

Application Note

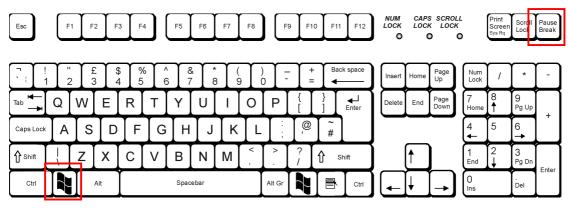
iCore - Quick Start Guide

Introduction

iCore is the software package used to monitor, configure and control all Ti Series components. This application note assumes that the devices are all connected to the computer as required, and the software is installed and ready to use. For details of how to connect the devices to the computer and suitable interfaces, please see the operator manuals.

Going on-line for the first time

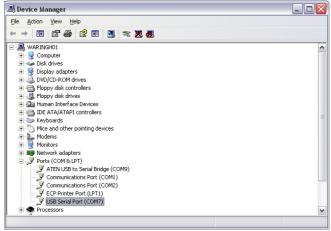
Having physically connected all devices to the computer through a suitable RS485 converter, and installed the software successfully, we now need to check the virtual COM port that the converter is using so we can match this with the COM port in ICORE. With the converter plugged in (the COM port won't show up if the converter isn't connected!) use the shortcut of the Windows key on your keyboard + the Pause/Break key to bring up the System properties window:





Press BOTH keys together! Alternatively you can get to the same place through $start \Rightarrow Settings \Rightarrow Control Panel \Rightarrow System$

Press the "Hardware" tab and then "Device Manager". This will bring up a window with a list of all hardware subsections of your computer, including the COM ports. Expand the section entitled "Ports" and locate the USB-Serial adapter. The COM port number it has been assigned is in brackets after the name.





Make an note of this port number and then, open ICORE.

Expand the window to fill your screen and then, from the menus, choose Tools \Rightarrow Options, and select the Comms tab.



Make sure the COM port number selected from the drop down list matches the one discovered earlier.

The baud rate must remain at 57600 to ensure compatibility with all connected devices.



The safest method of connection to avoid accidentally changing any device settings is to select "Retrieve settings from units" as this will upload all amplifier(s) properties and parameters to the computer.

Having selected the COM port, this window may now be closed by clicking OK. We can now scan for connected devices and build up a list of all units on the network. Either select Tools ⇒ Autoscan, or press the button on the toolbar.



As each device has a unique serial number IC built in, there is no need to worry about setting ID numbers. An intelligent algorithm is used in conjunction with all devices, so we don't need to check each number individually. (There are over 200 million possible IDs!)

None the less, the entire process will take approximately 90 seconds to complete. As the search continues, the device view should begin to fill up with connected units. When complete, depending on what's connected of course, there should now be a "rack" of devices like this:



Layout of the Main Window

A double click on any device will display its "front panel" for editing of audio properties. Non-audio properties are shown in the "Properties Window" on the right hand side of the main window.





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In the example on the last page, all devices are off-line, as shown by the red indicator by each unit in the Device View and the System Monitor view. When connected and on-line, the indicators will be green. A yellow flashing indicator means there is a problem – hover over the device in question to see a tool tip explaining what is wrong.

Before looking at the details of an amplifier's controls and properties, here are a few general pointers about using the software:

- ✓ The last saved file can automatically by opened when the software is started by setting the option in the Tools ⇒ Options ⇒ General tab.
- ✓ Settings can be copied between units either using the buttons on the toolbar (which uses the currently selected amplifier) or by using the right-click context menu on the unit's "front panel" or in the Device View.
- ✓ The Global Mute works from either the toolbar, menu, or by pressing 'Ctrl+M' on the keyboard.
- ✓ The error log is stored to a file called "Logfile.txt" which is stored in the same directory as the program executable file.

Remember to save your system before closing ICORE to avoid having to rescan the system every time you open the software. All window positions, zones, and screen layouts (so positions of the Device View, Properties and System Monitor) are also saved.



Reorganising the Main Window

To move inner windows about, pick them up by their title bar:



For example, to move the properties window and re-dock it, pick up the properties window by its title bar and begin to drag it. This will make a number of docking option anchors appear – these look like this:



Drop the window on one of the anchors to dock it in the new position, as shown above. Similarly, the system monitor window can be docked either top or bottom of the main window, and either fully across this window, or bracketed by the device view and/or properties window.



The device view and properties windows can be combined into a single tabbed window by picking either up and dragging it directly onto the other window where a new anchor will appear.



To separate out the windows again, just click on the tab of the window and drag and drop it as required to select a new position.



Windows can also be left floating by dragging them from their current positions and just dropping them on the main background.



Auto-hiding Windows

All inner windows can be set to "auto-hide", so they disappear into the edge of the main window when not required to maximise available screen area, but make them quickly available if necessary.



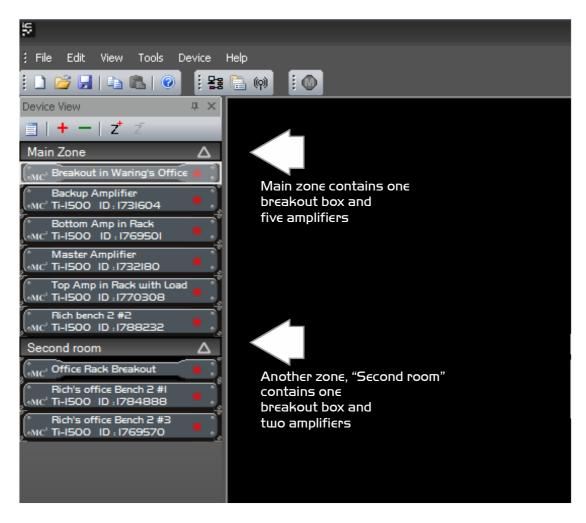
Remember, if any windows have been closed they can be reinstated through the menu View \Rightarrow Toolbars and Docking Windows.



Zoning Devices

The zones shown in the Device View and System Monitor windows allows groups of devices to be logically arranged to reflect their physical locations more accurately than just one large list of units.

The example below has different amplifiers (and breakout boxes) split into two zones, and the units reordered to make it easier to locate them on screen.



Things to know about zones:

- ✓ There's always a master (main) zone, which you can never get rid of.
- ✓ New zones can be added using the Z+ button at the top of the rack view.
- ✓ Devices can be moved into new zones just by clicking on them and dragging them to the required zone. They can also be reordered within a zone like this.
- ✓ Zones can be renamed by double clicking on their names.
- \checkmark Zone can be expanded and collapsed using the \triangle in the zone header.
- ✓ Files will remember the zone layouts including expand/collapse status when you save them.

