

Mobile Field Service MeterPC Software: Overview and Installation Instructions

Configuring the Computer

The program used to connect the computer to the Pocket PC for Windows XP is called Active Sync. For Windows Vista, Windows Mobile Device Center is used. These are Microsoft programs and full support for them can be found on the support section of the Microsoft website.

Included in the software package that you receive is the software for Active Sync 4.5, which is the latest version available at the time of this MeterPC release. You may wish to check the Microsoft website for available updates.

DO NOT PLUG IN THE POCKET PC TO THE COMPUTER

- 1) Open the MeterPC software CD
- 2) Select the 'Active Sync 4.5' folder
- 3) Double click on 'setup.msi' to run the program
- 4) Follow the on-screen instructions

Synchronizing the Computer and the Pocket PC

Once Active Sync/ Windows Mobile Device Center is installed, plug in the Pocket PC cradle into the USB port of your computer. Place the Pocket PC in the cradle.

Your computer will go through a series of internal steps to recognize the hardware and then give a message stating that the hardware has been installed.

- 1) If Active Sync does not start automatically when you connect the Pocket PC, you can open it by clicking on the small green icon with two white circling arrows in the task bar
- 2) When the Pocket PC is setup by El Dorado Softworld, a unique name, reflecting the name of your company, is assigned to the device for identification purposes. You will see the Pocket PC name shown when you synchronize
- 3) The first time Active Sync runs you will be asked to select synchronization options
- 4) You may decide to synchronize e-mail, notes etc, but the only necessary sync option is the 'Folder' option
- 5) Once the folder option is selected, you will see a sync folder shortcut created on your desktop. The shortcut links to a folder which is created in 'My Documents'. This folder allows you to easily move files back and forth between the computer and the handheld device. It is this folder that we will use to import and export the data file for meter reading data
- 6) Complete the synchronization following the on screen instructions

Running the '.Net Framework 2' Program

The .Net Framework is another Microsoft program, which allows the MeterPC application to run and synchronize between the handheld and the computer. It adds necessary components to both the Pocket PC and the Computer.

- 1) Open the 'Microsoft Redistributable CFV2SP1' folder
- 2) Double click on the 'NETCFSetupv2.msi' file to run it
- 3) Allow the installation to complete and restart the computer and handheld if needed

Loading the MeterPC Interface for ELDSOFT 2006

The Interface software is a module which seamlessly links in to your billing software to allow customer information and meter readings to be imported and exported to and from the billing software.

- 1) Open the folder 'MeterPC Interface Install'
- 2) Double click on 'MeterPCInstall.exe' to open the installation program
- 3) If you are running an older version of ELDSOFT 2006 (Pre V1.4.x) you should upgrade the software to the latest version by clicking 'Upgrade ELDSOFT 2006 Billing Software'. If you are uncertain about the version you are running please contact Technical Support
- 4) The Interface Module will only install automatically to the default installation location of the billing software. If you are running a network or the default path shown is not where the billing software is located then please contact Technical Support for assistance
- 5) Click on 'Install Handheld Interface'
- 6) The handheld module and 'User's Guide' for the MeterPC module will be installed to your computer

Locating the Pocket PC Interface in the ELDSOFT 2006 Software

- 1) Open ELDSOFT 2006 and sign in as you usually would
- 2) On the File Menu Bar at the top of the Main Menu screen click 'Misc Tasks'
- 3) You will notice that there is a new option available, 'Data Collector Interface'
- 4) Click on 'Data Collector Interface' to open the handheld module
- 5) Full instructions for using the interface and the MeterPC software can be located by clicking on the 'Help' button (displays a '?' icon). You should read this documentation fully before using the MeterPC data collection system on live customer data!

Quick Tutorial: Locating and Placing MeterPC Data File for Import and Export of Data

More detailed instructions and information are given in the help documentation found in the ELDSOFT 2006 Software, Handheld Module Interface screen. You should read this fully before using the MeterPC data collection system on live customer data!

Here are a few simple concepts to remember.

- 1) The data file is transferred between the handheld device and the computer using the synchronization folder created by Active Sync
- 2) The data file will have the file extension '.mpc'
- 3) The exported file will have the export file creation date as part of it's file name, by default, so that it can be easily identified
- 4) The MeterPC data files should be placed in the 'MeterPC_Data' folder on the Pocket PC so that they can be located easily

The most important thing to remember is that YOU have control over the location of the data file

- 1) When exporting records from ELDSOFT 2006, save the file either in the default location (that comes up automatically in the 'Save' window), or select a location on your computer where you can find the file easily. You can even chose to export the data file directly to the 'MeterPC_Data' folder in the synchronisation folder, in the 'My Documents' folder
- 2) Once the Pocket PC is connected to the computer the data file will be copied to the Pocket PC from the synchronisation folder
- 3) The newly transferred data file will now be available to open from the MeterPC software on the handheld
- 4) Remove the Pocket PC from the cradle and delete the data file from the synchronisation folder once you are sure that the file has transferred correctly to the Pocket PC (this will ensure that the old and the update files do not have a conflict)

DATA ENTERED INTO THE HANDHELD DEVICE IS WRITTEN DIRECTLY TO THE DATA FILE THAT YOU OPEN IN METERPC. IT WILL BECOME THE EXPORT FILE CONTAINING METER READINGS BROUGHT BACK INTO ELDSOFT 2006. YOU MUST REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATA FILE REGULARLY IN METERPC, OR SELECT AUTO SAVE IN THE METERPC FILE MENU

- 5) Once the meter readings have all been collected, place the Pocket PC back on the cradle connected to the computer to begin synchronisation
- 6) The updated file containing your meter readings will be copied back to the synchronisation folder on your computer. If you want, you can move this file to a different location on your computer before importing the data into ELDSOFT 2006 (It is useful to do this if you want to keep backups or logs of meter readings for future reference)
- 7) The MeterPC interface in the ELDSOFT 2006 software can 'pick up' the data file anywhere on your computer using the browser in the interface

EACH TIME YOU WANT TO READ METERS YOU SHOULD CREATE A NEW DATA FILE FROM ELDSOFT 2006. DO NOT USE THE FILE FROM THE LAST READING CYCLE TO COLLECT NEW READINGS. CUSTOMER DATA MAY HAVE CHANGED IN THE BILLING SOFTWARE AND WILL NOT BE REFLECTED IN THE OLD DATA FILE WHICH MAY CAUSE DATA INCONSISTENCY

Loading the MeterPC Software on your Pocket PC Device

Your Pocket PC should arrive with software pre-loaded, however, in the event that the device has to be reformatted the following instructions should be followed in order to reload the MeterPC software to the PocketPC:

- 1) Ensure that the MeterPC is synchronising correctly with the computer and that the synchronisation folder has been created on the computer. We will be transferring installation files to the Pocket PC
- 2) Open a window to the Pocket PC synchronization folder
- 3) You will see folders such as 'Business', 'Templates', 'Personal'
- 4) Open the MeterPC software CD
- 5) Select the 'MeterPC Software' folder
- 6) Copy the 'MeterPC_Data' folder and its contents and paste them into the open Pocket PC folder (this contains a test file and will be the location of subsequent data files)
- 7) Open the 'Business' folder
- 8) Create a new folder called 'MeterPC'
- 9) Copy the following files:
 - a. 'MeterPCCAB.CAB'
 - b. 'MeterPCCAB.inf'
 - c. 'NETCFv2.ppc.armv4.cab'
- 10) Paste the three files into the MeterPC folder on the Pocket PC
- 11) Once synchronisation is complete and the files have been copied to the Pocket PC open the 'Business' -> 'MeterPC' folder and double click on the 'MeterPCCAB.CAB' file
- 12) The MeterPC program will automatically install
- 13) Once installation is complete open the start menu on the main screen of the Pocket PC
- 14) Select 'Programs' -> 'File Explorer' and double click on the MeterPC program
- 15) Once the MeterPC program has been accessed in this way you should see a shortcut created on the 'Start' menu which can be used in the future

Note:

If the MeterPC program does not open, or gives an error message, it may be necessary to re-run the 'NETCFSetupv2.msi' file. See instructions above. Select modify when prompted for the type of installation if the framework is already installed on the computer. Make sure that all components in the checklist are checked for install.