

Importing AEMC Model 3950 Power Analyzer Data into your PC

This application note describes how to transfer information from the AEMC Model 3950 Power Analyzer to a PC for downloading into Windows software. The measurement information can be easily transferred in ASCII format to a PC using standard software programs. This application note will describe how to transfer the measured information into Windows software, such as Excel or Word.

The True RMS Power Analyzer Model 3950 is a fully programmable, high accuracy instrument which measures, displays, and records electrical values critical for analyzing demand, consumption, and operating values in single phase, three phase, balanced and unbalanced systems. Data is displayed on the alphanumeric LCD, and stored in memory for output to a printer or computer through the RS-232-C interface.

The information can be easily transferred in ASCII format to a PC using readily available software programs through a 9 pin DB to 9 pin DB interface connector.

After transferring the data to a PC, the information can be imported into spreadsheets to graph it, analyze it, or pasted for report writing.

Setting the Communication Parameters

In Microsoft Windows select the accessories icon and within that window select "Terminal". Under

Settings, select communications, and select the following communication parameters:

- Baud Rate=1200
- Data bits=7
- Stop Bits=1
- Parity=even
- Flow Control=none
- Comm. Port = Number of comm. port you are connected to

The Model 3950 can download data in several modes through the serial RS-232-C port

1. Print mode: either autoprnt or manual print mode
2. Data logger: prints data that has been previously recorded and held in the internal memory.
3. RS-232-C set points: transfers data whenever one of the eight set point options has been exceeded.

The data transfer protocol remains the same regardless of the method of downloading from the instrument.

Transferring the Data

1. Connect the DB-9 connector of the interface cable to an unused serial port on your PC, and connect the other end to the RS-232-C connector on the Model 3950.
2. After connecting the Model 3950 to the host computer, select using the keyswitch either "RUN" to download information using the "PRINT" or "RS-232-C set points" or to "READ MEMORY" for memory download.
3. Start the file transfer on your PC communication software using the Terminal program. This is done by selecting "receive text file" under "Transfers" on the menu bar. Enter the file name under which you plan to save your data, then select OK.
4. Select either "enter" with the keyswitch to "read memory" to download stored data, or "Print" to download measuring data.

Importing Data into Spreadsheet Programs

The ASCII data is automatically stored in a .TXT format. This format is compatible with spreadsheet programs such as Microsoft Excel and Lotus 123.

To load the data into your spreadsheet, open the file you created. Follow your spreadsheets procedures for specifying the file type (.TXT). The spreadsheet will automatically store one measured value per cell.

The data can now be manipulated using standard spreadsheet commands. Refer to the User's Guide for your spreadsheet program to learn how to graph and perform other operations on your data.

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