The Safety Company

Operating Manual

MSA Link

Portable Gas Detection Device Software – v. 2.0

MSAsafety.com

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1 | System Requirements

- Windows 7, 8 or 10
- 2 GHz Processor, 2GB Ram
- One open USB port
- Actisys PC IrDA adapter
  - Windows 7 and 8 are supported by all IR Adapters.
  - Windows 10 is only supported with IR Adapters where the Serial Number prefix is "TA".

2 | Obtaining the Link installer

MSA Link can be obtained at: http://us.msasafety.com/productSoftwareDownloads

3 | Installing the Actisys IR Adapter

3.1 The device driver comes packaged with, and is installed during the installation

3.2 In the event that this step is skipped:

(A) Go to Control Panel (Change the view to small or large icons),

(B) Choose "Device manager" and either under "Ports" or "Unknown Device" category, locate

the device with the icon next to it (it may also reference TWN3 in the description)

(C) Right-Click the device to open the action menu, and choose "Update Driver Software"

For Windows 10 and required "TA" serial number prefix dongle:

a) Choose "Search automatically for Updated driver software"

For Windows 7/8:

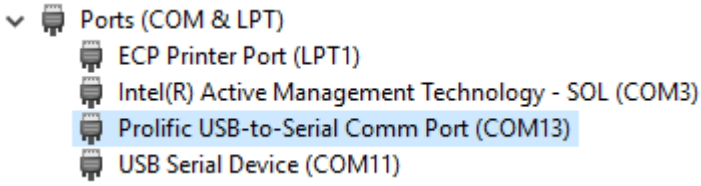
a) Choose "Browse my computer for driver software"

b) Press the "Browse…" Button to navigate the file folders,

c) Navigate to the folder where the MSA Link Installer was unzipped, and

d) In its "dongle-drivers" folder, choose the correct folder for your version of Windows. *(*The software with drivers can be re-downloaded from the "Product Software Downloads" page on msasafety.com if needed.)

Once installed, "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port" will appear in the "Ports" category



4 | Using the Actisys IR Adapter

4.1 Enable the portable gas device's IR. (See device manual(s); procedure differs by model)
Note: the ALTAIR 4X and 5X models are always enabled.

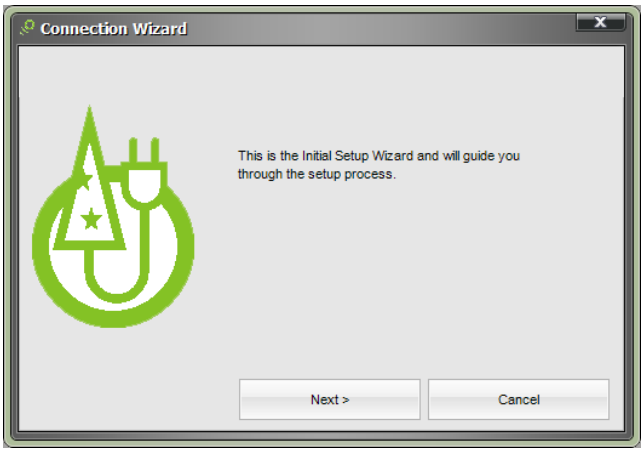
4.2 Position the lens portion of the IR Adapter facing the infrared view port of the MSA gas detector. The devices should be approximately 2 inches apart.

Note: Typically devices should be set face down to avoid possible misalignment due to belt clips located on the back of the devices.

4.3 With the device now ready to use in Link, actions like: Connection Testing, Download, and Device Configuration, as described in the following sections, can be performed.

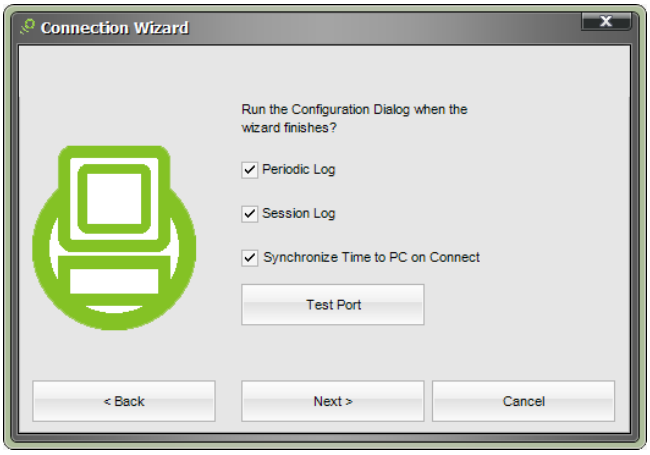
5 | The Connection Wizard

5.1 The Connection Wizard provides a step by step way to verify your setup device connection. This option is set to run at application startup until it is disabled.



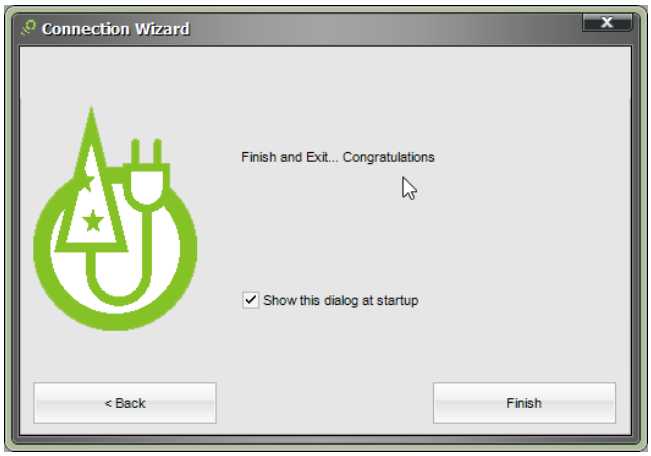
5.2 Set preferences to download Session and/or Periodic Logs and if to synchronize the time and date during data downloads.

To test the communications press the "Test Port" button. A notification will be presented indicating success or failure.

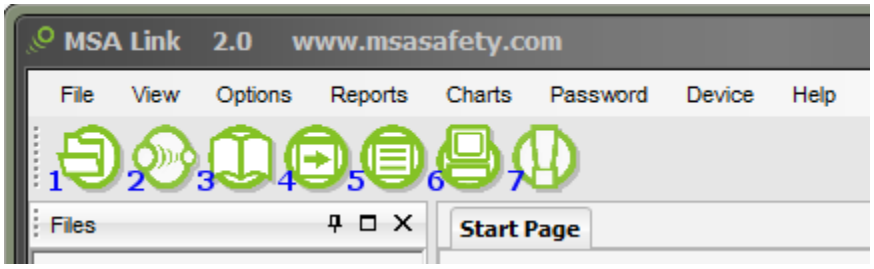


5.3 At the end of the wizard, to avoid seeing it at application start, uncheck the checkbox "Show this dialog at startup."

Note: To access this Wizard again when unchecked, click "Options" on the menu and select "Connection Wizard".



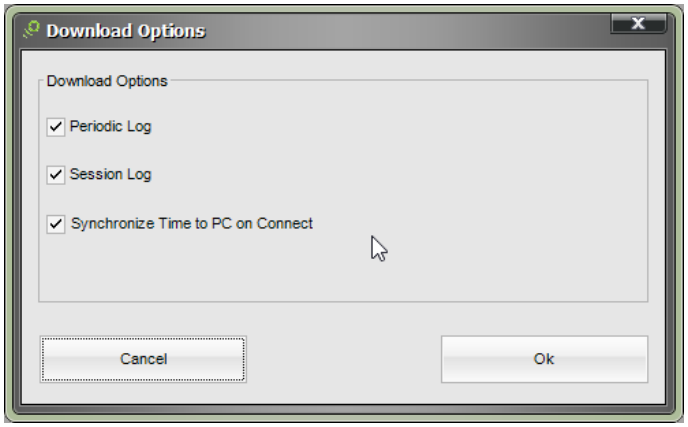
6 | Application Menu Icons



1. Open
2. Download Device Logs
3. General Reports
4. Periodic Reports
5. Calibration Reports
6. Instrument Configuration
7. Real-time Readings

7 | Setting Download Options

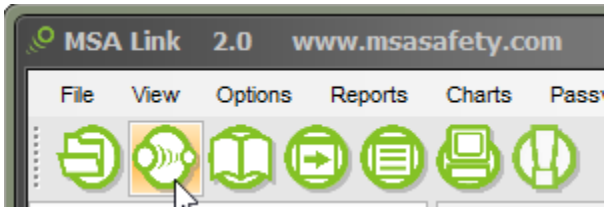
7.1 During the first run, you will be prompted by the Connection Wizard to set these default values for device download sessions as described in Section 5.



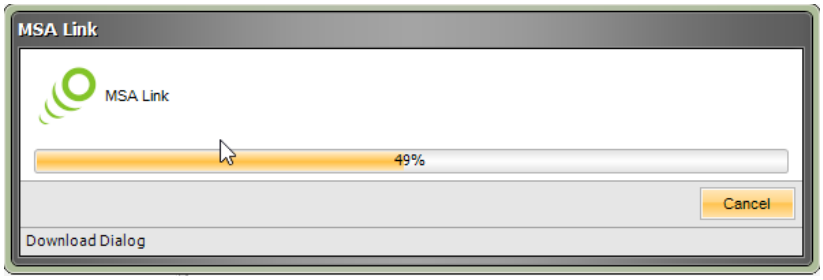
7.2 After initial setup, while you are running the program, the options can be accessed by going to the "Options" on the program menu, and selecting "Download Options".

8 | Downloading Data

8.1 With the device, its IR function on, and aligned with the IR adapter (as described in Section 4 above) → Press the Link Download Icon to start the download:



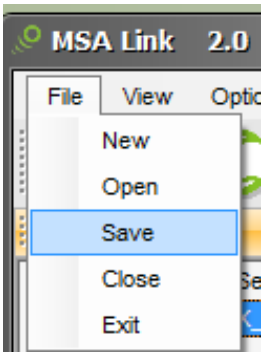
A progress indicator is displayed:



When the Download is complete, the General Settings, and depending on the selected download options, Sensor Reading Charts, Calibration logs, Periodic Readings, and Session Events tabs are displayed:

9 | Saving Downloaded Data

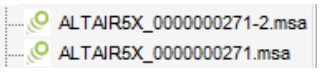
Save the data in .msa **session** file format by opening the "File" menu and choosing "Save".



The default saving directory will be the first folder opened, and the files can be saved here, or a new location can be browsed. Saving the file with an extension other than the default *.msa will result in the application being unable to see the file and display it in the file browser.

Session files (.msa format) can be accessed by Link, at a later time, for viewing, exporting, printing, archiving, or reporting.

NOTE: if the instrument has a saved file already, save subsequent downloads by adding a new suffix as desired such as "-2"…"-3" or the current date, such as "01-01-2018":



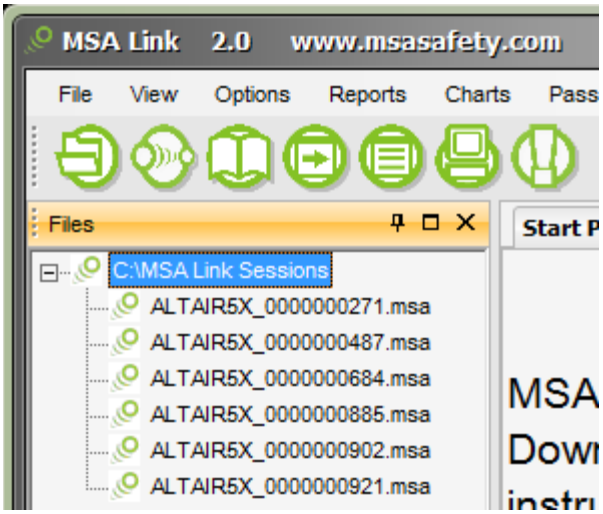
File Security: To ensure security, the .msa data files are encrypted and digitally signed. This signing process ensures not only the integrity of the file, but protects against unwanted alteration of that file. Any decryption and subsequent alteration will result in the signing being invalid. MSA Link provides notification if the file has been corrupted or altered.

10 | Working with Saved .MSA Files

10.1 File Browser

MSA Link's "Files" browser provides a convenient way to open sessions without the use of the operating system's file browser.

Double-click a file to open it, or select the file desired, and right click on it and a pop up menu will open with available options Open, Delete, or Refresh the list.



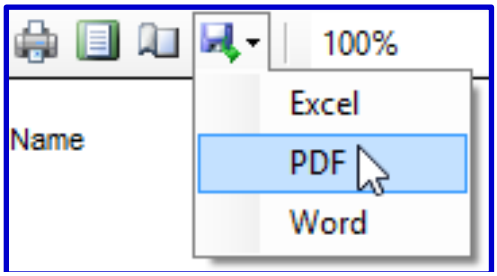
11 | Viewing, Printing, and Exporting Reports

To view a session, an .MSA session file must be opened, or a new session has to be created by connecting to an instrument and downloading the data (Shown in the "Downloading Data" section).

Inside that session view, are <u>sub-tabs</u> for the data reports available from the download:

Clicking on them toggles the report in view.

11.1 Print, or Export to Excel, PDF or Word using the icons on the data download/session views:



General

These reports contain information about the model, serial, sensor, and alarm records.

Periodic

This report is a tabular list of all readings that have been taken by the instrument. Note that the instrument storage space is very limited and eventually "rolls" back on itself, overwriting the oldest records with the newest. So, eventually, a session will contain older event records than are available on the instrument. Also it is important to note that MMS Link does not function as a database and does not store historical records. This can be accomplished by simply saving older files, as they will have the historical data UNLESS that file is used as an active work session, subsequently updated, and then saved.

Combined (Session)

The Session Combined reports organize session, event, and periodic records into date structured slots. These slots are bookmarked along the side of the report for easy navigation throughout the report.

The Combined report is partitioned into groups of data ordered by session. A session is defined as an ON/OFF power cycle. Note that some devices (ALTAIR) have neither power cycles nor periodic data. Within the session all the system events, periodic records, and session data are sub grouped. This can be accessed by using the expander icon (looks like a small +) to show the data.

Calibration

Calibration reports are made to print a calibration certification using the calibration information from the instrument.

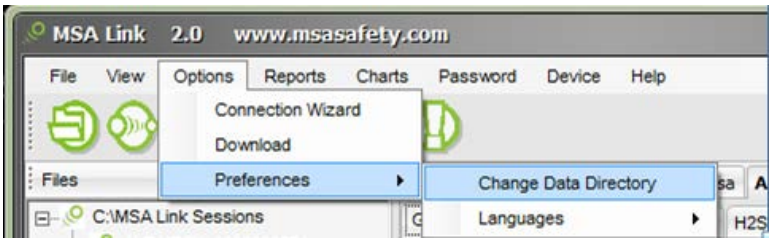
Sensor Charts

The Sensor charts, in this example under the tabs

, can be screen captured for printing or insertion in a document.

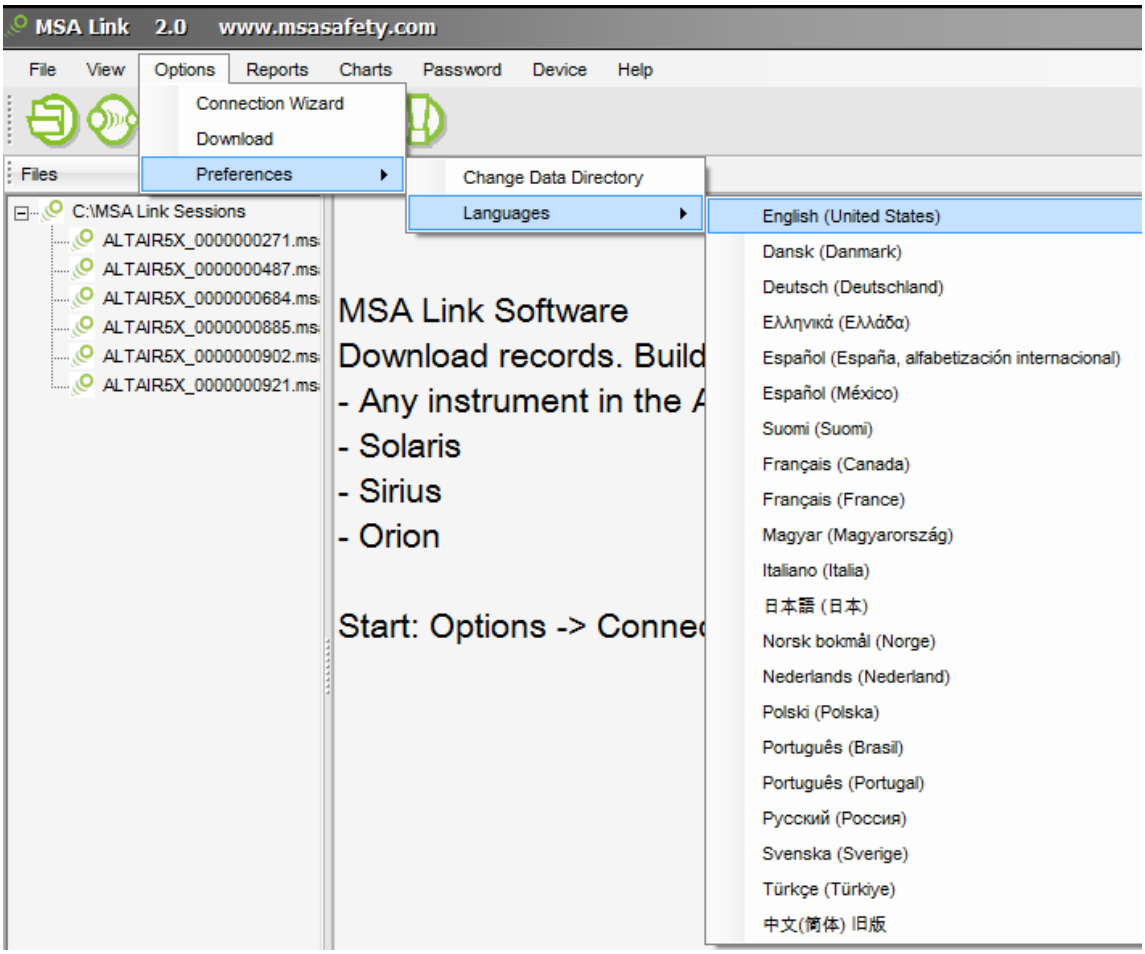
12 | Setting/Changing the Default Data Directory

Open the Options menu and choose → Preferences → Change Data Directory



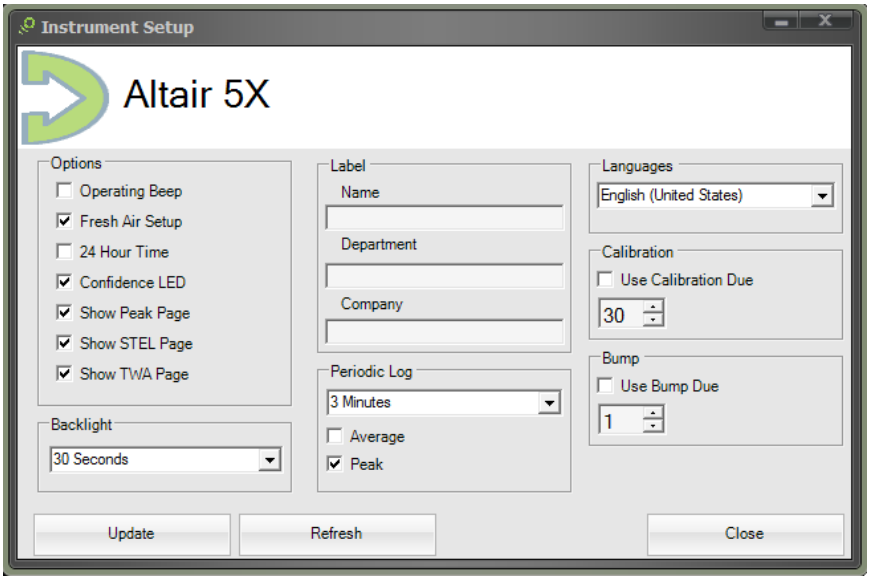
13 | Setting/Changing the Language

Open the Options menu and choose → Preferences → Languages



14 | General Device Configuration

With the device connected, as described above in Section 4, Click on the “Device” menu and choose “Configuration”. The “Instrument Setup” dialog box will appear:



14.1 Options Section

Refer to the device user manual for specific details on each option's function.

The General options available are:
- Operating beep
- Fresh Air Setup
- 24 Hour time
- Confidence LED
- Show Peak Page
- Show STEL Page
- Show TWA Page

14.2 Backlight Section

Sets the time the backlight stays illuminated after device button activity.

14.3 Label Section

This section allows the entry of identification values on the device, which include “Department”, “Company”, and “Name” fields. For ALTAIR 4 and later devices, these field values are limited to 10 characters. For ALTAIR devices before the ALTAIR 4, these field values are limited to 8 characters, and some models only have one ID field available. These fields are empty by default.

IMPORTANT NOTE:
If your organization operates with rules concerning PII (Personally Identifiable Information), consult your compliance department before entering values in these “Label” fields.

14.4 Periodic Log Section

The Interval setting determines the frequency of the periodic readings being recorded into the periodic data logs.

It also has the option to set the periodic logs to be an average value over that interval, or a peak value.

14.5 Language Section

The device's display Language can be set here.
NOTE: Some devices have limited language support.

14.6 Calibration Due Section

Set the days before calibration due is indicated.

14.7 Bump Due Section

Set the days before Bump due is indicated.

14.8 Update Button

The "Update" Button applies the options that are on the dialog page, to the connected device.

14.9 Refresh Button

The "Refresh" Button reads the current options that are set on the connected device, and loads them into the dialog page.

14.10 Close Button

Closes the "Instrument Setup" dialogue page.

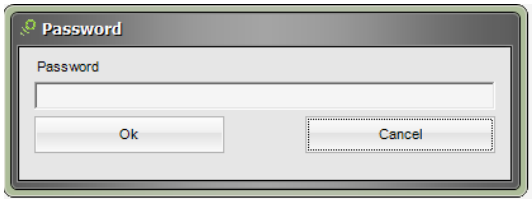
15 | Advanced Device Configuration

In addition to the configuration options referenced in the previous section, there are password protected settings.

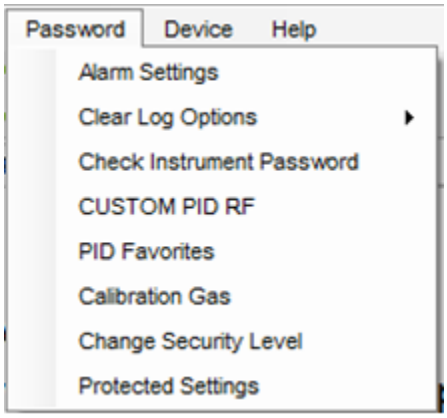
The configurations described in this section can be changed by MSA authorized personnel, distributors, service centers, and affiliates. If access is required to change alarm set points, please contact your MSA dealer or affiliate.

The password is not included in this manual but MSA authorized personnel can obtain it from your MSA Sales Representative or MSA Customer Service.

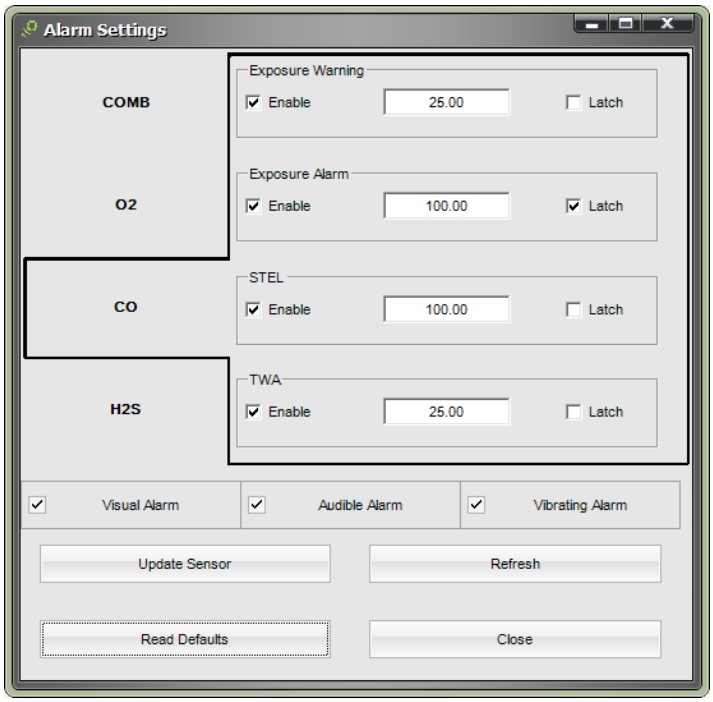
1. Ensure the device is on and connected as described in Section 4 above.
2. Click on the "Password" menu, enter the password, and click the "OK" button:



3. The box will disappear.
4. Click on the "Password" menu again and the password protected settings will now be visible:



15.1 Alarm Settings



The Alarm Settings screen will show the settings for the installed sensors, and the options for enabled/disabled, latching, and Visible, Audible, and Vibrating alarm types.

STEL and TWA settings will appear only for appropriate sensors.

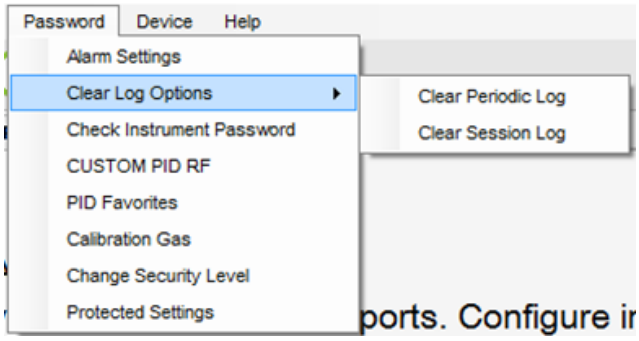
The "Update Sensor" button writes the values set here to the device.

The "Refresh" button reads the values set on the device currently.

The "Read Defaults" button reads the factory default settings on the device, and can be used to then restore the factory settings by then pressing "Update Sensor".

15.2 Clear Log Options

Session and Periodic records can be cleared from the instrument. These permanently clear the data logs on the gas detector, and they cannot be recovered.



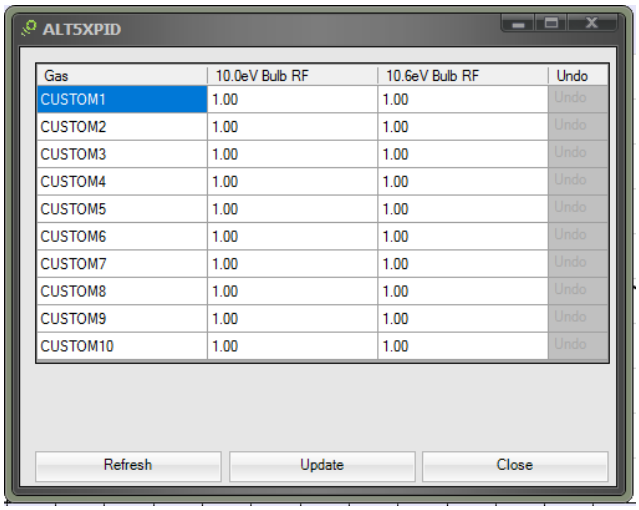
This feature is useful if: A) a record has become corrupt, or B) the unit is being transferred to another organization and it is desired to clear the data.

15.3 Check Instrument Password

This utility allows the viewing of the device's current password, and the ability to change the password using the "Update" Button.

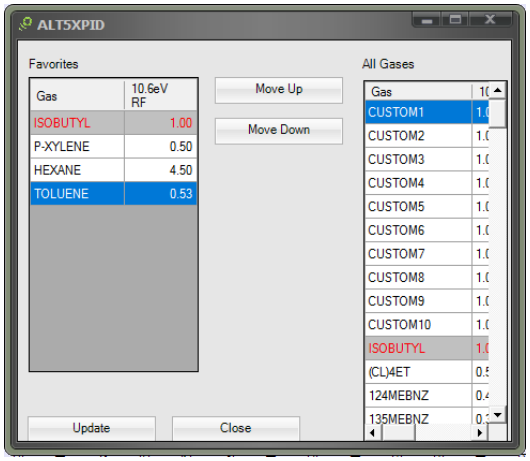
15.4 Custom PID RF

This utility allows the entry of custom RF values



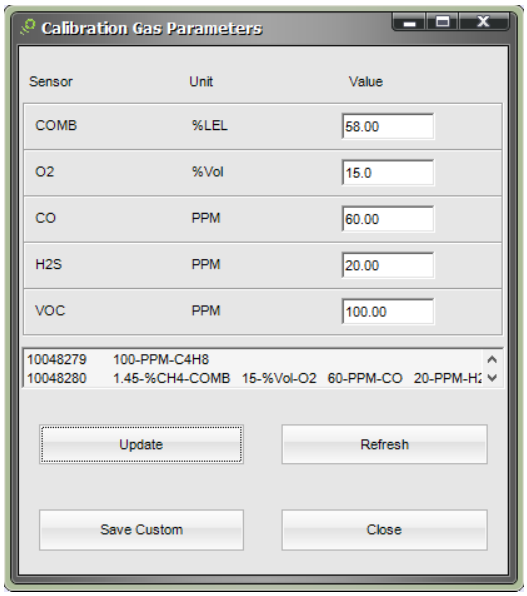
15.5 PID Favorites

This utility allows the set up a list of favorite Gas Custom RF values on the device.



15.6 Calibration Gas

Allows the setup of the calibration gas values used to calibrate.



Preset Calibration Span Values:

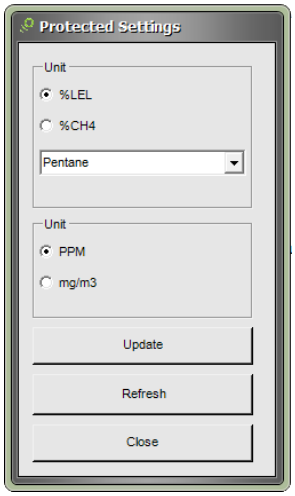
Standard Calibration cylinders settings are available through the list located at the bottom of the window, just above the buttons. Double-click to populate the available gas channels on the main window.

Custom Calibration Span Values:

Custom Calibration cylinders settings can be set by typing the mixture values in the text boxes and selecting the option "Save Custom." That Custom setup is now saved in the list and can be used Double-clicked to populate the values above. To delete custom setup levels, just select the entry from the list and press Delete on the keyboard.

15.7 Protected Settings

This utility controls the units associated with calibration gasses.



16 | Live Readings Chart

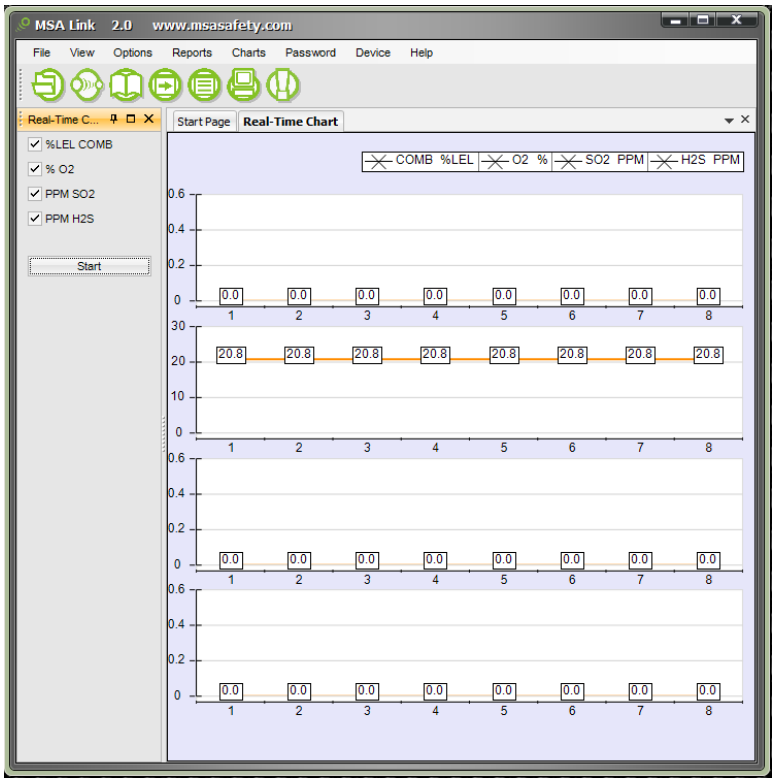
A connected instrument can be used to generate live readings that are plotted on the screen in a rolling strip chart.

1. Ensure the device is on and connected as described in Section 4 above.

2. Open the "Chart" Menu and select "Realtime" OR press the Realtime icon

Note: This option does not include data storage, so all data plotted in this method is "throw away" and used for visualization/experimentation only.

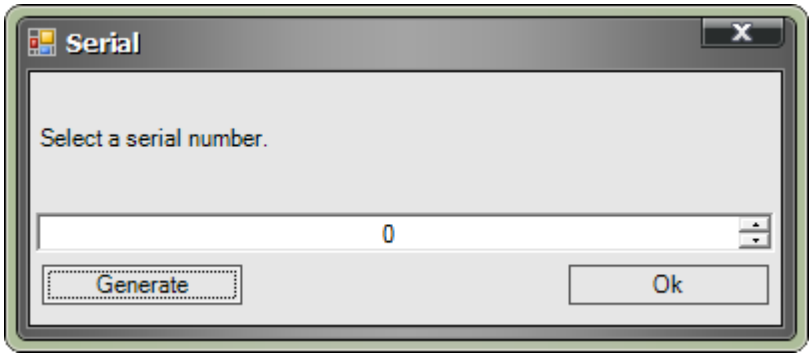
Multiple sensors selected:



Individual sensor selected:

17 | Serializing an Instrument

On download, if MSA Link detects an instrument without a valid serial number (0). It will provide a prompt that will allow the serialization of the instrument.



"Generate" makes a random serial number, to be applied.

"Ok" sends the serial to the device.

18 | Technical support

For technical assistance installing or using this software

Contact MSA at: **1-800-672-2222** or softwaresupport@msasafety.com

Please provide the following information with any request for assistance.

1. MSA Link software version. (Help->About)
2. MSA Instrument Firmware version. (Version information displayed at device startup)
3. Microsoft Windows version.