Application Note

Using a Serial to Ethernet Converter for BESTCOMS™ Access to RS-232 COM Port

BESTCOMS software is provided free with every Basler Electric communicating product. It provides the user with a point and click means for setting and monitoring the in-service relay or relays under test. For ease of use, BESTCOMS is identical within all of the Basler Electric Numerical Systems except for differences inherit in the individual systems.

Accessing BESTCOMS Data

Accessing BESTCOMS data from an Ethernet network can be performed by using a Serial to Ethernet Converter. One such device is the ESP901 Serial Server from VLINX as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 - VLINX ESP 901 Serial Server

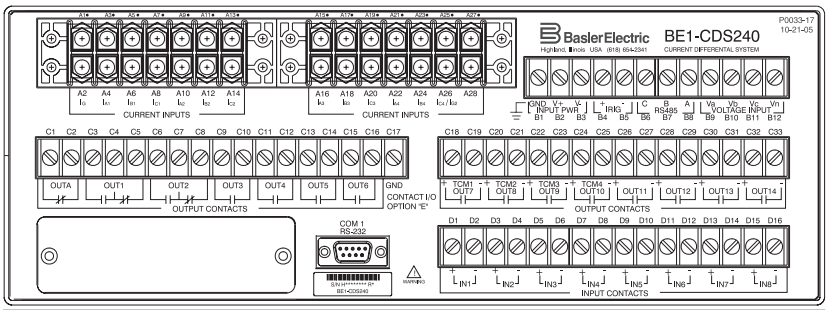

Figure 2 - The rear RS-232 port of a Basler BE1 relay like the BE1-CDS240 above is connected to the VLINX ESP 901 using a standard RS-232 cable.

For product literature on the ESP901 Serial Server from VLINX see: http://www.bb-elec.com.

The rear RS-232 port (highlighted in Figure 2) of a Basler BE1 relay (including the BE1-851, -GPS100, -IPS-100, -CDS220, and -CDS240) is connected to the VLINX ESP901 using a standard RS-232 cable. A typical connection is shown in Figure 3.

The BE1-700C and V, -951 and -IPS100 have Ethernet protocol available as an option. The BE1-11*f*, BE1-11*i*, BE1-11*g* and BE1-11*m* also have optionally available Ethernet protocol. No converter is required with the BE1-11 products; however, they can use the serial to Ethernet converter to provide redundant Ethernet.

The ESP901 acts as a protocol converter between ASCII and Ethernet. A VLINX Virtual COM Driver for Windows runs on the same computer as BESTCOMS. The VLINX ESP Manager software configures the virtual COM port settings.

Configuring the VLINX ESP901

The VLINX ESP Manager software is used to configure the ESP901 Serial Server. The ESP901 network settings and serial server port settings are configured as shown in Figure 4 on the following page. The ESP901 Server serial port 1 is configured to map to the virtual COM port COM5.

The Flow Control must be set for Xon/Xoff for the Basler BE1 relay's rear RS-232 port. The Baud rate should match the Baud rate of the Basler relay with 8N1 Data/Parity/Stop settings.

The ESP901 three position DIP switch must be set for OFF-ON-OFF for RS-232 mode.

After the configuration is completed, it is time to turn to the BESTCOMS program.

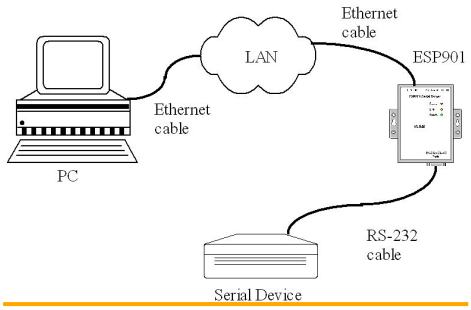

Figure 3 - Connection between ESP901 and Serial Device

Selecting the COM Port in BESTCOMS

The virtual COM port is selected in BESTCOMS to communicate with the Basler BE1 relay's rear RS-232 port.

The virtual COM Port of the ESP 901 converter is selected from the BESTCOMS Communication -> Configure menu as shown in Figure 5.

For more information on the ESP 901 converter refer to: http://www.bb-elec.com.

Obtaining BESTCOMS

To download BESTCOMS from the Basler Electric web site, visit www.basler.com/Downloads.

For More Information

To get more information on the products discussed in this note, including product bulletins and instruction manuals, go to www.basler.com or contact Technical Support at +1 618.654.2341.

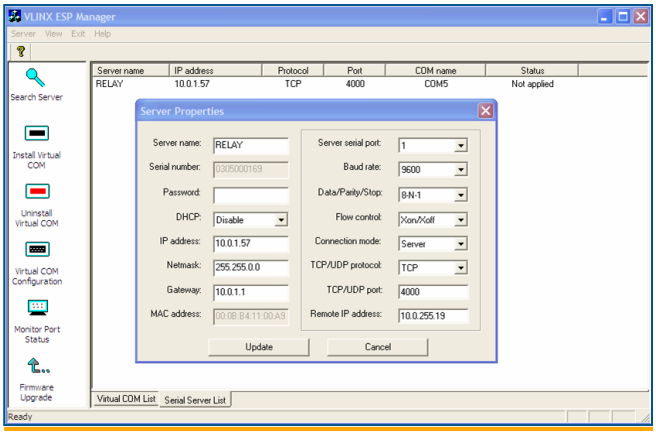

Figure 4 - VLILNX ESP Manager Configuration Software

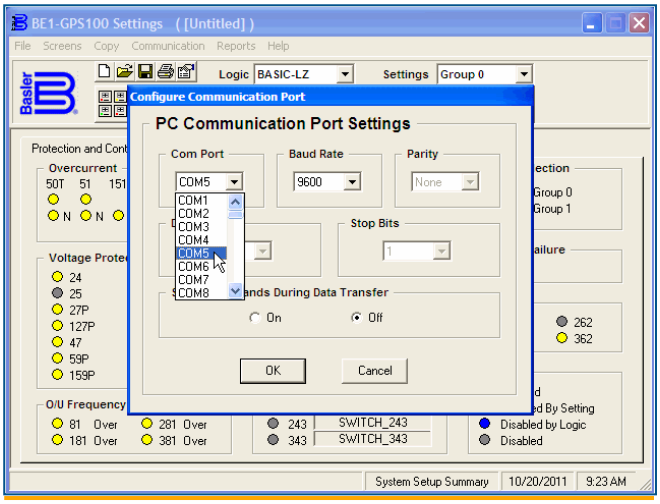

Figure 5 - Selecting Virtual COM Port in BESTCOMS

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