieves data from a data logger by a portable or desktop computer, with or without the use of phone lines. The data retrieved is saved to a file in the format of the data logger response strings. Polled data, or data that is retrieved, can be copied to a diskette at the site and brought back to an E-DAS Ambient PC to be merged with other data collected by the E-DAS Ambient software. The E-DAS Ambient software then treats the data the same way it uses data retrieved over telephone lines or via a direct connection.

The portable data retriever requires:

- An IBM PC-compatible computer, typically a laptop, with 64MB of memory
- A CD-ROM drive
- A hard drive
- A floppy disk drive
- A direct connection requires a null modem cable and a phone connection requires a Hayes-compatible external modem

Version 5.41 of the data retriever software can be used with an ESC model 8816, 8800, or 8000B data logger.

Polling with the Milker

The data milker polls data for selected intervals during a specified time period similar to the E-DAS Ambient manual poll.

Step 1. To configure the data milker, complete the following fields:

Logger ID - Enter the **Logger ID** to identify the logger being polled. The same logger ID must be configured at the logger (Figure 1)

Figure 1 Polling the Logger

Logger Type - Select a **Logger Type** from the drop-down list: **8832**, **8816**, **8800**, or **8000B**. The configuration is the same for all three logger types.

Baud Rate - Select a **Baud Rate** from the drop-down list (Figure 1). The baud rate defines the speed for data transmission between the PC and the data logger. The baud rate selected in this screen must match the baud rate at the logger.

Phone Number - A **Phone Number** should be entered ONLY if data will be polled over a phone line (Figure 1). If data will be polled directly, leave this field blank.

Ethernet - This setting applies to the model 8832 Data Logger only. Check this box to enable Ethernet polling. You must put the IP address in the phone number field if enabled (e.g., 10.4.4.22).

Modem (Hayes96) button - When a number is entered in the phone number field, a modem button appears on the right side of the screen (Figure 1). If your modem is different from the default (Hayes 96), click the modem button to select a modem type. (The default modem type will be displayed on the button.) You will see a directory of modem types. Select your modem type. Click **Open** in the modem selection screen to save changes, or click **Cancel** to discard changes. You will return to the Milker configuration screen where the selected modem will be displayed on the **Modem** button.

CommPort - Select the communications port (**CommPort**) over which data will be polled. Drop-down choices are 01, 02, 03, and 04.

Data Type - Select the **Data Type(s)** for the poll, or click **Select All** to select all data types in the list (Figure 1). We recommend polling each data type separately.

- **Daily Data**
- **Hourly Data**
- **Auxiliary Data**
- **Minute Data**
- **Second Data**
- **Calibration Data**
- **Power Failures**
- **Digital Inputs**
- **Additional Status**

Hourly, Auxiliary, Minute, and Second Interval - If you select hourly, auxiliary, minute, or second data under **Data Type**, an interval selection box will appear to the left of the list of data types. Select an interval for each data report.

Beginning/Ending Date and Time - Enter the **Beginning Date and Time** and the **Ending Date and Time** for the backpoll (Figure 1). Date format is MM/DD/YY; time format is HH:MM.

Acknowledge data - If the **Acknowledge data** field is enabled, the PC will send an acknowledgment to the data logger, during the scheduled task, after receiving certain kinds of information. Acknowledgment prevents certain kinds of data, such as power failures and input line status changes, from being sent more than once during multiple polls.

Step 2. Click the **Poll** button (Figure 1). The data milker will poll for data and store the data in the software directory as a response file. When the poll is completed, you will return to the Windows desktop. New files will be created in the software directory. You can copy data to a diskette and take it to the central PC to be updated to the central database to generate reports and graphs.

Note: Polling can be canceled without waiting for the full timeout cycle by clicking the **Abort** button in the polling screen. The same button will also abort polling while the modem is dialing.

Step 3. Configure the site and instrument information at the central PC. Then, copy the response file into the data directory (selected in the system parameters editor of the E-DAS Ambient software). The next time a poll occurs, the system will automatically detect the response file(s) and will update the database accordingly.

Linking the Data Milker to the Data Logger

The data retriever software can link directly to the data logger so the PC operator can access data logger menus, view real-time data updates and raw voltage inputs, and troubleshoot at the site.

Important! DO NOT make configuration changes to the data logger from the **Link to Logger** menu. Configuration changes made when the PC is connected to the data logger via **Link to Logger** or a third-party terminal emulation package are not reflected at the central PC. Configuration changes should be made at the central PC via the E-DAS Ambient **Setup** menu and then downloaded to the data logger to ensure the configurations match. If this procedure is not followed, the next time a download is performed at the central PC the changes in the data logger will be overwritten by the configuration stored at the central PC.

Step 1. To link the data milker to the data logger, complete the following fields:

Logger ID - Enter the **Logger ID** to identify the logger being linked to. The same logger ID must be configured at the logger (Figure 2).

Figure 2 Linking to the Logger

Logger Type - Select a **Logger Type** from the drop-down list: **8816**, **8800**, or **8000B**. The configuration is the same for all three logger types.

Baud Rate - Select a **Baud Rate** from the drop-down list. The baud rate defines the speed for data transmission between the PC and the data logger. The baud rate selected in this screen must match the baud rate at the logger.

Phone Number - A **Phone Number** should be entered ONLY if the link will be made over a phone line (Figure 2). For a direct connection, leave this field blank.

Ethernet – This setting applies to the Model 8832 Data Logger only. Check this box to enable Ethernet polling. You must put the IP address in the phone number field if enabled (e.g., 10.4.4.22).

Modem (Hayes96) button - When a number is entered in this field a modem button appears on the right side of the screen. If your modem is different from the default (Hayes 96), click the modem button to select a modem type. (The default modem type will be displayed on the button.) You will see a directory of modem types. Select your modem type. Click **Open** in the modem selection screen to save changes, or click **Cancel** to discard changes. You will return to the Milker configuration screen where the selected modem will be displayed on the **Modem** button (Figure 2).

CommPort - Select the communications port (**CommPort**) over which the link will be made. Drop-down choices are 01,02,03, and 04

- Step 2.** Click the **Link** button (Figure 2). You will see the data logger's menu if a successful communication link has been established.

Refer to section 3.0 "Startup and Operation" in the *ESC Model 8816 and 8832 Data Logger Engineering Manual* for instructions on operation of the data logger menu.

- Step 3.** To disconnect from an 8816 or 8832 data logger, type the letter "O" or select "O Log Out/Exit" in the home menu, then select **Exit** to close the screen. If you do not enter "O" to log out before you exit the 8816 or 8832, you will not be able to poll afterwards.



Figure 3 Log Out



Figure 4 Exit

Note: The logger continually sends the time setting to the PC while you are linked, so the software cannot retrieve polling or other information from the logger until you log out properly. If you have left the data milker link to logger screen of an 8816 or 8832 logger without typing "O" to log out and clicking **Exit**, the logger will automatically reset ten minutes later; however, do not attempt to re-connect during this ten-minute period (automatic logout time) because each time the automatic logout time is interrupted, it will be extended another ten minutes.
