

# PocketHMI for AB PLCs

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**User's Guide**

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## **Overview**

The pocketHMI for AB is a software application for Palm Computing devices that provides connectivity to Allen-Bradley MicroLogix and SLC family programmable logic controllers (PLCs) via serial connections. Using the pocketHMI application, the user can connect to the DF1 channel 0 serial connection on the PLC and read/write memory file locations and monitor points on a continuous basis. The pocketHMI software provides you with the data monitoring and simple troubleshooting capability that used to require you to carry a laptop computer and programming software out to the control panel.

## **System Requirements and Supported Palm and PLC Hardware**

User will need a Palm Computing platform device supporting the Palm OS version 2.x or higher. This includes the Palm III, IIIe, IIIx, V, VII, and the Handspring Visor devices that are also using the Palm Operating System (OS).

The user should also be familiar with the basic operation of a Palm device, the use of the stylus, the main buttons on the Palm screen, and accessing, menus, etc in Palm based applications. If you are not familiar with these things, we recommend you review the documentation that came with your Palm device.

We expect that you know how to use the Palm Desktop Install Tool to add applications to your Palm Pilot. If you do not know how, please refer to the documentation that came with your hardware as this is a skill you'll need to know eventually to add other tools to your unit besides this one.

To install the product, put the pocketHMI-ab.prc file on your computer in a place where you wish to keep it. Then use the Palm Install Tool to add the application like any other. The next time you hotsynch, the product will be installed on your unit.

If you want to communicate to an AB PLC, you will need to have a standard 3COM Palm Hotsynch cable. This cable connects to the synch port on your Palm device and provides a 9 pin female serial connector.

Currently, the pocketHMI for AB supports SLC 500 and Micrologix family PLCs from Allen-Bradley.

### **SLC 500 Family PLCs**

For SLC 5/03 and 5/04 CPUs, you can plug the Palm Hotsynch cable directly into the DF1 channel 0 port.

For SLC family PLCs older than 5/03's (i.e. a 5/01 or 5/02), you will need the appropriate AB hardware to provide a DF1 channel 0 connection, as those PLCs only have a

proprietary DH-485 port on them.(even though it looks like a 9 pin com port, it is not that!). This includes the 1747-KE module or 1770-KF3 interface along with the 1747-AIC Isolated link coupler. Refer to your AB documentation for information on the hardware needed to get a DF1 serial connection to SLC's older than an SLC 5/03.

Adapter cables for 1747-KE and 1770-KF3 to connect from the Palm hotsync cable to the DF1 channel 0 ports on those interface units:

Connect to Palm Hotsync Cable	Connect to KF3
9 Pin Male	25 Pin Female
2 – RD	2 – TD
3 – TD	3 – RD
8 – CTS	4 – RTS
7 – RTS	5 – CTS
4 – DTR	8 – DCD 6 – DSR
6 – DSR	20 – DTR
5 – GND	7 – GND

Connect to Palm Hotsync Cable	Connect to 1747-KE
9 Pin Male	9 Pin Female
2 – RD	3 – TD
3 – TD	2 – RD
8 – CTS	7 – RTS
7 – RTS	8 – CTS
4 – DTR	6 – DSR
6 – DSR	4 – DTR
5 – GND	5 – GND

### **MicroLogix Family PLCs**

MicroLogix PLCs are supported except for revision A series CPUs which are some very early versions that although the pocketHMI works, you cannot access I and O data tables.

For the MicroLogix family, the PLCs use a special connector type for their programming port rather than a standard 9-pin and 25-pin RS-232D connector. You will need your MicroLogix programming cable (AB Part # 1761-CBL-PM02 Series B), which connects the PLC via the special connector and provides a standard 9 pin female RS-232 connector. To connect this programming cable to your Palm Hotsync cable, it is necessary to cross the transmit and receive lines and RTS/CTS signals. This is accomplished using either a null modem cable or an adapter cable made as shown below. Most standard null modem cables handle the crossing of pins 2 and 3 (transmit/receive) and 7/8 (RTS/CTS) so you may not have to make this adapter.

9 pin Male to Male Cable for MicroLogix PLCs - this cable plugs in the 9 pin female end of your Hotsynch cable and then into the 9 pin female end of your MicroLogix programming cable.

Connect to Palm Hotsync Cable	Connect to end of Micrologix Programming cable
9 Pin Male	9 Pin Female
2 – RD	3 – TD
3 – TD	2 – RD
5 – GND	5 – GND
8 – CTS	7 – RTS
7 – RTS	8 – CTS

## Supported PLC Addresses

Whether in Keypad or Monitor Mode, the following Allen-Bradley file types are supported in this release:

- Integer - N
- Bit - B
- Timer - T
- Counter - C
- Input - I
- Output - O
- Float - F (SLC 5/04, 5/05 only)
- Control - R
- Status - S

Keep in mind that your particular AB hardware may not have all of these data types -- for example, Floats are only available in some higher model SLC family PLC hardware.

Timer Counter Subelements - the .ACC and .PRE subelements are supported in this release

Individual Bit Addressing - individual bit addressing is supported in the format B3:0/2 where 2 is the bit #, 0 is the word # and 3 is the file number. However, absolute Bit addressing - i.e. B3/253 is not supported.

## Quick Start

Assuming you have met this system requirements and are already used to using a Palm device and the menus, and stylus, these simple steps will get you up and connected to your Allen-Bradley PLC quickly.

1. Install the pockethmi-ab.prc file on your Palm unit using the Palm Install Tool provided with your hardware. If you are upgrading from a previous version of the pocketHMI-AB, please remove the older version from your Palm device before you install the newer version. Refer to your hardware documentation for instructions on removing applications from your Palm device.
2. The software will appear on the main menu in your Palm device with an icon "PocketHMI AB"
3. To run the software, tap on the icon - a registration dialogue will appear. You can register later. If you choose "Register Later", the software will run in a demo mode indefinitely. The demo mode limitation is that the software will only read the first address of each file type, regardless of what address you pick/enter. For example, if you enter N7:1, you will still only get the value of N7:0. To register, see "Registering the Software" in this document.
4. Setup communications for your PLC by using the stylus to click on the Palm menu icon and select "config comms". Configure the communications settings and PLC node address to match your PLC and use the "Test comms" button to verify communications.
5. Once you have communications setup and verified, you start out in the "Keypad Mode". To switch to "Monitor" mode, you can use the Palm Stylus to click on the Palm menu icon and select Monitor mode.

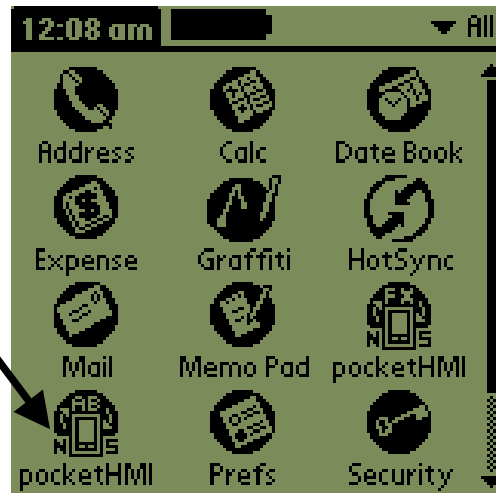
Refer to the appropriate sections of this manual for detailed instructions on setting up communications and using the Keypad and Monitor modes.

## Installing the Software

To install the software, copy all the files provided into a single directory on your hard drive. The product file for the software for your Palm device is named `pocketHMI-AB.prc`. To install the product onto your Palm device, you will use the Palm Desktop Install Tool. Refer to your Palm device documentation for help on installing applications if you do not already know how to do so.

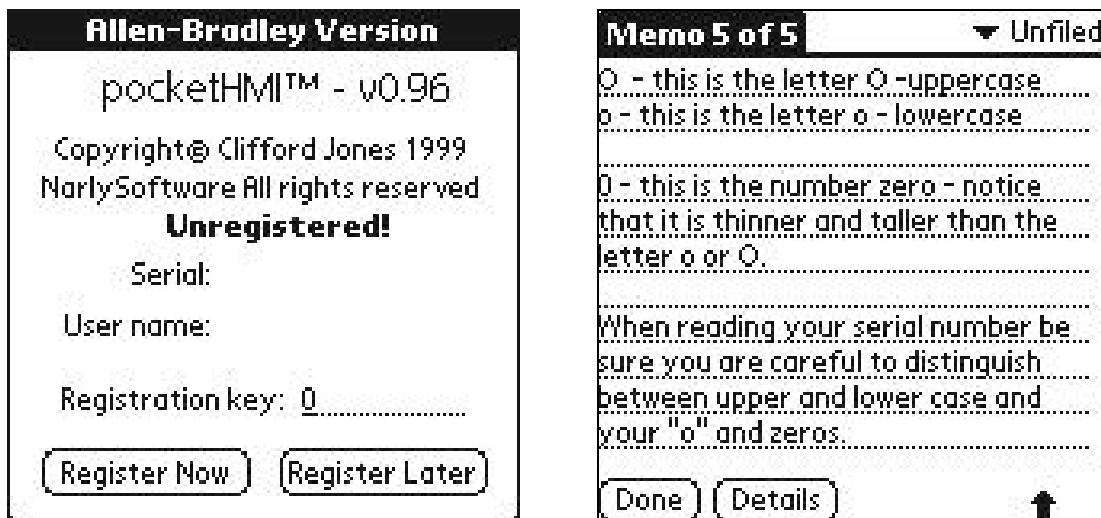
1. Run the Palm Desktop Install Tool (provided with your Palm device, not with the pocketHMI product)
2. Select the user profile for the pilot you are loading
3. Click add
4. Browse to the directory where `pocketHMI-AB.prc` is stored and select that file and click open.
5. Then exit the Install Tool
6. The next time you HotSync your Palm device with your computer the software will be installed on your Palm device and will appear on the Palm menu.

Sample screen showing the pocketHMI for AB installed:



## Registering the Software

When you register the pocketHMI software by purchasing your license key code, your software will be keyed to your Palm device. You may reinstall the software as many times as needed on the same Palm device and use the same license key code to enable the re-installed software. For this reason, please keep a written copy of your license key code in a safe place. If for some reason your Palm unit is destroyed or you are needing to move the application to another Palm unit, you will be required to sign a letter of destruction that certifies that the Palm device containing the software was destroyed or that you have removed the pocketHMI software from the other Palm device prior to requesting a new license key. We reserve the right to limit the number of license key transfers per purchase.



To register the software, tap on the Palm menu button and select Help→Register and the screen above will appear. Your device serial number and configured user name will be shown on the Serial and User Name fields.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** The serial number and user name are CASE SENSITIVE. So be SURE you record your serial number and user name CLEARLY so that when registering the software, we make sure we get you the code right the first time. Also, the Registration Key that we provide you is CASE SENSITIVE. Also, sometimes it's hard to tell the difference between the letter "O" and the number 0 - see the screen sample above where we show you what they look like on a Palm screen.

To obtain your registration key, email or fax the following information to Software Toolbox. You may use the form on the following page if you like.

PocketHMI-AB Registration Worksheet

Email: [Orders@softwaretoolbox.com](mailto:Orders@softwaretoolbox.com)

Fax: 1-704-587-9796

Phone: 1-704-587-9545

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone and Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Your order number and date of purchase \_\_\_\_\_

Serial number shown on the registration screen: \_\_\_\_\_

User Name shown on the registration screen: \_\_\_\_\_

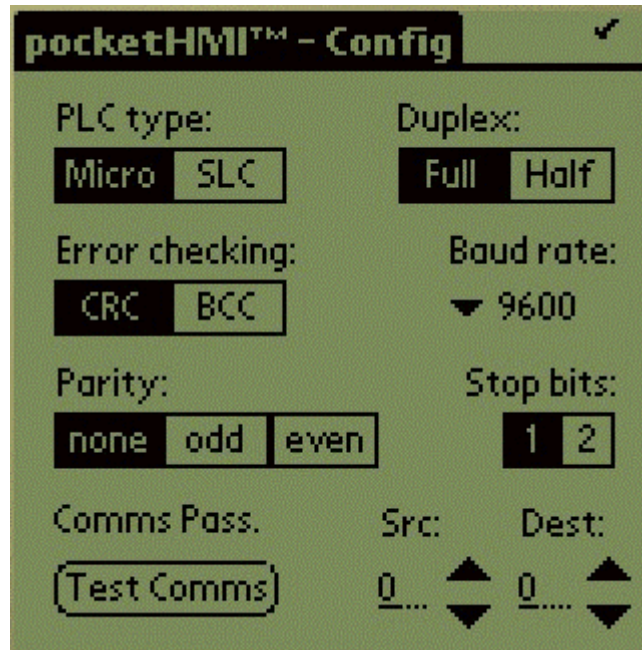
Your registration code: (record if we provide on the phone here)

\_\_\_\_\_

We will return to you a Registration key string. You will enter that string using Graffiti and then tap Register Now to register the software and unlock it for full functionality.

## Configuring Serial Communications to your PLC

To configure communications to the PLC, we have a communications configuration screen. To access the Communications Config screen, click on the Palm menu icon and then select Config Comms under the Tools menu. The following screen will appear.



Descriptions of the communication settings:

**PLC Type:** The AB MicroLogix (Micro) and SLC 500 families (SLC) are supported. Use this selection to set the PLC you are using. Currently all this setting does is setup some default communications parameters for you as for current purposes there are not any differences between the protocols on the Micro and SLC families.

**Duplex:** The Allen-Bradley DF1 protocol supports Full and Half duplex protocol settings. This must be set to match your PLC settings.

**Error Checking:** Allen-Bradley DF1 protocol supports two types of error checking - CRC and BCC - this setting must match the setting on your PLC. In general CRC is a better error checking method because it is a 16-bit error check whereas BCC is an 8 bit error check.

**Parity:** Must be set to match the parity setting on your PLC - None, Odd, or Even

**Baud Rate:** Must also be set to match the baud rate setting on your PLC. Valid settings are 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, and 19200.

**Stop Bits:** Sets the number of stop bits for the DF1 serial protocol -- must match the settings on your PLC. Valid settings are 1 or 2.

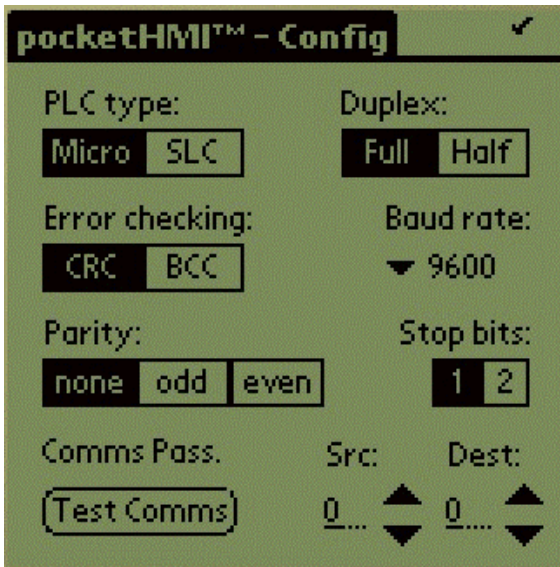
**Src:** Sets the DF1 node address of the Palm device on the DF1 serial connection. Make sure this value is different from the Dest setting! Not used on point-to-point communications – only used when connecting via a KF3 or KE interfaces.

**Dest:** Sets the DF1 node address of the PLC that you wish to communicate to. Not used on point-to-point communications – only used when connecting via a KF3 or KE interfaces.

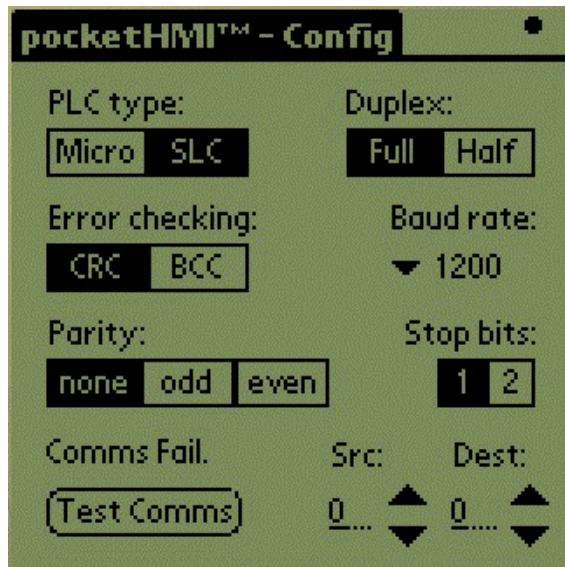
You can set the Src and Dest settings by either tapping the up/down arrows next to each setting or use Graffiti to enter the addresses. Note that the Src and Dest settings are not used on point-to-point DF1 channel 0 configurations – they are provided for use with connections made via a 1747-KE or 1770-KF3 interface.

If you are unsure of the communications settings for your PLC, you will need to use your Allen-Bradley programming software to check the settings.

Once you have the communication settings setup to match your PLC, you can test communications by clicking on the Test Comms button. Watch in the upper right hand corner of the screen. If communications are successful a check mark will appear. If they fail a black dot will appear. Also, a message will appear right above the Test Comms button that indicates the communications was successful.



**Sample Screen Showing Successful communications test**



**Sample Screen showing failed communications test**

## Keypad Mode

The Keypad Mode provides the ability to read/write data addresses in the Allen-Bradley PLC memory structure. This mode provides functionality that one might see in a typical timer/counter access unit, except that the Keypad allows you to access a much wider range of PLC data addresses

### Accessing Keypad Mode

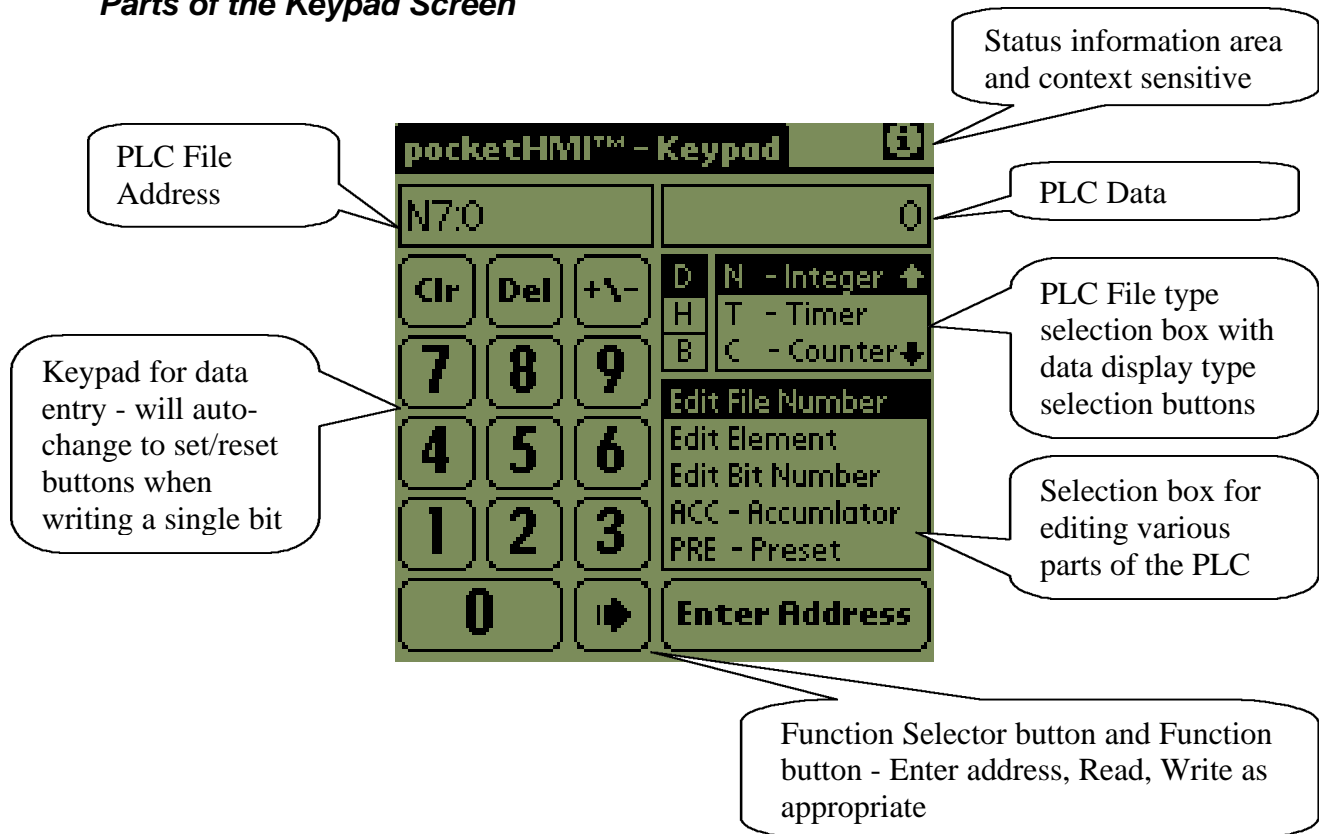


To access the keypad mode, click on the Palm Menu icon and select Keypad on the pull-down menus that appear at the top of the screen as shown here.



The Palm Menu Icon found on most Palm Devices.

### Parts of the Keypad Screen



### **Setting the PLC Address to Read/Write**

To set the PLC Address that you wish to Read/Write using the Keypad, follow these steps. Recognizing that new users would not be comfortable or familiar with the Palm Graffiti method, we created a 100% menu driven means of specifying the Allen-Bradley file address you wish to read/write on the Keypad.



1. Use the PLC File Type selection box to select the Allen-Bradley file type you wish to read/write. You can tap the up/down arrows at the right of the PLC File Type selection box to scroll through the supported file types. Tap on the file type you wish to read/write. The PLC File Address box will display the Allen-Bradley default starting address for that file type. For example, if you select "N - Integer", the PLC File Address box will show "N7:0"
2. To set the file number, tap "Edit File Number" and then tap the file number on the keypad and tap "Enter Address" to change the file number.
3. To set the File Element, tap "Edit File Element" and then tap the file element number on the keypad and tap "Enter Address" to change the file element number. For example, to read N7:100, you would tap "Edit File Element", tap out "100" on the keypad, and then tap "Enter Address" and the PLC File Address display box would change to N7:100.
4. Optional: If you wish to read/write an individual bit within a word, tap "Edit Bit Number" to toggle between bit addressing mode and word addressing mode. For example, if you were reading N7:100 and tapped "Edit Bit Number", the PLC File Address display box would change to "N7:100/0" indicating that you want to read the first bit (bit 0) of word 100 in the integer file N7. To change the bit number with Bit addressing enabled, tap the bit number (0 to 15) on the keypad and tap "Enter Address". For example, to read N7:100/8 you would first enter Bit addressing mode by tapping "Edit Bit Number", then tap 8 on the keypad, then tap "Enter Address".

### **Triggering your Read**

Once you have the file address set, tap on the right arrow button that appears on the left side of the "Enter Address" button. You will notice that the button cycles between "Read Value" and "Write Value". To trigger a read, tap the arrow until the button says "Read Value" and then tap the button. If your read is successful, the value will appear in the PLC Data box on the Keypad screen. You will also see a small check mark momentarily replace the help icon in the upper right hand of the screen. If you see a clock icon then that means the software is trying to talk to the PLC - if communications fails, then an error code or message will appear in the PLC Data box instead of the data.

### ***Entering Data To Write and Writing***

To write data to an address, first set the file address if you have not done so already. (See "Setting the PLC Address to Read/Write") Then to enter the value to write, tap out the value on the Keypad and you will see the value you are about to write appear in the PLC Data box. Then to write the data, tap on the arrow to the left of the "Enter Address" button until it says "Write Value". Tap "Write Value" and the data will be written to the PLC. If the write is successful, you will see a small check mark momentarily replace the help icon in the upper right corner of the screen. If communications fails a small black dot appears and an error message appears in the PLC Data box.

### ***Changing the Data Display Format***

To change the format in which data is displayed in the PLC Data box, tap the data display format buttons that appear to the left of the PLC File Type selection box. The selections are as follows:

- D - Decimal
- H - Hexadecimal
- B - Upper 8 bits binary display
- b - Lower 8 bits binary display

Note that the B/b use the same button and the display toggles between the lower 8 and upper 8 bits as you tap the "B/b" button.

### ***Accessing online help for Keypad Mode***

To access the online help for the Keypad mode, tap on the help icon in the upper right corner of the Palm screen. A help screen will appear that goes through the basic steps of using the Keypad mode of the pocketHMI for AB.



Palm Help Icon

### ***Examples:***

The following examples are intended to give the reader some samples to refer to when learning to use the Keypad.

#### **Reading an Integer File Value**

To read N7:100:

1. Tap the file type "N - Integer"
2. Tap "Edit Element"

3. Tap "100" on the keypad
4. Tap the "Enter Address" button
5. Tap the Function Selector button until the function button in the lower right corner says "Read Value"
6. Tap the "Read Value" button.

### **Writing an Integer File Value**

To Write a value of 1234 to the address N7:100:

Skip steps 1 to 4 if you have already set the address N7:100 in the PLC File Address box.

1. Tap the file type "N - Integer"
2. Tap "Edit Element"
3. Tap "100" on the keypad
4. Tap the "Enter Address" button
5. Tap the value "1234" on the keypad - you will see 1234 appear in the PLC Data box
6. Tap the Function Selector button until the function button in the lower right corner says "Write Value"
7. Tap the "Write Value" button to write the data to the PLC.

## Reading a Single Bit Value

To read the value in B3:1/0 - also known as bit 0 of word 1 in Bit file #3.

1. Tap the file type "B - Binary" -- you may have to tap the up/down scroll areas in the File Type selection box until you see the "B" file type - the file types are in alphabetical order.
2. Tap "Edit Element"
3. Tap "1" on the keypad
4. Tap the "Enter Address" button
5. Tap "Edit Bit Number" to enable the read of the individual Bit 0.
6. Tap the Function Selector button until the Function button says "Read Value"
7. Tap the Function button that now says "Read Value" to read the bit status.

## Writing a Single Bit

To toggle a single bit on/off, for example to toggle B3:1/0:

Skip steps 1 to 5 if you have just read B3:1/0 or already have your file address set.

1. Tap the file type "B - Binary" -- you may have to tap the up/down scroll areas in the File Type selection box until you see the "B" file type - the file types are in alphabetical order.
2. Tap "Edit Element"
3. Tap "1" on the keypad
4. Tap the "Enter Address" button
5. Tap "Edit Bit Number" to enable the read of the individual Bit 0.
6. Tap the Function Selector button until the Function button says "Write Value"
7. Notice that the keypad disappears and is replaced with "Set/Reset" buttons. Because we are writing to a discrete value the only valid states are 0/1 or "Reset" and "Set". Do not confuse this with a PLC Latching coil!!! The PLC ladder logic will still win if you "set" a bit to on with the pocketHMI and your ladder logic comes along after you and "resets" the bit, the bit will be reset in the PLC.
8. Tap "set" to turn the bit to on or a value of 1. Tap "reset" to turn the bit off or to a value of 0.

## Reading a Timer or Counter Accumulate/Preset

To read the accumulate of Timer T4:0 - i.e. T4:0.ACC.

1. Tap the file type "T - Timer" -- you may have to tap the up/down scroll areas in the File Type selection box until you see the "T" file type - the file types are in alphabetical order. The PLC File address should default to T4:0. If you need to read a different timer number, use the "Edit Element" button to enter the address of the timer.

2. Tap "ACC - Accumulator" and the PLC File address will change to "T4:0.ACC"
3. Tap the Function Selector button until the Function button says "Read Value"
4. Tap the "Read Value" function button to read the timer accumulate

This same example will work for a timer preset (i.e. T4:0.PRE) if you tap "PRE- Preset" in step 3 instead of "ACC - Accumulator".

To read a counter, select the file type "C- Counter" instead of "T- Timer" in step 1.

## Monitor Mode

The monitor mode is used to view up to four PLC data points and continually scan them and update the screen. With DF1 serial connections on a point-to-point basis at 19.2 Kbaud, update rates of 10 times per second are possible. The user can adjust the scan rate and enable/disable scanning as needed.

### Accessing the Monitor Mode

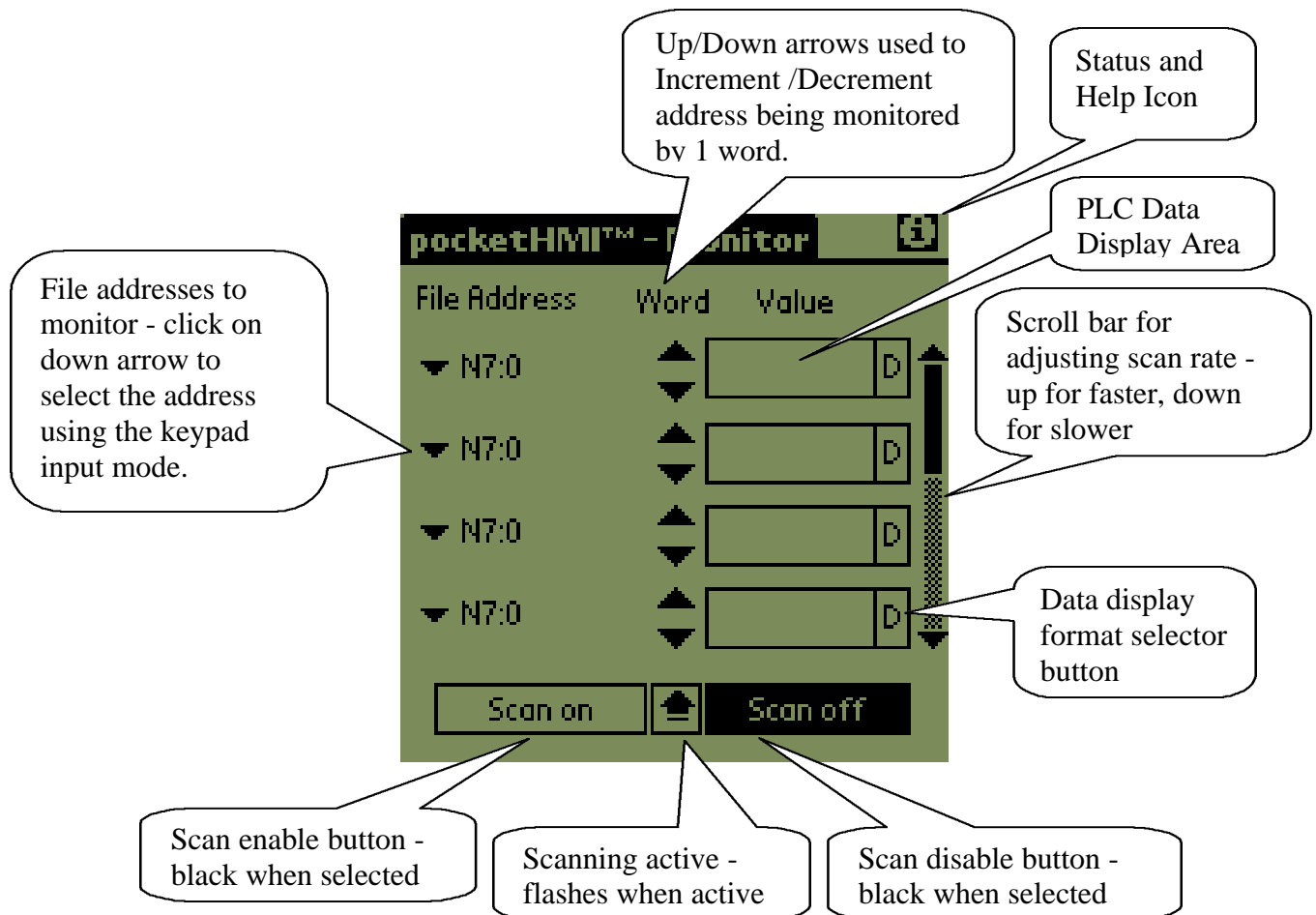


To access the Monitor mode, click on the Palm Menu icon and select Monitor on the pull-down menus that appear at the top of the screen as shown here.



The Palm Menu Icon found on most Palm Devices.

### Parts of the Monitor Mode Screen



## Setting the Addresses to Monitor



To set the addresses to monitor, click on the down arrows next to each of the four addresses on the left edge of the screen. The Keypad will appear but will look different in that the title bar will say something like "Keypad >1<" instead of just "Keypad". The additional number tells you which of the 4 Monitor addresses you are entering. In the screen below it shows Keypad>1< which tells us we are entering an address for monitor point number 1.



Enter the address you wish to monitor just like you would in Keypad mode. When done tap the function selector button and the Function Button will say Monitor as shown here. Tap Monitor and you will be returned to the Monitor screen and the address you have chosen will appear in the position selected (in this example the first one on the monitor screen.)

Repeat this process for each of the four items on the Monitor screen.

## Changing the Addresses

You may change the addresses that you are monitoring incrementally at any time using the up/down arrows to the right of each address on the monitor screen. Tapping on the up arrow increments the address by one word, tapping the down arrow decrements the address by one word. You may also change the address using the same steps you used to originally set the address to monitor using the Keypad.

## Changing the data display format

The monitored data can be displayed in four formats. To change the format in which data is displayed in the Value box, tap the data display format button that appears to the right of the Value box to cycle through the choices. The selections are as follows:

- D - Decimal
- H - Hexadecimal
- B - Upper 8 bits binary display
- b - Lower 8 bits binary display

### ***Enabling monitoring/scanning of the PLC***

To enable monitoring, tap on the "Scan on" button. When scanning is enabled, the arrow between the "Scan on" and "Scan off" buttons will cycle up and down.

### ***Changing the scan rate***

To change the rate at which the PLC is scanned, use the scroll bar on the right edge of the monitor screen. Move the scroll bar up with your stylus to increase the scan rate, move it down to slow down the scan rate.

### ***Accessing online help for Monitor Mode***

To access the online help for the Monitor mode, tap on the help icon in the upper right corner of the Palm screen. A help screen will appear that goes through the basic steps of using the Monitor mode of the pocketHMI for AB.



Palm Help Icon

## Viewing Communications Status and PLC Comm Errors

When trying to communicate for reading or writing with the Keypad or Monitor, communications status is shown in the upper right corner where the help icon normally appears. While the software attempts to communicate, the help icon is replaced with a "clock" icon. If communications is successful a check mark momentarily appears and then the help icon reappears. If communications fails then a small black dot momentarily appears and then the help icon reappears and an error message is displayed in the PLC Data box.

Some common error messages you may see and their meaning and possible causes.

Comm Fail	Communications failed because PLC did not respond to initial ENQ or inquiry from the pocketHMI software. This could be caused by communications configuration problems, a bad cable, or a disconnected cable.
Err STS=xx	Indicates an error code being returned from the PLC – in this case we sent a message to the PLC but the PLC did not like something in the request – it could be a memory address that does not exist – like reading a Float from a Micrologix that doesn't have Float data tables. See the table below for some common STS error codes.

Common Allen-Bradley STS Error Codes and their meanings:

<b>STS Error Code</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
16	Illegal command or format
32	Host has a problem and will not communicate
48	Remote node is missing - check the Dest setting in the pocketHMI Comms Config to see if it matches the target CPU Node address.
64	Host could not complete function due to hardware fault
80	Addressing problem or memory protect rungs
96	Function disallowed due to command protection selection
112	Processor is in program mode
240	More error information found in EXT STS byte

## **Release notes - Version 1.0 – 11/1999**

- 1) Floating point file type only reads and writes integers, will be addressed shortly in a maintenance release.
  
- 2) If you attempt to connect to a Micrologix using the wrong baud rate then you will have to reset the PLC to rest the PLC's serial port. This will be addressed in a maintenance release.

## License Agreement

Licensing Summary: This product is licensed for use on a single Palm device at a time. You must purchase multiple licenses if you plan to load this software on multiple Palm devices. The software is keyed to each Palm device's serial number and separate registration codes are required for each device you plan to run the software on.

### **PocketHMI LICENSE AGREEMENT**

This legal document is an agreement between you, the end user, and Narly Software.

This agreement constitutes the complete agreement between you and Narly Software. If you do not agree to the terms of this agreement, do not install the product. Promptly return the unopened disk package or destroy the file set if you obtained the product electronically and the other items (including Written Materials, Binder, or other containers if you received physical materials) that are part of this product, to the place where you obtained them for a full refund.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Licensee - The current registered user of this product.

Original Licensee - The registered user of this product prior to any license transfer.

Transferee - The registered user of this product after a license transfer.

Software – pocketHMI for AB PLCs.

### **GRANT OF LICENSE**

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For technical support on the pocketHMI, first visit our support website on the internet at <http://support.softwaretoolbox.com>. We publish frequently asked questions and other helpful tips there.

You may also email your questions to us at [support@softwaretoolbox.com](mailto:support@softwaretoolbox.com)