

# Technical Support Procedures

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This document helps you resolve some common problems and effectively use Dostek's technical support services. Information is organized in the following topics:

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**C O N T E N T S**

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## **1 Resolving Problems**

This section helps you with:

- 1.1 - Resolving installation problems
- 1.2 - Resolving software problems
- 1.3 - Resolving CNC communication problems

### **1.1 Resolving Installation Problems**

If you encounter a problem while installing the Dostek DNC software:

- Write down, print or save a screen image of every error message (see Section 4 below: *Send Screen Image to Dostek*).
- To install the software, log on to your computer using an account with administrator privileges.
- Ensure that all other Windows applications are closed before starting the installation.
- Carefully read and follow all messages and instructions displayed on your computer screen during installation.
- Fully complete the Dostek DNC First-Time Setup Wizard. It starts automatically when the software installation is completed.
- Try installing Dostek DNC on a different computer. There may be a problem with your computer. Windows computers can become unstable over time due to viruses, spyware, registry corruption, installation of non-compliant applications, and so on.

### **1.2 Resolving Software Problems**

If you encounter a problem when you start the Dostek DNC software or perform a specific task:

- Write down, print or save a screen image of every error message (see Section 4 below: *Send Screen Image to Dostek*).
- Write down exactly what you were attempting to do when the problem occurred, including the commands or key sequences you pressed.
- Restart the computer and try again. Windows computers can become unstable or low on resources.
- Ensure the computer's disk drive is not full.
- If you are attempting to access files on a network resource, ensure the network is working properly and you have sufficient network privileges.

### 1.3 Resolving CNC Communication Problems

If you encounter a problem when you upload, download or drip feed:

- ❑ Write down, print or save a screen image of every error message (see Section 4 below: *Send Screen Image to Dostek*) displayed by the software or by the CNC.
- ❑ If the CNC displays an alarm, also find the alarm description in the CNC manual and write it down or make a copy of the manual page.
- ❑ Use the sample device configuration provided for your CNC, and carefully read the notes provided in the "Notes" tab. To use a sample configuration:
  - a) Start the Dostek DNC Configuration application.
  - b) On the **File** menu, click **Import sample configuration**.
  - c) Click the **Notes** tab and read the comments and instructions.
- ❑ Keep notes. Before you change anything (on the computer or the CNC), write down the current setting, the new setting, and the reason for the change.
- ❑ Read Section 5.2, Testing Communication, in the *Dostek DNC Configuration Guide* for information about detailed test procedures.
- ❑ View the *Communication Testing and Troubleshooting* help file (Navigator Help tab, or Dostek DNC Help menu) for detailed recommendations for typical communication problems. Go to the 'Problem Topics' section and find the topic heading that most closely describes your problem.

## 2 Sending Information to Dostek

This section helps you with:

- 2.1 - Sending screen images
- 2.2 - Sending files
- 2.3 - Sending captured CNC output
- 2.4 - Sending component version information
- 2.5 - Sending BTR configuration

### 2.1 Sending Screen Images

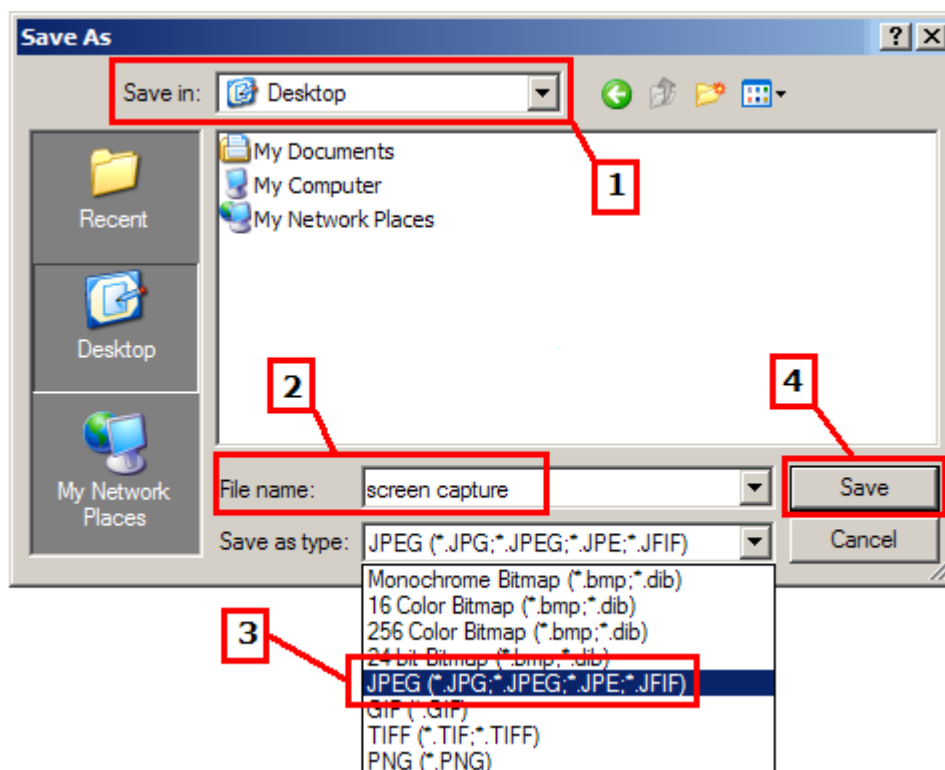
To capture a screen image (such as an error message) and send it to Dostek:

1. Press the computer's PrtScrn key. A snapshot of the current screen image is saved to the Windows Clipboard.

Note: To save a snapshot of only the current window (not the entire screen), press Alt+PrtScrn.

2. On the Windows **Start** menu, click **Run**. The Run dialog box appears.
3. Type **MSPAIN**T and then press **Enter**. The Windows graphic editor window opens.

4. Press **Ctrl+V**. The captured screen snapshot is pasted into Windows Paint.
5. On the **File** menu, click **Save as**. The Save As dialog box appears:



- a) Select a file location using **Save in**. [1]
  - b) Type a file name in the **File name** box. [2]
  - c) Select 'JPEG' in **Save as type** (to minimize file size). [3]
  - d) Click **Save**. The file is saved. [4]
6. On the **File** menu, click **Send**. A new message is opened in the computer's email client. Type 'support@dostek.com' in the To box.  
Note: If an email client is not installed, see Section 5, "Sending Files to Dostek."

## 2.2 Sending Files

This section explains how to send files to Dostek, including:

- Dostek DNC configuration files
- Dostek DNC log files
- Data files
- Dostek MultiPort DNC messages
- Dostek MultiPort DNC received file
- Dostek MultiPort DNC feedback message file

To send files to Dostek, attach the files to an email message addressed to "support@dostek.com".

If your computer does not have an email client installed, copy the files to another computer using a USB memory device, a removable disk, or a shared network folder.

### Sending Dostek DNC Configuration Files

To send Dostek DNC configuration files to Dostek:

1. Start the Dostek DNC Configuration application.
2. On the **File** menu, point to **Explore** and then click **Dostek DNC\Settings**. A new Windows Explorer window opens in the Dostek DNC "Settings" folder.
3. Select one or more files, or press Ctrl+A to select all files.
4. On the Explorer **File** menu, point to **Send** and then click **Mail Recipient**. A new email message is opened, with the selected files attached.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, on the Explorer menu click **Edit, Copy to folder** and browse to select a network folder or removable media on which to store the files.

### Sending Dostek DNC Log Files

To send Dostek DNC log files to Dostek, follow the same procedure as the previous section, except click **Dostek DNC\Log** in step #2.

### Sending Data Files

To send data files to Dostek:

1. Right-click the Windows **Start** button, and then click **Explore** in the context menu. A new Windows Explorer window opens.
2. Browse to the folder containing the data files you wish to send.
3. Select one or more data files.
4. On the Explorer **File** menu, point to **Send** and then click **Mail Recipient**. A new email message is opened, with the selected files attached.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, on the Explorer menu click **Edit, Copy to folder** and browse to select a network folder or removable media on which to store the files.

**Note:** If you are sending a large number of files, or files that are very large, use WinZip (or similar) file compression software to condense and combine the files into a single file.

### Sending Dostek MultiPort DNC Messages

To send Dostek MultiPort DNC message and log files:

1. From the Dostek MultiPort DNC server application (DMDNC32) menu, click **Help, Copy messages to clipboard**. All recent messages are copied to the Windows Clipboard.
2. Open a new email message, and then paste the messages from the Windows Clipboard into the message.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, open a new Notepad or Word document and then paste the messages into the new document. Save the document to a file, and copy the file to another computer using a removable disk or shared network folder.

**Note:** To send recent messages for one specific CNC only:

- a) Select the CNC in the DMDNC32 application's CNC list.
- b) On the menu, click **Channel**, point to **View** and then click **Messages**.

### Sending Dostek MultiPort DNC Received File

To send the content of the most recently received file for a specific CNC:

1. Select the CNC in the DMDNC32 application's CNC list.
2. On the menu, click **Channel**, point to **View** and then click **Last received file**. The most recently received file is displayed in the view window.
3. Open a new email message, and then paste the messages from the Windows Clipboard into the message.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, open a new Notepad or Word document and then paste the messages into the new document. Save the document to a file, and copy the file to another computer using a removable disk or shared network folder.

### Sending Dostek MultiPort DNC Feedback Message File

To send the most recent feedback message sent by the Dostek MultiPort DNC software to a specific CNC:

1. On the DMDNC32 menu, click **Tools**, and then point to **Explore**, and then click **Dostek DNC\Log**. A new Windows Explorer window opens in the Dostek DNC Log folder.
2. Select the .fbk file (file with extension '.fbk') matching the name of the CNC.
3. On the Explorer **File** menu, point to **Send** and then click **Mail Recipient**. A new email message is opened, with the selected file attached.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, on the Explorer menu click **Edit, Copy to folder** and browse to select a network folder or removable media on which to store the files.

## 2.3 Sending Captured CNC Output

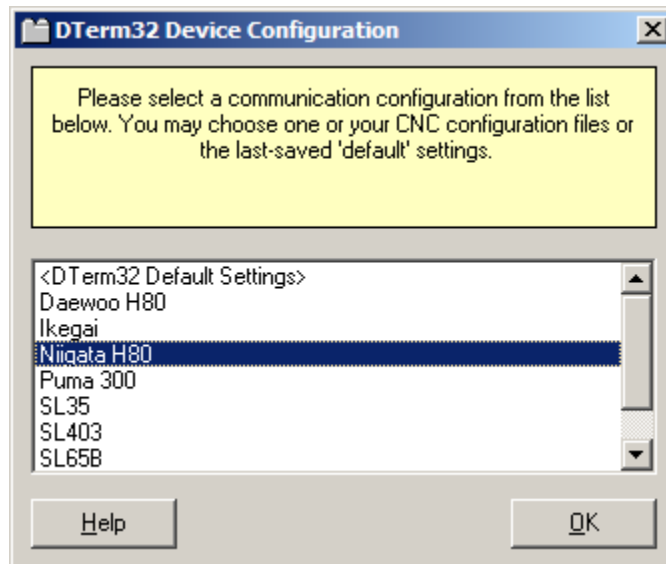
This section explains how to:

- Capture data sent from the CNC to the computer using the Dostek DNC Com Test Terminal application (DTerm32).
- Send the captured data to Dostek.

To capture data sent by the CNC and send it to Dostek:

1. Start the Dostek DNC Com Test Terminal application (DTerm32):
  - a) If you are using the Dostek DNC File Manager (DDFM32), on the **Supervisor** menu, click **Com Test Terminal**.
  - b) If you are using the Dostek DNC MultiPort server (DMDNC32), on the **Tools** menu, click **Com Test Terminal**. Note: You must first "disconnect" the channel as explained in Appendix A, "Disconnecting a MultiPort DNC Channel."

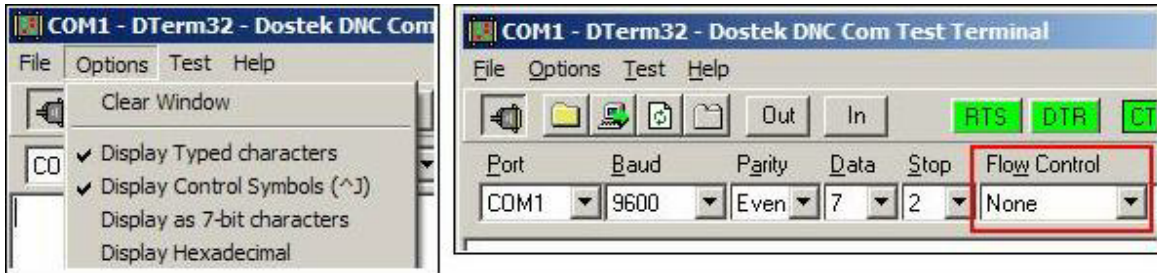
The DTerm32 Device Configuration window opens.



2. Select the configuration for the CNC you wish to receive data from, and then click **OK**.
3. An additional information message may appear. Click **OK**. The DTerm32 window opens with the title "COMn - DTerm32 - Dostek DNC Com Test Terminal" (where 'COMn' is the selected COM port).

**Note:** The status panel at the bottom left corner of the window should indicate 'Connected' on a green background. If the status indicates 'Disconnected' on a red background, DTerm32 was unable to open the COM port. This could mean the port is already in use by another application, or the port is not configured properly.

- Configure the DTerm32 'Options' menu as shown below, and set the 'Flow Control' setting in the toolbar to 'None'.



- On the DTerm32 menu, click **File**, and then **Capture to log file**. The "Open communication log file" window opens.
- Select an existing log file, or type the name of a new log file, and then click **OK**.

Note: Use the extension .log or .txt for the log file. This makes it easier to open the file in a text editor or attach it to an email message.

- Go to the CNC and send the data you wish to capture. Captured data scrolls in the DTerm32 window, and will usually appear something like the example below:

```

^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@
^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@
01234^J
G00 Z0.5^J
G00 X0 Y0^J
G01 Z -0.5 F8^J
G01 X1 Y0 F8^J
G01 X1 Y1 F8^J
G01 X0 Y1 F8^J
^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@
^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@^@
^D^T

```

Note: Control characters (such as 'Line Feed') that are not normally visible are displayed as a two-character 'control-code' sequence. For example, the NULL character which is used by some CNCs to produce blank tape on a paper tape punch is displayed as '^@', and the LF (Line Feed) character designated as the 'End of Block' code in ISO-standard G-code programs is displayed as '^J'.

- On the DTerm32 menu, click **File**, and then **Capture to log file** again to stop capturing data. The "End capture" prompt appears.

9. Click a button to choose what to do with the captured data. To send the captured data to Dostek by email:
  - a) Click **Clipboard** to copy the captured data to the Windows clipboard.
  - b) Open a new email message, and then paste the captured data into the email message.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, save the copy the captured file to another computer by a removable drive or a shared network folder.

## 2.4 Sending Component Version Information

Dostek DNC includes an application that reports the current version of all the software components it uses.

To send a software component version information to Dostek:

1. Start the Dostek DNC Navigator application.
2. Select the Navigator's **Test** tab, and then click **Version Information**. The Component Version Info window opens. It displays a list of all software components and the current version of each.

**Note:** If **Version Information** is not visible in the Test tab, start the component version application manually:

- a) Open Windows Explorer.
  - b) Browse to the "C:\Dostek DNC" folder.
  - c) Locate and double-click the "DComponentVersionInfo" application.
3. In the Component Version Info window, click **Copy to Clipboard**. The version information is copied to the Windows Clipboard.
  4. Open a new email message, and then paste the captured data into the email message.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, save the copy the captured file to another computer by a removable drive or a shared network folder.

## 2.5 Sending BTR Configuration

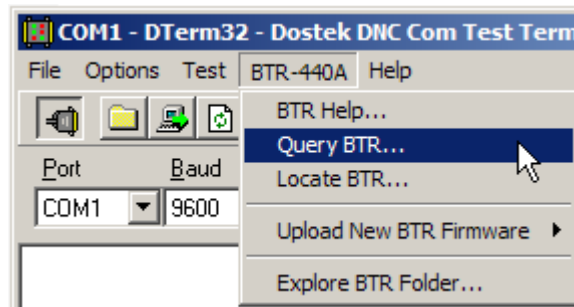
The Dostek DNC Com Test Terminal application includes a feature to capture configuration information from a Dostek Model 440A Behind-the-Tape Reader (BTR).

To send 440A BTR configuration information to Dostek:

1. Ensure the 440A BTR is not already in use. The BTR's 7-segment indicator should display any one of the following three symbols:



2. From the DTerm32 menu, click **BTR440A**, and then **Query**. (Requires DTerm32 version 2006.22A or later).



DTerm32 sends a series of commands to the 440A BTR to capture the configuration information. The BTR will indicate 'C' (command mode) for a few seconds during this process. The Results window opens with a list of the BTR configuration information.

**Note:** To download the latest version of the DTerm32 application, visit [www.dostek.com/support.htm](http://www.dostek.com/support.htm) and click the **Support Update** link.

3. Click **Copy results to Windows Clipboard**. The results are copied to the Windows Clipboard.
4. Open a new email message, and then paste the captured data into the email message.

**Note:** If the computer does not have an email client installed, save the copy the captured file to another computer by a removable drive or a shared network folder.

### **3 Support Tips**

Following these tips will help you obtain fast and accurate technical support from Dostek.

- Review the recommendations for resolving problems provided in Section 1.
- Write down your observations, including all alarm codes and error messages, and a brief description of exactly what you were doing when the problem occurred.
- When describing a problem (verbally or in writing), be specific and avoid the use of slang and ambiguous terminology. For example, instead of saying "When I'm downloading, the CNC crashes and the computer stops", say "When I'm sending a file from the computer to the CNC, the CNC indicates alarm 86 and the Dostek DNC software stops after sending 14 percent of the file and displays the message "XOff char received."
- Whether you contact Dostek by telephone, fax or email, be sure to provide your complete contact information including:
  - Your full name
  - Your company name (required to locate your file)
  - Your telephone number, including area code
  - Your correct email address
  - Your Dostek DNC software version number (start Dostek DNC Navigator, and click the **About** tab)

**Note:**

Telephone technical support is free during the free trial period and to registered users for a limited time after purchase. Thereafter, telephone support may be subject to a reasonable fee. Please contact Dostek for more information.

Email support is always free to registered users, subject to reasonable limitations.

Email [support@dostek.com](mailto:support@dostek.com)  
Telephone 888-355-5735 (Toll free, USA and Canada)  
519-742-5721  
8am - 5pm EST, Monday to Friday  
Facsimile 519-741-8669  
Internet [www.dostek.com/support.htm](http://www.dostek.com/support.htm)

## Appendix A - Disconnecting a MultiPort DNC Channel

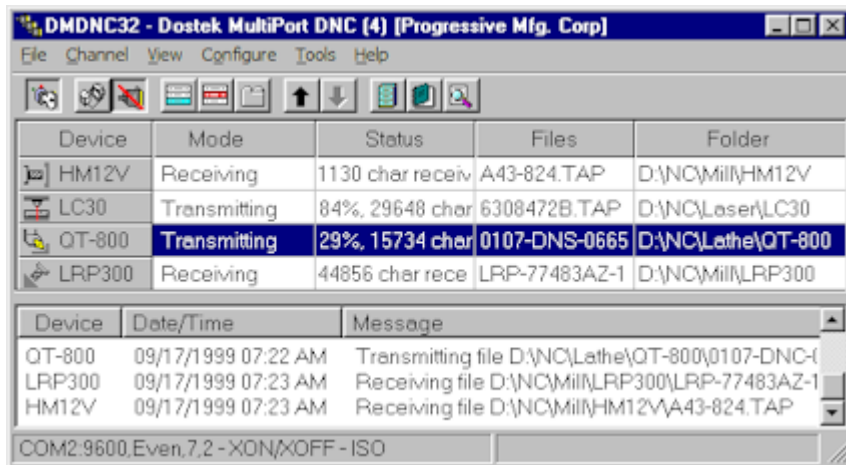
This appendix explains how to disconnect a Dostek MultiPort DNC channel so you can capture received data using the Com Test Terminal (DTerm32) application.

Capturing data received from the CNC is explained in Section 6, "Send Captured CNC Output to Dostek."

When you are using the Dostek DNC MultiPort server application (DMDNC32), you must "disconnect" the CNC channel before you can capture data using DTerm32.

To disconnect the CNC channel:

1. Select the CNC whose data you will be capturing in the MultiPort DNC channel list: The selected channel is highlighted.



2. On the DMDNC32 menu, click **Channel**, and then **Disconnect**. The channel's COM port is released (closed) so the port can be opened by the DTerm32 application.

