Smartware Network 8000 Communication Utility

December 2010

Overview

The Smartware Network 8000 Communication Utility is a convenient method for getting the block and attribute information out of a GCM device. The resulting Block File can be used with the following:

- Network 8000 Documenting Service
- Network 8000 Conversion Services
- Smartware Studio GCM Network Tree Device

Using the *Smartware NW8000 Communications Utility*

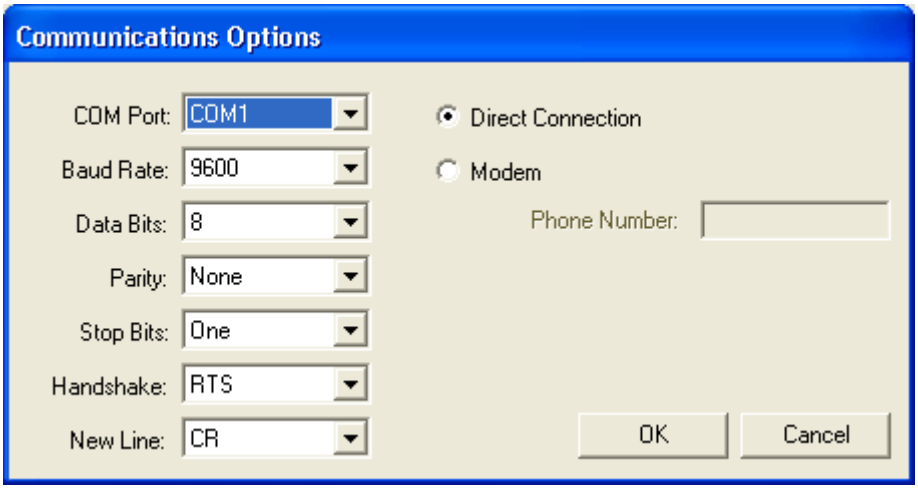
To install the utility, download the latest version from the web site and run the .MSI file. An icon will be created on your desktop.

Creating a New File

When you first run the utility, you must either create a new project file (FILE→NEW) or open an existing one (FILE→OPEN). These files have .BLK extension, and are used to store all the information about connecting to a specific device and the block data that was collected.

The Communications Options

When you create a new file, you will be prompted to specify the communications parameters:



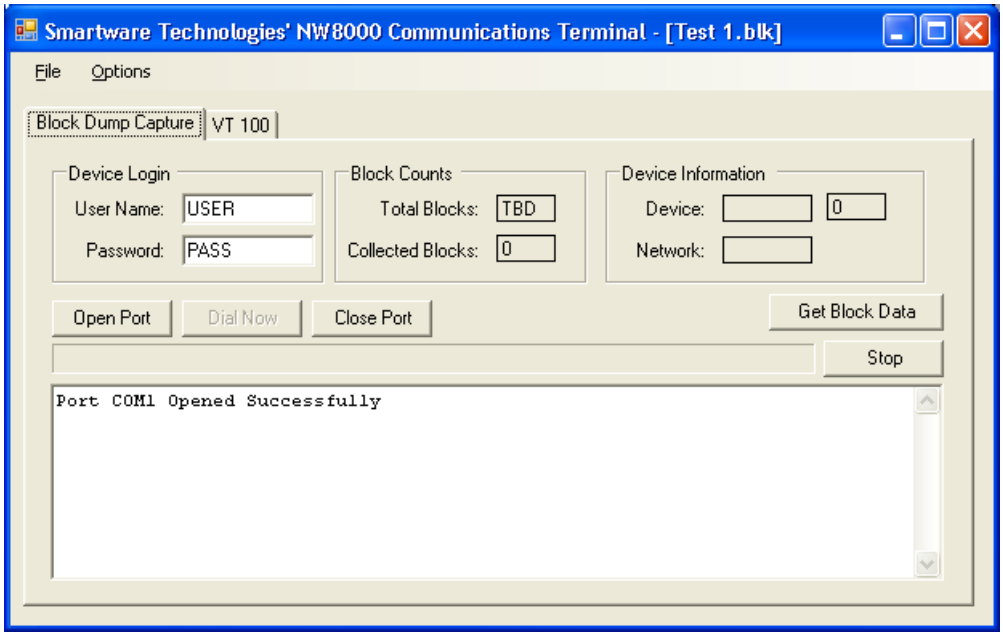
The default parameters should suffice, with the following changes:

- For direct connection, you might need to choose a different COM port number.
- For modem connections, you will likely need to choose a different COM port (such as COM3).
- For modem connections, select the MODEM radio button and enter the phone number to dial. Include any dialing prefixes, such as a '9' to dial out or a comma to pause (e.g. 9,555-1212).

To change the communications parameters at any time, select OPTIONS→COMMUNICATIONS.

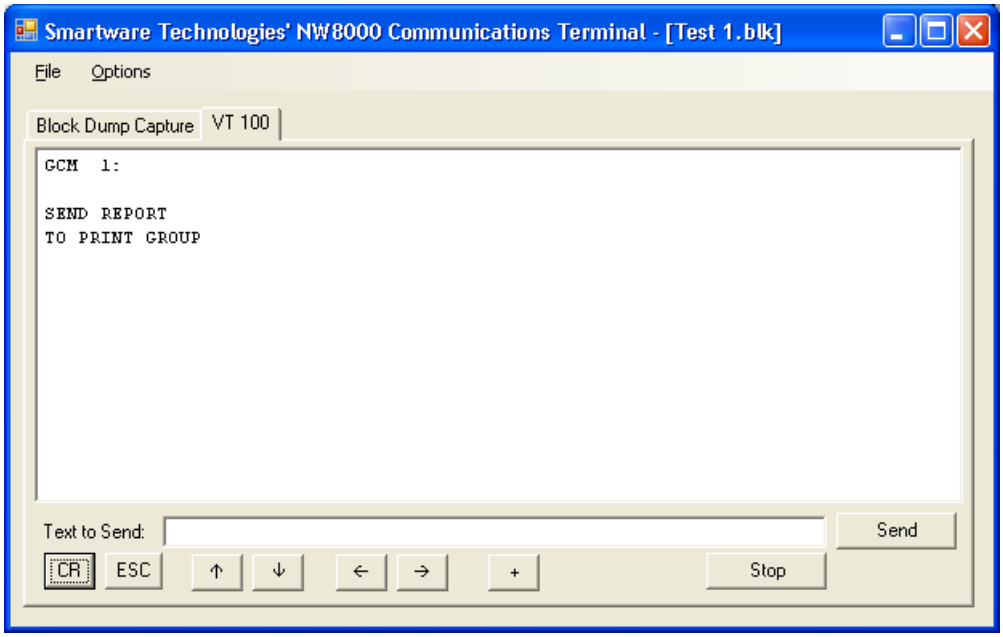
The Utility Screens

There are two tabs on the utility that show two different views of what is happening. The BLOCK DUMP CAPTURE screen shows the activity of the automatic block dump collector, among other information:



- The BLOCK COUNTS and DEVICE INFORMATION fields will be filled in when the collection begins.
- If you want the system to automatically log into the device, specify the USER NAME and PASSWORD fields (otherwise you can do it manually from the VT 100 Terminal page).
- Use the OPEN PORT, CLOSE PORT and DIAL NOW buttons to connect and disconnect from the device.
- When ready, use the GET BLOCK DATA Button to start the automated collection.

The VT 100 tab provides a terminal emulator to control the device manually.



- If you click in the text area, you can send certain keystrokes (arrows, Enter and ESC) to the terminal. Otherwise, you can use the CR, ESC and arrow buttons to control the menus.
- To send a direct command or response, enter the text in the TEXT TO SEND box and click SEND. A carriage return will be sent automatically.

Connecting to the Device

To begin communications, do the following:

- Ensure that the communication parameters are correct.
- Click the OPEN PORT button to initialize the communications.
- If connecting by modem, click the DIAL NOW button, listen for the modem tones, and wait for a Connection message.
- Once connected, on the VT 100 screen click the CR button two or three times quickly until the device responds with a login message.
- Log into the device by responding to the USER NAME and PASSWORD prompts as usual. If you specified these values on the first screen, you don't need to do this manually.

Collecting Block Data

Once connected (and at the main menu), click the GET BLOCK DATA button. The system will request a block list from the device, and then request the individual block dumps one at a time. You can follow the progress by noting the progress bar and block counts on the first screen, or watching the automated conversation on the VT 100 screen. During this process, do not enter any manual command on the VT 100 terminal screen.

Handling Communications Problems

Because it gets the blocks one at a time, you can stop the communications at any time and restart it. This is useful if:

- The modem connection disconnects.
- The communications become garbled and the system becomes too far out of synch. You may need to stop the collection (by pressing the STOP button) and use the VT 100 screen to return to the main menu. You can then resume the collection by pressing the GET BLOCK DATa button.

If you are restarting the utility itself, simply open the appropriate .BLK file (FILE→OPEN) and resume.

All Material is Copyright © 2006-2010 Smartware Technologies, Inc. All rights reserved. Invensys and I/A Series are registered trademarks of Schneider Electric. Designer Suite 2005 is a trademark of Smartware Technologies, Inc. Visio is a trademark and Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.