CAS Modbus Explorer – A Free Utility to Discover Modbus Devices On A Modus RTU Network

Chipkin Automation Systems Inc. has developed a free utility to help the automation professionals to discover Modbus devices on a Modus RTU network with ease.

Vancouver, BC – The CAS Modbus Explorer's latest version 1.00bB, released by Chipkin Automation Systems Inc., is a perfect software tool for those who do not know the connection settings or the device address on a Modbus RTU network. The application is free to use and the automation professionals can download it without having to register.

CAS Modbus Explorer has easy-to-use interface. It tries all combinations of Baud, Parity, Data Bits and Stop Bits as well as all addresses in the specified range which also can be limited to speed searches. Not to mention, it can read coil status (0xxxx), input status (2xxxx), input registers (3xxxx), and holding registers (4xxxx) and be controlled to look for either one of these statuses.

An engineer can discover devices on a RS-485 network if he uses a USB to RS-485 converter that presents itself as a serial (COM) port to his computer. CAS Modbus Explorer tries to read a single register, if it gets a response (even an exception response) then it reports that the device exists. The application opens the port with a combination of port parameters and then sends a message to the first device in the address range. It moves on to the next address if it does not get any response.

Once all the addresses for a given port setting combination have been tried, the application moves onto the next application. Select if a single or if multiple devices must be found in which case the full address range is tested even if a device is found. In BURST mode, the application opens the port with a combination of settings and then sends messages to all the devices in the specified range before waiting for a response. In this way the 'timeout' for each address is bypassed and the search is sped up significantly. A log is provided which reports the combinations attempted and the devices found.

CAS Modbus Explorer is a utility for Windows XP and 2000, it requires 10 MB of free hard drive space and one free serial port to run on the computer. Any COM port can be used as it works with RS-232 and RS-485. CAS Modbus Explorer can be downloaded on http://www.chipkin.com/cas-modbus-explorer with zero commitment.