

DI-245 Communication Protocol

Although DATAQ Instruments provides ready-to-run WinDaq software with its DI-245 Data Acquisition Starter Kits, programmers will want the flexibility to integrate the DI-245 in the context of their own application. To do so they want complete control over DI-245 hardware, which can be accomplished by using the device at the protocol level. This white paper describes how protocol-level programming of the DI-245 is implemented across the Windows and Linux operating systems. First, we'll describe the virtual COM operation of the DI-245's interface and how communicating with the DI-245 is accomplished via a COM port hooked by the operating system. Then we'll define the DI-245's command set and scan list architecture and finish with a description of the DI-245's binary and ASCII response formats. **Note that all of the commands and their arguments described in this protocol are lower case unless otherwise stated.**

Virtual COM Port Operation

Installing the DI-245 driver package and connecting DI-245 hardware to the host computer's USB port results in a COM port being hooked by the operating system and assigned to the DI-245 device. COM port configured should be:

COM Port Communication Settings	
Parameter	Value
Baud rate	115200
Data bits	8
Stop bits	1
Parity	none

Multiple DI-245 devices may be connected to the same PC without additional driver installations, which results in a unique COM port number assignment to each by the operating system. Hooking a COM port in this manner facilitates ease of programming from any operating system and programming language by simply writing commands to and reading responses from the port, but before any meaningful communication with a connected DI-245 can begin the controlling program must determine the COM port number assigned to the device. The method used for this varies as a function of the host operating system.

Virtual COM Driver (Windows)

DATAQ Instruments provides a minimum installation for Windows that you can download and use at no charge, even for OEM applications. This is a scaled-down version of the standard installation that omits WinDaq software and other utilities that are extraneous in a pure programming environment. The download provides a Microsoft-signed INF file that ensures trouble-free operation with both 32- and 64-

bit Windows 7, Windows 8, and Windows 8.1. The installation depends upon drivers `ftdibus.sys` and `ftser2k.sys` `usbser.sys`, located in path `%SystemDrive%\Windows\System32\Drivers`.

COM Port Number Discovery (Windows)

Using the DI-245's vendor and product IDs, Windows' registry can be accessed programmatically to determine the COM port number that the operating system assigned to one or more connected DI-245s. The Vendor and Product ID combination for the DI-245 is: `VID_0683` and `PID_2450` respectively. With this information and at least one connected DI-245, determining assigned COM port numbers is a two-step process:

1. The registry tree `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\CurrentControlSet\Services\ftser2k\Enum\` will contain one Device Instance ID for each DI-245 connected to the PC. The Device Instance ID assumes the following typical data for string name 0:

`FTDIBUS\VID_0683+PID_2450+5&18B6E64F&0&8\0000`.

The first two sections of this string (`FTDIBUS\VID_0683+PID_2450+`) are constant for all DI-245s. The second section (`5&18B6E64F&0&8`) will vary depending upon where in the USB port hierarchy the DI-245 is physically connected. Since more than one DI-245 cannot be connected to the same USB port this value will be unique for each concurrently connected DI-245. The entire string value is required for the second step.

2. Registry tree `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE`

`\System\CurrentControlSet\Enum\FTDIBUS\VID_0683+PID_2450+5&18B6E64F&0&8\0000`

(continuing with the above example) shows a variable called `FriendlyName` set to string value `DATAQ DI-245 (COMXX)`, where `XX` is the COM port number assigned to the specified DI-245. This string may be parsed to extract the port number assigned to the DI-245. The process may be repeated using other Device Instance IDs determined from step (1) for other connected DI-245 instruments.

COM port number assignments may also be determined manually from Windows' Device Manager in its `Ports (COM & LPT)` section. However, the assigned value will change depending upon the physical USB port connected to the DI-245, any other devices that may hook COM ports, and the apparently arbitrary whims of the Windows operating system

Virtual COM Driver (Linux)

To use FTDI-based DI-245 using a virtual COM port interface on Linux, the following commands must be issued on each reboot or unloading of the drivers (`ftdi_sio` & `usbserial`):

```
# sudo modprobe usbserial vendor=0x0683 product=0x2450
# echo "0683 2450" | sudo tee -a /sys/bus/usb-serial/drivers/ftdi_sio/new_id
```

If the DI-245 wasn't plugged in, plug it in, otherwise, unplug and re-plug for the changes to take effect. A new device file (treated as the COM port to talk to the DI-245) will show up in the "/dev/" directory using the next available increment for "ttyUSB0". For example, if no other "ttyUSB" files are present under "/dev/", plugging in the DI-245 after issuing the previous commands will result in the following file (COM port) being created: /dev/ttyUSB0

DI-245 Command Set Overview

The DI-245 employs a simple ASCII character command set that allows complete control of the instrument.

Long commands and arguments (longer than two characters) are separated by a space character (0x20), and each long command string must be terminated with a carriage return character (x0D). Long commands do not echo until the 0x0D character is received.

Short commands (2 characters or less) are preceded with a null character (0x00), which is not echoed, but each command character is echoed as it is sent.

Basic command structure is as follows:

```
<0x00>command< (0x20) <argument1> (0x20) <argument2> (0x0D) >
```

DI-245 Command Set	
ASCII command	Action
Basic Information Commands	
Various 2-character commands	Returns ASCII information related to the hardware as a function of the argument value.
Scanning Commands	
chn arg0 arg1	Populates the DI-245 scan list
S1	Start scanning
S0	Stop scanning
CJC Commands	
cjcdelta arg0 <arg1>	Adjusts CJC sensor offsets
Digital Input Commands	
dchn arg0	Enable or disable the digital channel

Basic Information Commands

The DI-245 command set supports a number of basic command/response items that provide a simple means to ensure the integrity of the communication link of the program to the device. These commands produce simple, yet useful responses from the instrument and should be employed as the programmer's first DI-245 communication attempt. If these commands don't work with a functioning DI-245 then a problem exists in the communication chain and further programming efforts will be futile until resolved. Basic information commands are preceded with a Null character that is not echoed, but each command character is echoed by the DI-245 as it is sent. Responses to this set of commands include echoing each command character as it is received, followed by the response. For example, the command "`(0x00) A1`" generates the following response: `A12450`

DI-245 Command Set	
ASCII command	Action
A1	Returns device name: "2450"
A2	Returns firmware version as two hex bytes (e.g. <code>0x65 = 101₁₀</code> for firmware revision 1.01)
NZ	Returns the DI-245's serial number (of the ten digits returned, the left-most eight are the device's s/n)
A7	Returns last calibration date as the number of elapsed seconds since Jan. 1, 1970 in hex

chn Command

The DI-245 employs a scan list approach to data acquisition. A scan list is an internal schedule (or list) of channels to be sampled in a defined order. It is important to note that a scan list defines only the type and order in which data is to be sampled, not the sampled data itself. The DI-245's scan list supports only analog inputs. Analog input channels may be further defined in the scan list for input type or range. Scan list members are populated using the following general syntax (arguments are in ASCII and separated with a space):

chn (0x20) member (0x20) value (0x0D)

where:

$0 \leq \text{member} \leq 3$ and indicates the position in the scan list.

$0 \leq \text{value} \leq 65535$ and indicates the value assigned to the defined scan list member to define channel number and measurement function. Refer to the following **Scan List Configuration and Measurement Tables**.

Scan List Configuration Table

Function	Scan List Bit Position															
	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
Analog in, Channel 0	All unused bits = 0			Mode (see Measurement table)	Range (see Measurement table)	Full Scale Range (see Measurement table)			All unused bits = 0				0	0	0	0
Analog in, Channel 1	All unused bits = 0					0	0	0	1							
Analog in, Channel 2	All unused bits = 0					0	0	1	0							
Analog in, Channel 3	All unused bits = 0					0	0	1	1							

Measurement Table

Full Scale Range			Measurement		
Scan List Bit Position			Range = 0	Range = 1	Range = Don't care
10	9	8	Mode = 0	Mode = 0	Mode = 1
0	0	0	±500 mV	±50 V	B thermocouple
0	0	1	±250 mV	±25 V	E thermocouple
0	1	0	±100 mV	±10 V	J thermocouple
0	1	1	±50 mV	±5 V	K thermocouple
1	0	0	±25 mV	±2.5 V	N thermocouple
1	0	1	±10 mV	±1 V	R thermocouple
1	1	0	n/a	n/a	S thermocouple
1	1	1	n/a	n/a	T thermocouple

Example chn Commands*

Command(s)	Action
"chn 0 0 (0x0D) "	Enable analog channel 0 for a ±50 V range as the first scan list member
"chn 0 2 (0x0D) "	Enable analog channel 2 for a ±50 V range as the first scan list member
"chn 0 5120 (0x0D) "	Enable analog channel 0 to measure an N type TC as the first scan list member
"chn 1 514 (0x0D) "	Enable analog channel 2 to measure ±100 mV as the second scan list member
"chn 2 3331 (0x0D) "	Enable analog channel 3 to measure ±1 V as the third scan list member

* Scan list parameters are in decimal.

Observe the following when populating the DI-245 scan list:

1. Insert analog channels in the scan list in order of lowest to highest channel number.
2. Do not duplicate channel numbers in the scan list.
3. The scan list is not terminated.

xrate Command

Use the *xrate* command to define the burst sample rate (Hz) of the DI-245. A single enabled channel is sampled at the rate defined by *xrate*. If multiple channels are enabled, the sample rate per channel is defined as the value defined by *xrate*, divided by ten and divided again by the number of enabled

channels. For example, if $xrate = 2000$ Hz and there are two channels enabled, the sample rate per channel is 100 Hz.

$xrate$ definition is a function of two arguments:

$$xrate \ arg0 \ arg1$$

where:

$arg0$ is a 16-bit unsigned integer (see $arg0$ Configuration)

$arg1$ is a 16-bit unsigned integer representing the integer result of the calculated burst rate

arg0 Configuration															
Bit Position															
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	Sinc4	AF value				0	SF value						

Sample rates are constructed through use of integer values AF, SF, and bit Sinc4 where:

$$0 \leq AF \leq 15$$

$$0 \leq SF \leq 123$$

$$\text{IF (burst rate in Hz)} \geq 500 \text{ then Sinc4} = 1 \text{ ELSE Sinc4} = 0$$

Any given burst sampling rate (B) is calculated using at least SF and possibly AF values and the following two equations:

if $AF = 0$

$$SF = \frac{8000}{B} - 1 \tag{1}$$

Solving for *Burst rate*

$$B = \frac{8000}{(SF + 1)} \tag{1a}$$

if $AF > 0$

$$AF = \frac{8000}{B(SF + 1)} - 3 \tag{2}$$

Solving for *Burst rate*

$$B = \frac{8000}{(SF + 1)(3 + AF)} \tag{2a}$$

The choice of one equation over another is a matter of which arrives closest to a given desired burst sampling rate in Hz. However, if the desired burst rate is less than or equal to 64 Hz, Equations (1) and (1a) should be applied, since no AF values greater than zero contribute to a solution. For burst rates greater than 64, the determination of SF and AF factors is an iterative process with as many as 1,845 factor value combinations to arrive at a burst rate that is nearest the desired value. In cases where two or more combinations of AF and SF values arrive at the same burst rate, the combination with the highest SF value should be chosen.

Example 1:

Our desired burst rate is 128 Hz. Using (1) we determine that an integer value of 61 or 62 arrives closest to the ideal 128 Hz value. Substituting either into (2) yields values for AF that are outside its defined range. Therefore, (1a) is used with the values 61 and 62 to determine which results in a value closest to 128 Hz. SF value 62 wins, with a sampling throughput rate of 126.9841 Hz. Set *arg0* and *arg1* as follows:

arg0 = 62															
Bit Position															
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0

arg1 = 127

Example 2:

Our desired burst rate is 10 Hz. Using (2a) values SF=79 and AF=7 produce a burst rate value precisely equal to 10 Hz. Set *arg0* and *arg1* as follows:

arg0 = 1871															
Bit Position															
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	1

arg1 = 10

Example 3:

Our desired burst rate is 750 Hz. Using (1) we determine that the ideal SF factor is 9.67, setting the integer value to either 9 or 10. Either SF value renders values for AF that are out of range. Therefore, use of equation (1a) shows that an SF value of 10 yielding an actual burst rate of 727.27 Hz falls closest to the 750 Hz ideal. Set *arg0* and *arg1* as follows:

arg0 = 4106															
Bit Position															
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0

arg1 = 727

Table of typical burst rates versus AF and SF values:

Burst Rate (Hz)	SF	AF	Actual Burst Rate (Hz)	Burst Rate (Hz)	SF	AF	Actual Burst Rate (Hz)
1	123	15	3.58	70	113	0	70.175
2	123	15	3.58	80	99	0	80
3	123	15	3.58	90	88	0	89.89
4	110	15	4.004	100	79	0	100
5	99	13	5	200	39	0	200
6	110	9	6.006	300	26	0	296.3
7	103	8	6.99	400	19	0	400
8	99	7	8	500	15	0	500
9	110	5	9.009	600	12	0	615.38
10	99	5	10	700	10	0	727.27
20	99	1	20	800	9	0	800
30	37	4	30.08	900	8	0	888.89
40	49	1	40	1000	7	0	1000
50	39	1	50	1500	4	0	1600
60	18	4	60.15	2000	3	0	2000

***cjcdelta* Command**

The *cjcdelta* command applies CJC (cold junction compensation) offsets per channel to ensure measurement accuracy when using thermocouples. Since accurate thermocouple measurements depend upon an equally accurate measurement of junction temperature (where the thermocouple connects to the DI-245), the *cjcdelta* command exists to ensure accurate junction temperature readings. Adjustments using *cjcdelta* should be applied only on a channel with a connected thermocouple whose junction is held in an ice bath. This allows *cjcdelta* to adjust the measured temperature to 0°C, ± 0.0625°C.

The command syntax of *cjcdelta* consists of the command with at least one, but no more than two ASCII integer arguments that are separated by a space character (0x20), and terminated with a carriage return character (0x0D). General forms of the command follow:

cjcdelta (0x20) -1 (0x0D)

Reads CJC offsets from all channels and returns four values separated by a space in the order of channel 0 to channel 3. Each value will fall in the range of -100 to +100. An offset may be calculated by multiplying the value returned per channel by 0.0625°C.

cjcdelta (0x20) i (0x20) j (0x0D)

where:

0 ≤ i ≤ 3 and represents the channel number

-100 ≤ j ≤ 100 and represents the offset multiplier (j * 0.0625°C)

cjcdelta (0x20) -2 (0x0D)

Writes CJC offsets to the DI-245's flash memory.

Note that CJC offsets are inversely proportional to temperature. Higher offset values decrease temperature readings, and lower values increase temperature readings.

dchn Command

The dchn command is used to enable or disable the digital input channel, which conveys information about the state of the DI-245's remote stop/start and event inputs. The command allows one argument in the form of a single ASCII character, as follows:

dchn (0x20) i (0x0D)

where:

i = 1 enables the digital input channel

i = 0 disables the digital input channel

Scanning Commands

The DI-245 accepts two commands that control its scanning process, one to start and another to stop. These two-character ASCII commands consist of a null character (0x00), followed by an upper-case S character (0x53), followed by either an ASCII "0" or "1" (0x30 and 0x31 respectively). All but the null character are echoed by the DI-245.

(0x00) Si

where:

i = 1 starts the scanning processes

i = 0 stops the scanning process

DI-245 Binary Output Format

Issuing the command to start scanning causes the DI-245 to respond with a continuous binary stream of one 16-bit words per enabled measurement. The least significant bit of the first byte in this stream is always cleared and set in all other response bytes to allow the host program to synchronize with the data stream. The stream sequence repeats until data acquisition is halted by the stop command. Assuming that all four analog channels and the digital channel are enabled in order, data stream composition is as follows:

DI-245 Binary Data Stream Example (all channels enabled in order)										
Scan list position	Word Count	Byte Count	B7	B6	B5	B4	B3	B2	B1	B0 (sync)
0 (Analog in 0)	1	1	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	0
		2	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	1
1 (Analog in 0)	2	3	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	1
		4	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	1
2 (Analog in 0)	3	5	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	1
		6	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	1
3 (Analog in 0)	4	7	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	1
		8	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	1
4 (Digital in)	5	9	D0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
		10	0	0	0	0	0	0	D1	1
0 (Analog in 0)	6	11	A6	A5	A4	A3	A2	A1	A0	0
		12	A13	A12	A11	A10	A9	A8	A7	1
...

Binary Analog Channel Coding

The DI-245 transmits a 14-bit binary number for every analog channel conversion. Meaningful information is extracted from these readings by inverting the most significant bit, and treating the result as a two's complement number:

AD13	AD12	AD11	AD10	AD9	AD8	AD7	AD6	AD5	AD4	AD3	AD2	AD1	AD0	ADC Counts
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8191
0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	8190
...
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-1
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	-2
...
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	-8191
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-8192

Channels configured as a voltage input use the following equation to derive volts as a function of FSR (full scale range) and reported ADC counts:

$$V = FSR * \frac{\text{counts}}{8192}$$

If FSR = 25 mV and measured ADC counts = 2587:

$$.025 * \frac{2587}{8192} = 0.0079 V$$

If FSR = 2.5 V and measured ADC counts = -1279:

$$2.50 * \frac{-1279}{8192} = -0.39 V$$

Channels configured as a thermocouple (TC) input borrow two ADC counts from the measurement range to indicate error conditions.

ADC counts = +8191 indicates an unrecoverable CJC error. The DI-245's processor cannot communicate with the CJC temperature sensor, or the reading is outside the CJC sensor's measurement range.

ADC counts = -8192 indicates a TC burnout condition.

An applied temperature is derived from ADC counts (A) according to the following equation, where m and b are determined by TC type:

$$^{\circ}C = mA + b$$

TC Type	m	b
J	0.08606	495
K	0.095947	586
T	0.036621	100
B	0.095825	1035
R/S	0.110962	859
E	0.073242	400
N	0.091553	550

Control

Revision	Date	Description
1.0	Apr 22, 2014	Original release level
1.01	Apr 29, 2014	Changed the CJCDELTA command to "-2" from "4" to write CJC offsets to the DI-245's flash memory.
1.02	May 15, 2014	Reduced burst rate equations; Added a comment regarding burst rates less than 64 Hz
1.03	May 16, 2014	Corrected a typo in the "Example chn Commands" table where an argument was in hex instead of decimal; Corrected a typo in CJC scale factor to 0.0625 from 0.0624°C; Added a footnote to the "Example chn Command" table stating that all parameters are in decimal; Corrected a calculation error in the Speced vs. Actual temperature measurements table that used 8191 as full scale ADC counts vs the correct 8190.
1.04	May 16, 2014	Returned values from the CJCDELTA command range from ± 100 , not 0-99. Added note that CJC offsets are inversely proportional to temperature readings.
1.05	May 19, 2014	Various corrections to "COM Port Number Discovery (Windows)"
1.06	May 20, 2014	Changed nomenclature of arg0 and arg1 for the xrate command to decimal from hex.
1.07	Jun 20, 2014	Removed the reference to specified vs. measured TC ranges as misleading and unnecessary.
1.08	Aug 18, 2015	Added COM port settings table and minor clean up.
1.09	Sep 30, 2015	Added details about how to hook a COM port under Linux