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3-Series Control Systems

Introduction

The Crestron® 3-Series Control System® presents a new benchmark in control system technology. Featuring the Core 3 OS™ control engine, the 3-Series Control System forms the core of any modern networked home or commercial building, managing and integrating all the disparate technologies throughout the facility to make life easier, greener, more productive, and more enjoyable.

Features and Functions

- Next generation control system
- Core 3 OS is substantially faster and more powerful than other control systems
- Exclusive modular programming architecture
- Vector floating point coprocessor
- Onboard RAM & flash memory
- Expandable storage
- High speed USB 2.0 host port
- Industry standard Ethernet and Cresnet® wired communications
- Control Subnet provides a dedicated local network for Crestron devices (not available on all devices)
- Supports Core 3 UI™ XPanel web-based remote control
- Supports Crestron Mobile® control apps for iPhone®, iPad®, and Android™
- Supports Crestron Fusion and SNMP remote management
- Native BACnet®/IP support
- Installer setup via Crestron Toolbox™ or Internet Explorer®
- Backward compatible to run existing SIMPL programs
- Full Unicode (multi-language) support
- Increased network throughput and security
- Secure access through Active Directory integration or standalone account management
- IIS v.6.0 web server
- IPv6 ready
Core 3 OS

Today’s commercial buildings and custom homes comprise more technology than ever before, and all these systems need to be networked, managed, and controlled in fundamentally new ways. The IP-based Core 3® platform is engineered from the ground up to deliver a network-grade server appliance capable of faithfully handling everything from boardroom AV and home theater control to total building management.

Core 3 OS embodies a distinctively robust, dynamic, and secure platform to elevate system designs to higher levels of performance and reliability. Compared to other control systems, Core 3 OS provides a pronounced increase in processing power and speed with more memory, rock solid networking and IP control, and a unique modular programming architecture.

Modular Programming Architecture

Designed for enhanced scalability, 3-Series® processors afford high speed, real-time multitasking to seamlessly run multiple programs simultaneously. This exclusive programming architecture lets programmers independently develop and run device specific programs for AV, lighting, HVAC, security, etc., allowing for the optimization of each program, and allowing changes to be made to one program without affecting the whole. Even as a system grows, processing resources can easily be shifted from one 3-Series processor to another without rewriting any code. The end benefit is dramatically simplified upgradability with minimal downtime, whether implementing changes on site or remotely via the network.

Robust Ethernet and IP Control

IP technology is the heart of Core 3, so it should be no surprise that its networking abilities are second to none. Gigabit Ethernet connectivity enables integration with IP-controllable devices and allows the 3-Series Control System to be part of a larger managed control network. Whether residing on a sensitive corporate LAN, a home network, or accessing the Internet through a cable modem, the 3-Series Control System provide secure, reliable interconnectivity with IP-enabled touch screens, computers, mobile devices, video displays, Blu-ray Disc® players, media servers, security systems, lighting, HVAC, and other equipment—whether on premises or across the globe.

e-Control Remote Access

Years ago, Crestron pioneered the world’s first IP-based control system unleashing vast new possibilities for controlling, monitoring, and managing integrated systems over a LAN, WAN, and the Internet. Today, our many e-Control® solutions offer more ways than ever for our users to control their worlds the way they want.

With e-Control, anything in a home or workplace can be controlled from anywhere in the world using a smartphone, tablet, or computer. Built-in Core 3 UI™ XPanel technology affords virtual touch screen control through any popular web browser running on a laptop or desktop computer. Our Crestron Mobile Pro® app delivers the Crestron touch screen experience to an iPhone, iPad, or Android device, allowing safe monitoring and control of an entire facility using the one device that goes everywhere.

Remote access is simplified using the myCrestron Dynamic DNS service to establish a friendly URL for the home system. If technical support is ever needed, a Crestron system installer can even perform diagnostics and implement updates to the system remotely without coming on site.
Crestron Fusion and SNMP

As part of a complete managed network in a corporate enterprise, college campus, convention center or any other facility, 3-Series processors work integrally with Crestron Fusion RV® Remote Asset Management Software to enable remote scheduling, monitoring, and control of rooms and technology from a central help desk. Built-in SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) support enables integration with third-party network management software, allowing control and monitoring in a format that is familiar to IT personnel.

Cresnet

Cresnet provides a dependable network wiring solution for Crestron keypads, lighting controls, thermostats, and other devices that do not require the higher speed of Ethernet. The Cresnet bus offers easy wiring and configuration, carrying bidirectional communication and 24 Vdc power to each device over a simple 4-conductor cable. To assist with troubleshooting, the 3-Series Control System includes our patent pending Network Analyzer, which continuously monitors the integrity of the Cresnet network for wiring faults, marginal performance, and other errors.

Onboard Control Ports

In addition to Ethernet, each 3-Series Control System includes bidirectional COM ports and IR ports to interface directly with all centralized AV sources, video displays, and other devices. Programmable relay ports are included for controlling window shades, projection screens, lifts, power controllers, and other contact-closure actuated equipment. The AV3, PRO3, CP3, and CP3N provide “Versiport” I/O ports that enable the integration of occupancy sensors, power sensors, door switches, or anything else that provides a dry contact closure, low-voltage logic, or 0–10 Volt dc signal. The MC3 also provides two digital inputs for use with Crestron occupancy sensors, power sensors, door switches, or anything that provides a dry contact closure or low-voltage logic signal.

BACnet/IP

Native support for the BACnet/IP communication protocol provides a direct interface to third-party building management systems over Ethernet, simplifying integration with HVAC, security, fire and life safety, voice and data, lighting, shades, and other systems. Using BACnet/IP, each system runs independently with the ability to communicate together on one platform for a truly smart building.

Dedicated Control Subnet (AV3, PRO3, and CP3N only)

The Crestron Control Subnet is a Gigabit Ethernet network dedicated to Crestron devices. Via the control system’s Control Subnet port, an installer may simply connect a single touch screen or wireless gateway, or add a Crestron PoE switch (CEN-SW-POE-5, CEN-SW-POE-16, or CEN-SWPOE-24—all sold separately) to handle multiple touch screens, gateways, AV components, and other devices. Auto-configuration of the entire subnet is performed by the control system, discovering each device and assigning IP addresses without any extra effort from the installer. A separate LAN port on the control system provides a single-point connection to the customer’s LAN, requiring just one IP address for the complete control system. The LAN port allows full interconnectivity between devices on the local subnet with other devices, systems, servers, and WAN/Internet connections outside the local subnet. For sensitive applications that require absolute security, the entire Control Subnet can be completely isolated from the customer’s LAN using Isolation mode.
Programming Tools & Utilities

Many of the activities discussed in this document require the use of Crestron’s suite of programming tools and utilities:

- SIMPL Windows
- VisionTools™ Pro-e
- Crestron Toolbox
- SIMPL Debugger

**NOTE:** The latest software can be downloaded at [www.crestron.com/software](http://www.crestron.com/software).

**NOTE:** Crestron software and any files on the website are for Authorized Crestron dealers and Crestron Service Providers (CSPs) only. New users must register to obtain access to certain areas of the site (including the FTP site).

**SIMPL Windows**

SIMPL Windows version 3 is Crestron's software for programming Crestron 3-Series Control Systems. It provides a well-designed graphical environment with a number of windows in which a programmer can select, configure, program, test, and monitor a Crestron control system. SIMPL Windows offers drag and drop functionality in a familiar Windows® environment.

**VisionTools Pro-e**

Crestron VisionTools Pro-e (also referred to as VT Pro-e®) Windows-based software is for drawing on-screen display (OSD) and touch screen pages by using two- and three-dimensional graphics and text as well as video and sounds (recorded as WAV files). A set of pages make up a project. Each of these projects can be loaded in a Crestron touch screen or used as a set of web pages stored on a control system for remote access to control system functions.

**Crestron Toolbox**

Crestron Toolbox is a broad-based software package that accomplishes multiple system tasks, using mainly USB, TCP/IP, and RS-232 connections between a PC and one or more Crestron control systems to perform many operations:

- Observe system processes
- Upload operating systems and firmware
- Upload programs and touch screen projects
- Set or change device Network IDs and IP IDs
- Change the serial number reported by a device
- Run scripts to automate tasks
- Perform system diagnostics
Crestron Toolbox allows performance of these functions using simple graphical views and click and drag methods.

Crestron Toolbox also contains the Network Analyzer and SIMPL Debugger.

**Network Analyzer**

The Network Analyzer utility helps to identify Cresnet network problems that can be caused by faulty devices, electrical shorts, or breaks in network wiring. Network Analyzer takes a sample of the voltage levels on the Cresnet “Y” and “Z” wires.

Network Analyzer is launched from within Crestron Toolbox by clicking the Network Analyzer icon.

For more information on Network Analyzer, refer to “Network Analyzer” on page 73.

**SIMPL Debugger**

The SIMPL Debugger is a utility for testing and debugging a SIMPL Windows program by monitoring the status of selected signals in real time. SIMPL Debugger can test any program that has been compiled and uploaded to the control system.

SIMPL Debugger is launched from within Crestron Toolbox by clicking Tools | SIMPL Debugger. SIMPL Debugger can also be opened as a standalone program.

For more information on SIMPL Debugger, refer to “SIMPL Debugger” on page 69.
Establishing Communications with the Control System

Whether uploading programs, troubleshooting, or performing diagnostics, communication between the control system and a PC must be established.

In electronic terms, a console provides a means of communication between an operator and the central processing unit of a computer. Crestron Toolbox lets someone talk to the console of a 3-Series dual bus control system. Crestron Toolbox allows the operator to establish, monitor, and troubleshoot communications directly with the control system.

Depending on the control system’s capabilities, the following communication protocols may be used to communicate with a control system:

- USB communication with a PC via the COMPUTER port on the control system
- Ethernet communication via CTP (Crestron Terminal Protocol—reserved port number, default port is 41795)*
- Ethernet communication via Secure CTP over an SSL connection to port 41797 at the IP address of the processor*
- Telnet (default port is 23)*
- Cresnet for processors operating in the Cresnet slave mode (refer to “Master-Slave Mode” on page 30)

Whether the intent is to use USB or Ethernet, these methods initially require connection of the control system to a PC via USB.

Another method for submitting a command to the console is to use the “Console” or “User Program Commands” symbols in SIMPL Windows in the control system program. The Console symbol transmits and receives serial data to and from the control system’s console. The “User Program Commands” symbol allows data typed at the console to be sent to the program. For more information on the “Console” symbol, refer to “Console Logic Symbol” on page 14. For more information on the User Program Commands symbol, refer to “User Program Commands Symbol” on page 15.

USB Connection

NOTE: Required for initial setup of Ethernet parameters.

NOTE: Required for loading projects and firmware.

**USB Communication**

![USB Connection Diagram]

* This method is only available if the control system supports Ethernet.
The **COMPUTER** port on the control system connects to the USB port on the PC via the included Type A to Type B USB cable:

1. Use the Address Book in Crestron Toolbox to create an entry using the expected communication protocol (USB). When multiple USB devices are connected, identify the control system by entering the device name in the *Model* text box, the unit’s serial number in the *Serial* text box or the unit’s host name in the *Host Name* text box. The host name can be found in the “System Info” window in the section marked *Ethernet*; however, communications must be established in order to see this information in the “System Info” window.

2. Display the control systems’s “System Info” window (click the ![information icon](image)); communications are confirmed when the device information is displayed.
“System Info” Window for the MC3
Once the system information is displayed a variety of functions are available to the user. For more information, refer to the Crestron Toolbox help file.

**TCP/IP Connection**

**NOTE:** DHCP is enabled by default in 3-Series Control Systems. Crestron Toolbox autodiscover can be used if the control system has access to the DHCP server.

Before communicating with an Ethernet-enabled control system over TCP/IP, a static IP address or the address/host name of the DHCP server (if DHCP is to be used) must be obtained from the network administrator. The USB connection previously described must be used to configure the unit’s TCP/IP settings. After configuring the IP information of the control system, further communications can be done over TCP/IP. For more information, refer to the Crestron e-Control Reference Guide (Doc. 6052) at [www.crestron.com/manuals](http://www.crestron.com/manuals).

1. Select **Functions | Ethernet Addressing…** to open the “Ethernet Addressing” window.

   **“Ethernet Addressing” Window**

   ![Ethernet Addressing Window](image)

   - Enable Ethernet
   - LAN A
     - Enable DHCP
     - IP Address: 0.0.0.0
     - IP Subnet Mask: 0.0.0.0
     - Default Router: 0.0.0.0
   - Host Name: MC3
   - Domain Name:
   - DP Port: 4754
   - CTP Port: 4755
   - HTTP Port: 80
   - Auto-Negotiate:
     - Speed (Mb/sec): 100 (10)
     - Duplex: Full (Half)
   - Renew DHCP
   - Set Console Password...

   ![Set Console Password](image)

   ![OK, Cancel, Apply, Help buttons](image)

2. Enable TCP/IP communications by checking **Enable Ethernet** and configure for static or dynamic IP operation.
   a) Configure for static IP Operation
   i. Clear (de-select) the **Enable DHCP** check box.
ii. Enter the static IP address and address mask in the address fields. If applicable, enter the default gateway address. If data is not to be routed outside the LAN, the default gateway can be left blank.

iii. Enter the host name in the Host Name field. The host name identifies the control system on the network and is automatically translated into the numerical IP address. The host name can consist of up to 64 characters. Valid characters are 0–9, A–Z (must be uppercase), and the hyphen. No other characters are valid. The host name cannot begin with a dash or number. If a host name is specified, this host name can be entered instead of the IP address in the Address Book.

iv. The Domain Name is an additional qualifier that some networks may need to resolve the name properly.

b) Configure for dynamic IP Operation (DHCP)

i. Select the Enable DHCP check box to enable the processor to be assigned a dynamic IP address from the DHCP server.

ii. Select both the Enable DHCP and Enable WINS check boxes for Windows NT 4.0 Server. The address of the WINS server is provided by the DHCP server.

iii. Enter the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) of the control system into the Host Name field. The host name identifies the control system on the network and is automatically translated into the numerical IP address. The host name can consist of up to 64 characters. Valid characters are 0–9, A–Z (must be uppercase), and the hyphen. No other characters are valid. The host name cannot begin with a dash or number.

iv. If applicable, enter the domain into the Domain Name field. This is only necessary if DHCP is being configured on an Ethernet connection to a control system that currently has a static address. The domain name is used to reconnect to the control system after it reboots. With a serial connection, the domain name does not need to be entered.

The domain name supplied by the DHCP server overwrites the domain name that is indicated in this field.

v. To request a new IP address from the DHCP server click the Renew DHCP button.

NOTE: Other settings can be configured as well. Refer to the Crestron Toolbox help file for more information.

3. Click OK to reboot the control system and set the new IP information.

Once the IP settings have been assigned, the control system can communicate using the USB connection or a TCP/IP connection.

For TCP/IP, use CAT5 straight through cables with 8-pin RJ-45 connectors to connect the LAN port on the control system and the LAN port on the PC to the Ethernet hub. Alternatively, a CAT5 crossover cable can be used to connect the two LAN ports directly, without using a hub. The following figure illustrates pinouts for straight through and crossover RJ-45 cables. Pins 4, 5, 7, and 8 are not used.
RJ-45 Pinouts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crossover Cable</th>
<th>Straight Through Cable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RJ-45 PIN</td>
<td>RJ-45 PIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Rx+</td>
<td>3 Tx+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Rx-</td>
<td>6 Tx-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Tx+</td>
<td>1 Rx+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Rx-</td>
<td>2 Tx-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Open the address book in Crestron Toolbox by selecting **Tools | Manage Address Book** or clicking ![icon].

5. Create a new entry for the control system by clicking **Add Entry** or pressing **F3**.

6. Enter a name for the control system connection and select **TCP** as the connection type.

“Address Book” Window - Entering New TCP-IP Entry

7. Enter the IP address or host name of the control system that was created on page 10.

8. Click **OK** to save the address book entry.

9. To verify the connection, click the ![icon] icon. If the settings are correct, the “System Info” window is displayed.
Troubleshooting Communications

Use the following checklist if communication cannot be established with the control system.

- Verify that the correct cables are being used. With a TCP/IP connection, a CAT5 cable with 8-pin RJ-45 connectors and the wiring shown on page 11 must be used.

- Using a USB cable, connect the control system to a PC. Using Crestron Toolbox go to Tools | Manage Address Book. Select the appropriate entry for the control system and verify the correct settings have been made. Click OK. In Toolbox navigate to Tools | System Info. When the “System Info” window opens, select the communication method from the drop-down menu. Communication is confirmed when the system information is loaded on the screen.

If after performing all of the troubleshooting steps described in this section, communication can still not be established or the control system is still locked up, reload the device’s firmware.

Refer to the procedure below to erase existing and install new 3-Series Control System firmware:

NOTE: This procedure erases the control system’s firmware and reinstalls it. If problems persist before a SIMPL Windows program is loaded, contact Crestron’s True Blue Technical Support Group. If the system locks up after a SIMPL Windows program is loaded, there is probably an issue with the SIMPL Windows program.

1. Download the Package Update File (.puf); save it in any directory.

2. There are two ways to use this .puf file:

   NOTE: A USB connection is the recommended type due to ease of use.

   - Double-click the filename. This starts the Package Update Tool as a standalone application. When the Crestron Toolbox address book opens, choose an existing connection type (i.e., USB, TCP, or Serial) or add a new entry for a connection from the PC to the control system. Click OK.

   -or-

   - In Toolbox, click Tools | Package Update Tool. The operator is asked to specify the .puf file. Click Select... to choose the .puf file. Click the address book icon to open the address book and select an existing connection type (i.e., USB, TCP, or Serial) or add a new entry for a connection from the PC to the control system.

3. The Package Update Tool connects to the control system. It analyzes the software versions on the control system and compares them to the versions in the .puf. It recommends which firmware files should be updated. The user may choose to manually override the suggestions. This is only recommended for advanced users.

4. When the desired files to be updated have been selected, click Update. The Package Update Tool upgrades the selected firmware. A status message is displayed when the firmware upgrade is complete.
3-Series Console Commands

Introduction

The 3-Series processor is capable of understanding and responding to a set of recognizable words known as console commands. The commands are sent through the Text Console in Crestron Toolbox. The processor, in essence, is a computer capable of interpreting commands received by the console via the following methods:

- USB communication with a PC via the USB port on the control system
- Ethernet communication via CTP (Crestron Terminal Protocol—reserved port number, default port is 41795)*
- Ethernet communication via Secure CTP over a SSL connection to port 41797 at the IP address of the processor*
- Telnet (default port is 23)*
- Cresnet for processors operating in the Cresnet slave mode (refer to “Master-Slave Mode” on page 30)

Another method for submitting a command to the console is to use the “Console” or “User Program Commands” symbols in SIMPL Windows in the control system program. The “Console” symbol transmits and receives serial data to and from the control system’s console. The “User Program Commands” symbol allows data typed at the console to be sent to the program.

**NOTE:** The method of transmitting each command to the control system varies from command to command.

SIMPL Windows Symbols

Enable Special Symbols

The “Console” and “User Program Commands” symbols only appear in the System Control folder in the Symbol Library after enabling a special symbol set for display. To enable this set while in SIMPL Windows, select Options | Preferences, which opens the “SIMPL Windows Preferences” window. In the Program Editing tab and under the Symbol Set area, select Special as shown in the following diagram. Click OK.

* These methods are only available if the control system supports Ethernet.
Use the "Console" symbol to activate console commands via the SIMPL Windows program. This feature is available for advanced programmers of SIMPL Windows. After enabling viewing of special symbols as described above, the Console symbol can be viewed as shown in the following diagram.
When the program sends data on the TX$ signal of the “Console” symbol, the control system interprets the console command just as if it were received via the USB or Ethernet console and outputs a serial string to the RX$ signal of the console symbol which can be programatically interpreted.

### User Program Commands Symbol

Use the “User Program Commands” symbol to send data typed at the console to the program. This feature is available for advanced programmers of SIMPL Windows. After enabling viewing of special symbols, the “User Program Commands” symbol can be viewed as shown in the following diagram.

#### The User Program Commands Symbol in SIMPL Windows

The “User Program Commands” symbol receives data entered at the 3-Series console prompt using the USERPROGCMD command. The syntax of the console command requires double quotes before and after the command string. The string may include escape codes such as "\".

The double quotes are stripped off and any escape codes are processed before passing the string to the “User Program Commands” symbol. For example, if the user types `>USERPROGCMD "TURN ON DEBUG"`, the string `TURN ON DEBUG` (without the double quotes) is passed to the “User Program Commands” symbol. The string can then be processed as desired.
Command Groups

Console commands are grouped logically. Entering `help` from the console responds with the following list of categories:

- **All** – all 3-Series console commands
- **Device** – pertains to the unit itself
- **Ethernet** – governs parameters that involve the Ethernet port(s)
- **File** – influences the internal file system
- **System** – sets system-wide parameters
- **RF** – displays a list of commands for the radio chip (if available)
- **OSD** – displays a list of commands for the on-screen-display (if available)
- **xxx** – displays a list of commands that start with the letters that substitute `xxx`

It is possible to find the same command in more than one category. Commands are case insensitive and can be entered from the appropriate prompt. Help on individual commands is available by typing the command followed by a `?` (e.g., `ADDMASTER ?`).

* Add `”:InstanceNum”` after the command to redirect to particular instance.
3-Series Memory & Directory Structure

Introduction

A 3-Series processor has 256 MB of built-in memory (volatile). The following diagram illustrates the memory structure of the 3-Series Control System.

Flash memory contains the file system inside the 3-Series control engine. NVRAM contains program variables that are retained after the loss of electrical power. Volatile memory is lost after a power failure. Refer to the lists that follow for a breakdown of memory usage for program-related information stored in the unit.
Flash

- SIMPL Program
- SIMPL+ Modules
- Operating System (.cuz file)

The files that reside in flash conform to a flat directory structure. The following table presents the structure of the overall file system.

The directory structure of the 3-Series Control System can be broken down into two parts. The first part resides on the on-board flash memory and the second resides on the optional external memory. Programs, data files, and data can be stored in the on-board flash or the optional external memory. This section briefly describes the structure of the file system.

The files that reside in the internal flash conform to a flat directory structure while the external memory system contains a fully FAT32 compatible file system to allow the same external memory to be used in a Windows environment. The table that follows presents the structure of the overall file system.

### Control System Directory Structure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TOP LEVEL</th>
<th>SECONDARY LEVEL</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>\</td>
<td>SYS</td>
<td>Root of the file system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HTML</td>
<td>Contains various system configuration files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SIMPL\APPXX</td>
<td>Control system program files (where XX is the program number)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>USER</td>
<td>Used for user-defined files</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>RM, RM2</td>
<td>The mounting point for the external removable media</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NVRAM</td>
<td>NVRAM Legacy Directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ROMDISK\User\Display</td>
<td>Contains the files for the users on screen display</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the file system names are case insensitive, the case is preserved to maintain file checksums. The compact flash directory only appears when a compact flash card is inserted into the system. To reference files on the external memory, prefix the “\RM\” to any fully qualified path from the Windows environment. For example, if the file in Windows is “\MyDirectory\MySubdirectory\MyFile.ext”, the complete 3-Series path for a file on the first compact flash slot (onboard) is “\RM\MyDirectory\MySubdirectory\MyFile.ext”.

When the SIMPL Windows program is stored on the external memory, the files reside in the directories \RM\SIMPL\APPXX where XX is the program number. When web pages are stored on the external memory, the directory is CF0\HTML. Storing the program or web pages on the removable media gives those files precedence over files stored on internal flash. That is to say, if different programs are stored in both internal flash and external memory, the program on external memory runs at boot-up.

### Non-volatile (NVRAM)

1. SIMPL+ Variables (Default if no options are specified, or using "nonvolatile" qualifier or #DEFAULT_NONVOLATILE)
2. Signals explicitly written to NVRAM (by symbols such as Analog RAM, Analog RAM from database, Serial RAM, Serial RAM from database, Analog Non-volatile Ramp, Digital RAM, etc.)

Volatile (SDRAM)

1. Digital, analog, and serial signal values
2. SIMPL+ Variables (if "volatile" qualifier is used, or #DEFAULT_VOLTILE is used)

Volatile SDRAM is used by the operating system for dynamic storage of variables, signals, and other constructs used at runtime. The actual amount of SDRAM used at any given time depends on the particular program that is running; that is, usage is variable, or dynamic, during normal operation.

NOTE: SDRAM is internal to operations and is not available to the programmer.

Running Programs from External Storage

Certain 3-Series processors are equipped with external storage ports. On power-up or a hardware reset (HW-R), the control system first checks for a program on external storage (if installed) and then internal flash.

Crestron Toolbox can be used to control the actions of the control system when external storage is inserted into a running system.

Perform the following procedure to determine how the control system operates with external storage:

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described in the “Establishing Communications with the Control System” section on page 6.
2. Select Functions | Compact Flash to display the “Compact Flash” window.

“Compact Flash” Window
NOTE: Auto-Run mode is only available when external memory is inserted into the control system.

NOTE: Control systems are shipped with the Auto-Run mode enabled by default.

3. Click the Enable Auto-Run check box to enable the Auto-Run mode. When operating in the Auto-Run mode, the control system is automatically reset and runs the external program when the external storage is inserted into the control system. If the external storage is removed, the program in internal Flash automatically runs. When Auto-Run mode is disabled, the Program Reset command must be sent to the control system after the external storage is inserted or removed to run the program.

4. Click OK or Apply for changes to take effect.
3-Series Control System Error Messages

Introduction

This section provides a brief description of 3-Series error messages that may be encountered. Error messages may be the result of hardware or software failure, hardware incompatibility with software definitions, or a programming error.

Error messages created by the control system are written to an error log that is stored in the control system’s RAM. The error log can be saved on removable media on processors that support it. Use Crestron Toolbox to display the error log.

NOTE: To save the error log in non-volatile memory, use the PERSISTENTLOG console command to have the error log write to the removable media. For more information, refer to “Running Programs from External Storage” on page 19

Error Levels

The following table lists and defines the four levels of error messages that may appear.

**Error Message Levels**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Notice</td>
<td>An event has occurred that is noteworthy, but does not affect program operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warning</td>
<td>An event has occurred that could affect program operation, but the program can still run normally.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Error</td>
<td>An event has occurred that indicates that the program is not operating as expected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatal</td>
<td>An event has occurred that prevents the program from running.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Error Format

Each error message has the following format: Level: Message

Some messages have a suffix with additional information in parenthesis:

{Error Level} :{Application}[App#] # [Date/Time] # Message

Only the first two items (level and message) within the error format are of any immediate value to the programmer.

- Level – defined in the preceding table
- Message – varied
- Error# – unique identifier for Crestron use
- Extended Error# – unique identifier for Crestron use
- Reserved# – not yet defined; for future use

NOTE: It is important to report the exact error message to a Crestron customer service representative. Also, be as specific as possible regarding the events that lead to the error (e.g., pressing a certain sequence of buttons, etc). Finally, provide the compiled archive file.
Viewing Error Messages with Error Log Function in Crestron Toolbox

Crestron Toolbox can be used with any 3-Series Control System to view messages stored in the error log. For more detailed error messages refer to “Viewing Error Messages with Text Console in Crestron Toolbox” on page 23.

Use the following procedure to manage the Error Log with Crestron Toolbox:

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.

2. Select **Functions | Error Log** to open the “Error Log” window.

3. The “Error Log” window opens with the latest error messages from the control system.
   - To refresh the error log, click **Retrieve Error Log from Device**.
   - Top copy the error log to the computers clipboard, click **Copy to Clipboard**.
   - To clear the error log, click **Clear Error Log in Device** and click **Yes** when prompted to confirm. The MSG / ERR LED on the front panel (if present) is extinguished. The current log is displayed.
   - To save the error log, click **Save As...**, select a filename and directory, and click **OK**.
   - To retrieve a saved error log, select **Open**..., select the file to be opened, and click **OK**.
   - To close the window, click the **Close** button.
Viewing Error Messages with Text Console in Crestron Toolbox

The persistent log (PLOG) is a log of error messages that are identified by the control system. The latest PLOG can be viewed in the Text Console in Crestron Toolbox and are available after a control system reboot. The control system, or attached device, may have a MSG LED that indicates an error has occurred.

The control system stores current log files at “SYS\PLOG\CurrentBoot”. The current log file is locked and cannot be opened for transfer.

To view the contents of the current PLOG enter `ERR PLOGCURRENT` into the text console in Crestron Toolbox.

The control system checks for new error messages every 2 minutes and commits any messages to a log file for viewing. The control system creates up to 9 temporary log files (“Crestron_01.log” to “Crestron_09.log”) and one permanent initial log file (“Crestron_00.log”). Log files have a 256 kB maximum size for each file—when the size limit is reached the next log file is created. Log files continue to be created until all 10 files are full.

After all 10 log files are created and the 10th log file reached its 256 kB maximum size the control system overwrites the first temporary log file (“Crestron_01.log”) and begins logging until it is full. The control system then overwrites the second temporary log file (“Crestron_02.log”). This operation repeats as long as there continue to be errors.

If a soft reboot is performed any pending messages are written to the latest log file and zipped into one file. On reboot the zipped file at “SYS\PLOG\CurrentBoot” is moved to “SYS\PLOG\PreviousBoot”. During subsequent reboots the zipped file from “SYS\PLOG\PreviousBoot” is moved to “SYS\PLOG\ZippedLogs” for future storage.

The amount of space reserved for current and zipped log files is 50 MB. If the control system runs out of space for log files it deletes the oldest log file. The control system also has a maximum of 50 log files and deletes the oldest log file once the maximum has been reached.

The control system continues logging errors as long as there are not over 250 messages per 2 minute period for two consecutive 2 minute logging periods. For each error period the text console results displays PersistentLog: Error state threshold met if error logging is suspended. When logging is suspended the log file displays PersistentLog: Consecutive error states detected; logging is suspended. The user also receives a PersistentLog is suspended, please contact dealer. message in the text console.

Message logging is resumed when there has been less than 10 error messages logged for 10 consecutive 2 minute logging periods. When logging is resumed all messages from the 10 consecutive 2 minute logging periods are logged to the log file. The log in text console displays PersistentLog: Consecutive quite states detected; logging is resumed.

An example of a PLOG result is shown below:

```
Persistent log contents during current boot:
Notice: nk.exe # 09:38:26 10-09-2013 # Power On
Notice: nk.exe # 09:38:26 10-09-2013 # System startup: MC3 [v1.007.0019 (May 15 2013) #00A09982]
setIP: Registry static IP setting = 0.0.0.0
Info: nk.exe # 09:38:26 10-09-2013 # Updating DHCP options on boot
USB RESET
DRIVER_VERSION : 201, DATECODE : 111708
```
Lan9221 identified. ID_REV = 0x92210000
Use IntPhy
Auto-MDIIX Enable by default!!!
LayMgr.cpp: Layout Manager successfully initialized to 1
Info: CrestronMonitor.exe # 09:38:31 10-09-2013 # Crestron applications already installed
Warning: ConsoleServiceCE.exe # 09:38:36 10-09-2013 # ReadIniInitialLinkStatus - Attempt to read static DNS failed ... Defaulting
Info: TLDM.exe # 09:38:37 10-09-2013 # Got Security Flag: 0
Info: TLDM.exe # 09:38:45 10-09-2013 # THAL loading now ..
Info: TLDM.exe # 09:38:45 10-09-2013 # TLDM Starting..
Info: TLDM.exe # 09:38:45 10-09-2013 # Resuming rcv task now
Info: TLDM.exe # 09:38:45 10-09-2013 # Successfully registered with the console service - Console available
Info: RfGateway.exe # 09:38:46 10-09-2013 # TLDMInterfaceReadInMessageQueueSize - Queue size defaults to 500
Info: nk.exe # 09:38:46 10-09-2013 # IEX: Host chip found (count 2)
Info: nk.exe # 09:38:46 10-09-2013 # IEX: NCP initialized successfully!
Info: nk.exe # 09:38:46 10-09-2013 # IEX: halStackSeedRandom=348A9A45
Ok: SimplSharpPro.exe # 09:38:58 10-09-2013 # Successfully registered the application with the TLDM
Ok: SimplSharpPro.exe # 09:39:03 10-09-2013 # Creating 5 User threads with initial priority 253
Info: CRESLOG.exe # 09:39:04 10-09-2013 # PersistentLog: Logging is started!
Notice: ConsoleServiceCE.exe # 09:41:13 10-09-2013 # USB Connection has been made.
USB RESET
Persistent log contents during current boot end

Reading Error Messages

Error messages are displayed in the following format:

{Error Level} :{Application} [App#] # [HH:MM:SS MM-DD-YYYY] # Message

The error level field indicates the severity of the error message. Error levels range from OK to Fatal:

- OK
- Notice
- Warning
- Error
- Fatal

The application field indicates the running program that produced the error:

- ConsoleServiceCE.exe – This is the application that runs all the console transports, such as Ethernet and USB. It implements some basic commands such as reboot.
- SystemCommandProcessor.exe – This is the application that handles all system level commands, such as restore.
- CresLog.exe – This is the application responsible for writing error messages, RM Logging, and Persistent Log.
- RfGateway.exe – This is the application that runs on control systems with built-in RF gateways.
- RouterTransportProcess.exe – This is the application responsible for the router communication subsystem. Applicable only to control systems with a Control Subnet port.
- DisplayManager.exe – This application is responsible for user interface projects such as front panel, on-screen display, or touch screen.
• **SSHD.exe** – This application handles all SSH and SFTP traffic.
• **TLDM.exe** – This application is the Top Level Device Manager, responsible for all data movement across the different sub-systems.
• **CIPCommandProcessor.exe** – This is the Ethernet Stack application responsible for all CIP communications and SIMPL+ Logic symbols for Ethernet.
• **BACnet.exe** – This application is the BACnet stack which handles the 3-Series BACnet implementation.
• **CloudClient.exe** – This is the application responsible for the Crestron Cloud projects.
• **SimplSharpPro.exe** – This is the application that runs the SIMPL# Pro applications
• **LogicEngine.exe** – This application runs SIMPL Windows logic programs.
• **SPlusManagerApp.exe** – This handles all SIMPL+ and SIMPL# modules in a single program.
• **NK.EXE** – This application is the underlying kernel for the operating system.

The **APP#** is displayed when there are multiple instances of a single application (e.g., LogicEngine.exe, SPlusManagerApp.exe, and SimplSharpPro.exe) the **APP#** indicates the program slot (1–10) which the application is associated.
Passthrough Mode

NOTE: This procedure requires the use of Crestron Toolbox.

Passthrough mode allows a control system to act as a conduit to a device that is serially connected to the Crestron system. Crestron Toolbox can then serially communicate with a controlled device separate from the control system program. This aids in troubleshooting a serial device that is connected to the network by isolating the device from the system or the program running in the control system without moving any wiring.

NOTE: Before using Passthrough mode to connect to a serial port on an Ethernet device, the IP ID and associated IP address of the Ethernet device must be listed in the control system's IP table.

Passthrough mode cannot be used with Cresnet devices that utilize slots in the SIMPL Windows programming symbol. For example, the COM port on the C2N-CAMIDSPT is designated as Slot 2, Port A. Passthrough mode cannot be used to access this COM port. The COM ports on the ST-COM are not within slots and can use passthrough for these COM ports. The “System Views” window of SIMPL Windows shows the programmer if a COM port is a port on a device or a port within a slot on a device.

Use the following procedure to enter Passthrough mode for connecting to serial devices:

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish a serial connection to the 3-Series Control System as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.

2. Open the Address Book. If the device has not already been added, add an address for the control system:
   - Select Indirect for the Connection Type.
   - Select the location for the Device is at field. Refer to the illustration on the following page for visual guidance.
“Address Book” Window

3. Click **OK**.

4. Add another indirect address for the serial device by clicking **Add Entry** (or **F3**) and type a name for the entry.
   a. Click **Indirect**.
   b. Under **Device is at** select **COM Port (Passthrough)**. A dialog box opens. Refer to the illustration below for visual guidance.
Control Subnet

The AV3, PRO3, and CP3N (referred to as “control system” for the rest of this section) have a dedicated Control Subnet which allows for dedicated communication between the control system and Crestron Ethernet devices without interference from other network traffic on the LAN.

The Control Subnet can host up to 64,000 Crestron Ethernet devices. Connect a Crestron Ethernet switch such as the CEN-SWPOE-16 16-Port Managed PoE Switch (sold separately) to the control system’s CONTROL SUBNET port to use as a connection point for a variety of Crestron Ethernet devices. The CONTROL SUBNET port is used to communicate with Crestron Ethernet devices on a subnet that is independent of the local area network connected to the LAN port. When using the Control Subnet, observe the following:

- The control system acts as a DHCP server to all devices connected to the Control Subnet and assign IP addresses as needed.
- A DNS server is built in to the control system to resolve host names.
- Only Crestron Ethernet devices should be connected to the Control Subnet.

The control system can operate in Isolation mode. Take the following into account when operating in Isolation mode:

- Devices on the Control Subnet do not have access to any resources on the LAN side. This means that if a touch screen with a smart object that requires Internet access is installed on the Control Subnet operating in Isolation mode, the smart object cannot work.
- Devices on the LAN do not have access to any devices on the Control Subnet. This includes Crestron Toolbox when it is connected to the LAN. To configure devices on the Control Subnet with Crestron Toolbox, the PC running Crestron Toolbox must be physically connected to the Control Subnet.
- Any NAT/Portmapping rules that were previously created do not work when the control system is in Isolation mode.

CAUTION: Do not connect the CONTROL SUBNET port to the LAN. The CONTROL SUBNET port must only be connected to Crestron Ethernet devices.

NOTE: If the control system is operating in Isolation mode, Crestron Ethernet devices that require Internet access should not be connected to the CONTROL SUBNET port (either directly or indirectly). Any Crestron Ethernet device that requires an Internet connection should be connected to the local area network.
Control Subnet Application

[Diagram showing a network setup with devices connected via LAN, including a projector, media server, projection screen, and Crestron Ethernet Devices.]
Master-Slave Mode

Introduction

Master-Slave mode is a network configuration that allows a Crestron 3-Series processor to access ports on other Crestron control systems over Ethernet. By attaching a slave control system to a master control system, the master control system can use ports it may not normally have (I/O, IR, RF, etc.).

In a master-slave environment, the master control system contains the program that controls all Cresnet and Ethernet devices attached to it. The slave control system turns off its processing capabilities and behaves exactly like any other Cresnet or Ethernet device. It obeys the program in the master control system, making its ports available for control by the master. By using slave systems, only one master program has to be written to control multiple slave systems.

NOTE: If there is a need for a control system to run its own program but be able to communicate with other control systems, use the “Intersystem Communications” symbol for peer-to-peer communications between control systems over Ethernet or serial communications. For more information on the Intersystem Communications symbol, refer to the SIMPL Windows help file.

Depending on a control system’s communications capabilities, a control system may function as a Cresnet master, an Ethernet master, or an Ethernet slave.

NOTE: A 3-Series Control System cannot be slaved to a 2-Series Control System.

Definitions

Cresnet Master

When in the Cresnet master mode (the default mode for most control systems), a master control system can control Cresnet and Ethernet devices (if equipped with Ethernet capabilities) as well as control systems operating in the Cresnet slave mode. Control systems with Cresnet and Ethernet capabilities can function as a Cresnet master and Ethernet master simultaneously.

Ethernet Master

When operating as an Ethernet master, a master control system can control Ethernet and Cresnet devices (if equipped with Cresnet capabilities) as well as control systems operating in the Ethernet slave mode. Control systems with Ethernet and Cresnet capabilities can function as an Ethernet master and a Cresnet master simultaneously.

Ethernet Slave

A control system operating in the Ethernet slave mode operates as an Ethernet device and makes its built-in ports (except for Ethernet) available to a master control system. While operating in the Ethernet slave mode, any program that is loaded into the control system does not run.

When operating in the Ethernet slave mode, the control system can address any installed hardware, but it cannot address Ethernet network devices. Unlike the 2-Series control systems that cannot use the Cresnet port on a 2-Series slave, the 3-Series master and 3-Series slave each have their own independent Cresnet bus. This allows the 3-Series master to assign Cresnet IDs 03 to FE and the 3-Series slave
to issue Cresnet IDs 03 to FE, ultimately doubling the number of devices in the network.

Slave control systems with Ethernet and Cresnet abilities can only be configured to operate as an Ethernet slave.

The 3-series can only be an Ethernet slave to another 3-series controller, no Cresnet slaving is supported. A 2-series can be a Cresnet or Ethernet slave to a 3-series. Refer to the following table for reference.

**NOTE:** There can only be a single master IP table entry.

### Master / Slave Reference Table

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MASTER</th>
<th>SLAVE</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2-Series</td>
<td>Cresnet / Ethernet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Series</td>
<td>Cresnet / Ethernet</td>
<td>Ethernet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Differences from the 2-Series Control Systems

- Adding a Master IP Table using the ADDMaster command does not require a reboot.
- Removing a Master IP Table entry using the REMMaster command does not require a reboot.
- The prompt on the 3-Series Control System never changes.
- Use the MIPTable command to get the master IP Table entry.
- There is a new command which indicates the slave status.
- New commands to configure the slave behavior.

### Functional Behavior

A 3-Series Control System can switch back and forth between the slave mode and normal mode (running registered user programs) without requiring a reboot. There are certain parameters that determine how long the slave controller tries to connect to the master before reverting back to the regular mode.

#### Assuming No Master IP Table Entry When Booting the System

- Adding a Master IP table entry enables the slave to start connecting to the master. Once the slave is connected all user programs stop executing and the device enters into the slave mode.
- Stopping the program on the master does not force the slave back into the regular mode. The slave tries to connect for the period based on the configuration parameters before reverting back to the regular mode. Once this happens, the slave controller does not go back into the slave mode until the control system reboots or the master IP Table entry is added again. An error gets logged indicating this condition.
- Ethernet Slave – Reached max count of connect responses being rejected by master before a successful connect. Not retrying - Initiating normal behavior

- Removing the master IP table entry forces the controller to revert back to the normal mode.

**Assuming Master IP Table Entry Exists When Booting the System**

The slave tries to connect to the master for the period set by the configuration parameters. If the slave can connect successfully, it enters the slave mode. If not the slave enters into the normal mode and then behaves as described above.

**Master / Slave Console Commands**

**ADDMaster**

This command adds a master entry to the IP table.

ADDMaster [cip_id] [ip_address/name]

- cip_id - ID of the CIP node (in hex)
- ip_address/name - IP address in dot decimal notation or name of the site for DNS lookup

**REMMaster**

This command removes a master entry from the IP table.

REMMaster [cip_id] [ip_address/name]

- cip_id - ID of the CIP node (in hex)
- ip_address/name - IP address in dot decimal notation or name of the site for DNS lookup

**MIPTABLE**

This command displays the master IP table.

MIPTABLE [-T]

- -T displays the data in a table format
- No arguments - Shows the IP table for the Master Entry

**SLAVESTATUS**

This command displays that status of the slave processor.

SLAVESTATUS

- No parameter is needed – Displays the slave status

**ETHSLVCONNFCNT**

This command sets the default Slave connect response reject count. If the command is entered with no parameter console displays the current connect response reject count.

ETHSLVCONNFCNT [CONNECTFAILED_COUNT]
CONNECTFAILED COUNT - Set the default slave connect response reject count. Stops connecting after this number of connect response rejected

No Parameter - Show current connect response reject count

The ETHSLVCONNFCNT command tells the slave after how many unsuccessful connect attempts to the master should the slave revert back. The default is 100 and this happens about every 10 seconds. If the count was set to the slave would reset back in about a minute.

This takes care of a scenario where that particular IP address is UP and running but does not have a program which listens to that ID.

**ETHSLVCONNTIMEOUT**

This command sets the default Slave connection timeout setting. If the command is entered with no parameter it displays the current connect timeout.

ETHSLVCONNTIMEOUT [TIMEOUTINSEC]

TIMEOUTINSEC - Set the default slave connect timeout in seconds. Indicates the time (in seconds) in which the normal program resumes

No Parameter - Show current slave connect timeout

The ETHSLVCONNTIMEOUT command tells the slave after how many seconds to wait after being unable to make a TCP level connections should the slave revert back to running a program...

This takes care of the case where the slave tries to connect to a non-existant IP address or to a unit which is not up and running.
Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP)

Introduction

Crestron’s 3-Series Control Systems support DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) in a Windows Server environment.

When using DHCP, a dynamic IP address is automatically assigned to a device on the network. These IP addresses are called “dynamic” because they are only temporarily assigned, or leased, to the device. After a certain period of time the DHCP lease expires and may change. When a device connects to the network (or the Internet) and its dynamic IP address has expired, the DHCP server assigns it a new dynamic IP address.

The purpose of DHCP is to let network administrators centrally manage and automate the assignment of IP addresses in an organization’s network. DHCP greatly reduces the work necessary to administer a large IP network. Without DHCP, the administrator has to manually configure the IP address each time a computer is added to the network or moves to a different location.

DHCP provides integration with a DNS (Domain Name System) service. This system allows hosts to have both domain name addresses (such as ftp.crestron.com) and IP addresses (such as 65.206.113.4). The domain name address is easier for people to remember and is automatically translated into the numerical IP address.

The domain name address (also called the Fully-Qualified Domain Name, or FQDN) identifies the owner of that address in a hierarchical format: server.organization.type. For example, ftp.crestron.com identifies the FTP server at Crestron, with “.com” signifying a commercial organization.

A DNS server, also called a name server, maintains a database containing the host computers and their corresponding IP addresses. Presented with the domain name address ftp.crestron.com, for example, the DNS server would return the IP address 65.206.113.4.

Another name-resolution service is WINS (Windows Internet Naming Service). WINS is used in conjunction with DNS and DHCP in a Windows NT 4.0 Server environment.

Windows DHCP/DNS Server Configuration

Crestron’s 3-Series Control Systems support DHCP in all Windows Server environments

In the following configuration requirements, a scope defines the range of IP addresses for the network. Typically a scope defines a single physical subnet on the network. Scopes provide the primary way for the DHCP server to manage distribution and assignment of IP addresses and any related configuration parameters to clients on the network.

Scope options are client configuration parameters applied specifically to all clients that obtain a lease within a particular scope. Some commonly used options include IP addresses for default gateways (routers), WINS servers, and DNS servers.
Control System Configuration

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.

2. Select Functions | Ethernet Addressing… to open the “Ethernet Addressing” window.

   “Ethernet Addressing” Window

3. Select the Enable DHCP check box to enable DHCP. Select the Enable DHCP and the Enable WINS (if available) check boxes. (The IP Address and IP Mask fields are ignored if either check box is selected.)

4. Enter the host name of the control system in the Host Name field. The host name identifies the control system on the network and is automatically translated into the numerical IP address. The host name can consist of up to 64 characters. Valid characters are 0–9, A–Z (all capitals), and the hyphen. No other characters are valid. The host name cannot begin with a dash or number.

5. If applicable, enter the domain in the Domain Name field. This is only necessary if DHCP is being configured on an Ethernet connection to a control system that currently has a static address. The domain name is used to reconnect to the control system after it reboots. With a serial connection, the domain does not need to be entered.

   NOTE: The domain supplied by the DHCP server overwrites the domain that is indicated in this field.
6. Once all settings are made, click **OK** to store the settings and reboot the control system.

**Other Settings**

It is possible to change the CIP and CTP port numbers in rare cases where a network conflict may exist with ports 41794 and 41795.

The web port can be changed for security reasons if no firewall or router is protecting the network. To prevent attacks by hackers the port can be moved to another value. Users on the LAN would then have to specify the port number in the URL (e.g., http://www.crestron.com:49153) where the value after the colon indicates the web port.

In most cases, the port numbers do not need to be changed.

Once the IP information for the control system has been set, it becomes possible to communicate with the control system via TCP/IP.
Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)

Introduction

Ethernet-enabled control systems provide built-in support for Secure Sockets Layer (SSL), the standard for protecting web-based communication between clients and servers. SSL is a protocol that provides a secure channel for communication between two machines. The secure channel is transparent, which means that it passes the data through, unchanged. The data is encrypted between the client and the server, but the data that one end writes is exactly what the other end reads. The SSL protocol uses TCP as the medium of transport.

SSL ensures that the connection between a web browser and web server is secure by providing authentication and encryption. Authentication confirms that servers, and sometimes clients, are who they say they are. Encryption creates a secure "tunnel" between the two, which prevents unauthorized access to the system.

The secure tunnel that SSL creates is an encrypted connection that ensures that all information sent between the client and server remains private. SSL also provides a mechanism for detecting if someone has altered the data in transit. If at any point SSL detects that a connection is not secure, it terminates the connection and the client and server have to establish a new, secure connection.

SSL uses both public-key and symmetric-key encryption techniques. Public keys are a component of public-key cryptographic systems. The sender of a message uses a public key to encrypt data; the recipient of the message can only decrypt the data with the corresponding private key. Public keys are known to everybody, while private keys are secret and only known to the recipient of the message. Since only the server has access to its private key, only the server can decrypt the information. This is how the information remains confidential and tamper-proof while in transit across the network.

An SSL transaction consists of two distinct parts: the key exchange and the bulk data transfer. The SSL Handshake Protocol handles key exchange and the SSL Record Protocol handles the bulk data transfer.

The key exchange (SSL handshake protocol) begins with an exchange of messages called the SSL handshake. During the handshake, the server authenticates itself to the client using public-key encryption techniques. Then the client and the server create a set of symmetric keys that they use during that session to encrypt and decrypt data and to detect if someone has tampered with the data. Symmetric key encryption is much faster than public-key encryption, while public-key encryption provides strong authentication techniques.

Once the key exchange is complete, the client and the server use this session key to encrypt all communication between them. They do this encryption with a cipher, or symmetric key encryption algorithm, such as RC4 or DES. This is the function of the SSL Record Protocol. There are two types of ciphers, symmetric and asymmetric. Symmetric ciphers require the same key for encryption and decryption, whereas with asymmetric ciphers, data can be encrypted using a public key, but decrypted using a private key.

SSL supports a variety of ciphers that it uses for authentication, transmission of certificates, and establishing session keys. SSL-enabled devices can be configured to support different sets of ciphers, called cipher suites.
The encryption algorithms and the key lengths supported in the 3-Series processor are as follows:

**Supported Encryption Algorithms and Key Lengths for 3-Series Processors**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>SESSION KEY LENGTHS (BITS)</th>
<th>IN/OUT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DES</td>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>40 or 56</td>
<td>DES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3DES</td>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>3DES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC2</td>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>RC2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RC4</td>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>40 or 128</td>
<td>RC4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES</td>
<td>Symmetric</td>
<td>128 or 256</td>
<td>AES</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>Asymmetric</td>
<td>1024</td>
<td>RSA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SSL-enabled clients and servers confirm each other’s identities using digital certificates. Digital certificates are issued by trusted third-party enterprises called Certificate Authorities (CA). From the certificate, the sender can verify the recipient's claimed identity and recover their public key. By validating digital certificates, both parties can ensure that an imposter has not intercepted a transmission and provided a false public key for which they have the correct private key.

A CA-signed certificate provides several important capabilities for a web server:

- Browsers automatically recognize the certificate and allow a secure connection to be made, without prompting the user. (If a browser encounters a certificate whose authorizing CA is not in its list of trusted CAs, the browser prompts the user to accept or decline the connection.)

- When a CA issues a signed certificate, they are guaranteeing the identity of the organization that is providing the web pages to the browser.

Alternatively, self-signed certificates can be generated for secure web servers, but self-signed certificates do not provide the same functionality as CA-signed certificates. Browsers do not automatically recognize a self-signed certificate; and a self-signed certificate does not provide any guarantee concerning the identity of the organization that is providing the server.

There are various Certificate Authorities, notable among them being Thawte and Verisign. For a fee, a CA investigates the organization hosting the server and issues a certificate vouching for the identity of the server. The procedure for obtaining/enrolling for a CA-signed certificate varies with each CA and is described on their websites (i.e., [www.thawte.com](http://www.thawte.com) or [www.verisign.com](http://www.verisign.com)). However, all CAs require a Certificate Signing Request (CSR). The CSR can be copied and pasted to the online enrollment form or sent via e-mail to the CA, along with any other pertinent information the CA requires. The CA then issues the certificate, usually via e-mail. The Crestron Toolbox provides all the certificate management tools necessary to generate a CSR and upload the certificate to the 3-Series processor.

The CA-signed certificate is an ASCII “base64” encoded text (*.cer) file, which the 3-Series processor converts to a binary file called SYS\srv_cert.der. As a part of the CSR process, a private key is also created as SYS\srv_key.der. It is extremely important to back up the private key, as it is unique to each CSR. If the private key is lost the certificate is useless and it would be necessary to begin the enrollment process all over again.

Here is a description of an SSL transaction:

1. The browser sends a request for an SSL session to the web server.
2. The web server sends the browser its digital certificate. The certificate contains information about the server, including the server’s public key.

3. The browser verifies that the certificate is valid and that a trusted CA issued it.

4. The browser generates a “master secret” that is encrypted using the server’s public key and sent to the web server.

5. The web server decrypts the master secret using the server’s private key.

6. Now that both the browser and the web server have the same master secret, they use this master secret to create keys for the encryption and MAC (message authentication code) algorithms used in the bulk-data process of SSL. Since both participants used the same master key, they now have the same encryption and MAC keys.

7. The browser and web server use the SSL encryption and authentication algorithms to create an encrypted tunnel. Through this encrypted tunnel, they can pass data securely through the network.

Though the authentication and encryption process may seem involved, the user generally does not even know it is taking place. However, the user can tell when the secure tunnel has been established since most SSL-enabled web browsers display a small closed lock at the bottom (or top) of their screen when the connection is secure. Users can also identify secure websites by looking at the website address; a secure website’s address begins with https:// rather than the usual http://. The web server listens for a secure connection on the well-known port 443.

**SSL Configuration**

This section describes the steps required to enable a 3-Series web server for SSL and obtaining a digital certificate from a Certificate Authority. The steps are summarized as follows (each step is described in detail later):

- Establish a serial connection to the 3-Series Control System.
- Enable SSL using a self-signed certificate.
- Create an encryption public/private key pair and a certificate-signing request (CSR-based) on the public key.
- Back up the private key.
- Send the CSR to a Certificate Authority such as Thawte or Verisign, who verify the identity of the requestor and issue a signed certificate.
- Install the CA-signed certificate and optionally, the root certificate, to the 3-Series Control System.
- Enable SSL using the CA-signed certificate.

**3-Series Control System Requirements**

- .puf: 1.5.15 or later
- Crestron Toolbox: 1.23 or later
- SIMPL Windows: 3.00.65 or later
Enable SSL with a Self-Signed Certificate

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.

2. Select Functions | SSL Management… to open the “SSL Management” window.

   “SSL Management” Window

   3. Check Enable SSL.

   4. Select Self-Signed and click OK. The control system reboots.

This generates a self-signed certificate that can be temporarily used while a CA-signed certificate is obtained. Alternatively, the self-signed certificate can still be used so long as the client is interested only in data encryption and not server identity.

Generate a Certificate Signing Request (CSR)

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.

2. Select Functions | SSL Management… to open the “SSL Management” window.

3. Select the Certificate Management arrow (3) to display the “Certificate Management” drop-down menu.

4. Select Generate Certificate Request… from the drop-down menu.
5. Enter the information of the organization requesting the certificate. As shown in the following illustration, the information includes the domain name of the organization, the email address and department of the contact person making the request, the company name, city and state, and the two-letter country code. The domain name is not transferable, and thus must be the one that is actually used by clients. The domain name must be officially registered to the company; otherwise the certificate request is rejected.

“Certificate Signing Request Data” Dialog Box

6. Click OK. Toolbox generates the CSR and private key. The files are automatically saved in the \SYS directory of the control system. In addition, Toolbox prompts the user to save the CSR file to a directory on the hard drive. Locate the target directory and click Save.
As described earlier, the .csr file is an ASCII text file that is saved in the \SYS directory as: \sys\request.csr. The private key is also saved in the \SYS directory with a .der extension as: \sys\srv_key.der. The procedure for backing up the private key is described in the next section.

The .csr text file is in the following format:

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----
MIIBZzCCARECAQAwgZQxCzAJBgNVBAYTAlVTMRIwEAYDVQQIEwlob3N0c3RhdGUxETAPBgNVBAcTCGhvc3RjaXR5MRUwEwYDVQQKEwxob3N0bmFtZS5vZGUxGSRvMRAwHCAQxEzARBgNVBAsTb3JnZ293cy5jeGl0ZS5jb20wDQYJKoZIhvcNAQEFBQcDBgNVBAsTb3JnZ293cy5jeGl0ZS5jb20wMDQwEgYIKwYBBQUHAgECB0MCAwGA1UdDQQW
-----END CERTIFICATE REQUEST-----

NOTE: When sending the .csr to a Certificate Authority it may be necessary to cut and paste the text between the “Begin certificate request” and “End certificate request” delimiters. To do this, open the CSR file in a text editor such as Notepad.

Backup the Private Key

1. Select the Certificate Management arrow to display the “Certificate Management” drop-down menu.
2. Select Backup Private Key… from the drop-down menu.
3. Locate the target directory in which to store the .der file and click Save.

NOTE: Since the private key is unique to each .csr, it's a good idea to back up the file to secure media.

Obtaining the Certificate

As described earlier, the exact procedure for obtaining a certificate differs depending on the CA, but in all cases it is necessary to submit the .csr along with all verifying information that the CA requires. Here it may be necessary to open the .csr file in a text editor such as Notepad and copy and paste the text between the “Begin certificate request” and “End certificate request” delimiters before sending the file to the CA.

The time it takes to receive the certificate varies based on how quickly the CA receives the required documentation.
Upload the CA-Signed Certificate

Once the CA validates the .csr, the CA issues the certificate. The certificate is usually sent to the requester via e-mail, in the following format:

-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----
MIIBZzCCARECAQAwgZQxCzAJBgNVBAYTAlVTMRIwEAYDVQQIEwlob3N0c3RhdG
UxETAPBgNVBAcTCGhvc3RjaXR5MRUwEwYDVQQKEwxob3N0bmFtZSByb3BpbmMjA
BgEAMwUSMTMwNjEwMTMwNzMyMTMyMjEyMDEwMTEyMzEwMDEwMDEwMDEwMjBc
CQEWaEw0hc3RkaG9zdG5hbWUyY92aFwvDiYJKoZIhvcNAQEoBBQADSwAsiA/
MxVTzjNPVwOHUinMgOEWRMIQWviliYi1mK7jtBtb8WUmcwz3JGIPbL5AvT5
OQs3zdDdLYI5GeC2ocCAAwEAAoCArMxSUg4MTIzMDA0NzE3NTQxMzA3MDc1MD
N2wsGvWtKpjo_vueVZn15O5OadpQtbR4NtmEvL/gXgX+gKr1mUGzYjTmVAmjeau48j4
mNW6emf/dWmEHxo2LF2ReHf3LYM5lh47W9Hu/fk87QQTn4lAhx0vyC1tM0lRXde
TptuYvntNZ1qTeoMBd/04M6ILt5yETevta0HeCm3SPX4b0shek/Czupy7sr
OvMjdjV9hmZaGJ2PbpGAPuQjh5Gb9VOThRbdomyA==
-----END CERTIFICATE-----

1. Copy and paste the text between the “Begin Certificate” and “End Certificate” delimiters to a text file using a text editor such as Notepad.
2. Save the file to the hard drive and name the file srv_cert.cer.
3. In Toolbox, select Functions | SSL Management….
4. Select the Certificate Management arrow (.addButton) to display the “Certificate Management” drop-down menu.
5. Select Upload Signed Certificate… from the drop-down menu.
6. Locate the directory where srv_cert.cer was saved and click Open. This uploads the signed certificate to the SYS directory of the 3-Series processor in DER format (i.e., \sys\srv_cert.der).

Upload Root Certificate

Along with the signed certificate, all CAs electronically give access to what is called a root certificate. A root certificate is a document that validates the CA itself. At the time of sending the signed certificate, most CAs provide a URL to where their root certificate is stored. The buyer of the signed certificate may then download the root certificate onto the server. Follow steps 1 to 4 from the “Upload the CA Signed Certificate” procedure above.

1. Select Upload Signed Certificate… from the drop-down menu.
2. Locate the directory where rootCA_cert.cer was saved and click Open. This uploads the signed certificate to the SYS directory of the 3-Series processor in DER format, i.e., \sys\rootCA_cert.der.

Enable SSL with CA-Signed Certificate

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish a serial connection to the 3-Series Control System as described in “Establishing Communications with the Control System” on page 6.
2. Select Functions | SSL Management… to open the “SSL Management” window. Refer to the following illustration for visual guidance.
3. Check Enable SSL.

4. Select CA-Signed and click OK. The control system reboots.

The processor is now SSL protected with a CA-signed certificate. Any web browser attempting to communicate with the server displays a locked icon on the screen.
Authentication

User and Group commands

Add Local Group

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator rights can create new local user groups. When a local user group is created, one of the pre-defined access levels must be assigned to the group.

`ADDGROUP -N:groupname -L:accesslevel`

- `-N:` specifies the name of the local group to be created
- `-L:` specifies one of the following access levels for the group:
  - A - Administrator
  - P - Programmer
  - O - Operator
  - U - User
  - C - Connection only

Delete Local Group

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator rights can remove local user groups. When a local user group is removed, users in the group are not removed from the system. However, because a user’s access level is inherited from a group(s), users within the group lose the access rights associated with this group.

`DELETEGROUP groupname`

- `groupname` - enter the name of the group to be deleted.

Add Local User

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator right can add local user to 3-Series Control System. A local user is created without any access rights. To assign access rights to a local user, the user must be added to at least one local group.

`ADDUSER -N:username -P:password`

- `-N:` specifies name of the local user to be created
- `-P:` specifies password for the user

Delete Local User

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator rights can perform this operation. When a local user is deleted from the control system, the user is also removed from the local group(s) that they are a member of.

`DELETEUSER username`

- `username` - name of the user to be deleted.
**Add Local or Active Directory User to a Local Group**

Local users are created on 3-Series Control Systems without any access rights. By adding them to a local group, they inherit the access level from the group. A 3-Series Control System cannot create or remove a user from Active Directory but it can grant access to an existing user in Active Directory. To grant access to an Active Directory user, we can either add the user to a local group on the control system, or add the Active Directory group(s) that they are a member of to the control system.

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator right can perform this operation.

```
ADDUSERTOGROUP -N:username -G:groupname
```

- `-N:` specifies name of a local or domain (domain\user) user
- `-G:` specifies name of a local group

**Remove Local or Active Directory User from a Local Group**

When authentication is turned on, users with administrator rights can perform this operation. After a user is removed from a local group, they are deprived the access rights associated the group. The user account is not deleted by this command.

```
REMOVEUSERFROMGROUP -N:username -G:groupname
```

- `-N:` specifies name of a local or domain user
- `-G:` specifies name of a local group:

**Add Active Directory Group**

A 3-Series Control System cannot create or remove a group from Active Directory but it can grant access to an existing group in Active Directory. When authentication is on, users with administrator right can add an Active Directory group to the control system and assign certain access level. Once the group is added, all members of the group have access to the control system.

```
ADDDOMAINGROUP -N:groupname -L:accesslevel
```

- `-N:` specifies the domain group name (domain\group)
- `-L:` specifies one of the following access level:
  - `A:` as an Administrator
  - `P:` as a Programmer
  - `O:` as an Operator
  - `U:` as a User
  - `C:` for Connection only

**Delete Active Directory Group**

When authentication is on, users with administrator right can remove a previously added Active Directory group from the control system. The group is not deleted from the Active Directory. Once the group is removed from the control system, all members of that group lose access to the control system.

```
DELETEDOMAINGROUP domaingroupname
```

- `domaingroupname` - name of the domain group (domain\groupname) to be deleted.
**List Users**

This command allows users with administrator rights to list all the users (local and domain) added to the local groups.

LISTUSERS

No parameters needed.

**List Group Users**

This command allows administrators can see a list of all users in a specified group.

LISTGROUPUSERS groupname

**List Local Groups**

Users with administrator rights can list all the local groups added to the control system. A 3-Series Control System comes with the following built-in groups which cannot be deleted by any user:

Administrators, Programmers, Operators, Users, and Connects.

LISTGROUPS [A] [P] [O] [U] [C]

A: groups with administrator rights are listed
P: groups with programmer rights are listed
O: groups with operator rights are listed
U: groups with user rights are listed
C: groups with connection rights are listed

No parameter: all groups are listed

**List Active Directory Groups**

Users with administrator right can list all the Active Directory groups that were added to the control system.

LISTDOMAINGROUPS [A] [P] [O] [U] [C]

A: groups with administrator rights are listed
P: groups with programmer rights are listed
O: groups with operator rights are listed
U: groups with user rights are listed
C: groups with connection rights are listed

No parameter: all groups are listed

**Show User Information**

Administrators can query the controller to show the access rights of a particular user.

USERINFOmation username
**Who Command Change**

The WHO command shows the currently logged in users. This is in addition to what it currently lists. The list is filtered base on access level (lower access cannot see higher access).

```
WHO
```

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Index</th>
<th>User</th>
<th>Uptime</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USB Connection</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>james</td>
<td>00:08:54</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Password Commands For Local Users**

**Set Password Policy**

By default, the minimum password requirement on a 3-Series Control System is the password length must be no less than 6 characters. Users with administrator right can change the password policy by using the following command:

```
SETPASSWORDRULE {-ALL | -NONE} | {-LENGTH:minPasswordLength} {-MIXED} {-DIGIT} {-SPECIAL}
```

- **-ALL**: all rules are applied.
- **-LENGTH**: specifies minimum password length. By default, the minimum length is 6. This parameter can't be combined with **NONE**.
- **-MIXED**: password must contain a lower and upper case character. This parameter can't be combined with **NONE**.
- **-DIGIT**: password must contain a number. This parameter cannot be combined with **NONE**.
- **-SPECIAL**: password must contain a special character. This parameter cannot be combined with **NONE**.

**Change Local User Password**

When authentication is on, any logged-in user can change his or her password. The user is prompted to enter the old password once and the new password twice. If the old password does not match the current password, this operation fails and the password is not changed.

```
UPDATEPASSWORD
```

No parameters needed

**Reset Local User Password**

When authentication is on, users with administrator right can reset a user’s password.

```
RESETPASSWORD -N:username -P:defaultpassword
```

- **-N**: specifies name of the user to be reset
- **-P**: specifies the default password
Authentication On/Off Command

By default, a new 3-Series Control System comes with authentication turned off. Any user can use the control system’s console as an administrator. When authentication is turned on for the first time, the user is asked to create an administrator account. If SSL is not on, the control system turns it on with a self-signed certificate automatically. Authentication and SSL can only be turned on using USB transport.

Once authentication is turned on, only users with administrator right can turn authentication off. If an administrator turned authentication off, to turn it back on, only users with administrator right can do that. If all administrator accounts are deleted from the control system, authentication is turned off automatically.

Turning authentication on or off does not affect user or group accounts on the control system.

**AUTHENTICATION \[ON|OFF\]**

  - ON - turns on authentication.
  - OFF - turns off authentication.
  - No parameter - displays current setting.

LOGOFF Command

A logged-in user can explicitly terminate the console session by using this command.

**LOGOFF**

  - No parameters needed

SUDO Command

All console commands are assigned with certain access level. Only users with same or higher access level than a command can execute that command. To allow a command to be executed at elevated security level, a user can use the SUDO command to change identity to another one with the adequate access level. Once the command is executed the security level is changed back.

**SUDO cmd [param1 param2 ...]**

  - cmd: command to execute.
  - param1, param2, ...: parameters for the command.
Audit Log Commands

**AUDITLogging**

When authentication is enabled, the user has the option to use the audit logging feature. This log can track logons, logoffs, account management changes, and console commands.

`AUDITLogging [ON|OFF] {{[ALL]|[NONE]|{[ADMIN] [PROG] [OPER] [USER]}}}`

- **ON** - Enable Logging
- **OFF** - Disable Logging
- **No parameter** - Displays current setting

**NOTE:** Logons, logoffs, and authentication management is always logged.

- optional, used to log commands by access level
  - **ADMIN** - Administrator
  - **PROG** - Programmer
  - **OPER** - Operator
  - **USER** - User
  - **ALL** - All Access Levels
  - **NONE** - No Command Logging

Example: `AUDITLOGGING ON ADMIN OPER`

**Example Log Output:**

```
[3/2/2011 9:08:01 AM]: EVENT: Logoff (USB) james
```

**GETAUDITLOG**

Using XMODEM, the user can download the audit log from toolbox text console.

`GETAUDITLOG`

- No parameter - retrieve the audit log file

**PRINTAUDITLOG**

This command provides an alternative method to viewing the audit log. By default, it prints the last 50 entries in the log to the console. An optional parameter **ALL** prints the entire log file.

`PRINTAUDITLOG {{[ALL]}}`

- **All** - Print the entire audit log
- **No parameter** - Print the last 50 entries from the log
**CLEARAUDITLOG**

Command to clear the audit log of all entries.

CLEARAUDITLOG

No parameter - Clears the audit log

**User Access Level**

If a user belongs to multiple groups, the access level is the combined access level of all the groups the user belongs to.

**Local User Logon**

Local users are created with no access rights. If a local user was never added to any local group, even though the account is in the control system, they are unable to connect to control system’s console if authentication is on. To grant access to a local user, administrators must make sure the user is added to at least one local group.

If authentication is on and a user opens a connection to console, console prompts the user for a user name (login) and password.

Following shows an example of a successful local user logon:

```
MC3 Console
Login: john
Password: *******
MC3>
```

**Active Directory User Logon**

After an administrator added an Active Directory user or group to control system, the user or group’s name and SID is stored in the control system. When an Active Directory user tries to authenticate against console, console uses the credentials provided by user to authenticate against Active Directory. If Active Directory authentication is successful, console queries Active Directory for this user’s SID. If the user was added to the control system, console compares the SID from Active Directory with the stored SID. Access is granted to the user only if SID comparison is ok. If the user was never added to the control system, console queries Active Directory for all the groups that this user belongs to and retrieves the group SIDs. Console iterates these SIDs and see if any of them matches the stored group SIDs. Access is granted to user only if at least one match is found.

To log onto console as an active directory user, both domain name and user name must be provided and separated by a “\” or “/” when prompted for login information. Following shows an example of a successful domain user logon:

```
MC3 Console
Login: firmwaredev\jsmith
Password: ***************
```

MC3>
Logon Session Timed Out

Console keeps monitoring each user’s activities by starting a timer once a user successfully logs in. If a user idles for more than pre-set idle minutes allowed, console automatically logs out the user.

For dynamic transport users (console symbol), console authentication is not required. Therefore, logon session for these users never times out unless a user explicitly sets the idle time limit.

By default, a user is never automatically logged off unless the logon session timeout value is changed.

Change Logon Session Timeout

To change the timeout value, the following command can be used:

```
SETLOGOFFIDLETIME [minutes]
```

- `minutes` - idle minutes passed before current user is logged off. An entry of 0 means user is not logged off automatically.
- No parameter - display current transport setting.

When authentication is on, user is given a maximum of 3 logon attempts for each type of transport media (Ethernet, USB, and dynamic). If a user fails to authenticate against console within maximum attempts allowed, the transport media through which he makes the connection is blocked.

For USB transport, the transport is blocked for 5 seconds after the maximum logon attempt is reached. If user gives another try after 5 seconds and continues to fail, the block time is doubled. The block time continues to be doubled until a successful logon or control system reboot happens. Once a user successfully authenticates against console, the failure count is reset to 0 and the block time is reset to 5 seconds.

For Ethernet transport, after a remote IP fails to logon within maximum attempts allowed, console forces the closing of the transport and block further logon attempt from that remote IP for 24 hours unless the control system is rebooted. Once a user successfully authenticates against console, the failure count is reset to 0 and the remote IP is removed from the blocked list.

For dynamic transport (mainly used by console symbol), console authentication is not required and operator’s access level is granted by default. To use other commands that require higher access level, a SUDO command must be used to enable those commands.

Change Login Failure Count

To change the number of invalid login attempts, the following command can be used:

```
Setloginattempts ?
```

```
SETLOGINAttempts [number]
```

- `number` - number of login attempts a user has before the console is blocked. 0 is infinite.
- No parameter - display current setting.
**Blocked IP Addresses Functions**

When a user reaches the maximum number of login attempts over an Ethernet Connection (CTP/SCTP), the client’s IP Address is blocked. Administrators have access to commands that allow them to manage this behavior.

**Change Lock out Time**

To change the number of hours an IP address is blocked, use the following command:

```
SETLOCKOUTTIME [number]
```

- number - number of hours to block an IP Address, 0 is indefinite, 255 max
- No parameter - display current setting.

**List Blocked IP Addresses**

```
LISTBLOCKEDip
```

- No parameter - display current list of blocked ip addresses

**Add an IP Address to the Blocked List**

```
ADDBLOCKEDip [ipaddress]
```

- ipaddress - ip address to block
- No parameter - display current list of blocked ip addresses

**Remove an IP Address from the Blocked List**

```
REMBLOCKEDip [ALL|ipaddress]
```

- ipaddress - ip address of the blocked connection
- ALL - remove all blocked ip addresses
- No parameter - display current list of blocked ip addresses

**Web Server Authentication**

When authentication is on, SSL and web server authentication is also turned on. Only users with administrator rights have access to the web server setup page. Users with other rights (except connection-only right user) have access to other web server pages.

At this point, only local users can be authenticated against web server. Need to add an HTTP filter to handle authentication for Active Directory users.
Compiling and Uploading a Program

After a SIMPL Windows program has been completed, the program must be compiled and uploaded to the control system.

Compiling a Program in SIMPL Windows

To compile the program in SIMPL Windows, simply click the Convert/Compile button on the SIMPL Windows toolbar, select Project | Convert/Compile, or press F12. A status bar indicates the progress of the compile operation. After the operation is complete, a window displays information about the program such as the number and type of signals, and memory usage.

The compiled program is stored as a .lpz file in the same directory as the source file.

Uploading a SIMPL Windows Program

The SIMPL Windows file can be uploaded to the control system using SIMPL Windows or via Crestron Toolbox.

Upload via SIMPL Windows

1. Start SIMPL Windows.
2. Select File | Open to view the “Open” window, navigate to the SIMPL Window file (.smw), and click Open.
3. Select Project | Transfer Program.
4. The “Address Book” window opens. Select the preferred method of communicating with the 3-Series Control System. The “SIMPL Program” dialog opens. Refer to the following illustration for further guidance.
“SIMPL Program” Dialog Box

5. From the drop-down menu, select the program slot to which the program should be uploaded. Select where the program is to be sent to, *Internal Flash* or *Compact Flash*. Press **Send** to upload the file to the control system.

This screen also allows the program that is selected from the drop-down menu to be stopped or restarted by clicking **Stop** or **Restart**. It also allows the program to be deleted from the control system by clicking **Erase**. Additionally, click **Retrieve** to download the program from the control system on to the connected computer.

**Upload via Crestron Toolbox**

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described on page 6.

2. Select **Functions | SIMPL Program** and select the program slot to which the program should be uploaded.

   The “SIMPL Program” window contains information about the currently loaded SIMPL program (if any), and permits stopping, starting, erasing, retrieving, or uploading a SIMPL program. This menu also permits uploading to compact flash or internal flash.
3. Click the **Browse** button to browse for a new compiled (.spz) program.

4. Select a file and click **Open**. In the “SIMPL Program” window click **Send**.

### IP Tables

Control systems that run programs using Ethernet communication between the control system and Ethernet-enabled network devices require an IP table to enable the control system to identify and communicate with Ethernet equipment on an IP network. Each controlled Ethernet device has an IP table, also known as a master list. The master list specifies the IP ID of the controlled device and the IP address or fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) of the control system(s) that sends it commands.

The control system’s IP table lists the IP address/FQDN and the IP ID of every device in the network. The IP ID is a hexadecimal value that must be unique and ranges from 03 to FE.
Control System IP Table

IP table information can be entered in one of two ways. The first method creates what is referred to as a default IP table based on information given in the SIMPL Windows program. The second method uses Crestron Toolbox to manage the IP table.

NOTE: IP tables used in Ethernet-based Master-Slave applications have their own IP table requirements. Refer to “Master-Slave Mode” on page 30 for details.

Creating the Default IP Table from SIMPL Windows

While adding Ethernet devices (Ethernet slave processors, Ethernet-enabled touch screens, Ethernet devices, or Ethernet modules), the IP information for each device must be entered in Configuration Manager to determine the information contained in the default IP table.

1. Double-click the Ethernet device in the “SIMPL Windows Configuration Manager” screen to open the “Device Settings” window.
2. Select the IP Net Address tab.
3. Select the IP ID button and select the hexadecimal IP ID from the list (The Remap IP ID at program upload option is reserved for future use.)

4. Enter the IP address of the device or click Use Host Name to enter the fully-qualified domain name of the device and click OK.

5. Repeat for every Ethernet-enabled device in the network.

**NOTE:** If IP information (IP address/hostname) was not entered for all of the network devices when creating the program, the default IP table is not created. The IP table must then be created from Crestron Toolbox. If IP addresses for the devices are missing, the IP table can be edited from Crestron Toolbox.

6. After completing the SIMPL Windows logic program, compile and upload the program. To upload the default IP table to the control system, click Yes when prompted with the “Confirmation” dialog.

The default IP table is automatically created and uploaded using the IP information supplied for each network device.

To create a custom IP table with Crestron Toolbox, click No.

**Creating and Modifying IP Tables with Crestron Toolbox**

Crestron Toolbox can be used to create and modify a control system’s IP table. Use Crestron Toolbox to create, modify, or send a control system’s IP table to the control system without recompiling or transferring a SIMPL Windows program.

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the control system as described on page 6.

2. Select Funtions | IP Table…. This opens the “IP Table” window.
3. Use the drop-down menu at the top of the window to choose a program IP table to modify.

4. If the control system already has an IP table that is to be modified, click Load From Device to retrieve the IP table that is stored on the control system.

5. To add a new table entry, click Add Entry. Existing entries can be modified by selecting an entry from the list and clicking Modify Entry. Click Remove (Del) to remove a selected IP entry or click Clear List to remove all of the entries from the IP table. To add an IP table entry perform the following steps:
   a. Click Add Entry. The “IP Table Entry” window opens.
   b. As shown in the following diagram, select the hexadecimal IP ID of the device from the IP ID list. The IP ID of the device must match the IP ID that is specified for the device in the SIMPL Windows program.
**“IP Table Entry” Window**

In the **IP Address/Hostname** field, enter the static IP address of the Ethernet device, or if the device is DHCP-enabled, its fully-qualified domain name.

After entering all of the information, click **OK** to add the device to the IP table.

Repeat this procedure for all the Ethernet devices in the program.

Once all of the devices have been listed, click **Send to Device** to upload the IP table to the control system.

Whenever an IP table is sent to the control system, it overwrites the previously loaded IP table and reboots the control system.

**For Remote Ethernet Processing (Ethernet Slave Processors)**

For information on IP table entries on Ethernet slave processors, refer to “Master-Slave Mode” on page 30.

**For Other Ethernet Enabled Devices**

The procedure for setting the IP information is different for each Ethernet enabled device and is described in each device’s manual.
Running Multiple Programs

Device Registration Considerations

The 3-Series processors run multiple programs simultaneously to allow programmers to independently develop and run device specific programs for AV, lighting, HVAC, security, etc. As a system grows, processing resources can easily be shifted from one 3-Series processor to another without rewriting any code. To keep the system running seamlessly, consider the following when stopping and starting programs.

To ensure that devices are registered by the correct programs, note that programs restart in ascending order according to program slot when the device is rebooted or when the PROGreset command is entered. Program 1 starts before Program 2, and so on. Since most devices can only be registered by a single program, the first program to try registering the device succeeds; subsequent attempts to register the device fail. If Program 1 registers a device, then Program 2 is not able to register it.

NOTE: This does not apply when programs are stopped and started individually; for example, if the programmer stops all programs and restarts Program 10 before Program 1, Program 10 registers its devices first.

There are exceptions to this rule, as some devices, slots, and ports can be registered by multiple programs. Refer to the following table to determine whether a particular device, slot, or port is exclusive (can only be registered by one program) or shareable (can be registered by multiple programs).

### Device, Slot, and Port Shareability

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEVICE, SLOT, OR PORT</th>
<th>SHAREABILITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3-Series Ethernet card cages (e.g., CEN-CI3-1 and CEN-CI3-3)</td>
<td>Shareable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACnet</td>
<td>Exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in audio slot</td>
<td>Shareable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in COM ports</td>
<td>Slots are shareable but ports are exclusive; e.g., Program 1 can register COM2 while Program 5 registers COM1, but both programs cannot register COM2 at the same time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in digital inputs</td>
<td>Slots and ports are shareable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in on screen display</td>
<td>Shareable; however, each program must define its own specific device ID as a parameter on the symbol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in relays</td>
<td>Slots and ports are shareable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in RF gateway</td>
<td>Slots are shareable but individual devices are exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in system monitor</td>
<td>Shareable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built-in Versiports</td>
<td>Slots are shareable; ports are shareable only if they have the same configuration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cresnet devices</td>
<td>Exclusive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intra-EISC devices</td>
<td>Shareable; see “Intra-EISC (Ethernet Intersystems Communications) Devices” on the following page for more information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intra-EISC (Ethernet Intersystems Communications) Devices

Intra-EISC (Ethernet Intersystems Communications) can be used to communicate between two programs running on a 3-Series controller:

1. Locate the Ethernet Intersystem Communications symbol in the Device Library of SIMPL Windows.

   "Ethernet Intersystem Communications" in the Device Library

   ![Device Library]

2. Drag the EISC symbol into System Views.

3. Double-click the symbol to open the “Device Settings” window and change the IP address to 127.0.0.2. The two programs can now talk to each other.

   NOTE: Both programs must have the same IP ID to communicate.

   "Device Settings" Window

   ![Device Settings]

If one 3-Series controller becomes overloaded, a program can be copied over to a second controller. Simply change the IP address for the EISC symbol to match the IP address of the new controller (on both controllers). The two controllers can then talk to one another using EISC.

For more information on the Intersystem Communications symbol, refer to the SIMPL Windows help file.
Uploading Touch Screen Projects

Using the network connection to the control system, compiled VisionTools Pro-e (VT Pro-e) projects can be relayed through the control system to any Cresnet touch screen on the network. VT Pro-e projects can also be directly uploaded via a touch screen’s serial port or Ethernet port (if equipped).

The compiled VT Pro-e project file can be uploaded to a touch screen using VT Pro-e or Crestron Toolbox. If loading a project to a touch screen that has an internal compact flash slot, use Crestron Toolbox.

**Upload via VT Pro-e**

1. Start VT Pro-e.
2. Select File | Open | Project to view the “Open” window, navigate to the VT Pro-e file (.vtp), and click Open.
3. Select File | Upload Project. This automatically selects the compiled .vtz file.

*“Project” Dialog Box*

- Selecting Send All Files sends the entire project.
- Selecting Send Selected File Types sends only the file types that are selected. Core Files are files that include touch screen logic, join number remapping, and other files related to touch screen functionality. Graphic Files are graphics that are displayed on the touch screen display. Sound Files are WAV files that are assigned
within a touch screen project. *Font Files* are fonts that are part of a touch screen project.

- Selecting *Send Modified Files Only* only sends files that are different from those that are currently stored in the touch screen. Note that if any pages in the touch screen are not present in the project, those pages are deleted from the touch screen.

4. Click **Send** to send the files to the device.

### Upload via Crestron Toolbox

1. Open Crestron Toolbox and establish communications with the touch screen as described in the touch screens operations guide.

2. Select **Functions | Project**.

3. The “Project” dialog box is used to select the project to be uploaded to the touch screen.

#### “Project” Dialog Box

- Each time a project is selected using the **Browse...** command, that project is added to the *Project File* drop-down list. This makes it convenient to recall projects without need to browse to a directory.
- Selecting **Send All Files** sends the entire project.
- Selecting **Send Selected File Types** sends only the file types that are selected. *Core Files* are files that include touch screen logic, join number remapping, and other files related to touch screen functionality. *Graphic Files* are graphics that are displayed on the touch screen display. *Sound Files* are WAV files that are assigned
within a touch screen project. *Font Files* are fonts that are part of a touch screen project.

- Selecting *Send Modified Files Only* sends only files that are different from those that are currently stored in the touch screen. Note that if any pages in the touch screen are not present in the project, those pages are deleted from the touch screen.

4. Click the **Browse**… button to browse for a new compiled (.vtz) program.

5. Select a file and click **Open**. When the “Project” window re-opens click **Send** to send the project to the touch screen.

To verify that the project has been transferred successfully, select **Tools** | **System Info**. The new project information appears in the upper left corner of the “System Info” window.
Updating Firmware and the Operating System

To take advantage of all the device features, it is important that the unit contains the latest firmware available. Please check the Crestron website for the latest version of firmware. Not every product has a firmware upgrade, but as Crestron improves functions, adds new features, and extends the capabilities of its products, firmware upgrades are posted. To upgrade the firmware, complete the following steps.

**NOTE:** Crestron software and any files on the website are for Authorized Crestron dealers and Crestron Service Providers (CSPs) only. New users must register to obtain access to certain areas of the site (including the FTP site).

Perform the following steps to upload the new .puf to the control system:

1. Download an update, click the appropriate .puf file, choose the **Save to Disk** option, and then specify the directory where the update is stored.
   a. Double-click the filename. This starts the Package Update Tool as a standalone application and the Toolbox address book opens.
   b. Either choose an existing connection type (e.g., USB, TCP, or Serial) or add a new entry for a connection from the PC to the MC3 controller. A USB connection is recommended due to ease of use.
   c. Click **OK**.
2. In Toolbox, select **Tools | Package Update Tool**. The “Package Update Tool” window is displayed.

   **“Package Update Tool” Window**

   a. Click **Select...** to find a new .puf file to upload. The firmware information of the .puf file is displayed.
   b. When the following screen appears, browse to locate the firmware (.puf) file.
Locate Firmware in the “Open” Window

c. Click **Open** to select the file.

3. Click the Address Book icon and select the appropriate method of communicating with the control system. The Package Update Tool window updates to show the current firmware version of the control system. Click the **Customize>>** button to show more information about the update.

**NOTE:** A USB connection is the recommended connection type due to ease of use.

“Package Update Tool” Window

4. The Package Update Tool connects to the controller. It analyzes the software versions on the controller and compares them to the versions in the .puf file. It recommends which firmware files should be updated. The user may
choose to manually override the suggestions. This is only recommended for advanced users.

5. When the desired files to be updated have been selected, click **Update**. The Package Update Tool now upgrades the desired firmware. When it is complete, a status message is displayed. Refer to the illustration below.

"Package Update Tool" Window
SIMPL Debugger

Using SIMPL Debugger

The SIMPL Debugger is a utility for testing and debugging a SIMPL Windows program by monitoring the status of selected signals in real time. SIMPL Debugger can test any program that has been compiled and uploaded to the control system.

SIMPL Debugger is launched from within Crestron Toolbox by clicking the SIMPL Debugger button or by selecting Tools | SIMPL Debugger. Then select the program that should be monitored.

The SIMPL Debugger Program

The SIMPL Debugger program is broken down into three sections:

- **Incoming Data**
- **Status Window**
- **Trace Window**

Incoming Data

The *Incoming Data* section displays information received from the control system and is unrelated to signal monitoring. This is the same data that is shown in the *Incoming Data* section of the Crestron Toolbox.

Control system data can be saved to disk by selecting Save Incoming Data on the Edit menu. The data is saved as an ASCII text file with the extension .tmi.

Text in the *Incoming Data* window can be copied to the clipboard by selecting Copy from the Edit menu.
To clear the contents of the Incoming Data section, select **Clear Incoming Data** from the **Edit** menu.

### Status Window

The *Status Window* section contains a list of signals that are selected for monitoring. The *Status Window* displays the following information for each signal:

- The type of signal: 🌊 for analog, 🌳 for serial, 🌈 for high digital, and 📈 for low digital.
- The signal name.
- Analog signal values, in decimal (default) or percent format. (To specify percent format, select **Show Analogs as Percent** from the **Options** menu.)
- Serial signal values, in ASCII (default) or hexadecimal notation. (To specify hex, select **Show Serials as HEX** from the **Options** menu.)

As digital signals transition in real time, the icon next to the signal changes to reflect the new state. With analog and serial signals, the new value overwrites the previous value.

### Adding Signals to the Status Window

Signals can be added to or deleted from the *Status Window* in a number of ways, either from SIMPL Debugger or from SIMPL Windows.

There are three ways to add signals to the *Status Window* from SIMPL Debugger:

- Select **Add Signal** from the *Status Window* menu. This displays the list of all signals in the program. Select the signal(s) of interest and click **Add**.
- Select the signal(s) of interest in the *Trace Window* and select **Add Selected Signals from Trace Window** from the *Status Window* menu.
- Select the signal(s) of interest in the *Trace Window* and select **Add Signals to Status Window**.

To remove signals from the *Status Window*, select the signal and click **Remove Signal**, or click **Remove All Signals** to clear the *Status Window*.

There are two ways to add signals to the *Status Window* from SIMPL Windows:

- In Detail View, right-click the signal and select **Set Watch**.
- In Program View, right-click the signal and select **Set/Clear Watch**.

The signal name appears in bold, indicating that it has been added to the watch list and is displayed in the *Status Window*.

To remove signals from the watch list, right-click the signal and select **Clear Watch** if in Detail View, or select **Set/Clear Watch** if in Program View. This un-bolds the signal name.

### Saving Status Window Data

To save the contents of the *Status Window* to disk, click **Save to Disk** from the *Status Window* menu. The data is saved as an ASCII text file with the extension .tms.

### Bookmarks

SIMPL Debugger allows signals in the *Status Window* to be bookmarked. Select **Status Window** | **Bookmarks** | **Add** and enter a name for the bookmark. To recall the bookmark point to **Bookmarks** and click the name of the bookmark.

The Bookmarks submenu can also be used to overwrite a bookmark or remove existing bookmarks.
Forcing Signal Transitions

SIMPL Debugger provides several commands for changing the states and values of signals in the Status Window without need to physically press buttons on a device. These commands are available on the SIMPL Debugger toolbar or the Status Window menu.

Digital Signals

To change the state of a digital signal, select the signal in the Status Window and click the desired action on the toolbar. Here the commands are only enabled for jammable digital signals, such as button presses or the outputs of buffers.

- Click 🟢 (or Assert Signals) to drive the signal high.
- Click 🟠 (or De-Assert Signals) to drive the signal low.
- Click 🟢 (or Positive Pulse Signals) to pulse the signal high
- Click 🟠 (or Negative Pulse Signals) to pulse the signal low.

Analog Signals

To change the value of an analog signal, select the signal in the Status Window and click the analog button, or select Modify Analog Signal from the Status Window menu. Enter the new value and set the numeric format to Decimal, Percent, or Hex as shown in the following diagram.

*Modify Analog Signal* Window

---

Serial Signals

To change the value of a serial signal, select the signal in the Status Window and click the serial button, or select Modify Serial Signal from the Status Window menu and enter the new value. As shown in the following diagram, SIMPL Debugger supports escape codes for non-printable characters such as carriage return/line feed.
“Modify Serial Signal” Window

The Trace Window displays the status of the monitored signals. The Trace Window displays the following information for each signal:

- The type of signal: for analog, for serial, for high digital, and for low digital.
- The signal name.
- Analog signal values, in decimal (default) or percent format. (To specify percent format, select Show Analogs as Percent from the Options menu.)
- Serial signal values, in ASCII (default) or hexadecimal notation. (To specify hex, select Show Serials as HEX from the Options menu.)

Additionally, the Trace Window includes the date and time (to the nearest second) of each signal transition. An additional time stamp can be inserted at any point in the debugging process by clicking the time stamp button.
Network Analyzer

The Network Analyzer utility helps to identify Cresnet network problems that can be caused by faulty devices, electrical shorts, or breaks in network wiring. Network Analyzer takes a sample of the voltage levels on the Cresnet “Y” and “Z” wires for a specified Net ID.

Network Analyzer is launched from Crestron Toolbox by selecting Tools | Network Analyzer.

For detailed instructions on using Network Analyzer, refer to the extensive help file by pressing F1.

Network Analyzer Application
## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Following are some frequently asked questions that arise when using a 3-Series Control System:

### Frequently Asked Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do I restore my control system to the initial factory default settings?</td>
<td>Use Crestron Toolbox to establish a USB connection with the control system as described on page 6. Open a text console window and type <code>INITIALIZE</code>. This command erases the entire flash file system (internal or compact flash) and IP information. Upon completion, type the command <code>RESTORE</code>. This command restores the system parameters to the factory default settings. It erases any stored programs, web pages, and IP information. Type the <code>REBOOT</code> command to execute a reboot sequence.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| After uploading a program to my control system, the control system continually reboots. How do I stabilize the control system? | Use Crestron Toolbox to establish a serial connection with the control system as described on page 6. Open a text console window and type `STOPPROGRAM -P:#`. To stop a specific program, replace the # with the program number (e.g., `STOPPROGRAM P:2` to stop program 2). Leave the # blank to stop all programs. Enter `STOPPROGRAM ?` for help on this command. This command prevents the program from running. The console displays:
Stopping Program.........................................................................................
**Program Stopped**

**NOTE:** To restart the program, type `REBOOT` or press/release the HW-R button on the control system then press and hold SW-R to skip starting the programs. |
| The MSG/ERR LED on the front of my control system is lit. How do I view and/or clear the message? | Refer to “3-Series Control System Error Messages” on page 21 for instructions on reading and clearing messages. |

*(Continued on following page)*
**Frequently Asked Questions (Continued)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>QUESTION</th>
<th>ANSWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>How do I find the MAC address of my control system’s Ethernet card?</td>
<td>Use Crestron Toolbox to establish a communications with the control system as described on page 6. The MAC address information is contained in the <em>Ethernet</em> section of the “System Information” window.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>My control system reboots unexpectedly. I do not know if the cause is a hardware/software anomaly or induced externally (power failure). I have no error logs because the reboot sequence cleared out the error log. What do I do?</td>
<td>Use Crestron Toolbox to establish communications with the control system as described on page 6. Open a text console window and type <code>NVRAMREBOOT ON</code>. This command writes rebooting messages to NVRAM. If an anomaly exists, this command saves the error even though the control system has rebooted. To view the contents of NVRAM, open the error log as described on page 21. After the error log has been captured, turn off the <code>NVRAMREBOOT</code> command by typing <code>NVRAMREBOOT OFF</code>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Watchdog Protection**

Crestron 3-Series processors are equipped with “Watchdog Protection” to monitor internal registers on the processor as well as software processes.

The hardware watchdog monitors internal registers on a 3-Series Control System that require periodic writing. If the registers are not being written to as required, the watchdog sends a message to the error log and reboots the control system.

The software watchdog monitors the processor to ensure that no single process in the system monopolizes the central processing unit. A 3-Series Control System requires certain low-level tasks to run on a regular basis. If the control system is so busy that one of the low-level tasks is held off for a period of time, the watchdog sends a message to the error log and reboots the control system.

**Capturing Watchdog Messages**

When either watchdog triggers a reboot, the processor displays information about what caused the reboot on the serial port and write the information to the error log. This information allows engineers at Crestron to track down the cause of the reboot.

If a PC is connected to the control system’s serial port, the information can be received through a serial connection to the control system console.

When a PC is not connected to a control system’s serial port, the `NVRAMREBOOT` function can be used to store error logs containing watchdog messages in NVRAM before the control system reboots.

Unexpected reboots are not considered part of normal operation. If the control system reboots without apparent reason, please capture the watchdog messages in the error log to NVRAM using the `NVRAMREBOOT` feature. All messages contained in the error log should be forwarded to Crestron for further analysis, as workarounds may be available to prevent future reboots. This information is greatly appreciated.
Further Inquiries

To locate specific information or resolve questions after reviewing this guide, contact Crestron's True Blue Support at 1-888-CRESTRON [1-888-273-7876] or, for assistance within a particular geographic region, refer to the listing of Crestron worldwide offices at www.crestron.com/offices.

To post a question about Crestron products, log onto Crestron’s Online Help at www.crestron.com/onlinehelp. First-time users must establish a user account to fully benefit from all available features.

Future Updates

As Crestron improves functions, adds new features, and extends the capabilities of its products, additional information may be made available as manual updates. These updates are solely electronic and serve as intermediary supplements prior to the release of a complete technical documentation revision.

Check the Crestron website periodically for manual update availability and its relevance. Updates are identified as an “Addendum” in the Download column.
Return and Warranty Policies

Merchandise Returns / Repair Service

1. No merchandise may be returned for credit, exchange or service without prior authorization from Crestron. To obtain warranty service for Crestron products, contact an authorized Crestron dealer. Only authorized Crestron dealers may contact the factory and request an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number. Enclose a note specifying the nature of the problem, name and phone number of contact person, RMA number and return address.

2. Products may be returned for credit, exchange or service with a Crestron Return Merchandise Authorization (RMA) number. Authorized returns must be shipped freight prepaid to Crestron, 6 Volvo Drive, Rockleigh, N.J. or its authorized subsidiaries, with RMA number clearly marked on the outside of all cartons. Shipments arriving freight collect or without an RMA number shall be subject to refusal. Crestron reserves the right in its sole and absolute discretion to charge a 15% restocking fee plus shipping costs on any products returned with an RMA.

3. Return freight charges following repair of items under warranty shall be paid by Crestron, shipping by standard ground carrier. In the event repairs are found to be non-warranty, return freight costs shall be paid by the purchaser.

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