

VESDA[®]

Technical Tip

Upgrade of the VLF-250 to support VESDA^{net} Interface Card

Overview

This Technical Tip contains information on how to upgrade a LaserFOCUS VLF-250 (“VLF-250”) so that it can be networked using a VESDA^{net} Interface Card (“VN Card”).

NOTE: There are restrictions on this process –please read this document carefully prior to site installation.

The VLF-250 uses software to hold and process configuration data that has been entered during commissioning. To ensure that this configuration data is able to be accessed by the VN Card and is not lost during the upgrade it is essential that this Technical Tip be carefully followed.

Purpose:

- Field upgrade of a VESDA LaserFOCUS VLF-250 to support a VESDA^{net} Interface Card.

See also

- VESDA LaserFOCUS VLF-250 Product Guide
- VESDA^{net} Card Product Guide
- VESDA^{net} Interface Card Installation Sheet

Software Upgrade

The original firmware (V1.00.00) installed on the VLF does not support the new VN Card and has to be upgraded before the VLF can correctly use the VN Card.

Upgrading will also allow the VLF to communicate with the latest version of the VESDA System Configurator software ("VSC").

How can I check what version of firmware is installed?

Any VLF manufactured with the serial number 222415 and higher has VESDAnet card compatibility. This has been introduced from the 1st April 2005. You can check the manufacturing date on the *Ratings and Approvals* label, which can be found on the bottom side of the VLF.

You can confirm that V1 is still installed by:

- I. Testing if you can connect to the detector using VSC V2.03.01 (or earlier). Connection indicates the version of firmware is running.
- II. Testing if you can connect to the detector using VSC V2.04.01 (or later). No connection indicates that V1 version of firmware is running.

Tools required to upgrade:

1. A laptop
2. A blade screwdriver
3. A RS232 cable long enough to reach from the VLF to the laptop
4. A copy of VSC **Version 2.03.01 or earlier** installed. This is available as a free download from http://www.vesda.com/VLF_Upgrade.html. It is recommended that you ensure the installable for Version 2.03.01 is securely located on your laptop as it may be required if more than one detector is to be upgraded.
5. A copy of the **Firmware Upgrade Kit**. This is also available as a free download from <http://www.vesda.com/protected/vlfupgradekit.zip>
6. A copy of **VSC Version 2.04.01 or later** as an installable. **This is not to be installed until required during the installation process.** Version 2.04.01 (or later) is available as a free download from http://www.vesda.com/VLF_Upgrade.html

Note: Installation of VSC Version 2.04.01 requires de-installation of the earlier version. You must have a copy of both Version 2.03.01 and 2.04.01 on your laptop before going to site as re-installation may be required.

Note: Prior to any work or maintenance being carried out on the detector take the necessary steps to advise the monitoring authority that power may be removed and the system disabled.

Software Upgrade Process

The stages to be performed are:

- A. Copy the VLF configuration information and event log using VSC V2.03.01
If you have not configured the VLF (or do not wish to keep the configuration details) you can skip this stage.
- B. Run the Upgrade Tool.
- C. Re-load the detector configuration onto the VLF. This stage is required only if you performed step 1.
- D. Physically install the VN Card to the VLF.

Stage A – Configuring your PC

1. Push the security tab and lift up the field service access door of the VLF using the screwdriver.
2. Connect the RS232 cable between the laptop and detector.

Caution: During this upgrade the laptop and VLF-250 MUST NOT lose power or become disconnected. Disconnection or power loss may cause the Application Loader Firmware to become corrupt and require the VLF-250 detector to be returned to the Vision Systems for servicing. Accordingly, it is recommended that the laptop is securely powered and has a fully charged battery. As the RS232 port on the VLF-250 does NOT utilize locking screws, ensure that the cable is secure.

Saving VLF Configuration and Event Log Information

If you do not wish to keep the configuration or event log details you can skip the rest of this stage, and go on to stage B “Upgrading the VLF”

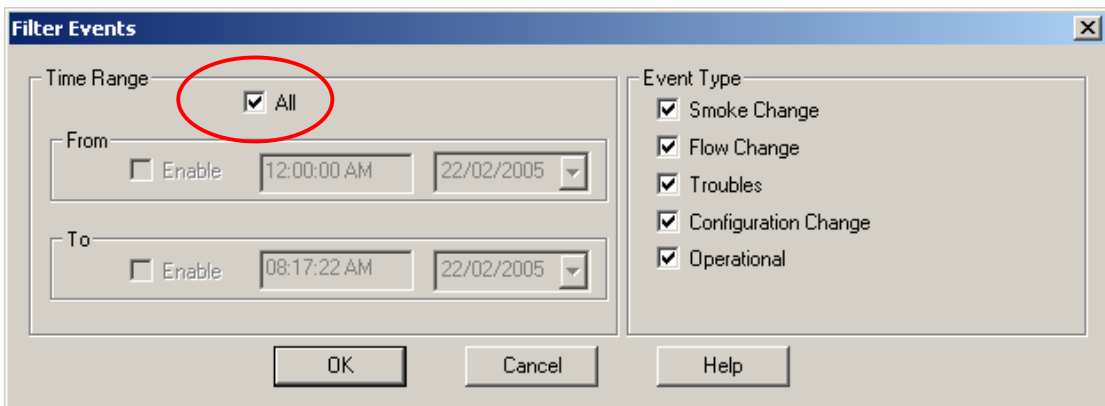
If you need to upgrade more than one VLF, we recommend you *Save the VLF Configuration and Event Log Information* of all VLF detectors before proceeding to stage B.

3. Run VSC Version 2.03.01 or earlier.
4. Connect to the VLF using the **Connection | Connect and View** command. You may need to configure VESDAtalk for the COM port used e.g. COM1. VESDAtalk is the direct VSC serial interface communication to the VLF detector.
5. Select **File | Save As**.
6. Enter a name for the Configuration file and click **OK**.

You have now stored a copy of the VLF-250 configuration information.

The upgrade process will erase the current event log stored in the detector. To save the event log for later analysis, perform the following steps.

7. In VSC, select **View | Event Log**
8. You will be required to log on to the VLF
9. Once logged on, VSC will prompt you for the events to retrieve from the device. Select **All**, then **OK**



10. VSC will start downloading the event log from the VLF. When the record count at the bottom of the Event log window stops incrementing the download is complete.

Date / Time	Trouble Id	Event Type	Message	State	Source	User
09/12/2004 01:02:16 AM		User	Detector set to Disable		External	
09/12/2004 01:02:13 AM	129	Trouble	Trouble: 129 Test fault (Major)			
09/12/2004 01:02:13 AM		User	Test: Fault Level: Major Fault	Start		
09/12/2004 01:01:40 AM		Alarm	Alarm changed to Fire 1			
09/12/2004 01:01:40 AM		Alarm	Alarm changed to Action			
09/12/2004 01:01:40 AM		Alarm	Alarm changed to Alert			
09/12/2004 01:01:40 AM		Value change	Smoke change (0): 2.000 %/m (reference 0.000 %/m)			

Ready | 2883 events | Administrator

11. Select **File | Save As**.
12. Enter a name for the Event Log file (the file type should be vevt) and click **OK**.

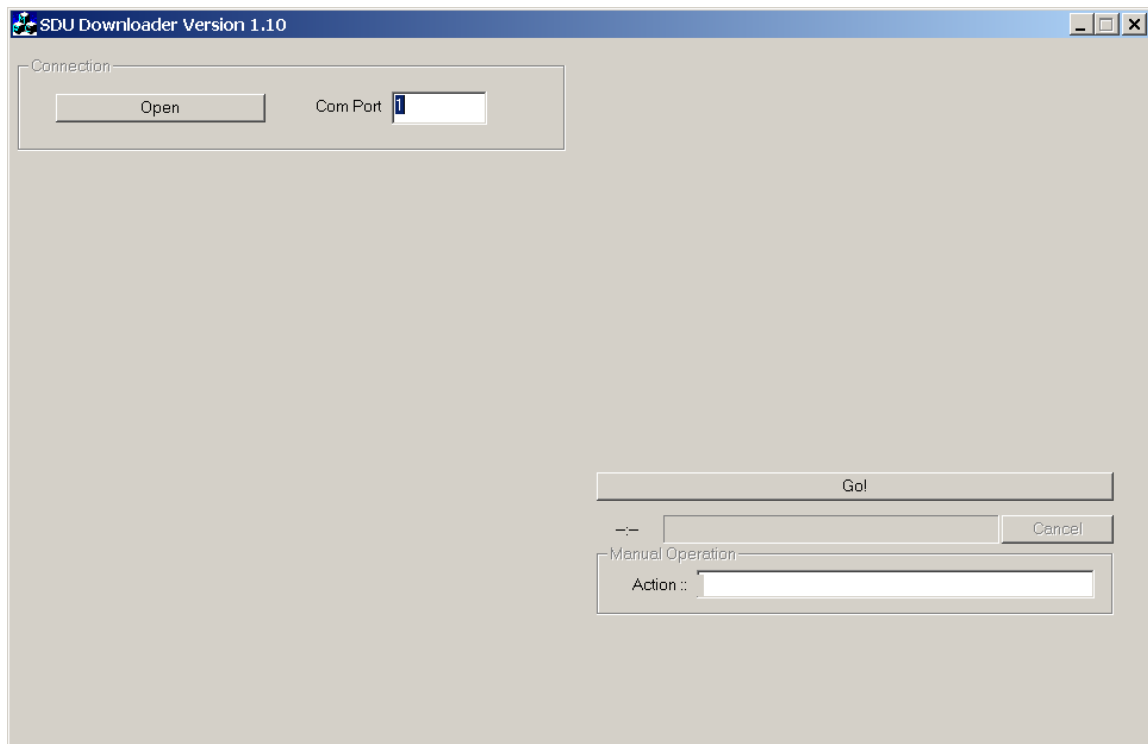
You have now stored a copy of the VLF event log.

13. Exit VSC.

If you are intending to upgrade a number of VLF at the same site, it is recommended that you perform Stage A on all detectors on site before proceeding with Stage B and C.

Stage B – Upgrading the VLF

14. Extract the contents of the **Upgrade Kit** into an empty directory such as c:\vesda.
15. Run **SDUDownloader.exe** once extracted from the appropriate directory and accept the licence. The SDU Downloader window shall appear.
16. Click on the Connection panel **Open** button and use the COM port as in step 4.



17. Click the **GO** button.
18. The SDUDownloader application will show progress as the upgrade is taking place. This will take about 6 minutes to complete. During this time you will notice all the display segments on the VLF250 light up momentarily a number of times. This is normal. When the upgrade is complete, the interface above will show under the Go! button, **SCRIPT FINISHED**.

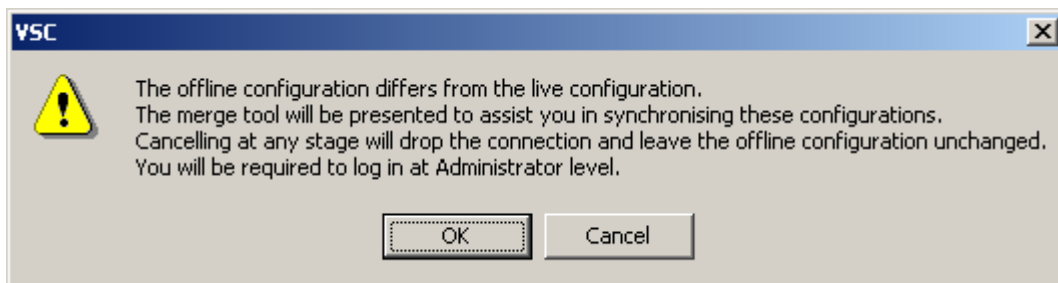
You have now upgraded the software on the VLF250.

Step C – Restoring the configuration (if required)

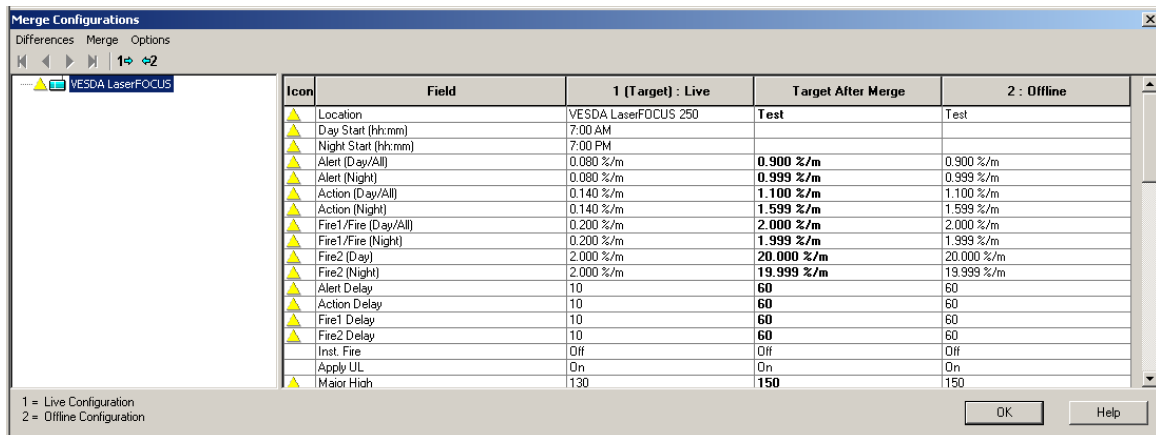
If configuration information has not been copied for the VLF in Stage A you do not need to perform this stage.

19. Uninstall VSC Version 2.03.01 using Windows commands **Start | Settings | Control Panel | Add/Remove Programs**.
20. Install VSC version 2.04.02 or later
21. Run VSC and select **File | Open File...** and select the file you saved in step 5
22. VSC will advise you that the configuration you are loading is for an unsupported version of the device. Ignore the warning and click **OK**
23. Select **Connection | Connect** and select the same serial port as in step 4.
24. Log onto the VLF with the **Administrator** password.

25. VSC will notify you if there are differences between the live (currently installed) and offline (stored in Stage A) configuration information.



26. The **Merge Configuration** dialog will appear.



27. Select **OK** to merge the information (stored in stage A) back onto the VLF

You have now restored the configuration data back onto the VLF-250.

To verify the changes, open VSC and double-click on the LaserFOCUS to open the property pages, then check the configuration details.

You have now completed the software upgrade process, and can now physically install the VN Card to the VLF.

Stage D – Installing the VN Card

See *Installation of a VN Card into a VLF* instructions, which are provided with the VN Card product.

Once the VN Card is installed and 24VDC power reconnected it will take a while for the VLF to establish communications, and update the VN Card. You should wait 2 minutes before attempting to connect to the VLF via the VN Card.

Assistance

If you have any queries regarding the upgrade process please contact your authorized Vision Systems representative.

The manufacturer reserves the right to change designs or specifications without obligation and without further notice. VESDA, LaserTEKNIC, LaserPLUS, LaserSCANNER, LaserCOMPACT, LaserFOCUS, VESDAnet, VESDALink, ASPIRE, ASPIRE2, AutoLearn, VSM, VConfig, InfoWORKS, PROACTIV, PRECISION, VSC, ADPRO, FastTrace, FastVu, FastScan, Axiom, PRO, Amux and Video Central are trade marks used under licence by the distributor. " This document is protected by copyright under the laws of Australia and other jurisdictions throughout the world. It must not by any means, either in whole or part, be reproduced, communicated to the public, adapted, distributed, sold, modified, published except as permitted by any laws or statute or with prior written consent of VFS International Pty Ltd. Copyright© 2004 VFS International Pty Ltd ACN 100 259 381

Document Number: 11115_04

Last Updated 16 May. 05

Australia and Asia

Vision Fire & Security
495 Blackburn Road
Mount Waverley VIC 3149
Australia
Ph +61 3 9211 7200
Fax +61 3 9211 7201
www.vesda.com

Europe & The Middle East

Vision Fire & Security
Vision House
Focus 31 Mark Road
Hemel Hempstead
Herts HP2 7BW UK
Ph +44 1442 242 330
Fax +44 1442 242 330
www.vesda.com

The Americas

Vision Fire & Security
700 Longwater Drive
Norwell, MA 02061, USA
Ph +1 781 740 2223
Toll Free 800 229 4434
Fax +1 781 740 4433
www.vesda.com