

THE SCRIPT



Special points of interest:

- New features on the DR DAS website.
- Ultimate adds protocols for Allen Bradley.
- New testing procedures to ensure easy use of ARM.
- Growing Cloud Services
- DR DAS has a new Web Developer.



New look at the DR DAS Homepage

Look Inside this issue for what's new with:

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Pioneering Digital Data Acquisition and Looking Forward

Envitech Ltd's Envidas product line now includes just Envidas Ultimate. Of course worldwide there are still a few of the original DOS based products and quite a few EnvidasFW units. In North America pretty much every user is on track to get Ultimate units deployed, retiring the Envidas FW product that has been a long term solid performer.

The advantages of digital data acquisition over analog are now pretty obvious to all users in the data acquisition field. I do however vividly remember standing on a soap box preaching digital while surrounded by "old-schoolers" armed with screw drivers, wire strippers and terminal connectors.

One of the reasons digital is now the norm is because of the effort Envitech Ltd and DR DAS LTD made to make the configuration of the digital interface be easy. Early on a

concept we now call "Select and Collect"™ was implemented. The user selects the communication type and port to use, adds an instrument from a list of many manufacturers and adds measurement channels that need to be collected. Default settings included in the selected items normally work right away.

As instruments are added to Ultimate's protocol library we research the instrument documentation, discuss details as needed with technical staff at the manufacturer and design an interface with default settings that will allow the user to select and then collect. We have to get a alpha and then beta interface developed and tested with a live instrument.

Then when ready to release we need to provide information in our manual not only on how to configure Ultimate but also how to connect to the instrument and even how to

set up the instrument for remote access and data collection.

This is a huge amount of work. But we do not regret it. When we hear about the frustration of users of other supposed "digital data systems" who are doing their own research into the instruments trying to find the correct address, Modbus type, or trying to write a parser for data string responses we can compare that to the compliments we get and just smile.

We plan to continue to support new instruments and add features. We are interoperable with all the central data management software used in air quality so Ultimate is available for use by anyone.

Please see the article on page 2 for what's new and planned in Ultimate.

Best Wishes, The Doc

New Features on www.dr-das.com

We revamped our website during this quarter, beginning with the homepage, to highlight how our products and services have grown into new sectors over the years. If you follow the topical areas Air, Water, Emissions, Meteorology, Radiation and Noise/Vibration into the site, resources are presented to demonstrate how the data

acquisition network can be fitted to many types of environments and organizations.

The Solutions area has an interactive diagram to help you think through the construction of a network and choose components to apply to it. From here you may follow links to additional

detail about the relevant software offerings.

The Hardware area is redesigned, to enable the site visitor to go quickly through a consistent display of choices, in order to compare features and select appropriate products. Lots more improvements are on the way for dr-das.com.



**Xact 625 Metals In
Ambient Air**



**Wavetronix Smart Sensor
HD**

**“The Wavetronix
Traffic sensor is
operational in
live networks
across North
America.”**

New Ultimate Protocols Feature Complex Instrumentation

The DR DAS / Envitech protocol library is a key offering of our logger product line. We have long focused on understanding the various protocols that are distinct to manufacturers, instead of relying on a small array of standards. This wealth of experience in the field of custom protocols has yielded significant returns in our abilities to communicate with the demanding instrumentation that finds itself in the field.

We are always working on new protocols and upgrading old to make sure that we can always support your needs. By devoting constant effort to these tasks we can create some extremely valuable protocols that were not even considered possible in the past. Some of the improvements and additions are:

- The Optec NGN-2A has an improved manual section made available to end users. Programmers from Envitech, staff at DR DAS and field users have reviewed the document for accuracy.
- The Sunset was added to the manual after being written by our very own Randy Smith. It went through a couple revisions and was also checked for accuracy before being added. The Sunset is in use by Ontario MOE and Maryland Dept. of Environment.
- We have added Ethernet support for the new BAM back panels, this includes documentation of the use of the NetBurner add in hardware employed by MetOne. During this process we were also able to confirm Ultimate operations with a BAM 1022. Idaho and EPA at RTP are using these devices.
- The API 633 continues to be a complex and well used instrument in many roadside type sites. The documentation for this in the Ultimate manual has been refined to reflect additional details about the protocol. The 633 is used in many networks across the US.
- Documentation and protocol verification of the EchoChem PAS 3000 have been completed. This is in use in some Ontario MOE and Metro Vancouver shelters.
- The XACT protocol is very detailed and provides significant advancement in continuous metals analysis. This has support in Ultimate, and may find further enhancement in the near future. This is in use in some Ontario MOE and Metro Vancouver shelters.
- For our clients requiring industrial network communication, we are excited to announce the addition of Allen Bradley protocols to Ultimate.
- The Wavetronix traffic sensor—both 125 and 126 models—is operational in live networks in Connecticut, Maryland, Vancouver, and with the University of Toronto.

In addition to these recent changes and additions, we are working on some new protocols for the Windows based Aerodyne O3 Precursor and also the AMA GC analyzer.

Envista ARM Test Procedures

In August 2015, DR DAS is unveiling a unique new standard in our industry for test transparency and versioning. This dual layer test process will result in documentation offered to the end user as a part of the installation wrapper program.

DR DAS will institute a series of additional operational tests on the software that apply chiefly to our North American client base. This list is compiled based on various actions observed and documented as a part of SOPs and general operations for all users. A checklist verifying

operation will be completed quarterly with these versions of our component based system issued as a single unit for end user install. End user suggestions for improvements to the list of test objectives is very much welcome and will be incorporated as possible.

To improve the end user experience, an installation wrapper has been developed so that software install can begin with a single program that analyzes your current component versions and verifies that updates are needed. After complete install, the user may then

proceed through a test script of her or his own design, or as provided by DR DAS.

After this process, the user can analyze all errors logs with a new application designed for this. The goal is to provide the user with a single point of reference to review the underlying actions of their test to verify that no unseen issues occurred. The documentation of this entire process and a first version will be available for all users in mid-August, with updated install packages appearing in the first



Bridgette reviewing DR DL installation for a Radiation Monitoring project.

Growing Cloud Services Offerings

We are expanding our activities into “cloud services,” a trendy term these days, but a movement that is here to stay. The drive to make additional services and functionality available over the Internet, rather than on local computers, makes sense for a few reasons. It reduces the duplication of efforts while enabling scalability to a greater extent than ever before. It advances the accessibility of data-crunching networks (particularly relevant to our field). And increases disaster management ability. In the end, though, the term really just means that someone else is responsible for your IT needs and your products are available to you over the web.

As an example of the leveragability of this paradigm, we worked with our Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources friends recently to upgrade air quality monitoring systems, we were able to work with international support on a central server and it made the work a whole lot more pleasant and flexible for everyone’s schedule.

We are stepping up our development of remote applications accessed directly over the Web, to eventually operate fully within the software-as-a-service model—to further reduce our clients’ costs for IT support, hardware and software and

maintenance. This currently includes simple cloud services like web hosting for data driven sites to full cloud application implementation for end user agencies.

Significant recent IT trends play into the cloud services idea: lighter, faster database applications, web services that can handle lots of concurrent transactions with low processing overhead, and the continuing explosion of mobile device support, for a few examples. DR DAS is an organization “right out of central casting” for a leadership role in this growing area.

“DR DAS is unveiling a unique new standard in our industry for test transparency and versioning.”



Running Cloud Services



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Your Prescription for Quality Data.



DRDAS1



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DR DAS LTD is a Veteran owned, Ohio small business. Established in 1996 we have been the exclusive North and Central American distributor of Envitech Ltd. products since 1997. Envitech Ltd. is the leading global supplier of continuous environmental data collection monitoring software called Envista Air Resources Manager (ARM) As the North American distributor for Envitech Ltd for 15 years, DR DAS has assisted many organizations in the process of modernizing their monitoring operations through implementation of Envitech software.

Business activities support modernization of monitoring programs in the environmental, safety and quality domains. The solutions offered by DR DAS leverage advances in IT and instrumentation to offer its customers software tools, service and training that reduces operations and maintenance costs while enhancing data quality. We also develop additional software components (Add-Ins) to meet Federal, State and local requirements of our customers if these specific features are not available within the Envista system.

Projects undertaken by DR DAS LTD can be in any application involving data collection, analysis, modeling and reporting. Monitoring project experience includes Ambient Air, Meteorology, Emissions, Water, Noise and Radiation

Whether your organization is considering a network overhaul or just needs to accomplish a special project our staff have the experience and knowledge to assist. Because we work every day with the instrumentation used in environmental monitoring we are the best equipped resource to answer the questions related to instruments and their communications and data acquisition capabilities. Our extensive library included all product manuals, support software and 100's of Tech notes and White papers that can assist the monitoring community.

Meet Our Web Developer Brian Geary

Brian Geary is our new Web Developer. He joins us after a long history with The American Society for Nondestructive Testing, an association which has some ties to the environmental data acquisition field, particularly in its use of digital sensing technologies and analysis of data collections.

He started out as a librarian, with a master's in library and information science. But as the Internet exploded in the late 90's, lots of different kinds of skills were being repurposed for website development, including information services skills,

and his library career took a back seat to his new function as a "webmaster." He considers it a lucky break, expanding his activities into areas he'd never imagined in the early years.

Brian says he hopes to have a key role in the DR DAS expansion of cloud services and networked software components, and has already begun laying the groundwork for some future projects. "Many opportunities are coming into view for lighter, faster and more open processing and sharing of data, with recent developments such as server-side Javascript

transaction processing, 'NoSQL' database structures, and Big Data operations."

Originally from Buffalo, New York, but living now in Central Ohio for almost two decades, Brian has found a love and respect for the area's "beautiful rolling geography and authentic American history and culture." He greatly enjoys spending time in Granville where food and art are seen as community assets. He is an avid walker of the trail system. When relaxing, he always has a stack of books in front of him, waiting to be gotten through.

Granville Mural by Granville Studio of Visual Arts



Granville Farmer's Market