EZ-Tap Quick-Start Guide

Driver Installation

Please visit http://www.stratusengineering.com/Downloads.html to download the latest copy of this file, EZ-Tap drivers and installation guide for your operating system. The typical user will unzip the driver files into a directory on his/her hard drive and use the Windows hardware installation wizard to complete the install. If this does not work for you, refer to the instructions in the appropriate driver installation guide for help. Once the EZ-Tap driver has been correctly installed, EZ-Tap will be shown as 2 sequentially numbered COM ports under Windows Device Manager.

RS232 Monitor Application

EZ-Tap uses the receive channel from each of 2 USB COM ports to capture RS232 passively capture bidirectional RS232 data. There are several software options you can use to acquire and display with EZ-Tap.

Option 1 – Windows RS232 Terminal Program (eg. Hyperterminal)

Perhaps the simplest software option is to use a simple terminal program such as Hyperterminal to capture the RS232 data traffic. With this approach you open 2 instances of the terminal program and assign one of the 2 EZ-Tap COM ports to each. Be sure to set up the correct COM parameters (baud rate, etc.). The RS232 traffic will then be displayed in the terminal windows as it is transmitted.

Option 2 – Third-Party RS232 Monitor Programs

Another option is to use one of the many commercially available third party RS232 monitor programs. Most of these programs are designed to work with a custom passive tap cable and 2 com ports. EZ-Tap is fully compatible with this mode of operation – simply assign the EZ-Tap COM ports in the program's COM port settings.

Option 3 – Use the EZ-View RS232 Monitor Program

Stratus Engineering's EZ-View RS232 Monitor program is the best software solution for applications that demand higher performance. EZ-View bypasses the Windows virtual COM port layer and interfaces directly to EZ-Tap hardware for low latency access.

Option 4 – Develop Custom software using the EZ-Tap Windows API

For users requiring more sophisticated data extraction and analysis Stratus Engineering provides the EZ-Tap API, a Windows-DLL that allows the user to develop custom software that interfaces directly with EZ-Tap. The EZ-Tap API interfaces directly to EZ-Tap hardware for low latency access and provides sub-millisecond data time tagging.