

VMSpC 4.0 FAQ

8-19-2015

As an addendum to the Manual, this FAQ will repeat only Installation cues and answer a few questions and scenario issues. Your mileage may vary.

Software and Hardware installation

Step One: Install the Software, beginning with the Device Driver.

First: open the **Distribution Disk** folder either you downloaded from the website or inserted via your CDROM drive. **Next:** run the application **"Install Drivers"** by double-clicking it. *Yes*, you do want to allow this to make changes to your computer, next, default settings, you agree...etc. At its close, it will present a box with two green check marks. This is good.

Remember: you MUST 'decompress' the downloaded "Distribution Disk" .zip archive before running any installers if you've downloaded it from the website. If this step is missed you'll have the symptoms of broken communication, presented as nonfunctional virtual serial-port or "PC Port Failure." The latter may also be seen if Windows didn't act correctly on the driver or if the wireless connection is lost. For USB: Reinstall the driver. Wireless: Click <Custom IP Settings> then close the box without making changes.

Once the driver program claims its' finished, Run **"VMSpC4.x_Setup.exe"** The installation program will load the software on your hard drive and create Start Menu items and desktop icons for your convenience. The VMSpC program will launch, pick your engine <open> –then close the program and **Reboot**. The software side of things is ready.

Step Two: Install the Hardware

Your package includes a small black box labeled "VMSpC J1708/J1939 Interface." (We'll call this the "JIB" throughout the manual.) An ordinary B-to-A USB cable connects the JIB to the PC. A special cable connects the JIB to the diagnostic plug located under the dash in the vehicle. Plug them all in - there's only one way they can fit. See the Q & A section for more on Tablet micro-USB ports.

Step Three: Configure the Program

Turn the vehicle key to "Run", or start the engine. Start VMSpC. If data does not immediately appear on the screen, select <Advanced> , <Communications> The button <Scan for JIB Connections.> If drivers are working properly, a COM port (COM3...9 whatever) will be highlighted in BLUE: "VMSpC Virtual Serial Port..." –there may be two. Click <OK.> If Status doesn't change to 'OK', go back to <Scan for JIB Connections.> and choose the other. When it's right, the Status will change to "Ok".

Within this window, 'check' the box labeled Auto Restart. This should compensate for

many port issues, delays and burps with windows. If you get stuck here: CALL US ;-] We'll do a 'walk through.' Note: Its normal to be strobing between 'OK' and 'Failure between engine and JIB' until the engine is started.

You may now rearrange the gauges on the screen, create new gauges and other items, and customize the arrangement as you see fit. When you are finished, save your settings by selecting "Layout" and "Save As". This creates your initial set of gauges; name it Performance, Mountains, Economy, Outback, 'Easy Does It'...whatever.

NOTE: v4.x software users: *Auto-save Feature*

Each change made to your gauge setup is auto-saved **as you make that change.**

Advice: Before making significant changes to your setup, Save It with a unique name, retaining the original setup and name [so it does not get over-written.] This method is more in line with modern tablets whether Android or Apple and getting more common with PC 'apps.'

Q & A

What to do when I only have a single, Micro-USB socket on my tablet?

...Newer [small] tablet-PCs may use the smaller, micro-USB connections. In this case, you need to decide if you're going to connect using a simple straight cable or through a Hub or 'splitter.' A simple USB-A to Micro adapter is about \$5. A dedicated B-to-micro cable eliminates the need for an adapter yet are more difficult to find.

For extended Tablet use, charging may be done employing a "Y" splitter or "Powered USB Hub." The splitter for use with a micro-USB are less tedious and cheaper. An adapter [USB-A to USB-B] will often be needed at the end of a A-to-Micro cable.

Will this 4.x software version overwrite my old v2.5 or v3.x screens or settings?

...No. v4.x is isolated from the v2.x and v3.x installation[s] you may have.

*Will this work with **WiFi, USB** or what?*

...All platforms are welcome. We've tested extensively with WiFi and USB. Not with Bluetooth. BT should work fine on a pre-Windows-7 device. BT issues revolve around Win8.1 etc and this program will not fix that.

*Can I run **other versions** still?*

...Yes, each remain just as you left them, each can still be used individually.

*Can I use my nifty gauge **SCReen** file layouts from v2.5 or v3.x ?*

...Sorry, no. You'll have to start over. We did, its not so bad really. :-/

Will I get a prize for reading the FAQ and submitting the most bug reports?

...Yes. I will personally make anyone a cup of Rocket-blend java...should you be in the

neighborhood. The tour will *still* set you back a nickle however.

*I'm using a **USB hub**, keyboard, mouse, **Double-Sight** monitor and a **GPS** too. Is this okay or will it cause problems?*

...It probably will need adjustments but otherwise be okay. Initially, when installing the software and plugging in the JIB, do it without the HUB and doo dads. Then, boot up the PC [netbook or tablet etc] with the JIB plugged in first; before the GPS or other devices. This ensures the PC gets the connection right, the first time. Then, after that success, add the HUB and GPS etc. No further tricks or ordered steps should be needed after that.

*I see **odd characters** on the **Gear Selected** and **Gear Attained** gauge; whats up with that?*

...This is something that we were thinking may come back up. It indicates corrupted gear information from the transmission coming through the J1708 databus but we're not sure how it gets that way. Try using the other, J1939, to troubleshoot this: <Advanced> ... <Communications> ... lower part of the box, 'Choose Databus...' and select the J1939. If this doesn't fix it, check our downloads area for updated software.

Can I mix plaids and stripes while driving?

...No. This is unsafe at ANY speed. So is making gauge or settings changes while underway.

*My **Tankminder** isn't working, the fuel level never drops.*

...If USB: try activating the request lines: <Advanced> ... <Communications> ... <Advanced JIB Properties> ... Check the "JIB Fuelmeter" box and Zero the Fuelmeter. If this doesn't fix it, check our downloads area for updated software.

*I have errors in the **Diagnostics** box. Which can I safely ignore?*

...**None!** Google this: "J1939 pid ### fmi" without quotes--where ### is the number you're gazing at. While we're not qualified to diagnose your code issue, we can help you understand its meaning. As a last resort, call us and we'll try to convert the jargon to plain English. ;-]

*I can cut and paste the regular gauges but not the **Diagnostics** box. Why not?*

...How much bad news can you tolerate anyway? Sorry, one per customer. :-/

*Where's the **TPMS** [Tire Pressure Monitoring System] settings for alarms?*

...There may not be any separte settings for this. The values learned by the system are managed entirely within the PressurePro or SmarTire Bridge Receiver. We pass along the messages when the bridge says there's a fault—that being an iconic change or an alarm. These are fixed outcomes. Understand the alarm, however, is indicating air pressure being down 12.5% or more when sounding. See the current manual for updates on this topic.

*How do I know when my **datalog** is running?*

...Upper left-hand corner, the very top 'bar' of the program normally reads "VMSpc."

Added is a file name, typically "Datatestlog.txt" unless renamed, while logging.

Is there a quicky shortcut to **Device manager** in the program?

...Yep. <Advanced> ... <Communications> ... lowest part of the box "Check Device Manager."

*Can I print the **PID List, Sort or Re-Order** it Alphabetically or by Bus Type?*

...Well...not entirely...just yet. Printing is done this way: After opening the PID sniffer press these keys <alt> + <PrtScrn> then open Paint [or equiv] and <rt click> <paste> or Paste from the edit menu. *Then* print. v4.1, coming this winter, will have more options here.

*I don't like **borders / frames** around my boxes. How do I fix that?*

...You can't and neither can we. *Yet*. Its the price of re-sizable boxes post Win-98.

*How do I change **Color Themes** to ones just like my iThing?*

...meh. *lol* <Day / Night> in the Top Line Menu Items. Note the timer, too. Cool, huh?

*How do I run the **Simulator** so I can really Check it out in **style**...before I commit to buy?*

...uh....v4.1 okay? It was a little harder than we thought—but it *IS* coming!

*How do I make the program stay **Always On Top**?*

..uh...*hem*...v4.1 maybe. Doable but not a priority this cycle—but its coming...really.

*How **Metric Friendly** is this software? Can I use it in **Canada**?*

...Non, nous ne disposons pas de la traduction français requis fait ... vous aurez donc besoin de se faufiler dans . Shhhhh ! Toutefois, lorsque vous faites, chaque jauge est entièrement métrique sympathique mais Volts et quelques autres choses qui sont des pourcentages, des engrenages et autres. Australia : Yes ! Every gauge has a metric option. However, at this time, there isn't a global setting to change the entire set of gauge names, values and units to a Entirely metric-centric form.

*My **tiles / Gauges** keep moving around, how do I 'pin' them?*

...<Advanced> ... <Lock Gauges>

*What **other uses** are there for the **VMSpc**, aside from my motor-coach?*

...Here's who's using them today: Over The Road truckers, Yachts and sea vessels, Oil Rig and Portable Generator servicers, Australian Road Trains...and RVs. Large electronic diesels, all.

*In parameter Editor, how do I **sort the PIDs**?*

...v4.1...

*I don't see **my exact Engine** on the list. Is this a problem?*

...Maybe, yet not really an issue until you'd like **Torque and Horsepower** displayed. If the

Model and Horsepower of the engine is otherwise correct, use the one presented. This happens with the newer Cummins ISL9 vs ISLe engines—where the difference are the only adherence to a specific emissions standard—where ISL9 is pretty restrictive [USA] and ISLe is almost zero [your basic Bradley Fighting Vehicle]. The Torque/Horsepower curves are very close and can be used interchangeably. I've glommed onto the ones I could find; Cummins is not helpful in this way. :-/

*How do I apply the scaling and grid to the **Histogram** gauges?*

...You don't. v4.1 *or beyond* –also a LOT harder than it looks.

***YAY! Color Themes!** How do I change **Fonts** and have alternate **Text formats** for each?*

...You don't. This is Windows; not a Pinball machine. Just the facts, man.

*What clever thing(s) can the **Tire Gauge** do?*

...How about a removable toad? Click *Detach Towed Vehicle*. Alternate Toad and Spare Tire, selectable and moveable is coming up: v4.1 Yep! :-]

*Can I use **Ringtones** off my phone for alarms and sounds?*

...Use .wav or .MP3 files at will. Sorry iThing users, we don't do DRM for a noise. Note: Create a Preflight Checklist, reading it aloud whilst and recording. Have it 'Alarm' on startup.

What **Pictures** can I use as a gauge?

... **.BMPs** –For now; we're working out a **Jpeg** option for...wait for it... v4.1

Reduce the actual picture size to 800x600 or smaller. A 22MB piccy will not work.

*How do I **export** my entire setup when my Computer is dying?*

...In principal, Copy the VMSPc4.0 Folder to a **thumb drive**. Back it up often. Paste it onto the C: drive of the new box. A One click *Backup-My-Stuff* option is coming...soon...in v4.1

*Is 2 or 3-finger **resizing** coming soon?*

...no. Sorry. We like the idea—but the needed coding-hours required are just not doable.

*Where's the **Tachometer**?*

...Look, instead, for **Engine Speed [Tachometer.]** Long story and, no, I'm not telling it.

Who wrote this snarky FAQ, anyway?

...Those folks in Documentation Central who wish time allowed for squeezing in EVERY feature you asked for this last year. Keep the ideas coming! Your plethora of neat examples and blue-sky 'what-if's' are wallpapering the place—*its nuts!* And be sure to keep an eye out for... <wait for it> ... v4.1 !