Communicating with the Access Network

Local Connecting with AccessBase2000

After opening the AccessBase2000 application, go to the network settings screen and set each active network to connect using the virtual COM port number (COM2 - COM9) that was setup to communicate with its LIN-501C module.

Local Connecting with AXNET

Create a Windows direct connect network when setting up for AXNET communications. Be sure to select the virtual COM port number assigned to the LIN-501C module for the “Communications Cable Between Two Computers” setting. Be sure to configure the port speed to 38400 bps.

Remote Connecting with AccessBase2000

After opening the AccessBase2000 application, go to the network settings screen and set each active network to connect using the virtual COM port number (COM2 - COM9) that was setup to communicate with the router's external IP address and module's public port number.

Remote Connecting with AXNET

Create a Windows direct connect network when setting up for AXNET communications. Be sure to select the virtual COM port number that was setup to communicate with the router's external IP address and module's public port number. Be sure to configure the port speed to 38400 bps. After the network connection is made and connected, use an Internet Web browser to connect to the AXNET panel.

LIN-501C General Specifications

- Power: 12 VDC from plug-in power supply included, also supports a 5 volt DC redundant input from an external power supply
- Network Connection: 100BASE-T RJ-45 connector
- Network Speed: Fast Ethernet 10/100 Mbps
- Serial Connection: Male DB9 for connection with A2C/DB9 serial cable (included)
- Serial Port Speed: 38.4 Kbps
- Mounting: DIN-rail or screw mounting
- Dimensions (LIN-501C Module): 3-1/2” W x 3-3/4” H x 1” D
- Weight: 6-1/2 ozs.

Using Ping to Test IP Addresses

1. From the Windows START menu, select RUN.
   2. Enter COMMAND (or CMD) into the OPEN: field and press OK. The DOS command prompt window will open.
   3. To test an IP address enter PING and the IP address.
   4. If the Ping command displays “Request timed out.” the IP address is not currently used. The address can be assigned to a LIN-501C module.
   5. If the Ping command displays replies from the IP address, the address is already being used by a device and cannot be assigned to a LIN-501C module.

Overview

The AM-SEK Kit includes a LIN-501C Serial-to-Ethernet Module that provides a standard network TCP/IP connection for Linear’s AM8Plus, AE1000Plus, and AE2000Plus access controllers. The module can be used as an alternative to a traditional telephone modem typically used for remote access to Plus panel controllers.

The LIN-501C module connects between the Plus panels RS-232 Serial port and the installation’s Local Area Network (LAN). Access to the panel can be locally through the LAN or remotely from the Wide Area Network (WAN). Typically the module is connected to a port on a router located on the installation’s LAN.

In Plus panel networks, with multiple panels interconnected via RS-485 wiring, the LIN-501C module connects to Node #1 of an AXNET network, or Node #1 of any AccessBase2000 network. The LIN-501C does not replace the RS-485 and modem connections in a Plus panel network. It does enable using an Ethernet network connection (instead of a direct serial connection or modem) between multiple access panel network. It does enable using an Ethernet network connection (instead of a direct serial connection or modem) between multiple access panel network. It does enable using an Ethernet network connection (instead of a direct serial connection or modem) between multiple access panel network. It does enable using an Ethernet network connection (instead of a direct serial connection or modem) between multiple access panel network.

Remote Connecting with AccessBase2000

To help with the module and router network configuration, a log sheet is provided to document the installation settings.

Network Issues

Computer network topologies range from simple to complex. These instructions outline installation for a basic local area network. Large and complex networks may require setup that is beyond the scope of these instructions. If setup issues arise while configuring the LIN-501C module, seek assistance from the IT professional responsible for maintaining the network.

Module Installation

1. Mount the LIN-501C module in a secure and weather protected location.
2. Connect the modular jack end of the A2C-DB9 cable to the RS-232 Port of the Linear Plus panel.
3. Connect the DB9 connector end of the A2C-DB9 cable to the COM port on the LIN-501C module.
4. Connect a CAT5 network cable between the LAN connector on the LIN-501C module and an open port on the Local Area Network’s router (300 foot cable length maximum).
5. Route the wire from the power supply and connect the power supply cable RED (+) and BLACK (-) terminals on the plug in the terminal block. Plug the terminal block into the module.
6. Repeat Steps 1-5 for each additional LIN-501C module installed for different access networks in the installation.
7. When power is applied, a module’s RUN indicator should light and the LAN indicator should flash.
General LIN-501C Module Configuration

1. From the Windows START menu, select RUN.
2. Enter COMMAND (or CMD) into the OPEN: field and press OK. The DOS command prompt window will open.
3. Enter IPCONFIG and press ENTER. The current Windows IP configuration for the PC will be displayed. Write down the IP Address, Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway address numbers. Keep the window open for reference or enter EXIT to close it.

4. Insert the utilities CD into the PC’s CD-ROM drive and launch the monitor.exe application. (For convenience, the files can also be copied from the CD to the programming PC and run from there.)

✓ NOTE: The monitor.exe application has several buttons and options that are not used for LIN-501C module setup.

5. Press the INVITE button. The application will display a list of all the LIN-501C modules discovered on the network.

✓ NOTE: The monitor.exe application can only detect modules located on the LAN side of the same router as the PC.

6. From the displayed list, select the IP address of the module to program. (To help to identify modules, checking the LOCATE box will cause the selected module to beep.) Press CONFIG.

7. The configuration for the selected module displays showing the fixed MAC address and currently programmed IP, Gateway, and Subnet Mask addresses.

✓ NOTE: A static IP address is required for the LIN-501C module. Verify that the AUTO IP box is unchecked.

8. To allow the module to communicate with the PC on the same network, the first three octets (xxx.xxx.xxx) of the LIN-501C module IP address must be set to the same as the programming PC’s IP address. Set the first three octets for the module’s IP address in the IP ADDRESS field. To avoid conflicts with existing network devices, choose a number from 150-254 for the forth octet. Example: PC = 192.168.249.150 Module = 192.168.249.153

✓ NOTE: The IP address for each LIN-501C module in an installation must be unique and not conflict with other devices on the network. The DOS PING command can be used to check if an IP address is currently used or vacant (see Page 4).

10. Set the Gateway and Subnet Mask addresses to the same as the programming PC.

11. Write the settings in the log sheet to document the access network module and note the module’s address settings.

12. Enter a name for HOST NAME to identify the module or the access network installation.

13. Press CONFIG NOW to send the configuration to the module.

14. The LIN-501C module should beep and an acknowledge window will display. Press OK.

PC Virtual COM Port Configuration

1. Launch the Vcom48.exe installation program from the utility CD. Install the virtual COM port program on to the PC as instructed by the installation wizard.

2. Select the virtual COM port(s) that will be used to connect to the LIN-501C module(s). Press OK.

✓ NOTE: Serial-IP supports virtual COM ports 2-8. AENET cannot connect through any valid COM port. AccessBase2000 can only use ports 2-4. Each module in the installation will need a unique COM port assigned to the module’s IP address.

3. In the SERIAL/IP CONTROL PANEL select a COM port to use to connect to a module. Be sure the CONNECT TO SERVER box is checked. Enter the module’s IP address in the IP ADDRESS field. Enter port 4660 into the PORT NUMBER field.

4. Press CONFIGURATION WIZARD. The Configuration Wizard will display. To test the PC’s COM port serial to IP connection, press START.

5. The status area will show the progress of the test. Green check marks indicate that the connection is OK. Red check marks indicate failures in the test. If the test fails, verify the address and port settings. Repeat Steps 3 and 4.

6. Repeat Steps 2 through 5 for each additional LIN-501C module in the installation.

7. When finished, press CLOSE to exit the SERIAL/IP CONTROL PANEL. (The SERIAL/IP control panel can be restarted at any time from the Windows START menu.)

Setup for Remote Off-Site Access

The LIN-501C module installation and programming is identical for remote off-site access, the difference is in the router programming and the IP address used to communicate with the access network.

✓ NOTE: For remote access, the LIN-501C module(s) must be connected to a router that supports a virtual server and has a static external IP address. An Ethernet switch cannot be used.

To be reliably connect with the router remotely over time, the router’s external IP address must be a static IP. A dynamic IP address will change over time, which would require changing the virtual COM port setting each session before connecting.

Router Setup

Each LIN-501C module will have a unique IP address and will use private port number 4660. It’s the “port forwarding” or “virtual server” in the router that will route a public port number to each module’s IP address and private port number.

When connecting remotely to a module through the router’s virtual server, the router’s external IP address and module’s public port number are used. Example address: 71.167.14.130:4001

1. 71.167.14.130 is the router’s external IP address
2. 4001 is the module’s public port number

✓ NOTE: Although similar, each manufacturer’s router model’s setup screens are different. The “virtual server” may be called another name depending on manufacturer. Some routers do not support public to private port forwarding through a “virtual server.”

The router will need to be set on-site from a PC connected to the Local Area Network. Following is a typical router setup procedure:

1. On a PC connected to the router, open a browser window.

2. Enter the internal IP address of the router in the IP ADDRESS field. Enter port 4660 into the PORT NUMBER field.

3. Enter the username and password. Unless the router login has been reprogrammed, the default typical username is admin, and the password is blank. Click the OK button to log into the router.

✓ NOTE: If you cannot login to the router successfully, consult with the IT personnel at the installation for assistance.

Virtual server or port forwarding is usually in the Advanced area of the router setup.

5. Determine the exterior (WAN) IP address by checking the router’s device information page.

6. Each connection may also be given a name. Enter a unique name depending on manufacturer. Terms will vary per router model.

7. Repeat Steps 2 through 5 for each additional LIN-501C module in the installation.

8. For “traffic type” select TCP, for “schedule” select always. Terms will vary per router model.

9. Each connection may also be given a name. Enter a descriptive name for the location of each LIN-501C module. This will help to identify the module’s router settings to yourself or others in the future.

10. After setting up the router, be sure to select SAVE SETTINGS in the router.

Virtual COM Port Setup for Remote Access

Follow these steps to setup the virtual COM ports for remote access:

1. Determine the exterior (WAN) IP address by checking the router’s device information page.

2. From the Windows START menu, launch the Serial-IP Control Panel application.

3. In the SERIAL/IP CONTROL PANEL select a COM port to use to connect to a module. Be sure the CONNECT TO SERVER box is checked. Enter the router’s external IP address in the IP ADDRESS field. Enter port 4660 into the PORT NUMBER field.

4. Press CONFIGURATION WIZARD. The Configuration Wizard will display. To test the PC’s COM port serial-to-IP connection, press START.

5. The status area will show the progress of the test. Green check marks indicate that the connection is OK. Red check marks indicate failures in the test. If the test fails, verify the address and port settings.

Press USE SETTINGS to exit the wizard.

6. Repeat Steps 2 through 5 for each additional LIN-501C modules in the installation.

7. When finished, press CLOSE to exit the SERIAL/IP CONTROL PANEL.

Write the settings in the log sheet to document the virtual COM port and virtual server address settings.