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FiberPanel™ Quick Start Guide



This Quick Start Guide explains the six basic steps for configuring FiberPanel™. You will see how to setup a simple two unit FiberLoop III™ network*. When you finish, you will know how to

- Configure FiberPanel to connect your computer to your FiberLoop network
- Expand your FiberLoop network by adding units
- Use FiberPanel to check FiberLoop units and monitor your network

FiberPanel is H&L Instruments exclusive software for monitoring and managing your SCADA and distribution automation system. It provides the essential tools for provisioning your FiberLoop™ fiberoptic networks, and provides a feature-rich network management tool for viewing and managing your physical and logical networks.

FiberPanel provides real-time monitoring, logging, network failure alarms, diagnostic reporting, and includes a *black box recorder* that continually captures all FiberLoop activity for up to 30 days. The black box recorder is an important feature of FiberPanel that can assist in analyzing network failures and understanding the cause and effect of events.

The built-in FiberPanel black box recorder is effective only if you run FiberPanel continuously. H&L Instruments recommends that you dedicate a computer to running FiberPanel continuously to permit continual logging of your network status and to maintain the black box data for analysis of network failures, warnings, and other important information.

This guide includes:

Installing and Updating FiberPanel Software

Selecting the Connection Type

Connecting to the FiberLoop Unit

Adding a Unit to the Network

Using FiberPanel to Monitor Your Network

* FiberPanel also supports FiberLoop II™ networks, but additional configuration steps are necessary for the setup and configuration of these systems. Contact H&L Instruments for information on upgrading your network from FiberLoop II to FiberLoop III.



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Installing and Updating FiberPanel Software



If FiberPanel is not already installed on your computer, you can download the software from the H&L Instruments Web site. If FiberPanel is installed, but it is an older version, you can download updates from the same location. The Web address for downloading the FiberPanel software and updates is:

<http://www.hlinstruments.com/software/>

When you visit the H&L Instruments software download Web site, you are prompted to enter your user name and e-mail address. You must be a registered user with an assigned user name and registered e-mail address to download the software.

⇒ **To install FiberPanel on your computer**

1. Run the FiberPanel setup program. For example, run the setup program named *FiberPanel_v2xxxx_Setup.exe*, where *xxxx* is the version of FiberPanel you are installing. The FiberPanel software is installed by default at:

C:\Program Files\H&L Instruments\FiberPanel

2. After you complete FiberPanel setup, run the FiberPanel program and check the initial splash screen to ensure you are running the version you installed. If the splash screen shows an older version, use Control Panel *Add or Remove Programs* to locate and remove the older version of FiberPanel, and repeat step 1.

If you downloaded a FiberPanel update file, and it has a later version than the version of FiberPanel currently installed on your computer, you can update your FiberPanel software by extracting the executable from the update archive (.zip) file and replace the older version.

⇒ **To install a FiberPanel update**

1. Extract the updated executable to the folder on your computer where FiberPanel is installed. The standard location is C:\Program Files\H&L Instruments\FiberPanel.
2. When prompted whether to overwrite the existing program file, click *Yes*.



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Selecting the Connection Type



FiberPanel offers three ways you can connect your computer to your FiberLoop network. On the FiberPanel *Panel Configuration* tab, you choose one of the following connections:

- Direct (RS232)
- Dial-Up (modem)
- TCP/IP (Ethernet via SerialServer)

The FiberPanel default connection is *Direct*, and this default is used in this guide for initial setup and testing. You can change the connection type later after you are familiar with FiberPanel and the configuration procedures.

The *Direct* connection uses a standard RS232 serial cable for the physical connection from your computer to the RS232 maintenance port of a FiberLoop unit. The direct connection has default values for the COM port and baud rate. This guide uses the default values for initial setup and testing. You can change these default values later by using the drop-down selectors.

⇒ **To configure the Direct connection**

1. Ensure that *Direct* is selected by the Connection drop-down selector on the Panel Configuration tab.
2. Use the default COM1 for the *PC COM Port*.

Note: If your computer uses COM1 for a device other than your RS232 serial port, you must select COM2 in this step and then ensure that COM2 is connected to your computer's RS232 serial port.

3. Use the default baud rate of 9600.
4. Connect a standard serial cable between the RS232 connector on your computer and the RS232 maintenance port on the FiberLoop unit.
5. Turn on the FiberLoop unit.

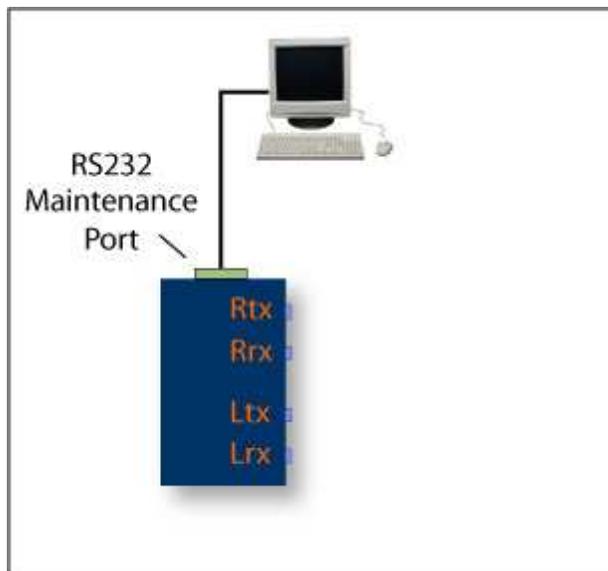


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Connecting to the FiberLoop Unit



The following figure shows how your computer is connected to the single FiberLoop unit at this point.



You are ready to connect the FiberPanel software to your FiberLoop unit.

⇒ **To connect to a FiberLoop unit**

- Click  on the FiberPanel toolbar.

When you connect to the single FiberLoop unit, FiberPanel builds the information maps and displays the information on the *Unit Properties* tab. The information that FiberPanel gathers includes the name assigned to the unit on the network, the unit serial number, optic parameters, and more.



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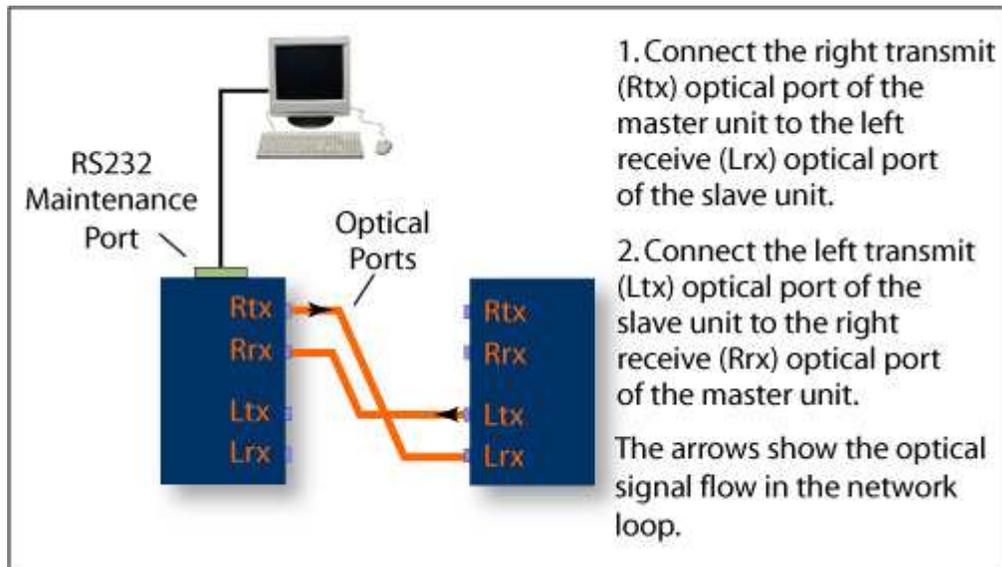
Adding a Unit to the Network



After connection is established to one FiberLoop unit, you can add additional transceivers and begin to expand your network.

⇒ To add a transceiver to the FiberLoop network

1. Click  to disconnect FiberPanel from the network.
2. Using fiber cable, connect the optic ports of the first unit to the added unit as shown in the figure below.



3. Apply power to the added unit.
4. Click  to reconnect FiberPanel to the network.

FiberPanel builds new maps for the two unit network when you reconnect.

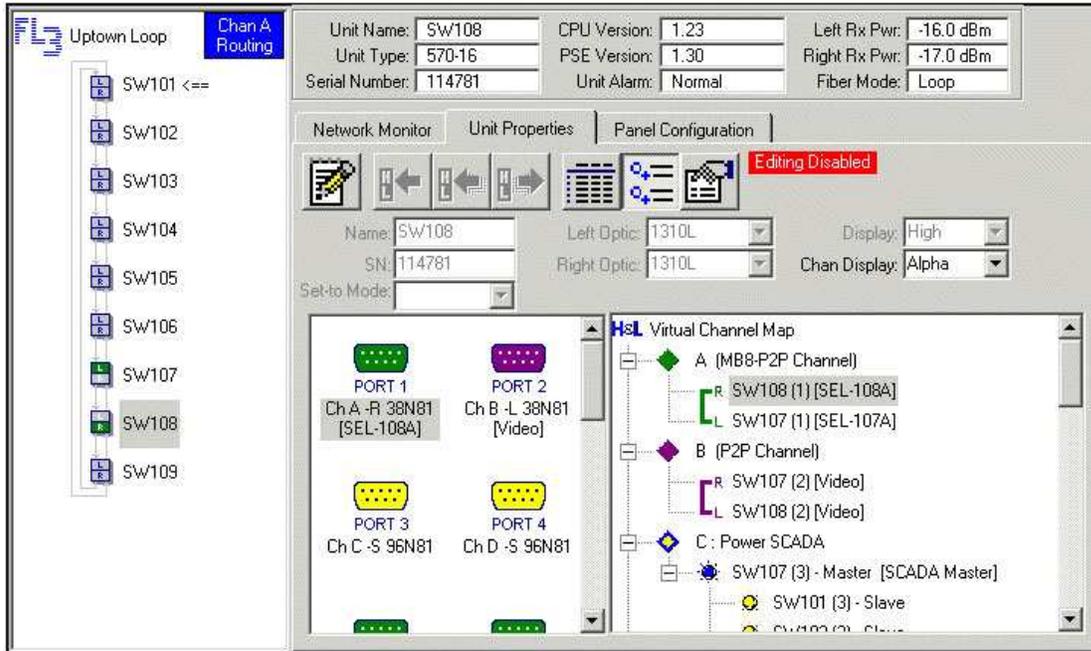


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Using FiberPanel to Monitor Your Network



Now you can use the *Unit Properties* tab to review the properties of each unit on your network. A graphical map of the network displays all units listing them by name. An example of a FiberLoop network map and the information available in FiberPanel is shown below for a nine unit network comprised of Model 570 transceivers.



The Network Monitor tab shows the activity on your network and lists alerts, warnings, and failures. The following figure is an example of information available on the Network Monitor tab.



For more information about setup and operation of your FiberLoop network, refer to the FiberPanel built-in help, which you access from the *Help* menu. Also, see the documentation included with your FiberLoop transceiver.