



M407 Propulsion Instrument Maintenance Software User's Guide

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a user's guide for the Model 407 "Propulsion Instrument Maintenance Software" (P/N 407-770-002-101). This tool enables the user to communicate on the RS485 bus with the model 407 propulsion instruments (specifically the MGT, NG and TRQ indicators) for the uploading and downloading of maintenance information.

This program is useable in a Windows 2000, NT, Millennium, or XP environments in lieu of EPPLUS software that is useable in DOS, Window 95, and Windows 98 environments.

2. GETTING STARTED

2.1. MINIMUM HARDWARE REQUIREMENT

The following are minimum recommended computer configurations to use this software.

2.1.1. Windows 2000, NT, and Millennium Operating Systems

- IBM-Compatible machine (identified as laptop PC herein) with an Intel Pentium III @500Mhz processor (or equivalent), or higher running.
- 2.5 Mbytes of free disk space.
- One Serial or USB communication Port (used to connect to the Propulsion Instruments).
- 3 1/2-inch 1.44 MB floppy drive.

2.1.2. Windows XP Operating System

- IBM-Compatible machine (identified as laptop PC herein) with an Intel Celeron @1.2Ghz processor (or equivalent), or higher running.
- 2.5 Mbytes of free disk space.
- One Serial or USB communication Port (used to connect to the Propulsion Instruments).
- 3 1/2-inch 1.44 MB floppy drive.

Note: If the USB Port is being used, it must be used with a USB to DB-9M Serial Connector Adapter. This Adapter is also sold as USB PDA Adapter.

2.2. COMPUTER AND INSTRUMENT CONNECTION

The laptop computer must be connected to the aircraft and Instruments (with aircraft DC electrical power on) using the interface cable (P/N 407-275-001-103), an RS232/485 converter (P/N 485LP9R or 485SD9R), and using the computer's serial or USB communication port in order to "Connect" or use any of the instrument functions.

Important Note: Ensure the RS232 side of the RS232/485 converter is plugged into the computer's serial or USB COMM port.

2.3. **MICROSOFT WINDOWS AND LAPTOP SETTINGS**

The following Microsoft Windows and laptop PC settings are recommended for proper operation of this Software Application.

- Laptop screen savers should be set to more than five minutes.
- Any laptop PC power or battery saving features should be disabled.
- Disable or close non-essential programs that may be running.

Refer to the Microsoft Windows User's Guide and laptop PC user documentation for details on how to perform these tasks.

2.4. **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

The various screens (windows) that are shown for this software are designed to keep the standard philosophy of all programs developed in the Windows environment constant, and to ensure a maximum of security in the user's actions.

2.4.1. Drop-Down Menus

- 2.4.1.1. "Open", "Print", "Export", and "Exit" options are grouped under the "File" drop-down menu.
- 2.4.1.2. The User's Manual, Product Support Engineering contact information, and "About" the software are grouped under the "Help" drop-down menu.

2.4.2. Buttons and Editable Fields

- 2.4.2.1. Each window performing "critical" actions (e.g. "Erase") contains a "**CANCEL**" button to allow canceling of the request.
- 2.4.2.2. All options are accessible through the use of shortcuts (i.e. without the need of a mouse) by pressing the "ALT" key combined with the underlined letter of the command button. As an example: the instrument "Download" function would be accessed by pressing the "ALT" key and then the letter "D" together.

2.4.3. Running the maintenance software

- 2.4.3.1. Start by powering up the computer using either the internal battery or the external power supply. Start the Windows operating system (OS) environment.
- 2.4.3.2. To start the maintenance software, double click the "M407" icon from the "M407" program group or double click the "M407" from your Windows desktop. The "Model 407 Propulsion Instrument Maintenance Software" start-up screen appears, displaying the company logo, software part number and copyright notice.



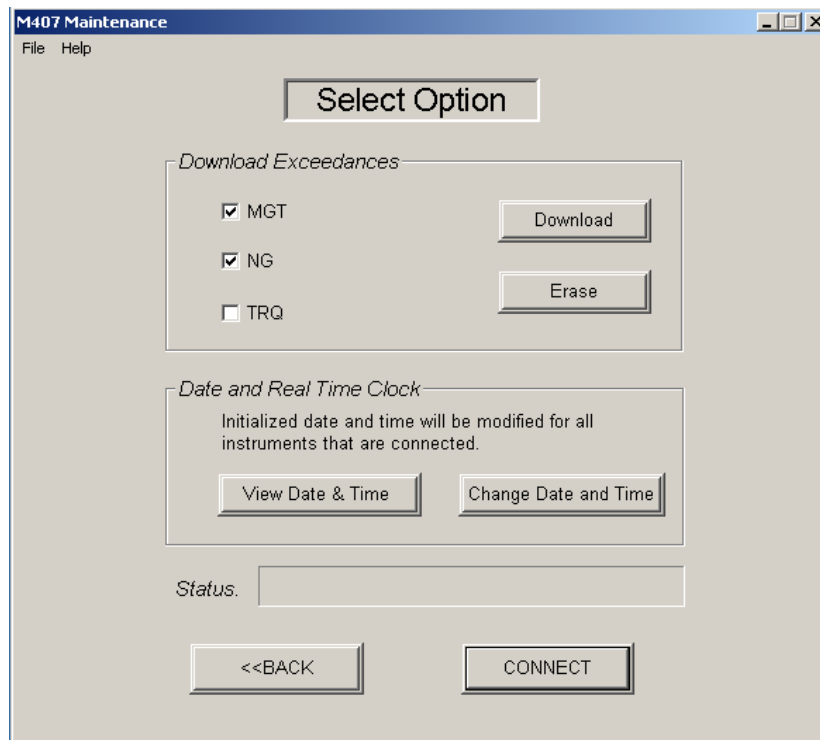
- **OK** Button: This will proceed with the application to display the “Select Option” Menu screen.
- **EXIT** Button: To quit the Software and return to the Windows OS.

3. USER INTERFACE OVERVIEW (SELECT OPTION MENU PAGE)

The User interface to perform maintenance functions on the model 407 propulsion instrument suite is separated into four groups of functions: Download Exceedance data, Upload Initialized date & time, General, and Setting the appropriate COMM Port. The user interface is described below:

Important Note: During the initial startup of the software, the maintenance functions are “grayed out” (unavailable) until the User selects a valid communication port by pressing the “**Connect**” button. All the general software functions then become available. The computer must be connected to the aircraft and propulsion instruments (with aircraft DC electrical power on) using the interface cable (P/N 407-275-001-103), an RS232/485 converter, and using the computer’s serial or USB port in order to “Connect” to the instrument(s).

3.1. SELECT OPTION WINDOW

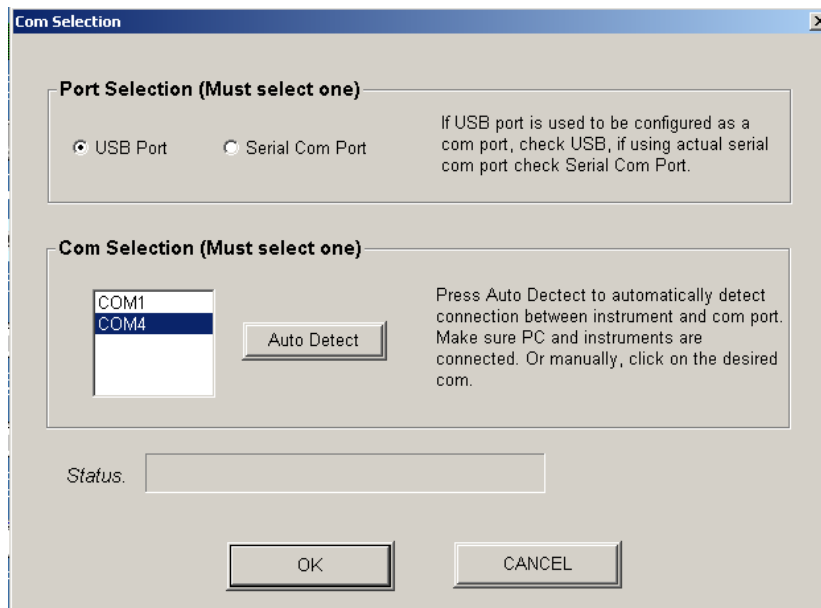


- **Instrument Selection:** Select any one or combination of instruments in the appropriate box.
- **Download Button:** Downloads the stored exceedance and initialization data from the selected instrument(s). Refer to **Section 3.4.1** for further details.
- **Erase Button:** Permanently erases the stored exceedance data from the selected instrument(s). Refer to **Section 3.4.2** for further detail.
- **View Date & Time Button:** Displays the initialized date and time recorded in the MGT, NG and TRQ indicators. Refer to **Section 3.5.1** for further details.
- **Change Date and Time Button:** To write a new date and time into the MGT, NG, and TRQ indicators (all at once). Refer to **Section 3.5.2** for further details.
- **Connect Button:** Opens a new window where the User will be able to set the communication port. Refer to **Section 3.2** for further details.
- **Title Bar:** Displays the Software title.
- **Menu Bar:** Displays the available menu selections.
- **Status bar:** Displays the status of the current process.
- **Back Button:** Returns to the Software Start-up screen.

3.2. SETTING COMMUNICATION PORT

The “COMM Selection” window will open following the activation of the “**Connect**” button on the “Select Option” window This sub-menu window will allow the User to setup a valid communication port for the communication between the computer and the selected instrument(s). The User may manually select the COMM port settings or use the “Auto Detect” function.

Note: If the User is unsure what COMM port settings to manually select, it is recommended to use the “Auto Detect” function of the software. Refer to **Section 3.3** for further information.



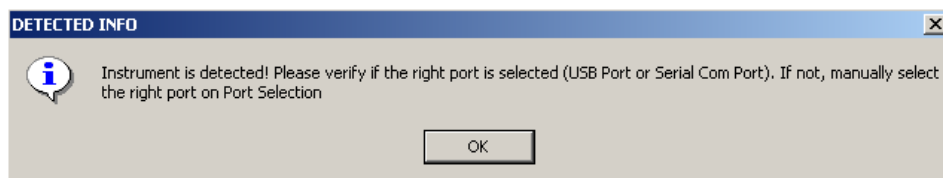
- **Port Selection:** The Software shall present a selection for USB or Serial COMM port on which the PC will interface with the instruments for manual selection. The User can use “Auto Detect” to automatically detect both the proper port & COMM selection. If using a USB port, the signal must be converted to RS232 via a “USB to RS232” adapter in order to be supported. Only one option shall be selected. The Software shall remember the last selected item and will become the default on the next logon to the Software. During the initial installation, the default selection shall be “USB port”.
- **COMM Selection:** The Software shall automatically detect the COMM port(s) that are available on the PC (this includes both serial and USB ports). This information will then be displayed in this page for selection. The available COMM port along with their COMM port number will be displayed for manual selection. Only one COMM port can be selected at a time. The COMM port that is selected shall be highlighted. The User can use the “Auto Detect” button to automatically detect both the proper port type and COMM number selection. The Software will remember the last selected COMM settings and will become the default values on the next logon of the Software.
- **Status Bar:** Indicates the “Auto Detect” is progressing.

- **Cancel** Button: This will cancel any modification, resume the initial settings, and return to “Select Option” page.
- **Auto Detect** Button: Once pressed, the Software shall detect the physical COMM port on the PC that is connected to the instrument(s) and automatically highlight and select the port and COMM number selection. Connection must be made between the PC physical COMM port and the instrument in order for it to work properly. Refer to **Section 3.3** for further details.
- **OK** Button: Confirms and saves the selection then opens the selected COMM port on the PC and returns to the “Select Option” page. All buttons related to maintenance commands return to normal and are available for selection. A message indicating the Port is opened will appear (as shown below). Clicking the message “OK” button will close the dialog box.

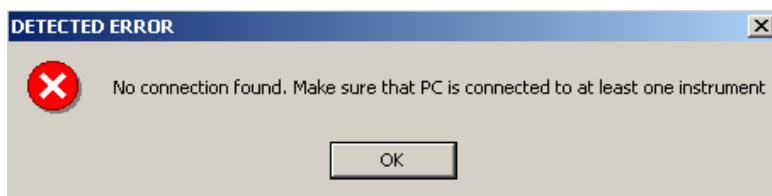


3.3. **AUTO DETECT**

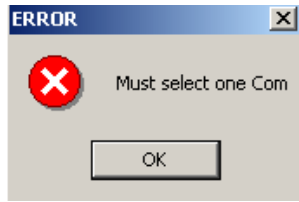
If the auto detection is successful, following the activation of the “Auto Detect” button from the “COMM Selection” window, the following message window will appear. Clicking the message “OK” button will close the dialog box.



If the Auto detection is unsuccessful, an error message as shown below will appear. If this occurs, the User needs to check the physical connection between the PC and the instruments to remedy this situation. Clicking the message “OK” button will close the dialog box.



Note 1: Following an “Auto Detect” attempt, if the COMM selection is not highlighted and no selection made, pressing the “OK” button will generate the following error message:



To correct this, the User will be required select a COMM port manually.

Note 2: When using the “Auto Detect” function with the RS485/232 converter (P/N 485SD9R) and a serial COMM port; the “Auto Detect” will select the USB Port as a default rather than “Serial COMM port”. This is incorrect and therefore the User needs to manually override the “Auto Detect” selection by selecting the “Serial COMM port”. This will minimize the amount of communication error messages being raised during download attempts.

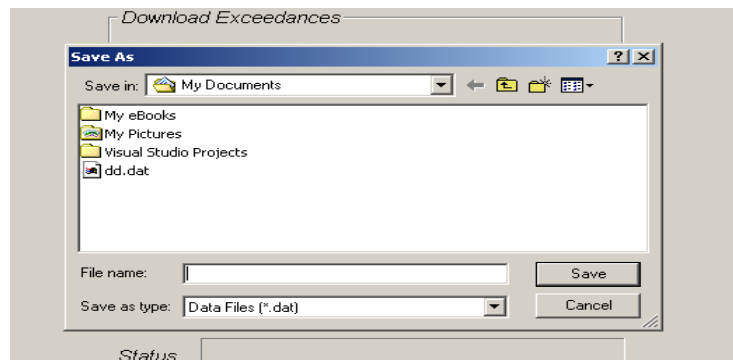
Note 3: This software only supports COMM ports 1 through 9. If a USB port is configured as a Serial COMM port higher than 9 (e.g. 10 or above), the software won't recognize this COMM port. The User needs to reconfigure this setting to COMM 1 through 9 by using the hardware configuration under the Window OS. Refer to the Windows User Manual for configuring the hardware.

3.4. **DOWNLOAD AND ERASE EXCEEDANCE**

The User can select one, two and/or three instruments to be downloaded or erased by selecting the appropriate instrument. If no instruments are selected, the “Download” and “Erase” buttons will remain “grayed out” and unavailable.

3.4.1. Download

Activation of the “Download” button from the “Select Option” window will start the download of exceedance data from the selected instrument(s) and stores it in a raw data file. Each time the User requests downloading of data from the selected instrument(s), the software will prompt the user for saving the information into a file. For file saving, the software defaults to the directory currently selected in the system. The User can select a different folder if desired. If the specified folder does not exist, clicking on the “new folder” icon can create it.



- **Save** button: Will create and write data into the selected main directory, sub-directory, and individual file. The data shall be stored as raw data. The program will

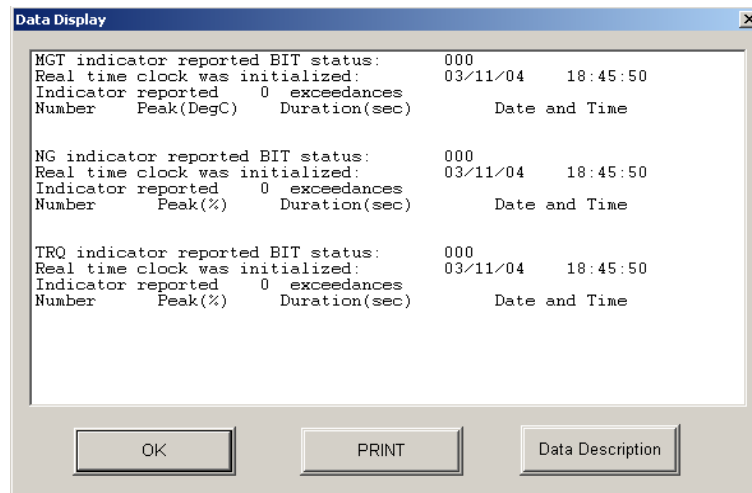
create a file with the selected name with the extension **“*.dat”**. Then the **“Data Display”** window (as shown below) will appear showing the downloaded data.

- **File Name** bar: This is where the User will enter a name for the data file being downloaded.

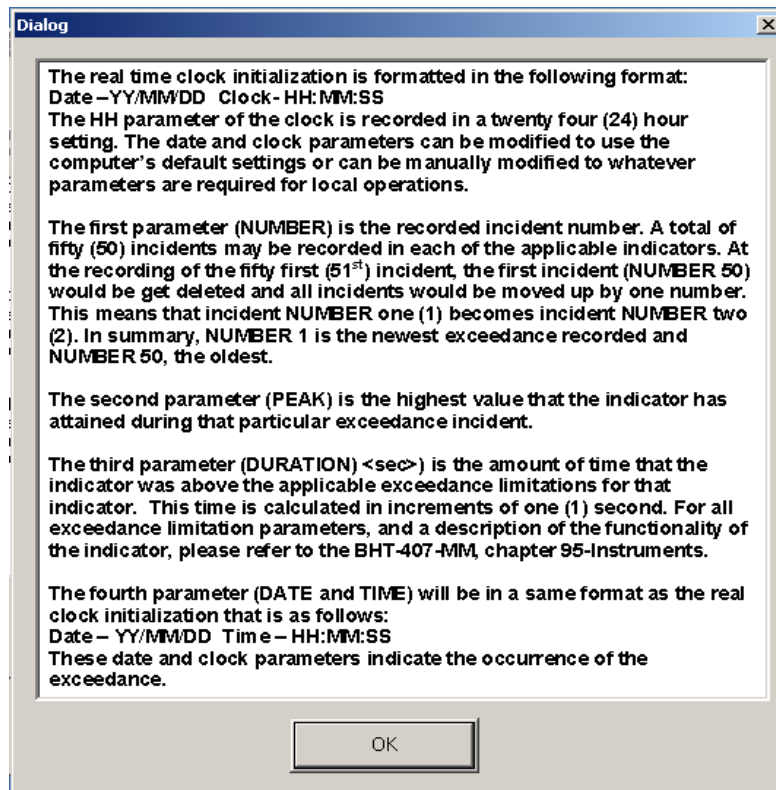
Note: The User should select a unique file name for each download and store the files in a convenient location. A good suggestion is to use the aircraft serial number followed by dd-mm-yy plus a suffix letter (e.g. 53435-11-10-2003A). The User can then add additional suffix letters for each subsequent download of that aircraft that day (e.g. 53435-11-10-2003B, 5345-11-10-2003C, etc...).

- **Save as Type** bar: The User must ensure that the **“Save as”** type selected is **“Data Files (*.dat)”** to ensure the downloaded data is correctly saved.
- **Status Bar:** Indicates the **“Download”** is progressing.
- **Cancel** button: Returns User to the **“Select Option”** page without execution of the **“Download”** command.

Once the download is complete a **“Data Display”** window (as shown below) will open and provide the downloaded information to the User.



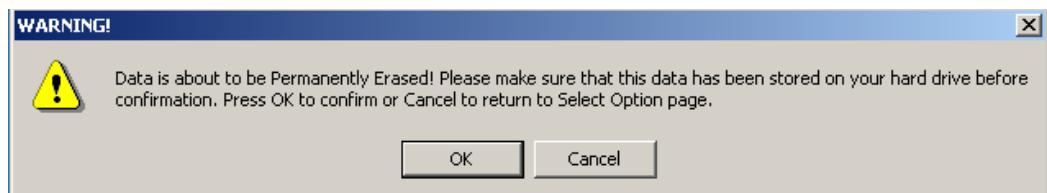
- **OK** Button: Closes the **“Data Display”** window and returns to the **“Select Option”** page.
- **Print** Button: Brings up the **“Print”** window for printing of the downloaded data.
- **Data Description** Button: Opens a window that will provide a description and meaning of each downloaded parameter (as shown below).



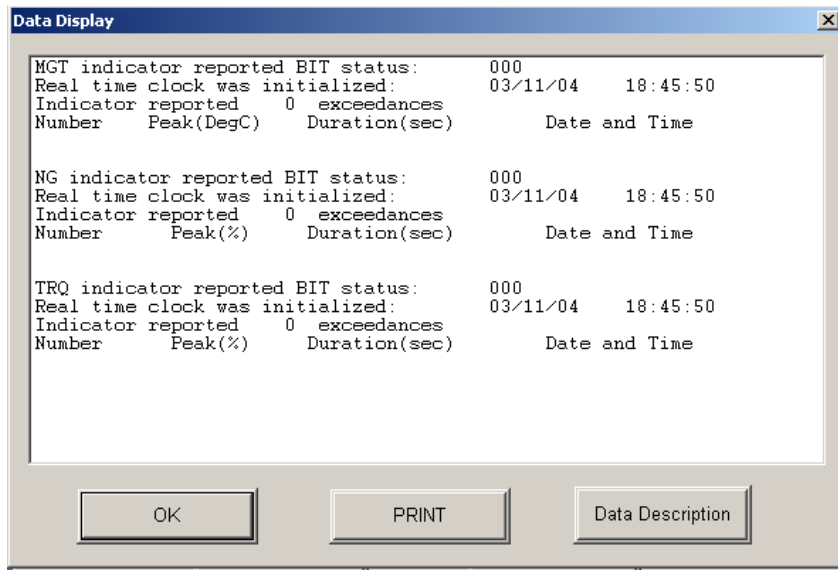
- **OK** Button: Closes the “Dialog” window and returns to the “Data Display” window.

3.4.2. Erase

Activation of the “Erase” button from the “Select Option” window will commence the permanent erasing of exceedance data from the selected instrument(s). The user will be prompted to confirm the action prior to erasing (as shown below).



- **OK** Button: The exceedance data in the selected instrument(s) will be permanently erased and a “Display Data” window will appear showing the re-downloaded data from the instrument(s) for visual confirmation, via a “Data Display” window (as shown below), that the exceedances have been erased.
- **Cancel** Button: Returns to the “Select Option” page without execution of the “Erase” command.

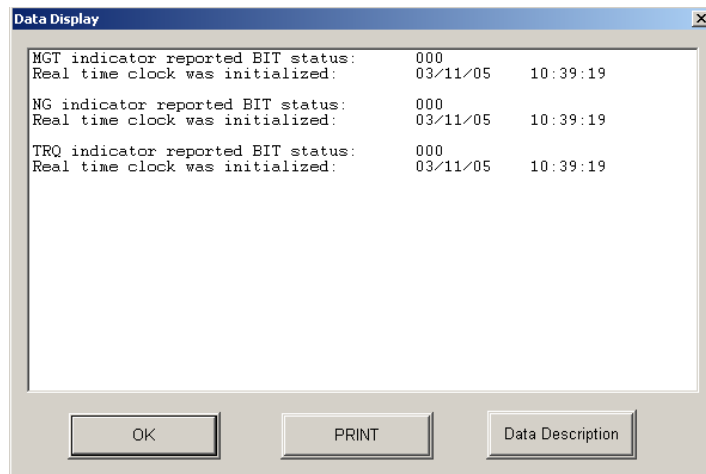


- **OK** Button: Closes the “Data Display” window and returns to the “Select Option” page.
- **Print** Button: Brings up the Printing window for printing of the downloaded data file.
- **Data Description** Button: Opens a window that will provide a description and meaning of each downloaded parameter.

3.5. VIEW AND MODIFY INITIALIZED DATE AND TIME

3.5.1. View Date and Time

Activation of the “**View Date & Time**” button from the “Select Option” page will display the date and time that was initialized on MGT, NG, and TRQ propulsion instruments. A “Data Display” window will open (as shown below) with all the pertinent information displayed.

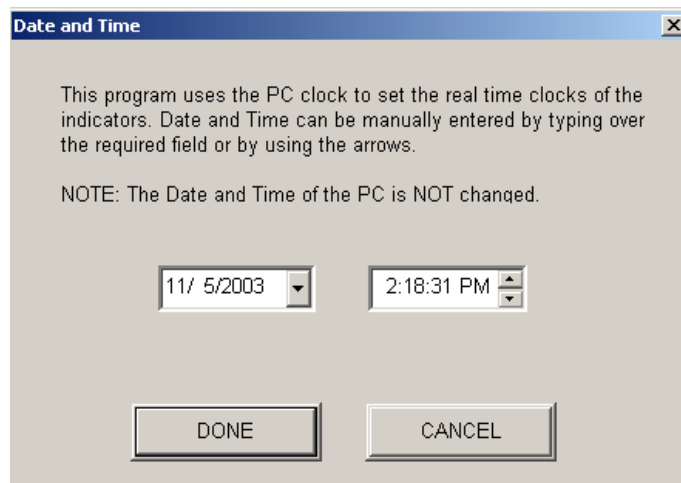


- **OK** Button: Closes the “Data Display” window and returns to the “Select Option” page.
- **Print** Button: Brings up the Printing window for printing of the downloaded data.
- **Data Description** Button: Opens a window that will provide a description and meaning of each downloaded parameter.

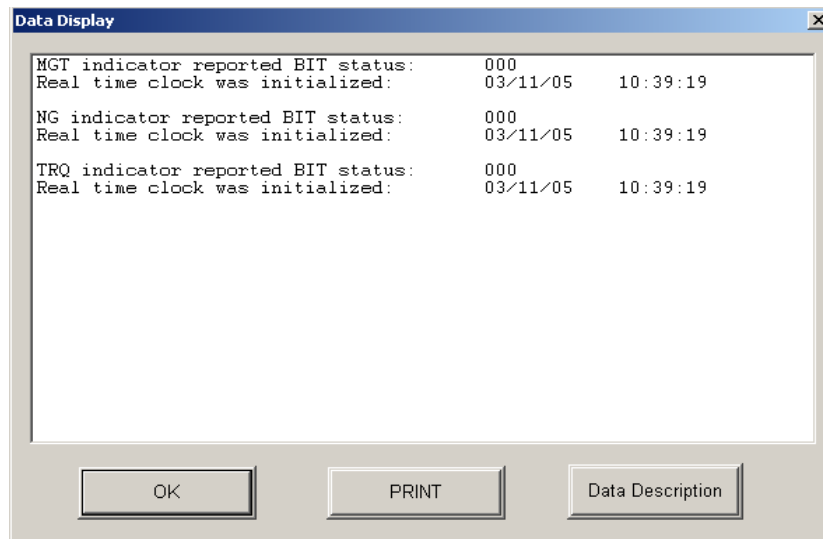
3.5.2. Change Date and Time

Activation of the “**Change Date & Time**” button from the “Select Option” page will open a sub-menu page (as shown below) to modify the date and time on MGT, NG and TRQ instruments all at once.

Important Note: If the information retrieved from the PC date and time settings are not the settings that wish to be uploaded, the date and time field can be changed by using the arrow key next to the settings or by typing over the desired field.



- **Done** Button: Will write the entered date and time into all the instruments, then the “Display Data” window will appear showing the re-downloaded data from the instruments for visual confirmation of the date and time settings. The uploaded date and time settings now become the real time clock initialization settings.
- **Cancel** Button: Returns to the “Select Option” page without execution of the “Change Date and Time” command.

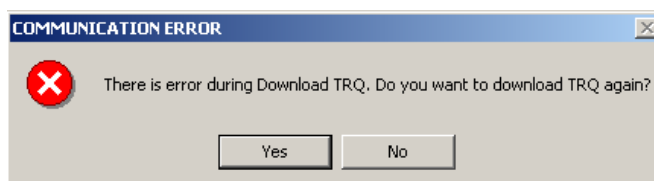


- **OK** Button: Closes the “Data Display” window and returns to the “Select Option” page.
- **Print** Button: Brings up the Printing window for printing of the downloaded data.
- **Data Description** Button: Opens a window that will provide a description and meaning of each downloaded parameter.

4. ERROR MESSAGE & TROUBLESHOOTING

4.1. “ERROR DURING DOWNLOAD”

During the downloading, View Date and Time, and Change Date and Time processes the following message (as shown below) may appear where there is a loss/corruption of data for each instrument that is selected. The error message will indicate the instrument by name.



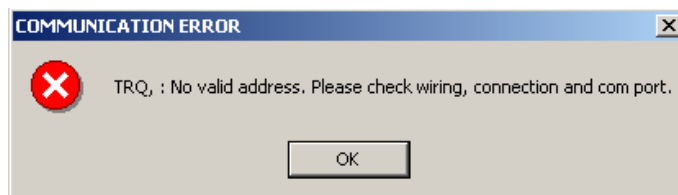
- **Yes** Button: To attempt to download the data again from the specific instrument that caused this error. You may need to press this once or twice to complete the sequence so that all the data will be downloaded correctly.
- **No** Button: If the User doesn't want to attempt a download/upload of data again and to skip this instrument during this process.

Important Note: This is not unusual to occur. The User should always press **YES** again to retry download unless the User *knows* this instrument is not connected. If you have two instruments

that are connected (e.g. MGT and NG) and you have checked all boxes in the “Instrument Selection” area, the above error message will appear indicating there is no data received from TRQ indicator. If you press **YES**, you will continue to get the same error message. In order to continue, you must press **NO** to proceed. The same principle applies when there are more checked boxes than connected instruments.

4.2. **“NO VALID ADDRESS”**

During the downloading, View Date and Time, and Change Date and Time processes the following message (as shown below) may appear where there is no communication between the selected instrument(s) and this Software. The error message will indicate the instrument by name.

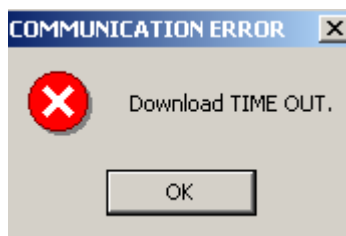


Perform the following tasks to attempt to resolve this issue:

- Ensure physical and wire connection is correct (i.e. no broken wires, instruments are connected, etc...).
- Ensure the proper COMM port is selected.
- Restart Software and perform “**Setting Communication Port**” process. Refer to **Section 3.2** for further details.
- Ensure the instrument causing the error is serviceable.

4.3. **“TIMED OUT”**

During the downloading process the following message, as shown below, may appear where there is continuous communication between the selected instruments and this Software for 60 second but no end is reached. This message may occur where this Software will be in an endless loop.



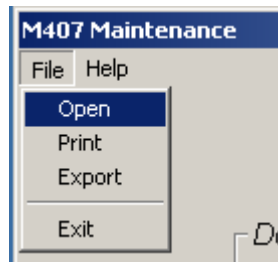
Perform the following tasks to attempt to resolve this issue:

- Restart Software and perform “**Setting Communication Port**” process. Refer to **Section 3.2** for further details.
- Ensure the instrument causing the error is serviceable.

5. USE OF FILE MENU FUNCTIONS

5.1. FILE MENU

By clicking the “File” button in any window, the following drop-down menu (as shown below) will appear.



5.1.1. Open

When you select this function, another window will appear asking for the name and location of the stored data file you want to open. Press “Cancel” to cancel this transaction. To continue, select the desired file, press “Open” and the “Data Display” window with the stored information will appear showing the exceedance data.

Note: Only file extensions with “*.dat” (raw data) can be opened and displayed properly with this command. If a “*.txt” file is attempted to be opened, the data in the file will not be displayed.

5.1.2. Print

When you select this function, another window will appear asking for the name and location of the stored data file you want to open and Print. Press “Cancel” to cancel this transaction. To continue opening the desired file, press “Open” and the “Print” window will appear asking for the selection of the printer to which the User wishes to print to. Once a printer is selected, press “Cancel” to cancel the transaction or “Print” to print the data. Once printing is complete, the Software will return to the “Select Option” page.

Note: Only file extensions with “*.dat” (raw data) can be opened and printed properly with this command. If a “*.txt” file is attempted to be opened, the data in the file will not be printed.

5.1.3. Export

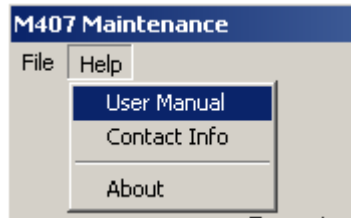
When you select this function, another window will appear asking for the name and location of the stored data file you want to open to convert the selected raw data file (*.dat) into a text file (*.txt). The text file can be open with any word or ASCII text programs such as notepad, Word, Wordpad, etc... Press “Cancel” to cancel this transaction. To continue, select the desired file, press “Open” and the “Save” window will appear requiring the filename to be entered. Press “Cancel” to cancel this transaction or press “Save” to save it as a “*.txt” file. The program will create a file with the selected name with the extension “*.txt” in the same folder as the raw data file by default.

5.1.4. Exit

When you select this function, it will exit this Software.

5.2. **HELP MENU**

By clicking the “Help” button, the following functions (as shown below) will appear:



5.2.1. User's Manual

This function will open a window for the User Manual. Make sure your PC has Adobe Acrobat reader installed in order to read the “*.pdf” file. If not, an error will be displayed indicating Adobe Acrobat Reader is not installed.

5.2.2. Contact Information

This function will open a window containing the Product Support Engineering (PSE) contact information, which is also detailed below.

Bell Helicopter
Product Support Engineering
Light Helicopters
12800 rue de l'Avenir
Mirabel, Québec
J7J 1R4
Canada
Tel : 450-437-2862
Fax : 450-433-0272
E-mail : pselight@bellhelicopter.textron.com

5.2.3. About

This function will open a window to display the version number of the software.

6. SOFTWARE COMPATABILITY TABLE

This software shall support the following combinations of Windows OS, I/O port, RS232/485 and USB/RS232 converters:

M407 Maintenance SW Interface Compatibility Summary on Win95/98, 2000/XP, Comm., & USB

<u>SW Appl</u>	OS: Connector: Port	<i>Win95 & 98 Win2000/XP</i> <u>+ Existing RS232/485 Converter (485LP9R)</u>				<i>Win95 & 98 Win2000/XP</i> <u>+New RS232/485 Converter (485SD9R)</u>			
		Serial COMM	Serial COMM	+ USB	+ USB	Serial COMM	Serial COMM	+ USB	+ USB
M407Maint		X	√	X	√	X	√	X	√

Note:

- 1 √ = working x = not working
- 2 Main difference between 485LP9R and 485SD9R is that SD9R has an automatic "Send data control circuit" built into the connector while the LP9R control circuit (hand shaking) rely on the SW application.
- 3 USB port must be converted to RS232 using a USB/RS232 converter along with the correct SW driver to be installed under Windows.