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Instruction manual KERN PC software

BalanceConnection

Software Version 4.4.1.0

KERN SCD-4.4
KERN SCD-4.4-PRO

2025-12
GB



You can find the latest version of this guide online at:
<http://balanceconnection.kern-sohn.com/Manual.pdf>



KERN BalanceConnection PC software

Instruction manual

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1 Hardware and software requirements

Software requirements:

- Operating system:
Windows 10 October 2020 Update (version 20H2) and above versions
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.8.1
- Complete administration rights for the installation and some functions

Hardware requirements:

- free serial port (RS232/485), or
- free USB port, or
- Ethernet interface, or
- Wi-Fi Interface, or
- Bluetooth interface

2 License variants

Depending on whether license key entered at the beginning, the software starts in the following variants.

2.1 Demo-version

You can find the Demo-version of the BalanceConnection software within KERN web shop in the download area (KERN SCD-4.0). It can be used for 30 days (from the day of installation).

2.2 Standard-version

The Standard-version includes all features that a typical end user uses, without certain advanced features and extended export functions. The advanced features and extended export functions are only included in the Pro-version.

2.3 Pro-version

Certain advanced features are not included in the Standard-version. For a list of these features, please refer to the KERN web shop.

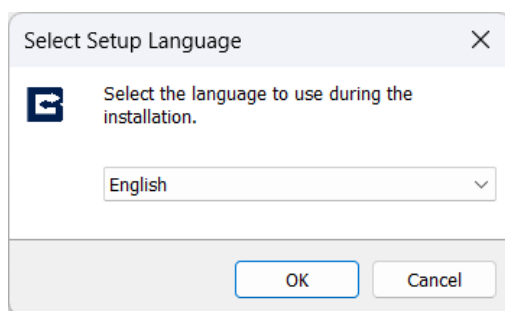
The software can be upgraded at any time by entering a new license key.

3 Installation

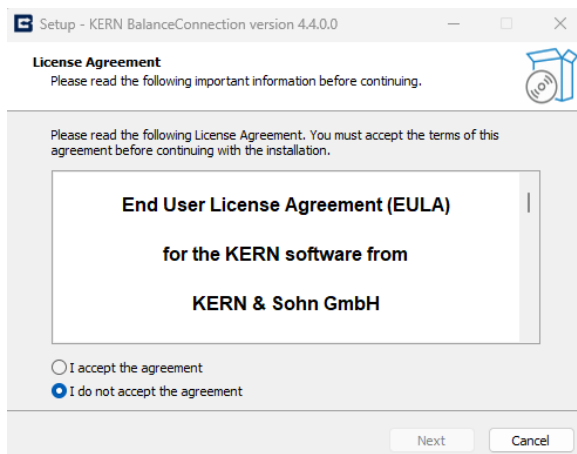
3.1 Using Setup file

 KERN BalanceConnection.exe	15/05/2024 13:10	Application	21,629 KB
--	------------------	-------------	-----------

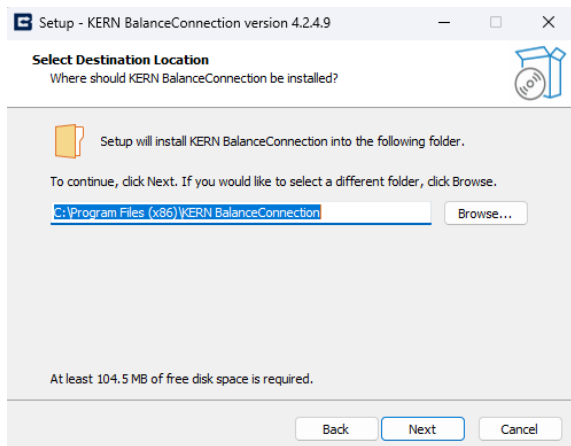
⇒ Start the file "setup.exe".



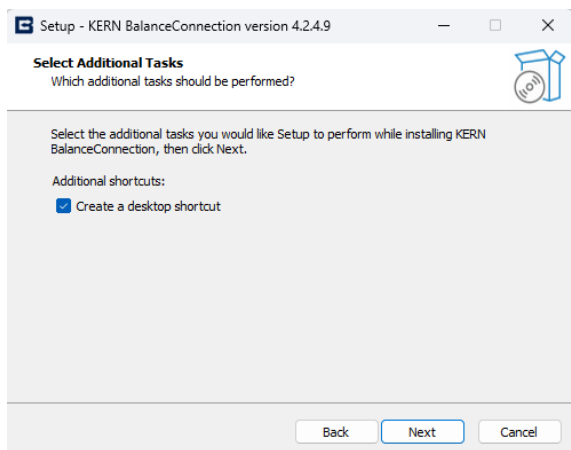
⇒ Select language



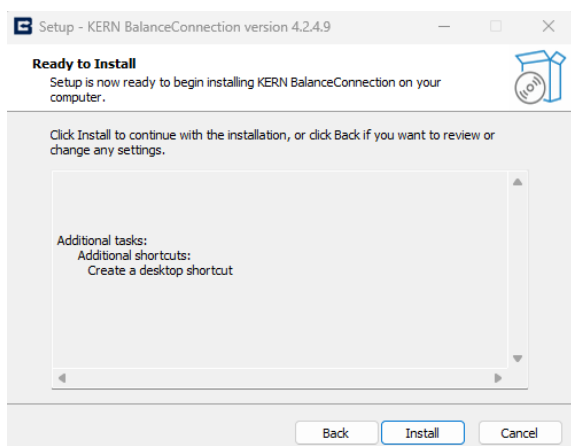
⇒ Accept the software license agreement by clicking "I accept the agreement". Continue by clicking on **NEXT**



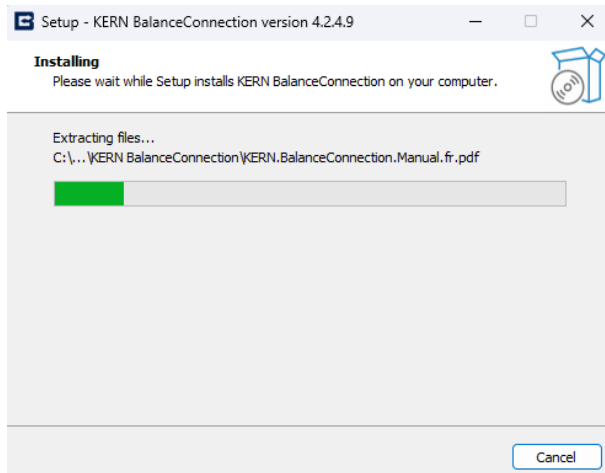
⇒ Select the installation folder. Continue by clicking on **NEXT**



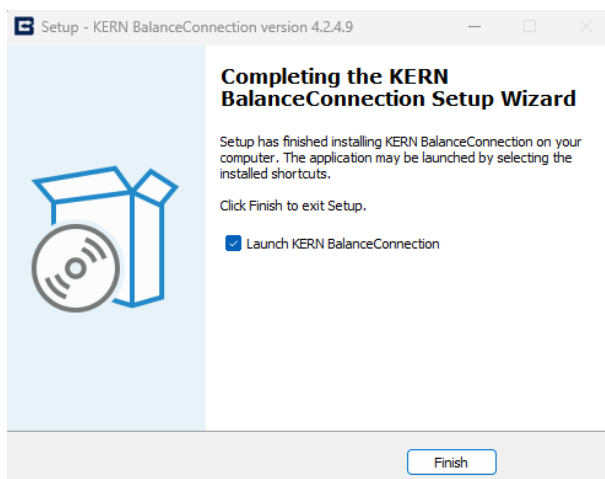
⇒ Select additional tasks as desired.



⇒ By clicking on **INSTALL** start installation



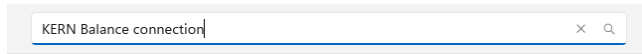
⇒ After successful installation the following window appears:



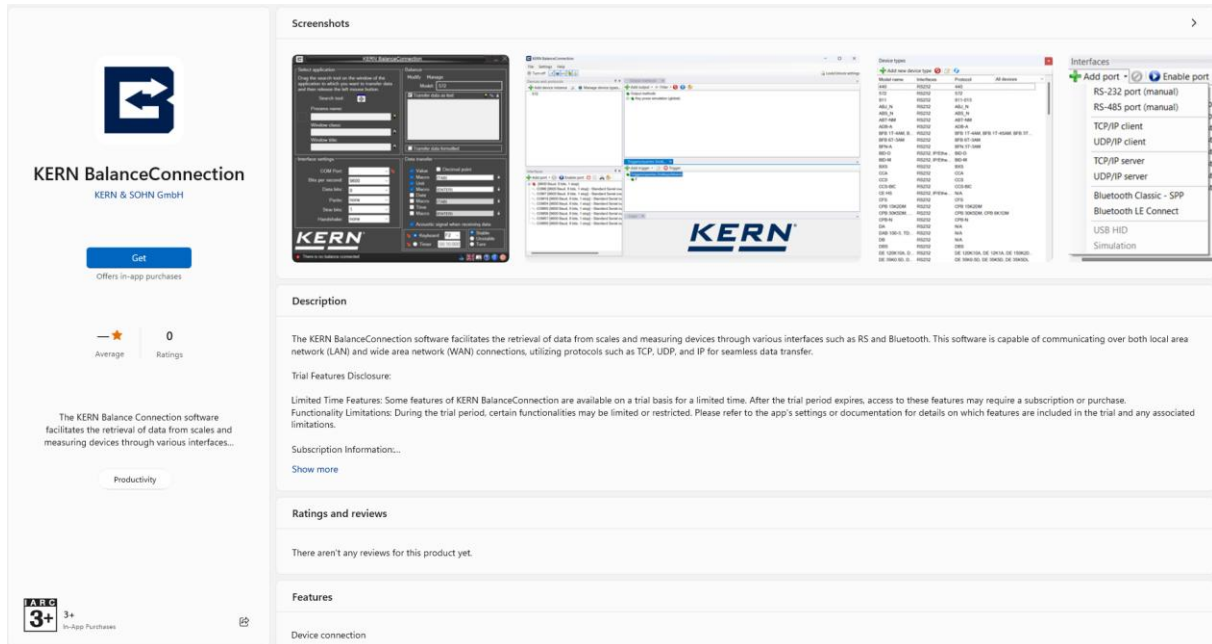
⇒ Installation by clicking on **FINISH** end. BalanceConnection can be started.

3.2 Using Microsoft store

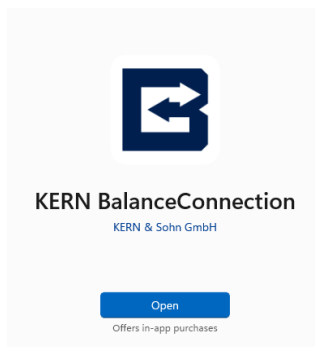
⇒ Windows 11 users can install the application from the Microsoft Store. Simply search for "KERN BalanceConnection" in the store.



⇒ Click Get to install the application.



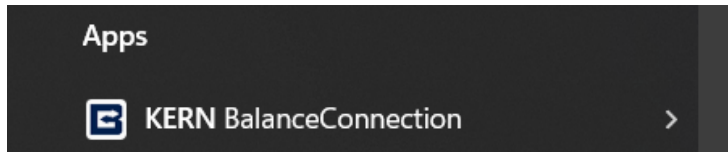
⇒ Once the application is downloaded and installed, it will be available to open / launch.



i	• Installation via setup file will install the application for all users on a PC. • In contrast, installation from the Microsoft Store is user-specific; each user must install the application from their own Microsoft Store account.
----------	---

4 Program start

⇒ Start this program by clicking the desktop icon



⇒ Or through the Start menu.

4.1 License activation

The application first prompts for the license to start the KERN BalanceConnection.

Machine ID:

Mac ID of the user system is shown with a copy button which will be useful to send it to the Licensing administrator for license creation.

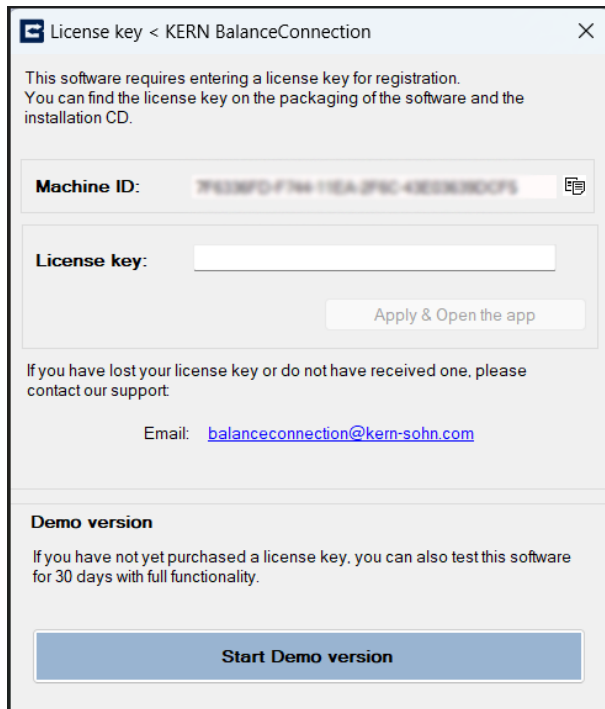
Start Demo version:

This button will be used to work with KERN BalanceConnection for 30 days as a Demo for only once.

If the user has no license, this demo version will be useful to work and understand the application.

4.1.1 Inserting the license:

Once the license is received from the licensing administrator, it can be paste in the license key field.



License key < KERN BalanceConnection [X]

This software requires entering a license key for registration.
You can find the license key on the packaging of the software and the installation CD.

Machine ID: 7F63BFD-77A-11EA-2F6C-43E063BDC0F5 [Copy]

License key: [Empty text field]

[Apply & Open the app]

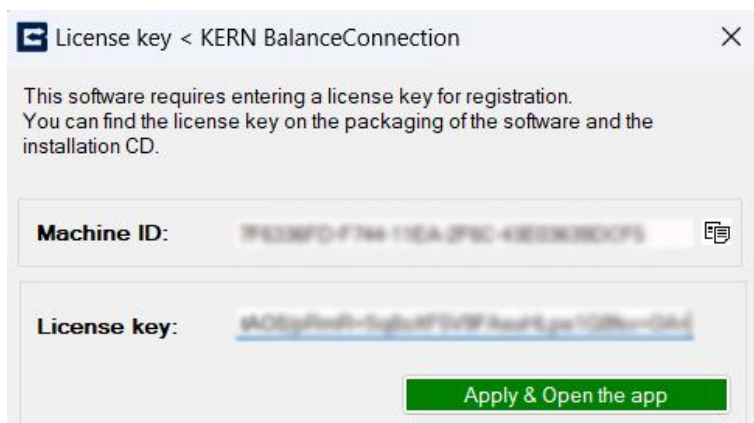
If you have lost your license key or do not have received one, please contact our support.
Email: balanceconnection@kern-sohn.com

Demo version
If you have not yet purchased a license key, you can also test this software for 30 days with full functionality.

[Start Demo version]

4.1.2 Activating the license:

If the license is valid, then the color of the “Apply & Open the app” button will be turned green. Otherwise, it appears in white without any changes. Once the apply button is clicked, the application will be opened with respective license mode (Standard or Pro version).



License key < KERN BalanceConnection [X]

This software requires entering a license key for registration.
You can find the license key on the packaging of the software and the installation CD.

Machine ID: 7F63BFD-77A-11EA-2F6C-43E063BDC0F5 [Copy]

License key: 5A052F6a8-52b2a7F5VW 5a052F6a8-52b2a7F5VW

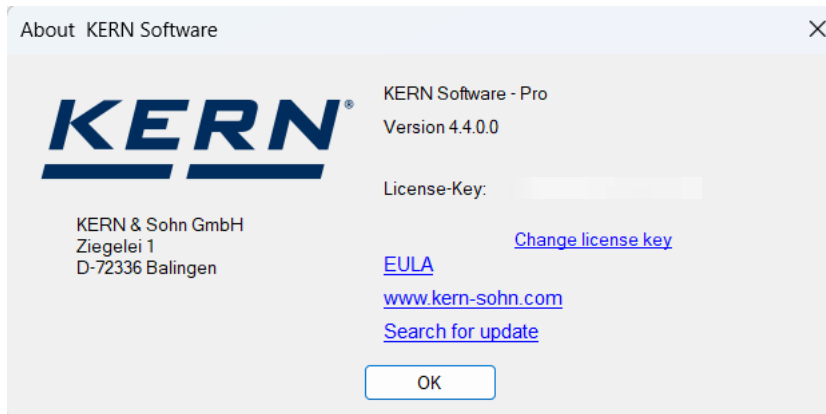
[Apply & Open the app]

4.1.3 View about License:

On clicking the Info icon or menu from the app settings.

The license details can be viewed as shown below.

By clicking [Change license key](#),
the license can be changed and deactivated by the user.



4.2 License deactivation:

Using the deactivate button, the user can deactivate the license from the system. If the license is an older version and not created from KERN License Management, then it can be deactivated by using the confirmation dialog box. If the license is created by License Management by the customer, then the deactivation process must be followed for further deactivation.

This procedure is described in [chapter 4.2.1](#).

License key < KERN BalanceConnection

This software requires entering a license key for registration.
You can find the license key on the packaging of the software and the installation CD.

Machine ID:

7F53BFD-7744-11EA-2F6C-43E3B3D0CF5

License key:

u3jg8T1LP3u4h1TE33w5kyA62yH5u4Y2yVapGut

Deactivate

Apply & Open the app

If you have lost your license key or do not have received one, please contact our support.

Email: balanceconnection@kern-sohn.com

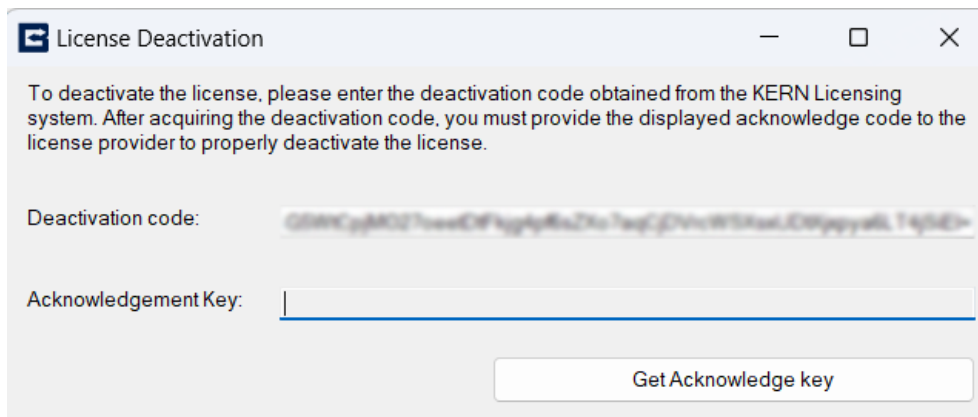
Demo version

If you have not yet purchased a license key, you can also test this software for 30 days with full functionality.

Start Demo version

4.2.1 Deactivation using acknowledgment key

To deactivate the license, the user must enter the deactivation code which is available in the License management system.

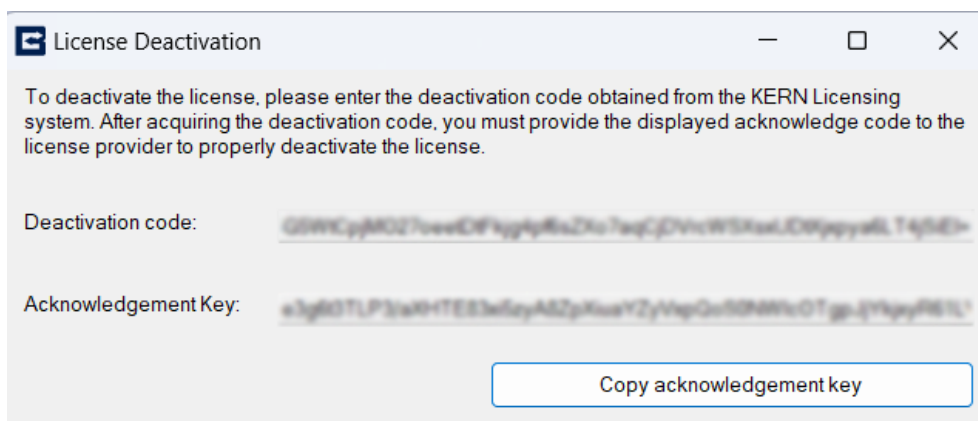


The dialog box titled "License Deactivation" contains the following elements:

- Instructions: "To deactivate the license, please enter the deactivation code obtained from the KERN Licensing system. After acquiring the deactivation code, you must provide the displayed acknowledge code to the license provider to properly deactivate the license."
- Deactivation code: A text field containing a long alphanumeric string.
- Acknowledgement Key: An empty text field.
- Get Acknowledge key: A button at the bottom right.

Once the deactivation code is validated as valid one, click the “Get acknowledge key” button to get the acknowledgement key which will be used to complete the deactivation process in License Management.

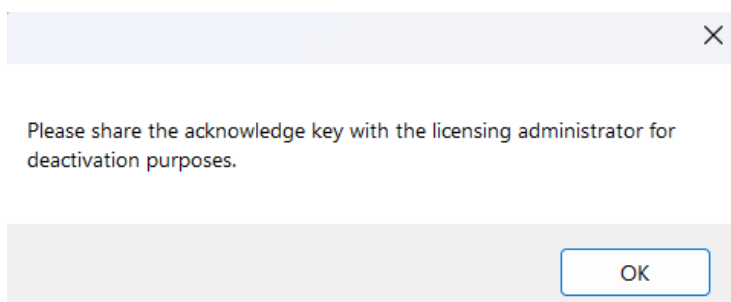
The acknowledgement key can be copied using the “copy acknowledgement key button” as shown below.



The dialog box titled "License Deactivation" contains the following elements:

- Instructions: "To deactivate the license, please enter the deactivation code obtained from the KERN Licensing system. After acquiring the deactivation code, you must provide the displayed acknowledge code to the license provider to properly deactivate the license."
- Deactivation code: A text field containing a long alphanumeric string.
- Acknowledgement Key: A text field containing a long alphanumeric string.
- Copy acknowledgement key: A button at the bottom right.

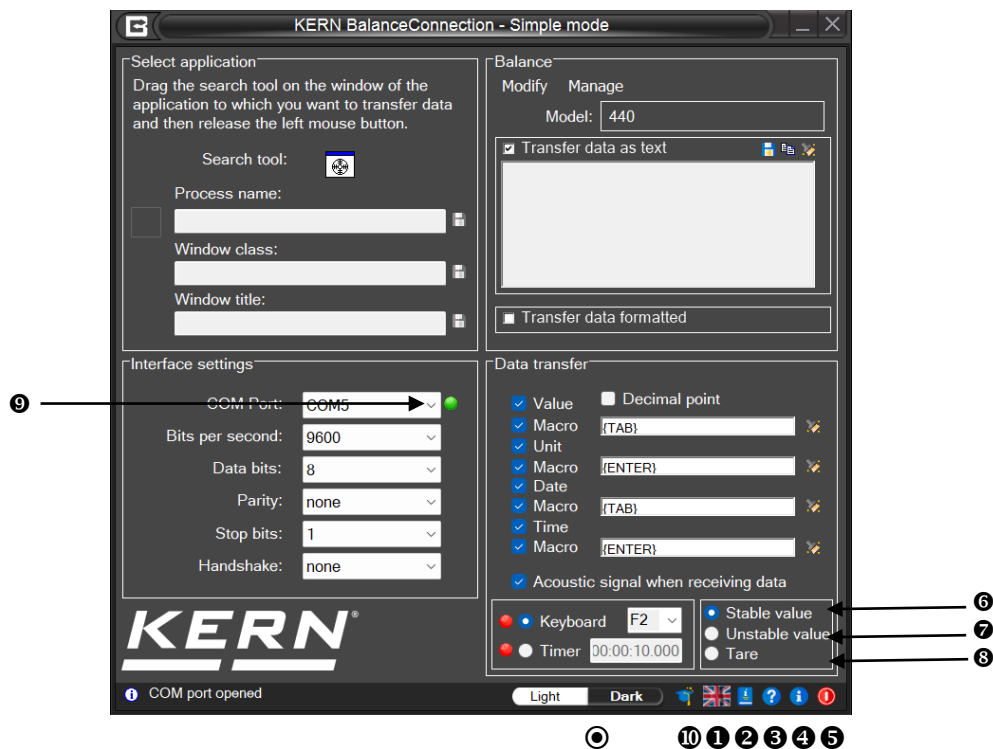
The form will be closed, and the acknowledgement key will be copied on clicking the Copy acknowledgement key button is clicked. The created acknowledgement key must be safely copied and shared to the licensing administrator to complete the deactivation process as it cannot be created once again by the same system using the KERN BalanceConnection.



The dialog box contains the following elements:

- Close button (X) in the top right corner.
- Text: "Please share the acknowledge key with the licensing administrator for deactivation purposes."
- OK button at the bottom center.

4.3 First program Start and Overview Simple mode



- ⑩ Click to toggle the design in Simple Mode between Light and Dark.
- ① Click to change this icon to set the language
- ② Click this icon to open the manual
- ③ Click this icon to toggle tooltip help information about the user interface on or off.
- ④ Click this icon to display information about the program.
- ⑤ Click on this icon to quit the program.
- ⑥ Predefined remote-control command: It will receive only stable weight values of the scale.
- ⑦ Predefined remote-control command: It received unstable and stable weight values of the scale.
- ⑧ Predefined remote-control command: Command to tare scale is sent.
- ⑨ A green light when the interface is open, red when the port is closed.
- ⑩ **Enable the expert mode.**

5 Simple mode / Quick Start

The program starts in the "Simple mode". This mode makes it very easy to pass data from a scale over RS232 to the computer to another Windows application.

Advanced features are offered by „Expert Mode“.

This mode is activated as described in [chap.4.3](#) by button ⑩

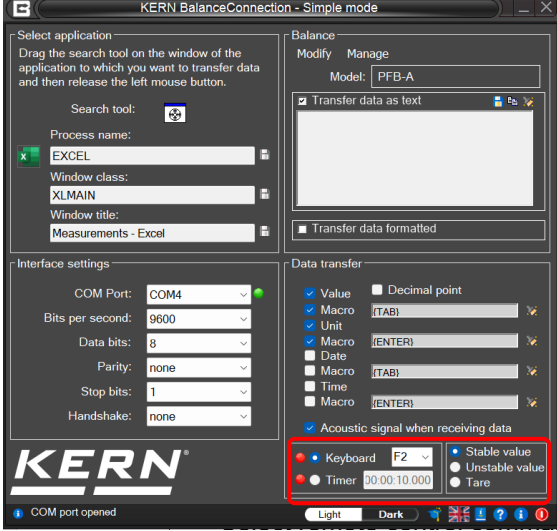
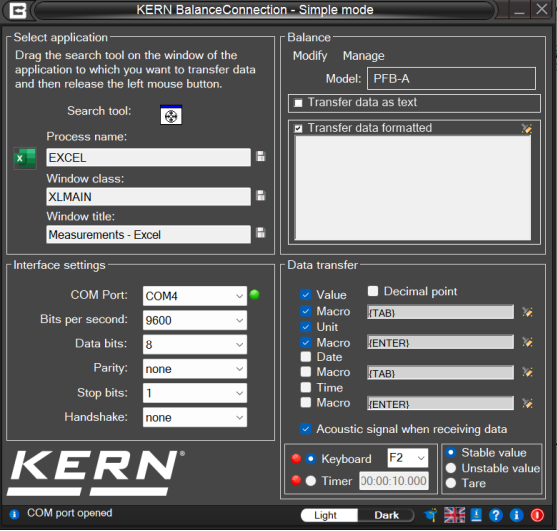
5.1 Data transfer from a KERN balance to Microsoft Excel

The required display is as follows: first column displays the weight value, second column displays the related unit, third column displays the current time, forth column displays the current date.

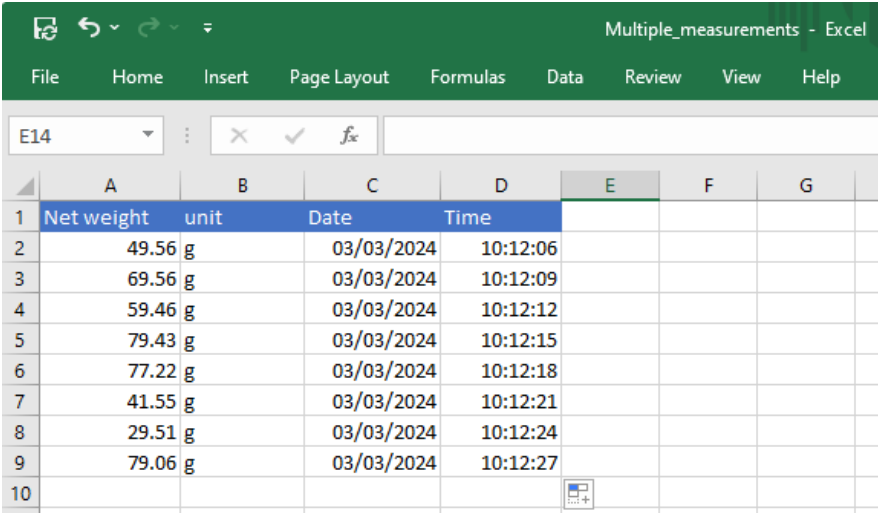
Required settings:

- ⇒ Select using search tool using Microsoft Excel, s. [Chap. 5.3](#)
- ⇒ Select Balance type of list, s. [Chap. 5.4](#)
- ⇒ "Formatted data transfer" button
- ⇒ Enter COM-port.
- ⇒ Click on the desired transmission data, s. [Chap. 5.6](#)

For data transmission, there are two options available:

Data transfer via remote control commands	Data transfer from balance
 ⇒ Select remote control command (s. Chap.4.3 ⑥ ⑦ ⑧). ⇒ Select data transfer button or timer.	 ⇒ Data is transferred by pressing a button (z. B. PRINT key) at the scales or continuously, depending on the setting in the scale menu.
+ The measurement data are displayed in the right window.	

Corresponding output in EXCEL:



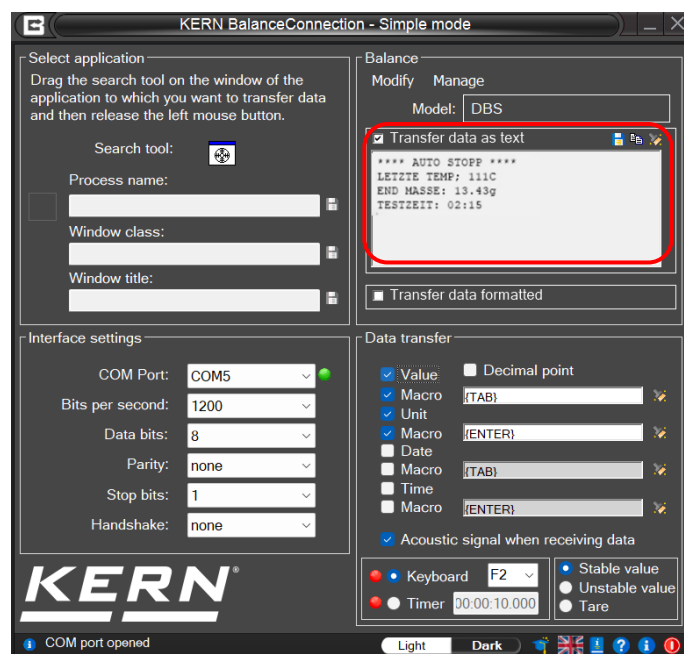
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Net weight	unit	Date	Time			
2	49.56	g	03/03/2024	10:12:06			
3	69.56	g	03/03/2024	10:12:09			
4	59.46	g	03/03/2024	10:12:12			
5	79.43	g	03/03/2024	10:12:15			
6	77.22	g	03/03/2024	10:12:18			
7	41.55	g	03/03/2024	10:12:21			
8	29.51	g	03/03/2024	10:12:24			
9	79.06	g	03/03/2024	10:12:27			
10							
11							

5.2 Take readings in a text file

Example moisture analyser KERN DBS:

Required settings:

- ⇒ Select DBS from the list, s. [Chap. 5.4](#)
- ⇒ Click "Transfer data as text"
- ⇒ Enter COM-port.
- ⇒ Start the drying process
- ⇒ After drying press PRINT button on the device, the data is displayed in the right window.



with button  save the result as a text file...

or

with button  Copy result into clipboard and then in another application eg Microsoft Word.

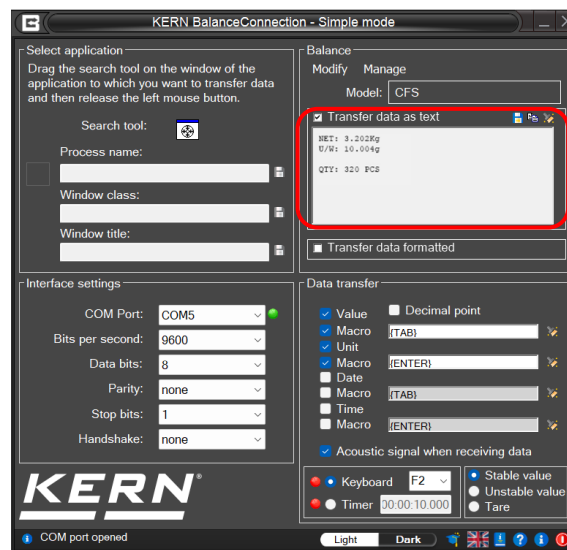
```
***** auto stop
LAST TEMP: 110 C
END MASS: 13.85 g
TEST TIME: 02:15
MASS LOST: 0:19 g
RESULTS: 1.35% M
```

with button  clear the data window.

For counting scale:

Required settings:

- ⇒ Select Balance type, for example KERN CFS from list, s. [Chap. 5.4](#)
- ⇒ Click "Transfer data as text"
- ⇒ Enter COM port.
- ⇒ Determine the reference weight.
- ⇒ Place the parts to be counted and press M + key on the balance.
The weight on, reference weight and the number of parts placed on display in the right window.



with button  save as a text file...

or

with button  copy the results into clipboard and then in another application, like Microsoft Word.

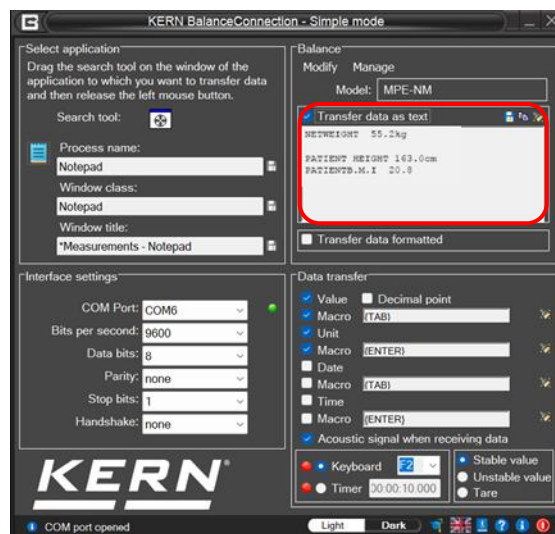
```
NET: 3.202 Kg  
U / W: 10.004 g  
Q'TY: 320 PCS
```

with button  clear the data window.

Example personal scale:

Required settings:

- ⇒ Select Balance type, for example KERN MPE-NM from list, s. [Chap. 5.4](#)
- ⇒ Click "Transfer data as text"
- ⇒ Enter COM port.
- ⇒ Determine Body Mass Index, return to the weighing mode and press the PRINT button on the balance. The weight, body length and body mass index calculated from it are displayed in the right window.



with button  save result as a text file...

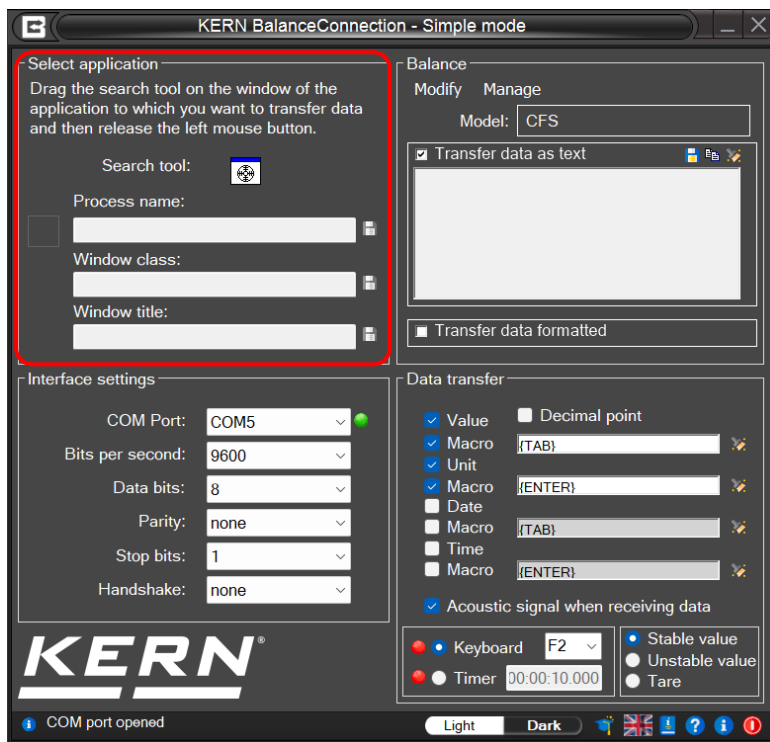
or

with button  copy result into clipboard and in another application, like Microsoft Word.

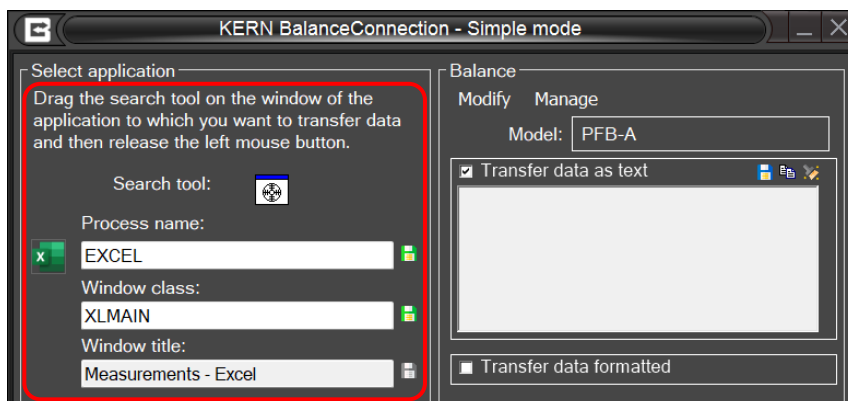
```
55.2 kg gross weight  
TARE WEIGHT 0.0 kg  
NET WEIGHT 55.2 kg  
PATIENT HEIGHT 163.0 cm  
PATIENT B.M.I 20.8
```

with button  clear the data window.

5.3 Window "Select application"



The software asks you to select the application to which you wish to transmit data. Selecting an application is quite simple. Start your application program, keep it open in the background and left click your mouse, keeping the mouse button pressed down, so that you can drag the searching tool with your selected application to the window of your application and then release the mouse button. Afterwards the application selected by you will appear in the box under **SELECTED APPLICATION** (e.g. Microsoft Excel).



5.3.1 Save and automatic detection of the target window

When you close the process or the corresponding window selected in the software, the program loses the connection to the window until you manually select a new window again.

If you want the program to remember the target window by some specific properties and restore the target window upon restart, you must define those properties. There are three ways how a target window can be identified:

- **Process name (selected application):**
The name of the process / name of the executable file of the target application. A filter based on this property cannot distinguish between different instances of the same application
- **Window class:**
The programmer of an application can assign a window “class” to a window. This window class is often more specific than the name of the application.
- **Text window:**
The text in the title of a window. The title often changes depending on the current state of the target application. Excel, for example, includes the name of the currently opened document in the window title.

The text required to be matched by one of those criteria is defined in the corresponding textbox:



To enable filtering by a property, click on the disk symbol next to the textbox. 

An active filter is displayed with a green disk symbol. 

After activating a filter, you can adjust the filter text in the textbox.

As an example, the following entry matches all windows, whose title contains the word “Measurement”, regardless of which program owns the window (Microsoft Excel or Word).



If at least one criterion is active, starts BalanceConnection hidden in the taskbar.

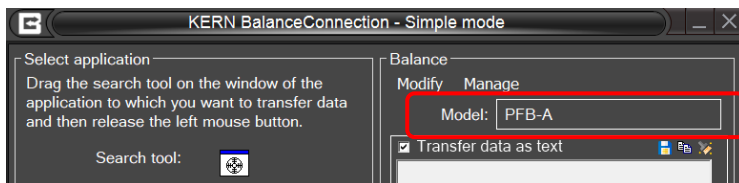
5.4 “Balance“ window

To enter the type of balance used by you go to **BALANCE**.

5.4.1 Select predefined type of balance

On delivery the software contains predefined type records for KERN balances. Please note that all settings belonging to the respective type of balance will automatically be entered under settings/interface when selecting a predefined type.

All that may be left to correct could be the matching COM connection.

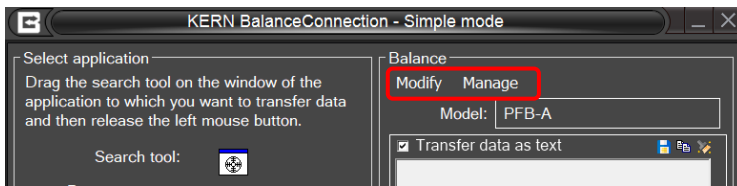


- Click on the **BUTTON** and a selection menu will appear. Scroll up or down, to select the desired balance.



- BalanceConnection is only fully operational when the balance is set to the weighing mode. Applications (e.g. piece counting) are not supported by the simple mode in BalanceConnection.
- Activate the setting „Handshake off“ in the menu. For further information on how to operate your balance please refer to the manual supplied with each balance.

5.4.2 Edit the available types of weighing equipment



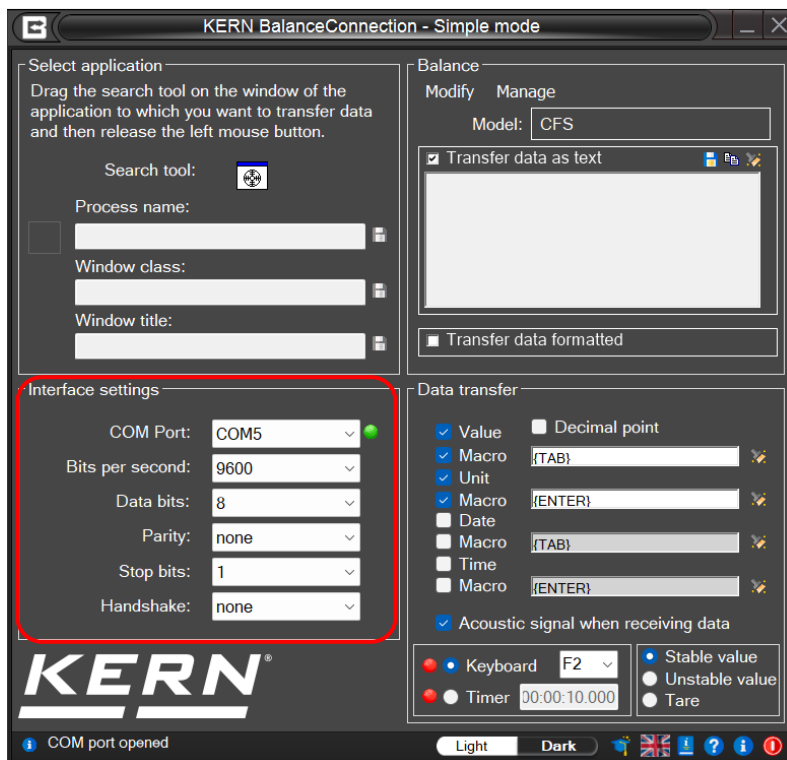
To edit the available device types, have the following options:

- **Modify:** Opens the properties of the currently selected device.
See section 8 for details on editing it's properties.
- **Manage:** Opens the list of available device types.
See [chapter 8](#) for details.

i	Many parameters of a device type are not relevant in simple mode. Important features are: • Standard interface parameters • Protocol-interactions for remote control commands (PC as an initiator).
----------	--

5.5 “Interface settings” window

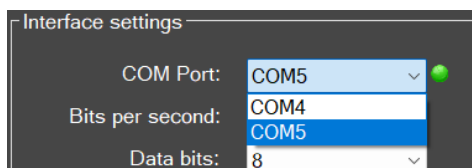
This window is used to customize your interface parameters if none of the types of balances on the selection menu for predefined balances matches your requirements.



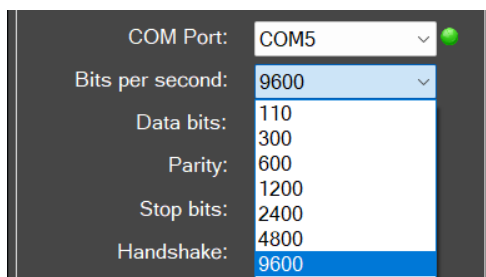
The balance must be connected to the PC via a serial cable.

Prior to transferring data, you must ensure that the same interface parameters are set on the balance and the PC. Select this program item for this purpose.

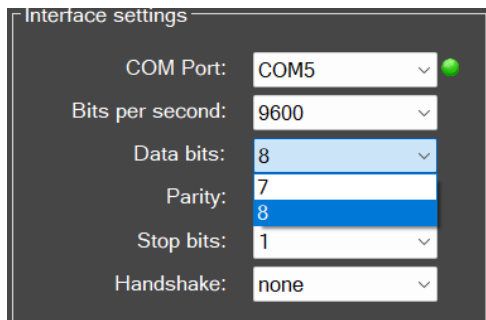
- **COM-PORT:** Select the interface at which the connection to the balance is in place.



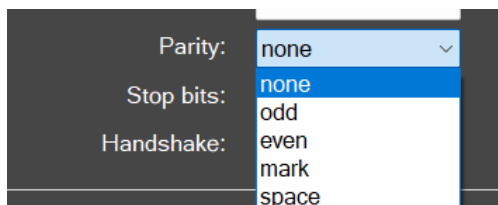
- **BAUDRATE:** Select the speed you require for data transmission (110 to 19200 Baud).



- **DATA BITS:** Select the number of bits used for depicting a character.



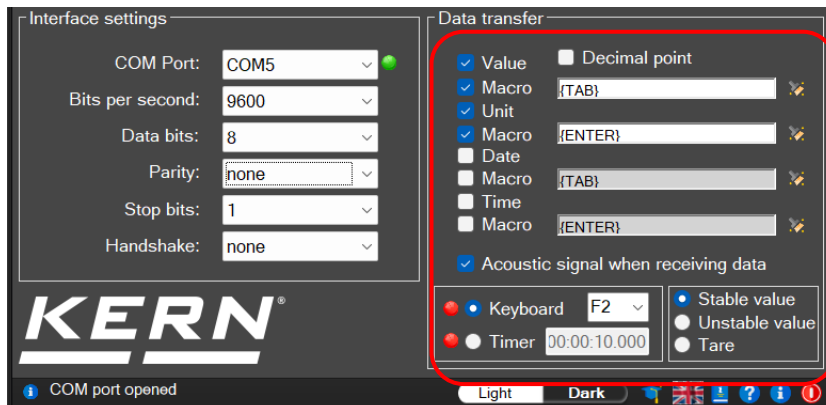
- **PARITY:** This selection is the precondition for the PC attributing a parity bit to each character. Possible settings include *space*, *mark*, *even*, *odd* and *none* for parity generation.



- **STOPBITS:** Select the number of bits to be sent after each character.
- **HANDSHAKE:** Select the control of data flow via software handshake (Xon / Xoff) or hardware handshake (RTS / CTS).

5.6 “Data transfer” window

Possible settings are included:



- **VALUE:** Select whether a transmitted value is to be displayed in the application program.
It is possible to define a **macro** (This example showing {TAB}, that is, the cursor jumps to the next table segment after each data transmission).
- **UNIT:** Transmitted values are transmitted to the application in the **unit selected for the balance**.
It is possible to define a **macro** that is executed immediately after transmission.
- **DATE:** Dependent on necessity, **transmission of date** can be selected either with or without **macro**.
- **TIMER:** Transmission of values additionally with **statement of time**, optionally in 12- or 24-hour mode. It is also possible to define a **macro**.
- **SOUND SIGNAL ON RECEPTION OF DATA:**
Determine whether each successful data transmission from the balance to the PC should be followed by an acoustic sound signal. This enables you to monitor acoustically whether data received from the balance has been transmitted to your application.

Click **KEYBOARD** or **TIMER** and define whether a data transmission of selected remote-control commands (see ⑥ ⑦ ⑧) takes place each time a predefined key is pressed or whether this should take place timer-controlled (time interval includes seconds, minutes and hours for exact definition). We have chosen the F2-key for our example.

6 Expert Mode-Overview

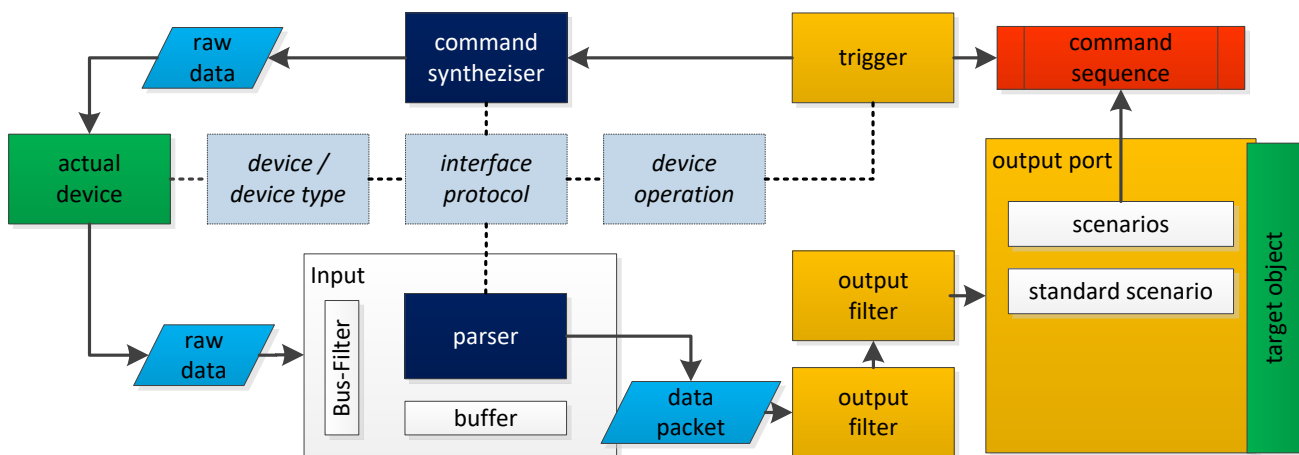
Compared to the simple mode, the expert mode provides a diversified feature set and allows very flexible pass on the data from the connected measuring devices to various target applications or other target devices like printers.

Using flexibility in expert mode requires a good knowledge of the software and its concepts.

Therefore, we briefly give an overview of the terms used in the rest of these manual.

These concepts will be discussed in other chapters in detail.

The diagram below gives an overview of the structure and interaction of the elements in the software:



6.1 Device types and device instances

For correct functioning, the software requires information on the connected devices. This information can be divided into specific design characteristics (e.g. interface protocol, available operations, interface parameters, ...) as well as device-specific characteristics (serial number, individual settings).

The design-specific properties are stored in the software with the "device types".

A type of device can be used as a "template" for a "device instance".

These save additional information such as serial number and allows to then alter the inherited device type properties.

It should be noted that some properties, such as the interface protocol, are shared between all device instances and types.

6.2 Hardware- interfaces (ports)

A "port" in the software is an abstraction over a hardware port or software communication interface of the computer, to which a measuring device can be connected.

So they basically combine RS232 / 485 or IP / Ethernet ports in a single concept. The devices raw data are received or sent over these ports.

6.3 Inputs

On certain types of hardware interfaces, multiple devices can be connected. So, for example, RS485 is a bus system where several scales on the same line are connected to the same PC interface.

To address these devices separately in the software, any hardware interface can be assigned one or more "inputs".

These inputs accomplish the filtering of incoming data according to the bus ID of the transmitting device.

The more important function of the inputs is the "interpretation" of the transmitted digital information from the devices.

This information reaches the interface of the PC in an unstructured format (bytes), it is further referred to as "raw data".

To be able to process the information on the PC further, the data thus must be analyzed with a so called "parser" (it has to be "parsed").

6.4 Protocols / pattern recognition (Parser)

The software supports several types of the "parsers":

- **Weight value parser:**

This simple parser examines the incoming data looking for weight values (that is, a number followed by a unit of weight).

Various types of weight values (e.g. gross, tare and net) are not distinguished by this parser but treated equally.

- **Text log parser:**

The text protocol parsers allow the "dismantling" of transmitted text data into its components / parts.

These components (e.g. gross / net / tare / enumerator) are then passed separately through the program and can then be output separately.

Therefore the parser requires information about the interface protocol of the device.

An interface protocol consists of "interactions", and further general information on the protocol. An interaction can be initiated by the PC (for example, remote control commands) or it is initiated by the device itself (eg "Print Key").

6.5 Outputs

A transmission from a device that has been disassembled into its component values is then passed through a "pipeline" to the configured outputs.

An output can, for example, be a file, an Excel spreadsheet, another application, a presentation directly on the computer or even another device (e.g. printer).

6.5.1 Output patterns (templates)

To output the data received from the scale flexibly, most output methods offer a possibility to specify an output pattern (template).

An output pattern is a string (text) which may also contain variables, shortcuts and functions.

On each output action, these parts are replaced with the appropriate value.

6.5.2 Output Filters

In the "pipeline" of data packets, output filters can be interposed between an input and an output.

These filters allow you to filter out data packets, modify them (computed fields) or to synchronize packets (record multiple scales at the same time).

6.5.3 Output scenarios

In its basic configuration, upon receipt of information, an output passes data in the defined format on to the destination, regardless of the meaning of the data.

Most output methods also allow for different types of data (adjustment record, stable measured values, ...) to be treated separately by defining different "output scenarios". So, for example, the adjustment record is transferred to a different location or in a different way, as a regular reading.

In addition, individual command sequences in this context can be triggered (playing sounds, display messages).

6.6 Triggers

Most measurement devices with communication interface allow for remote control commands to trigger certain functions / operations / responses of the device.

A "trigger" specifies when and what device which operation has to be triggered, with what parameters.

A "device operation" can be a query of the measured value, setting an internal parameter or triggering the adjustment, zero or tare of the balance. Depending on operation, several parameters may be necessary. Also, whether the device acknowledges, or answers depends on the type of operation and device.

Triggers can be configured with different activation methods, such as **hotkeys** or **timers**:

- **Hotkey Trigger:** Executes an action when a specific key combination is pressed.
- **Timer Trigger:** Executes an action at defined intervals, with options for start/end times and active weekdays.

Additional features:

- Start/Stop using a hotkey
- Setting a total runtime for timer-based triggers



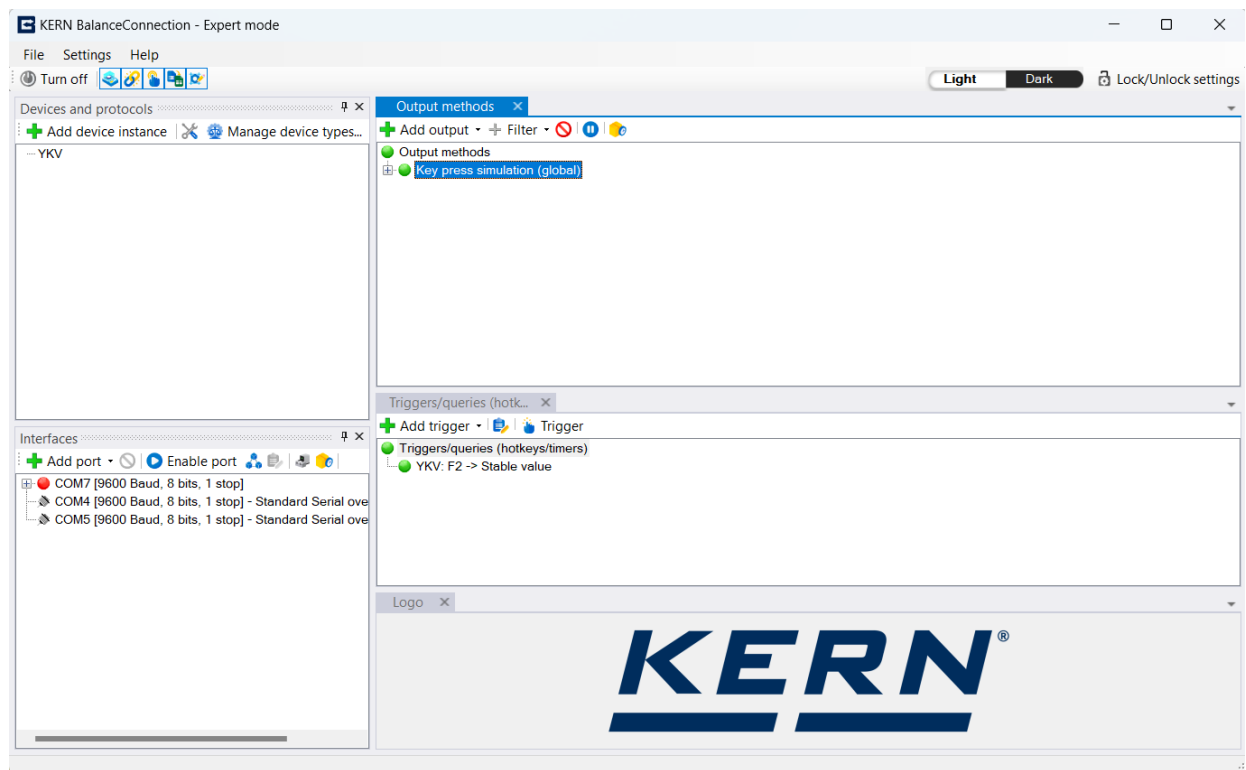
Note: For more details on trigger settings and configuration, see [chapter 13](#)

6.7 Command sequences

In the context of triggers or output methods, complex command sequences can be triggered instead of the standard function.

A command sequence consists of a series of commands with individual parameters. Examples are clicks, keystrokes, activation of windows or, as a special example, highlighting a cell range in Excel.

7 General user interface in Expert Mode

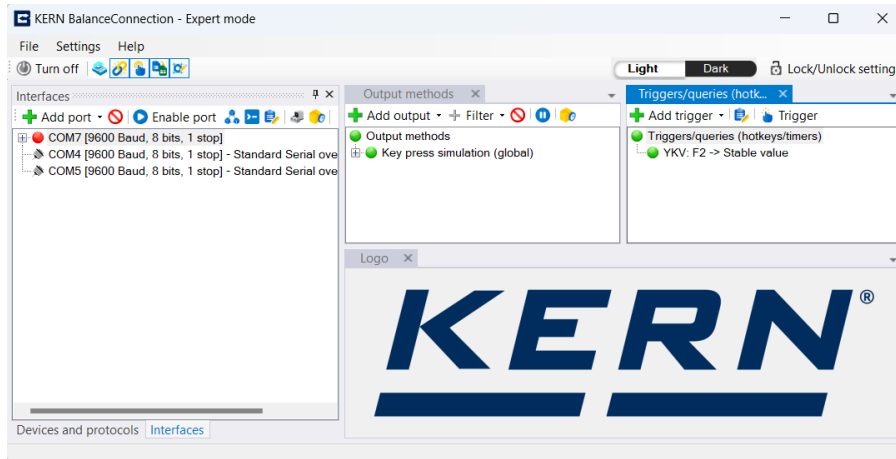


7.1 Window / docking

The user interface of the software is modular. Each window or dialog can be moved and "docked" to any location.

Many dialogs you can open and continuously adjust settings.

For this, the window's title bar is simply pulled via drag and drop and release at the desired location. The window is docked accordingly. The customized dock layout created by the user will be saved and preserved within the application for each user configuration.



If the pin needle of a window operates, the window automatically hides after a certain time and is represented as a tab.

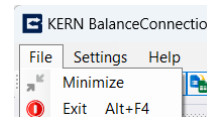
7.2 Main toolbar and menubar

7.2.1 Menubar

The menubar can be found at the top of the window. It provides basic settings and functions. The individual submenus are described in the following sections.

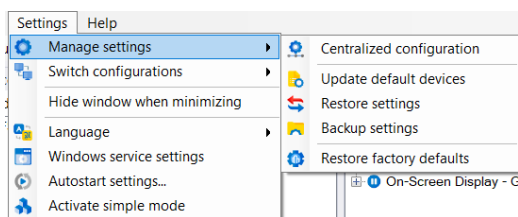
File Menu

The File menu includes the following items:



- **Minimize:** Minimizes the window. Whether the window is hidden in the taskbar or there remains visible depends on the minimization setting (see below).
- **Quit:** Stops BalanceConnection software.

7.2.1.1 Settings menu



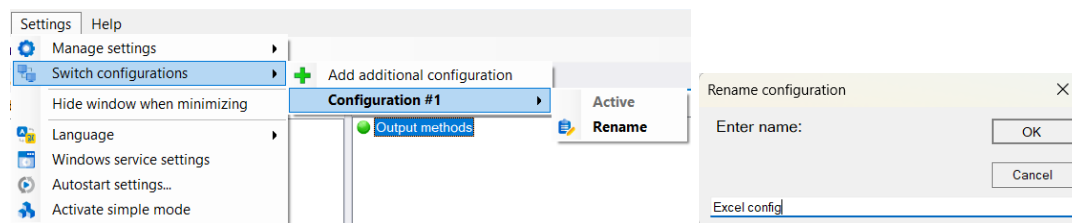
The settings menu contains the basic settings of the program. It includes the following options:

- **Manage settings:**
Functions for managing the settings file, in particular backup and restore of the configuration of the program.
We recommend you backup your settings after completing configuration. It is however not guaranteed that settings of older software versions can be restored without errors.
The "Update default devices" feature replaces the device list in the Device Type settings. Users can download the updated device list, categorized by year, from the Release Notes section on the Product page of KERN BalanceConnection.

The central configuration is explained in [chapter 7.2.1.1.1](#)

- **Switch configuration settings:**

The settings include the functions for creating new configurations and managing multiple configurations. Users can rename configurations according to their needs or usage, as illustrated below.



- **Hide window when minimizing:**

If this option is activated, the main window will be completely removed from the system tray when minimized. It can then be restored by clicking the icon in the icon area of the taskbar.

- **Language:**

The language of the user interface can be changed by clicking on the desired language here.

- **Windows service settings:**

See [Chapter 7.3](#)

- **Autostart settings:**

See [Chapter 7.4](#)

- **Enable simple mode:**

Enables simple mode.

7.2.1.1.1 Centralized configuration

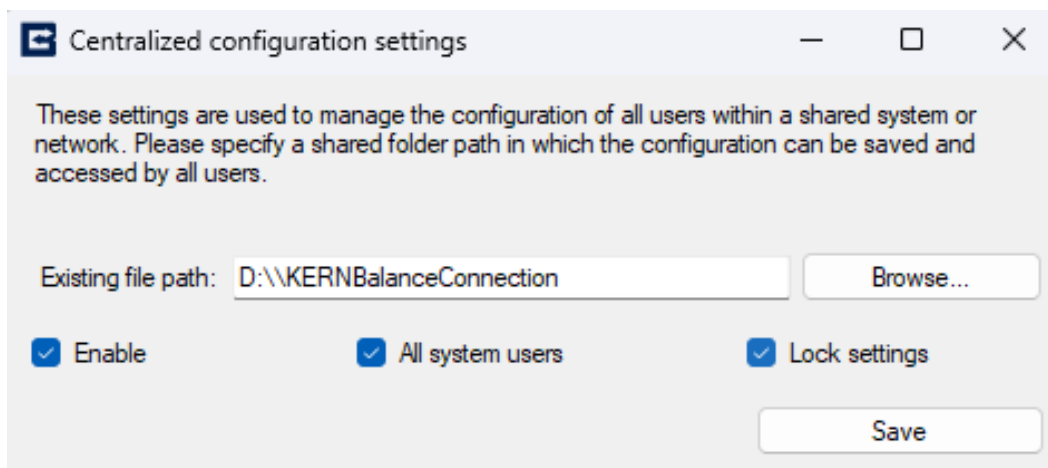
This feature facilitates the system administrator to establish a centralized configuration settings system which can be used by the local as well as other system users. The system users can be administrators or normal users. This feature has been achieved by storing the configuration data in a centralized location which is a shared path.

For normal settings (without Centralized configuration settings), the configuration is stored as per system user (in specific user's APPDATA).

To utilize these settings, the user must create a shared folder with specific user privileges to store the configuration, making it accessible to other users.

For proper usage, the shared folder must be created with the following privileges:

- Full control / read and write access for Admin users.
- Only read access for normal users.



- **Browse:** This button is used to select the desired location for setting up the configuration.
- **Enable:** This radio button is used to activate the defined configuration.
- **All system users:**
This will be available only for the administrators of the system.
Activating this will apply the settings for all the users in the system.

- **Lock settings:**

This will be available when the All-system users is selected. Activating this will restrict the non-administrators of the system from changing/modifying the configuration settings. Otherwise, each user can utilize his own centralized configuration settings. If the admin user activates this setting, then the centralized configuration settings will apply to all the system users with locked.

If the admin defines the settings with lock settings enabled or the user does not have access to the centralized folder, then the application will be automatically lock down the configuration settings to restrict the user from making changes.

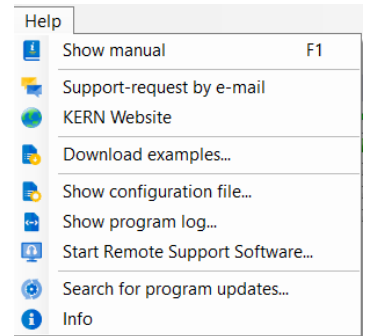
Note: **All system users** and **Lock settings** option will be applicable only for users of a single system. This setting will not affect the settings of other system.

	Ensure that the following points are satisfied to avoid issues in output methods such as Excel and file recording when using centralized configuration settings: • Use the shared folder path with full control access for all users to define the template files in Excel and file recordings. • Use different shared folders to maintain the centralized configuration and the output method related files. If both files are kept in the same folder, every user will have Write access to the centralized configuration, potentially causing usage issues.
---	---

7.2.1.2 Help menu

If you have any problems or questions when using the software, surely the functions of the Help menu can help:

- **Show manual:**
Opens the software enclosed version of the manual.
- **Request support via e-mail:**
Opens an e-mail draft a request to the KERN BalanceConnection support with important information about your installation.
- **KERN homepage:**
Opens the KERN homepage in your default browser.
- **Download sample templates:**
Opens a website with examples around the use of BalanceConnection.
- **See configuration file:**
Displays the last saved configuration file BalanceConnection.
- **Program log:**
Opens a view of the program logs of BalanceConnection.
For more information, see the [chapter 7.5](#),
- **Search program update:**
Checks online if a new version of BalanceConnection available is.
See [chapter 16](#) for more information.
- **Info:**
Displays basic information about your installation of BalanceConnection.



7.2.2 Main Toolbar

The main toolbar can be found under the menu bar:



The toolbar contains the following functions:

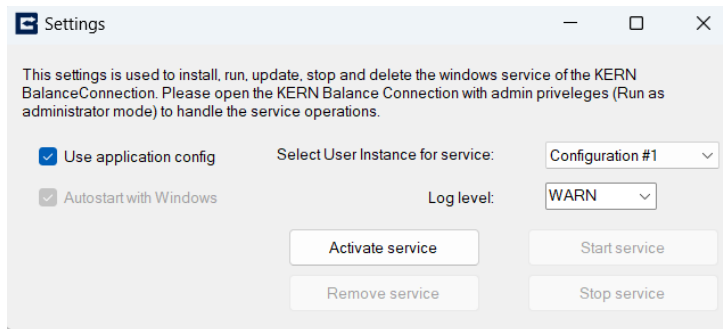
- **Pausing transfer:**
With the "Turn off" button, all triggers, and outputs can be stopped with one click.
- **Show / hide sub-windows:**
If not needed, the main configuration window can be hidden in the productive operation of these buttons.
- **Switch Light / Dark theme:**
This button enables you to effortlessly toggle between the Dark and Light themes, offering a customized viewing experience that adapts to your preferences and lighting conditions. Please note that the application's theme is independent of the system's (PC) theme settings, and the Expert mode theme is separate from the Simple mode theme.

	If the On-Screen diagram is used and the theme is changed from light to dark or vice versa during a recording, the recording is paused and must be restarted manually. The recorded data will not be lost.
---	--

- **Lock/Unlock settings:**
This button allows you to lock the settings of the program to prevent inadvertent changes to the settings of the program.
If blocked, the program asks for a password, which is needed to unlock the settings.
Entry a password is optional.
If you have forgotten the password, please contact KERN to unlock the settings.

7.3 Windows service (Pro-version)

In the menu settings you can find the Window service settings options, click it to open the settings window of service:



This setting enables the user to run the defined configuration as a Windows service in the background. It supports background output methods like file recording and printer operations triggered by a timer. However, this setting is not suitable for user-interactive methods and triggers such as key press simulation, Excel integration, OSD methods, or hotkey triggers.

- **Necessary Accesses**

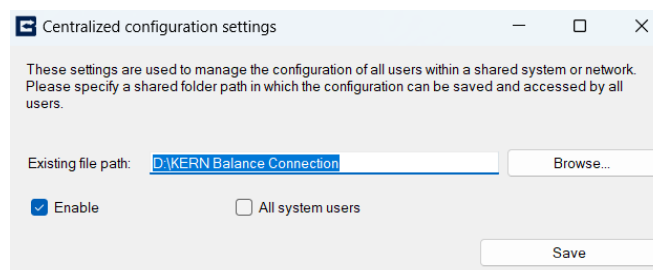
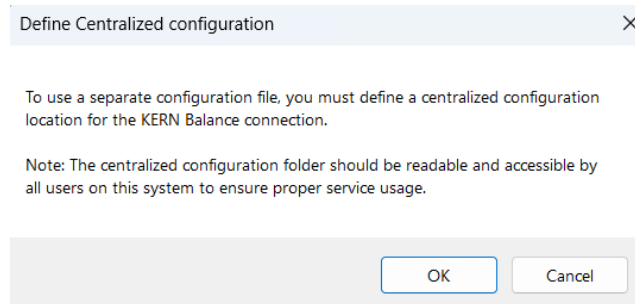
- Ensure you are running the application with administrative privileges. Without admin privileges, the service cannot be configured or modified.

- **Configuring the Service:**

- Select the "Use Application config" option to run the service with the current user's Balance connection configuration.
- Choose the desired user instance which needs to run as the service.
- While the service is running, the logs of the service can be viewed as the KERN BalanceConnection logs in the Event viewer under the Application and service section.
The log type can be customized before the service activation

- **Using a Centralized Configuration:**

- If you prefer to use a centralized configuration, Deselect the “Use Application config” option to define it separately and configure the service to use this centralized setup.



- **Autostart with windows**

- Enable this, to automatically run the service whenever the system (PC / Lap) is restarted or logged on.

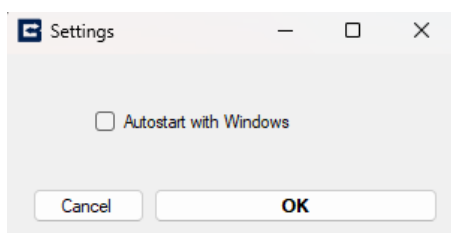
- **Managing the Service:**

- **Activate Service:** Click this, to save the settings and activate the Windows service.
- **Remove Service:** Click this, to permanently delete the service from the system.
- **Start Service:** To use this button, the user must activate the service. Click this, to initiate the service based on the saved settings.
- **Stop Service:** To use this button, the user must start the service. Click this, to stop the service if it is running in the background.

i	• Administrative Access: Ensure you have administrative access to configure and manage the Windows service. • Concurrent running issue: When the service is running with the same configuration that the application uses or vice versa will result in device connectivity issues. To use properly, stop either application or service to use the required one.
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7.4 Autostart – settings

In the menu settings you can find the startup options:



Start with Windows:

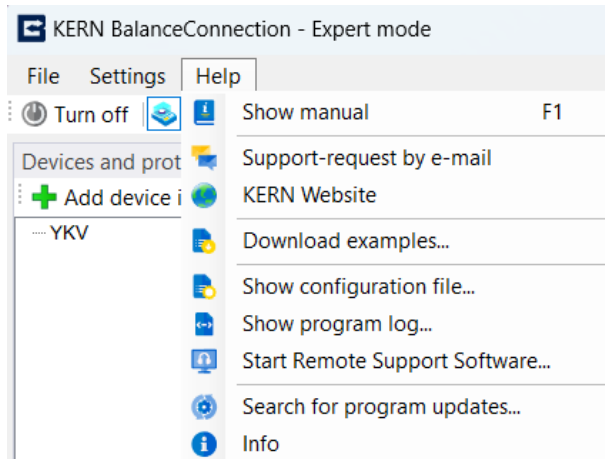
If this option is enabled, BalanceConnection starts with the machine, under the current user profile.

7.5 Program Log

All components of the BalanceConnection Software report errors, information and detailed status messages to a central point: the program log.

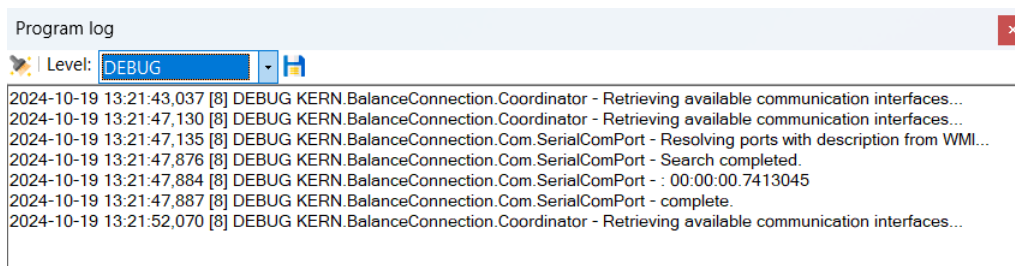
When troubleshooting unexpected behaviour of the program, it is usually worthwhile inspecting the program log.

You can open the program log by the Help menu.



At the initial level, if no auto-save file location is specified, the application prompts the user to define a location for auto-saving. Once the location is set, the program log window will open for use.

Please note that the log data is continuously recorded in the specified location as a text file in the background. This is useful for tracking information, debugging messages, and errors, while using the BalanceConnection application. Using the "Clear" button will clear the log data displayed in the window and the corresponding data in the log file.



Use the dropdown "Level" to set the threshold at which messages are displayed. For example, at the default level "INFO" only informational messages, warnings and errors appear, but no debug messages.

Use the "Save log as file" function, to export and save the program log as a text file. This is useful for keeping track of information, debugging messages and errors while using the BalanceConnection application.

8 Device / Device Types

For correct functioning, the software requires information on the connected devices. This information can be divided into two parts:

device type dependent

(e.g. interface protocol, available operations, interface parameters, ...)

individual device-specific characteristics

(serial number, individual settings).

The device-type specific properties are stored in the software as "device types".

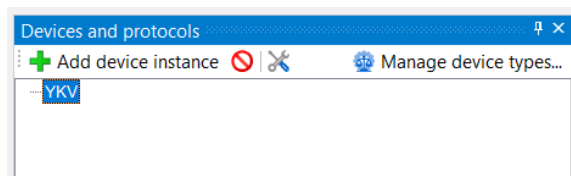
A device type can be used as a "template" for a device instance.

This saves additional information such as serial number and allows to change the inherited device type properties.

It should be noted that some properties, such as the interface protocol is shared between all device instances and types.

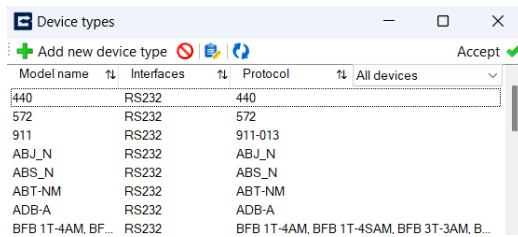
8.1 Manage device instances

The list "devices and protocols" in the main window of the program lists all device instances the user already added.

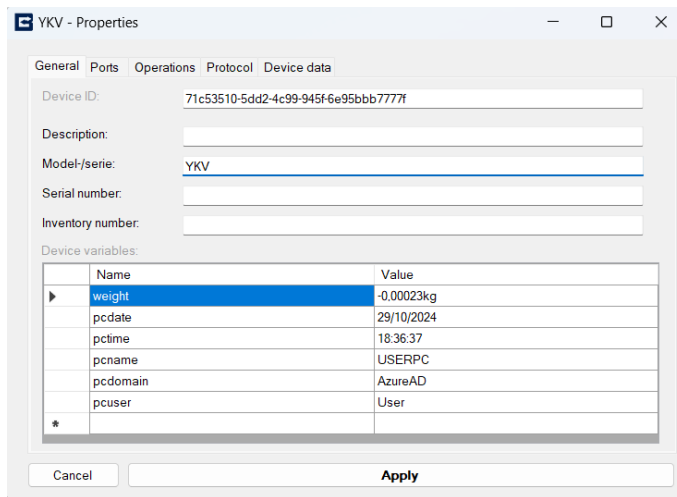


8.1.1 Add / Delete device instance

The button "add device" opens the list of available device types.
Already predefined KERN device types are listed here grouped by their model series.



After selecting the device type, a copy of the device type is created as a new device instance.
It will open the properties dialog for the new device instance:

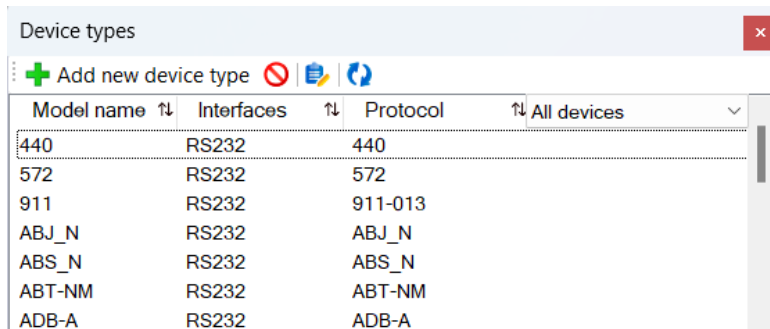


Device instances inherit most of the properties of the device type and these can then be edited independently. The device type properties are explained below.
The following features are available only for devices instance:

- **Description:** A user-defined description of the device for ease of recognizing it within the software.
- **Serial number / inventory number (optional):**
The serial number or inventory number of the device instance.
- **Other variables:** Other variables can be defined here. These variables can be used at certain points in the program.
Furthermore, the latest value sent from the device is shown here and is always passed on to all parts of the program respectively.
Thus, e.g. to query date of last calibration of a balance by a trigger or after the adjustment process is shown here, when the balance has sent a calibration protocol.

8.2 Manage device types

The screen for managing device types can be opened via the button "Manage Device Types" in the main window.



Via the Toolbar you can add other device types or remove or edit existing ones.

The deleted and renamed default device types can be restored by selecting the "Reload default device types" option.

Users can filter the displayed device types using various filtering options such as:

- All devices
- Default devices
- Other devices

The properties of each device type are:

- **Model / Serial:**
Unique identification of the device type.
- **Interfaces:**
The available interfaces of the device type as well as their default communication parameters.
- **Operations:**
The operations supported by the device. This field is purely informational.
See [chapter 8.3.2.1.3](#) for more information about device operations.
- **Protocol:**
The interface protocol used by the device.
More information on interface protocols can be found right below.

8.3 Text protocols

8.3.1 Overview

An important function of an input is the interpretation of the transmitted digital information from the devices. This information reaches the interface of the PC unstructured. To be able to further process the information with the PC, the data must be "parsed", that is, separated into its components.

The software supports several types of the "parsers":

- **Weight value parser:**

This simple parser examines the incoming data looking for weight values (that is, a number followed by a unit of weight).

Various types of weight values (e.g. gross, tare and net) are not distinguished by this parser but treated equally.

- **Text log parser:**

The text protocol parsers allow the "dismantling" of transmitted text data into its components / parts.

These components (e.g. gross / net / tare / enumerator) are then passed separately through the program and can then be output separately.

To reach this, the parser needs information about the interface protocol of the device.

An interface protocol consists of "interactions", and further general information on the protocol.

An interaction can be initiated by the PC (for example, remote control commands) or it is initiated by the device itself (e.g. "Print Key").

8.3.2 Management of interface protocols



The management of interface protocols and defining patterns can be a challenge.
When missing entries or other problems with interface protocols, please contact KERN.

Interface protocols, as mentioned previously, are shared over all types of devices. A change to an interface protocol influences all devices with this protocol, particularly all the same devices.

The management of the interface protocols can therefore be made in the properties of each device instance or of each device type in the tab "Protocol".

The screenshot shows the 'YKV - Properties' dialog box with the 'Protocol' tab selected. The dialog contains the following elements:

- General**, **Ports**, **Operations**, **Protocol**, **Device data** tabs.
- Text explaining the protocol: 'The protocol of a device describes its remote control commands (format and parameter) as well as the data packets sent by the device itself. These are called 'interactions'. When preparing a remote control command, the program tries to fill in the arguments specified. To correctly receive and "comprehend" a packet, the program has to know how to separate the individual values'.
- 'Used protocol:' dropdown menu with a 'manage...' button.
- 'Name of the protocol:' dropdown menu set to 'YKV'.
- Table of interactions:

Name	Triggered by	Pattern
Request stable value	PC	S{CR}{LF}
Request value	PC	SI{CR}{LF}
Tare	PC	T{CR}{LF}

- 'Initiated by:' dropdown menu set to 'PC'.
- 'Interaction name/identification:' dropdown menu set to 'Stable value'.
- 'Restart output when received' checkbox checked.
- 'Request command/pattern' text area containing 'S{CR}{LF}' with an 'edit...' button.
- 'Response pattern:' text area with an 'edit...' button.
- 'Cancel' and 'Apply' buttons at the bottom.

In the "used protocol" dropdown, the protocol of the current device type is set. The selected protocol itself can be edited directly in this view. Additional protocols can be managed by clicking the "Manage ..." button.

A protocol is uniquely identified by its "name". Assign a unique, easy to understand name.

The "interactions" of the Protocol describe the protocol in detail. They are divided into two general types:

- **Initiated by the device:**

Examples of interactions which are triggered by the device itself without request by the PC are the Print button of the scale, Auto Print or continuous transmission.

Here the PC "unexpectedly" receives raw data from the device, which interprets, i.e., must be separated into its components.

For this, it always uses the "response template" for parsing.

As soon as a defined interaction "fit" to the received raw data, this raw data is further processed and then deleted from the input buffer.

- **Initiated by the computer:**

When the PC wants to trigger an operation of the device, it's necessary to send a correctly formulated remote-control command.

As a template for such a remote command the software will use the "request command / mask" pattern of the interaction that has the same key (internal name) as the desired operation.

Within this pattern parameters defined by the trigger are filled in according to the general specification of the text protocol (e.g. escape characters).

8.3.2.1 Definition of parser patterns

For the specification of interactions of an interface protocol, the correct formulation of recognition patterns is essential. To simplify building a pattern, the program provides a preview mode for both request- and response pattern. Click the "Edit ..." button to open the Preview dialog.

Request command/pattern edit...

S{CR}{LF}

This opens the following dialog:

Edit pattern

Raw data

CAL-BALANCE

KERN & Sohn GmbH

TYPE DBS 60-3
SN WE11AH0003
ID 1234

DATE 12-03-01
TIME 19:34:48

REF= 12.345g
BFR= 50.003g
AFT= 50.000g

-COMPLETE

Sample

CAL-BALANCE

{title:string}

TYPE {model:modelname}
SN {serial:serial}
ID {id:number}

DATE {date:date}
TIME {time:time}

REF= {fortest:weight}
BFR= {beforeAdjustment:weight}
AFT= {afterAdjustment:weight}

-COMPLETE

Last known raw data (select multiple if needed)

Timestamp	Source	Content
-----------	--------	---------

Add variable:

☐ Regular-Expression preview

{Parser}	title = (string)	KERN & Sohn GmbH
{Parser}	model = (string)	DBS 60-3
{Parser}	serial = (string)	WE11AH0003
{Parser}	id = (string)	1234
{Parser}	date = (string)	12-03-01
{Parser}	time = (string)	19:34:48
{Parser}	fortest = (unitvalue)	12,345g
{Parser}	beforeadjustment = (unitvalue)	50,003g
{Parser}	afteradjustment = (unitvalue)	50,000g
{Automatic}	pdate = (date)	17.12.2015
{Automatic}	ptime = (time)	21:42:51

Abbrechen

Refresh raw data list

Apply

The Preview window consists of four parts:

- **Raw data:**
Copy here the raw data sent by the device, at least the parts that relevant for this interaction, or select from the known raw data. Also, you can, for example, extract raw data from the terminal window of an input port (see [chap. 9.2.3.1](#)) or from the device's instruction manual. The pattern is applied to this raw data.
- **Last known raw data:**
Most recently received raw data from the instrument is stored by the software. Instead of entering the raw data, you can choose from the listed data here. Multiple items can be selected at once, those are combined into a single string.
- **Pattern:**
Code for the recognition pattern.
Guidelines on recognition patterns are described below.
- **Result:**
Could the pattern on the raw data be successfully applied, the "Result" window shows all extracted variables from the raw data in the following format:

```
[Source] VariableName = (DataType) Value
```

8.3.2.1.1 Structure of parser patterns

The code in parser patterns is made to be as simple as possible. They are compared directly to the raw data of the code. Additionally, they have the following rules:

- Multiple spaces in raw data or patterns are not considered.
- Single line breaks are considered.
- Several successive line breaks are ignored.
- For extracting variables are written in {}, according to the following pattern (without spaces):
`{VariableName : DataType}`

8.3.2.1.2 Data types of variables in patterns

The software so far supports the following data types for variables inside patterns. Values of a data type can provide further sub-properties, which can be used in output patterns (see [chapter 10.3](#)). For example, a value of type "weight" has sub-properties like sign (".sign"), unit (".UNIT") or numeric value (".value").

Name	Description
string	String within a line
.len .12	Length of string Character at 12th position in the string
string-nospaces	String without space
modelname	String with usual characters of item numbers / model names
serial	String with usual characters of serial numbers
weight	Weight value (consisting of numerical value and unit) .Units: kg, g, gm, ct, mg
.value .unit .valueabs .sign	only numerical value only unit absolute numerical value sign
number	Integer or floating point number (comma or period)
.abs .sign	Absolute numerical value sign
date	Date (only numbers, separated by a hyphen or period)
.day / .d .month / .m .year / .y .dow	day month year Weekday (Day of Week)
time	Time (hh: mm: ss or hh: mm)
.hour / .h .minute / .m .second / .s .ms	hours minutes seconds milliseconds

8.3.2.1.3 Example of a complex pattern

The following example using the adjustment log of a moisture analyzer DBS 60-3 shows how the data transmitted from the device can be split. The variables shown below result can be processed further on the program and then be handed over to a target application.

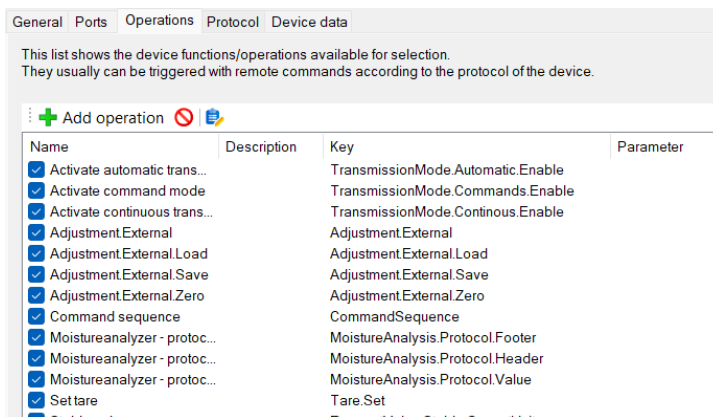
Raw data	Parser pattern
<pre> ----- CAL-BALANCE ----- KERN & Sohn GmbH TYPE DBS 60-3 SN WB11AH0003 ID 1234 DATE 12-03-01 TIME 19:34:48 REF= 12.345g BFR= 50.003g AFT= 50.000g -COMPLETE -SIGNATURE-</pre>	<pre> ----- CAL-BALANCE ----- {title:string} TYPE {model:modelname} SN {serial:serial} ID {id:number} DATE {date:date} TIME {time:time} REF= {referenceWeight:weight} BFR= {beforeAdjustment:weight} AFT= {afterAdjustment:weight} -COMPLETE -SIGNATURE-</pre>
Ergebnis:	
[Parser]	title = (string) KERN & Sohn GmbH
[Parser]	model = (string) DBS 60-3
[Parser]	serial = (string) WB11AH0003
[Parser]	id = (string) 1234
[Parser]	date = (string) 12-03-01
[Parser]	time = (string) 19:34:48
[Parser]	referenceweight = (unitvalue) 12,345g
[Parser]	beforeadjustment = (unitvalue) 50,003g
[Parser]	afteradjustment = (unitvalue) 50,000g
[Automatic]	pctime = (date) 17.12.2015
[Automatic]	pctime = (time) 22:40:56

8.4 Device operations

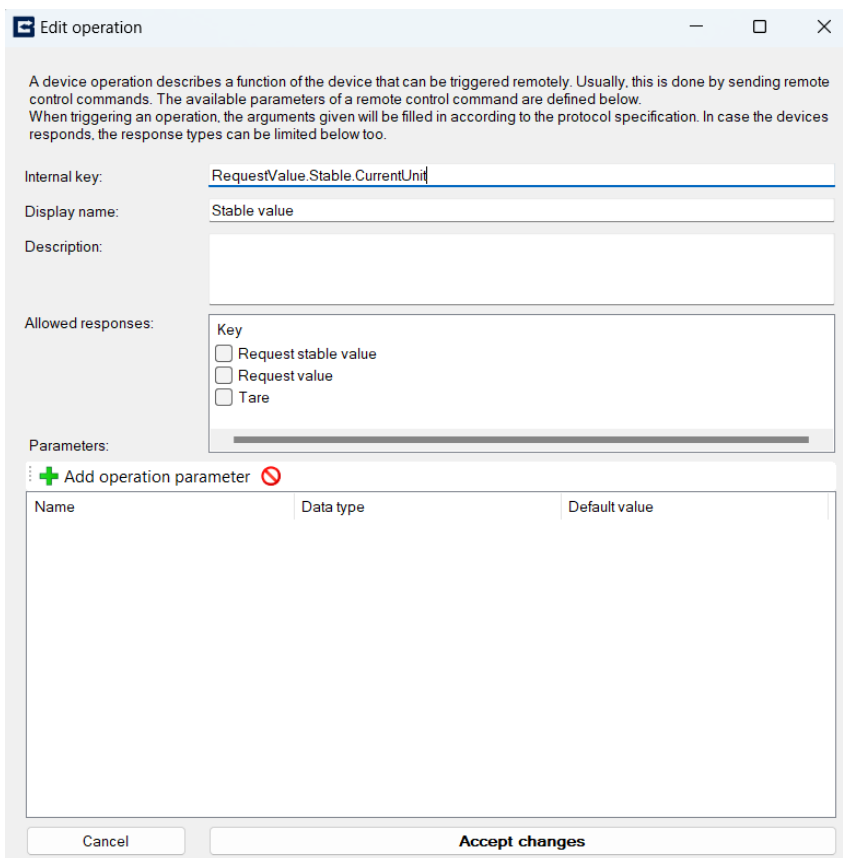
A "Device Operation" can be a query of the measured value, setting a parameter or triggering adjustment of the balance, zeroing or taring.

Depending on operation and device type, parameters may be necessary so that the device may send a confirmation.

You can edit the available operations for each device type. Newly created operations are available for all device types.



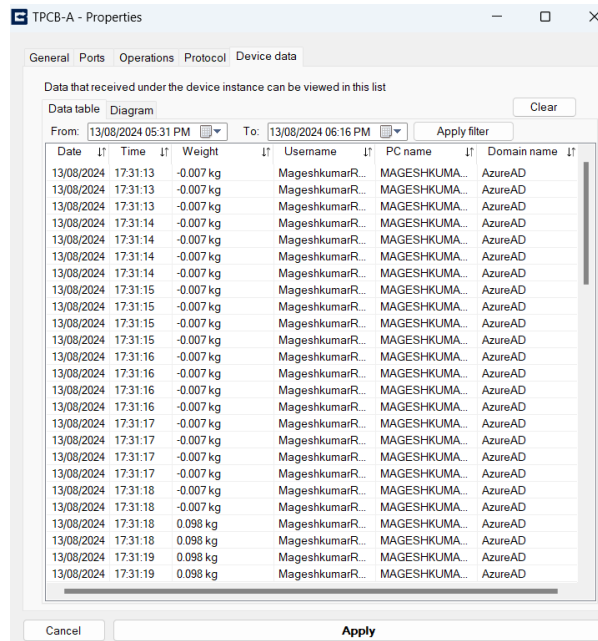
By double-clicking you can edit the parameters of an operation:



8.5 Device Data (Pro-version)

This tab allows you to track and view data received from various connected devices associated with a specific device instance.

The information is presented in a clear table format, complemented by a diagram for visual representation.



TPCB-A - Properties

General Ports Operations Protocol Device data

Data that received under the device instance can be viewed in this list

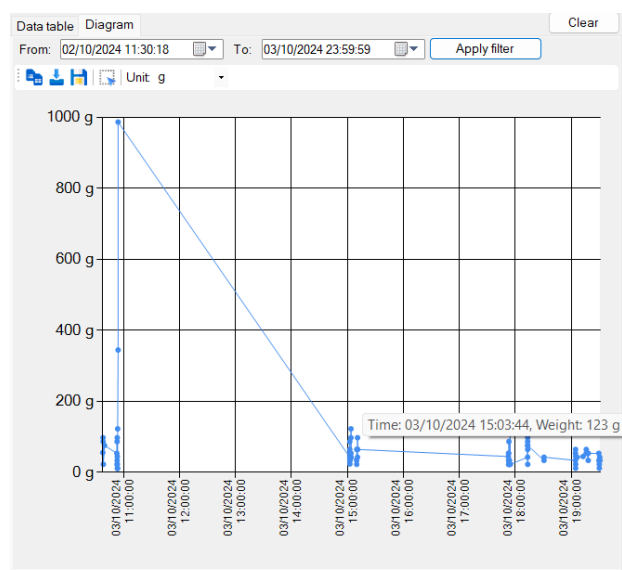
Data table Diagram

From: 13/08/2024 05:31 PM To: 13/08/2024 06:16 PM Apply filter Clear

Date	Time	Weight	Username	PC name	Domain name
13/08/2024	17:31:13	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:13	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:13	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:14	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:14	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:14	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:14	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:15	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:15	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:15	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:15	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:16	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:16	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:16	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:16	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:17	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:17	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:17	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:17	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:18	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:18	-0.007 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:18	0.098 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:18	0.098 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:19	0.098 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD
13/08/2024	17:31:19	0.098 kg	MageshkumarR...	MAGESHKUMA...	AzureAD

Cancel Apply

- **Filtering and Sorting:** You can filter and sort the device data according to your preferences, making it easier to find specific information.
- **Clear Data History:** To delete all device data history, click the "Clear" button.
- **Graphical Representation:** Adjust the "From" and "To" date fields to effectively view the data in a graphical format.



These features ensure that you have a comprehensive understanding of the device data and can manage it efficiently.

9 Interfaces (ports)

9.1 Overview

A "port" in the software is an abstraction over a hardware port or software communication interface of the computer, to which a measuring device can be connected. In essence, they combine RS232/485, IP/Ethernet and Bluetooth ports in a unified concept. The devices raw data are received or sent over these ports.

On certain types of hardware interfaces, multiple devices can be connected. So, for example, RS485 is a bus system where several scales on the same line are connected to the same PC interface.

To address these devices separately in the software, any hardware interface can be assigned one or more "inputs". These inputs accomplish the filtering of incoming data according to the bus ID of the transmitting device.

The more important function of the inputs is the "interpretation" of the transmitted digital information from the devices.

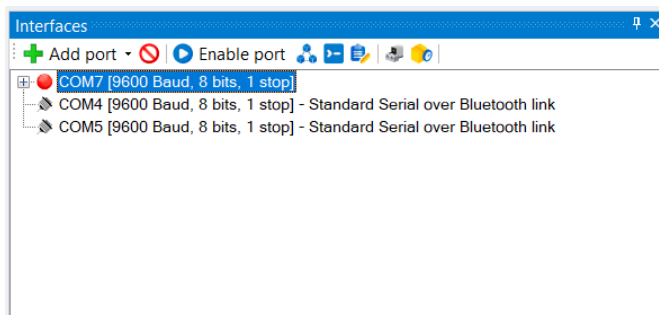
This information reaches the interface of the PC in an unstructured format (bytes), it is further referred to as "raw data".

To be able to process the information on the PC further, the data thus has to be analyzed with a so called "parser" (it has to be "parsed").

9.2 General configuration

The "Interfaces / Ports" window lists all the hard- or software interfaces in the system that are recognized and / or configured by the user.

In the sub-tree of every configured port the "inputs" connected to it are listed.



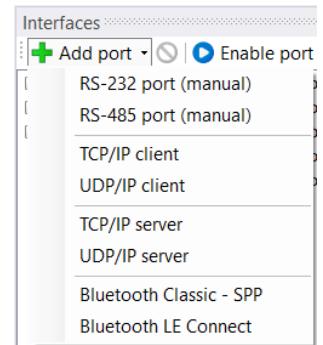
With the functions of the associated toolbar or the context menu, the parameters of the ports can be changed.

9.2.1 Add a port

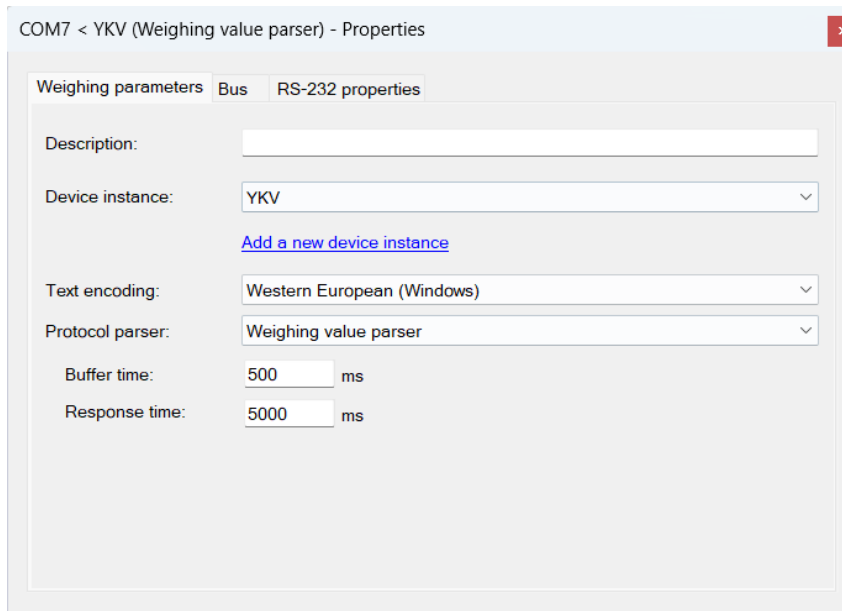
To add ports, there are two possibilities:

- Ports that were detected in the system are listed in the overview list and can be easily added by "activating" them.
- Non-configured or detected ports can be created via the "Add" button.
The desired type can be selected from the drop-down list.

In both cases, it opens the properties dialog as described below.



9.2.2 Properties of an input and port



In the properties dialog of an input, both its properties and the properties of the connected hardware port can be configured.

For all inputs the following tabs are available:

9.2.2.1 General

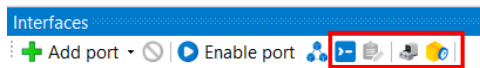
This tab displays the general properties of an input. These include:

- **Description:** A description entered here is displayed instead of the automatically generated description.
- **Device instance:** The device instance connected to this input. When first assigning a device to an input, the default settings can be applied to the input and the underlying hardware port.
- **Protocol parser:** The parser used for this input. Depending on the type of the parser, the protocol assigned to the selected device is used for the analysis of incoming data and for the generation of remote-control commands.
- **Buffer time:** Data sent from the device will be stored in the input buffer for some buffer time prior to processing them with the parser. This is to prevent the dissemination of incomplete information.
- **Response time:** The maximum time until a response of the device should arrive for on a remote-control command. After this time, the restriction of the data processed by the input data is lifted.

9.2.2.2 Bus (bus filter / bus systematics)

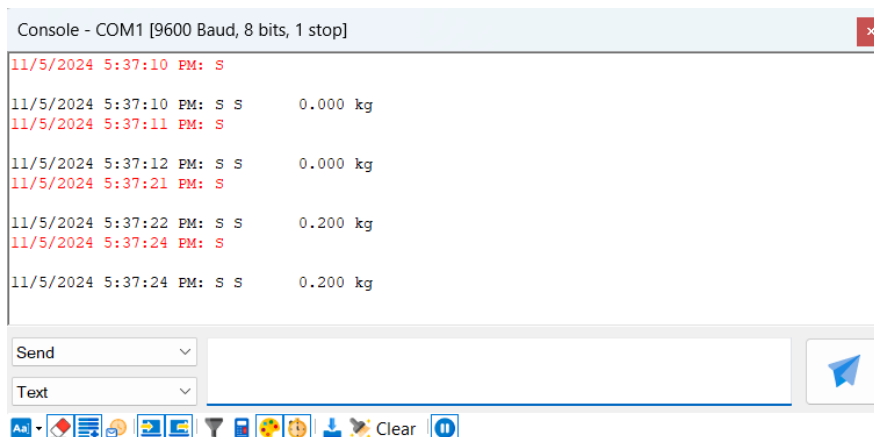
In the current version, scales connected over a bus system can be distinguished only by different protocols and output scenarios.

9.2.3 Tools



You can open the following tool windows from the toolbar.

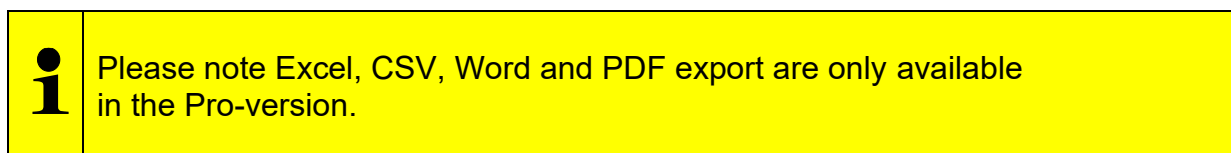
9.2.3.1 Terminal



The terminal displays the data received from the connected device and the data transmitted to the device by the software as raw data. In the toolbar you can choose between a variety of display options.

Furthermore, any data can be sent to the connected device.
This is especially useful for testing the response between the software and device.

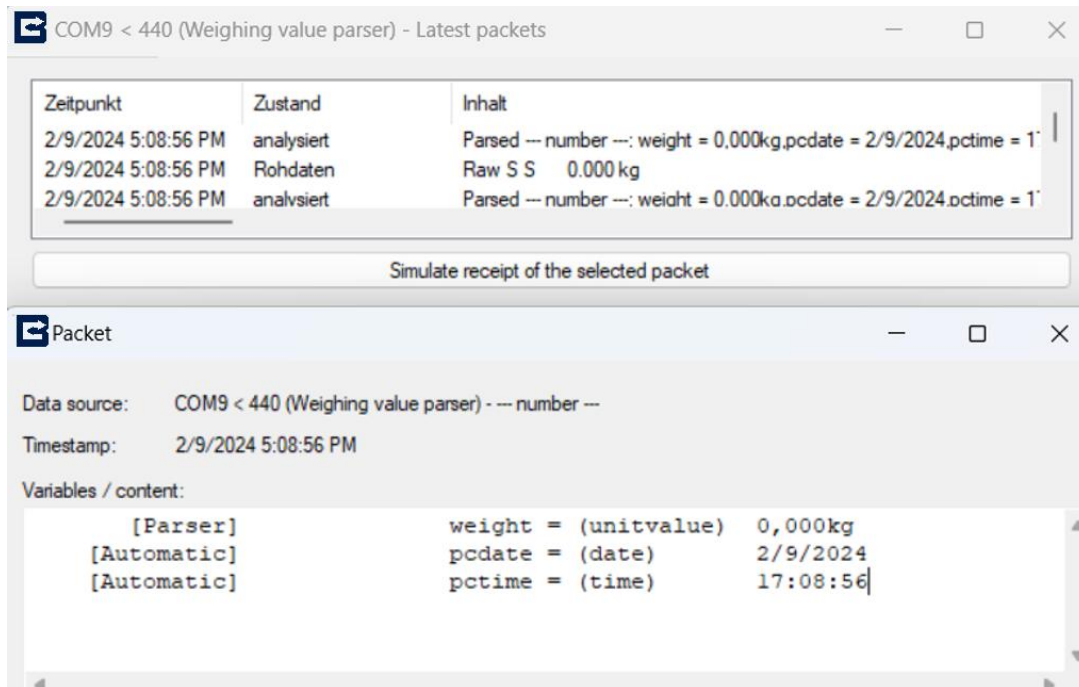
The terminal console data can be exported using the "Save to disk" button in formats such as text, PDF, CSV, Excel, and Word, allowing for easy sharing.



9.2.3.2 Latest received packets and raw data

All raw data received from an input and passed- analyzed by the parser assigned data packets are listed here.

Double-click on a package at its detailed presentation (if available) opens.



A data packet can be “received again”.

It will then be passed through the pipeline down to the outputs again.

9.3 RS232 ports

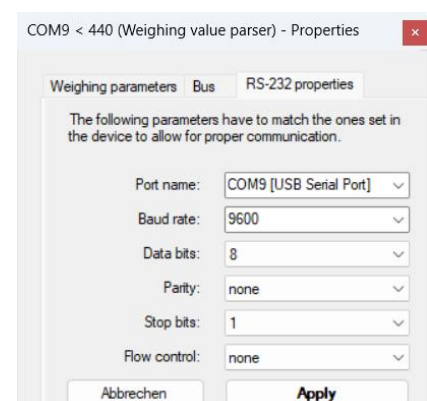
In addition to the characteristics described above some additional settings has to be configured for an RS232 port.

The interface parameters must match exactly with the parameters set on the device.

If this is not the case, the incoming data is not readable ("hieroglyphs").

Also, remote control commands will not be transmitted correctly, and the device does not respond accordingly.

The interface parameters will be changed automatically when assigning the device instance to the input and should therefore already be consistent to the factory settings.



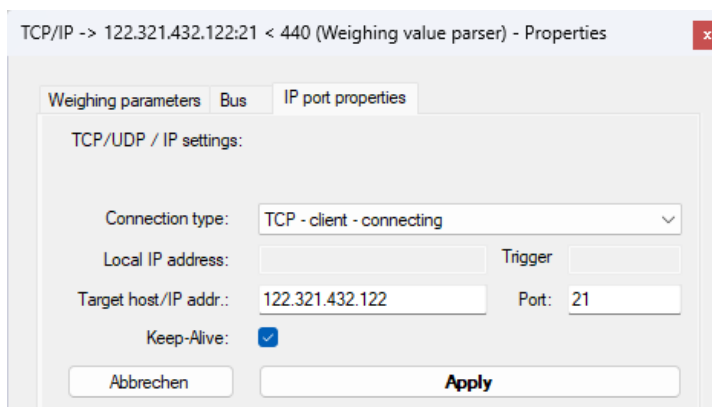
9.4 RS485 ports

A RS485 interface is configured similarly to a RS232 interface. In addition, a bus-filter (see above) can be configured.

9.5 IP network (TCP / IP, UDP / IP, Ethernet)

For communication with a device that is connected via an Ethernet interface to the (company) network, the software supports TCP / IP and UDP / IP ports (sockets). For both types, it is possible to either connect to the balance (client mode) or to wait for the device connecting to the computer (server mode).

Mode and destination of the connection can be set at the "IP Port Properties" of the input.



The screenshot shows a window titled "TCP/IP -> 122.321.432.122:21 < 440 (Weighing value parser) - Properties". It has three tabs: "Weighing parameters", "Bus", and "IP port properties", with the last one selected. Under "TCP/UDP / IP settings:", there is a "Connection type:" dropdown menu set to "TCP - client - connecting". Below this are fields for "Local IP address:", "Target host/IP addr.:" (containing "122.321.432.122"), and "Port:" (containing "21"). There is also a "Trigger" field and a "Keep-Alive:" checkbox which is checked. At the bottom are two buttons: "Abbrechen" and "Apply".

An IP port by default is configured so that the connection to the remote site is always maintained (keep-alive). The status icon in the list of ports shows the current connection status.

The program log lists information about the connection attempts by the program when required.

In the following sections, the configuration of each mode will be described in more detail.

9.5.1 TCP or UDP / IP client (connecting)

In client mode, the computer running the BalanceConnection software connects to the balance. The balance has to be configured so that it provides a TCP or UDP server on a particular port.

To add a client port in the BalanceConnection software, select the required option from the list of available interfaces.

The port is added, and its settings are opened. For a client port, choose the option "TCP / UDP-Client-connecting". Also, specify the connection target (target host name or IP address) and the destination port.

9.5.2 Server (listening / waiting)

Creating a server port is like creating a client port.

Select TCP or UDP server mode in the mode drop-down and enter the port number on which the program should listen for incoming connections.

The port entered must not be already used and it should be greater than 1024 to avoid permission problems. In case the status of the port does not change to OK, please check the program log.

MPN1 (TCP/IP -> 10.0.1.42:23 < TMPN-A (Weighing value parser)) - Properties

Weighing parameters Bus IP port properties

TCP/UDP / IP settings:

Connection type: TCP - server - listening

Local IP address: Trigger 1844

Target host/IP addr.: 10.0.1.42 Port: 1124

Keep-Alive: ☒

Abbrechen Apply

9.6 Bluetooth

9.6.1 Bluetooth (SPP)

To establish a connection with a Bluetooth device, ensure that it has been previously paired with the computer and has been assigned a virtual COM port.

The device must support the Bluetooth Serial Port Profile (SPP) for this functionality.

Once paired, the virtual COM port will automatically be listed among the available interfaces.

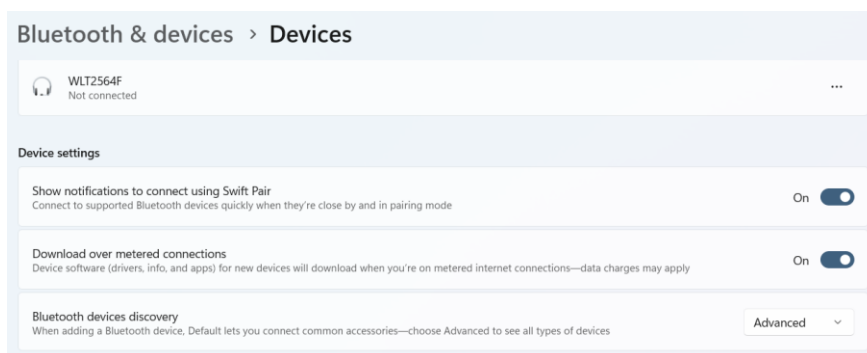
It is configured similarly to an RS232 port for seamless integration and compatibility.

By default, Windows allows only a single Bluetooth SPP connection.

However, enabling Advanced mode in the Windows Bluetooth settings enables the system to establish multiple Bluetooth SPP connections with BalanceConnection.

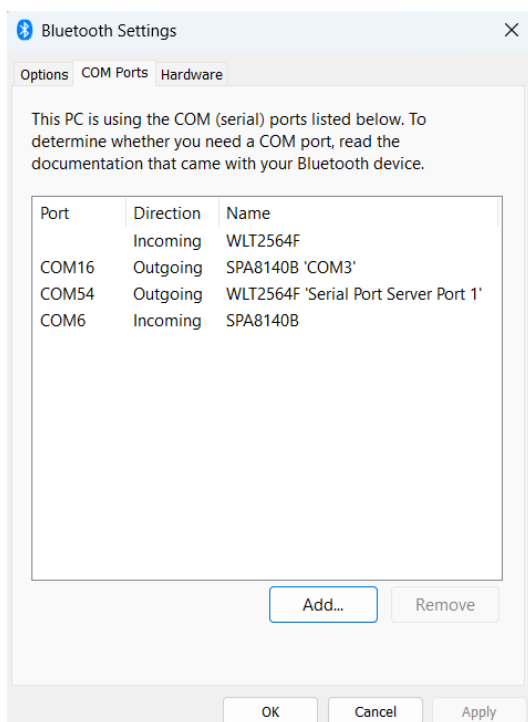
Please refer to the following steps to activate it.

- ⇒ Open Windows settings and click Bluetooth & devices.
- ⇒ Open the Devices settings by clicking on it.
- ⇒ In the Devices settings, you can find the Bluetooth devices discovery option.
- ⇒ Select the Advanced option to discover all SPP devices and to make connections with it.



To view and connect the available Bluetooth SPP devices, please refer the following steps.

- ⇒ In the Devices settings, you can find the More Bluetooth settings
- ⇒ By clicking it, the Bluetooth settings window will appear in where the available Bluetooth SPP devices were listed.
- ⇒ By using the Bluetooth settings window, one can handle the Incoming and outgoing response of the available SPP devices.
Also, it is used to add and remove the devices which need to be connected/modified.



- ⇒ Once all devices are configured, click Apply and OK.

After completing all the prior mentioned steps, connected devices can be used with BalanceConnection using the same RS232 port settings.

It's important to note that for each Bluetooth SPP port, two COM ports will be displayed. However, only one port is actively used for connection and communication.

For communication and the use with BalanceConnection you have to use the outgoing port.

9.6.2 Bluetooth Low Energy

To connect a Bluetooth Low Energy device, it must be selected by using the Bluetooth Low Energy settings. For this, the device must support the Bluetooth Low Energy. The available BLE devices will automatically appear in the list of available devices in the Bluetooth Low Energy settings.

If a BLE device cannot be connected using basic settings, it is recommended to use the advanced settings for successful connectivity.

The advanced settings are used to connect the device by selecting the services along with read and write characteristics.

To use this, user must be aware of the services and characteristics of the BLE devices. Multiple BLE devices can be connected and simultaneously usable in the BalanceConnection.

i	To establish a proper BLE device connection, please keep to the following guidelines: • Ensure that the BLE device is powered on and available for connection. • After configuring the device properties, remember to close the BLE port's Properties window. Opening this window suspends the BLE connection to allow for the application of new configuration settings.
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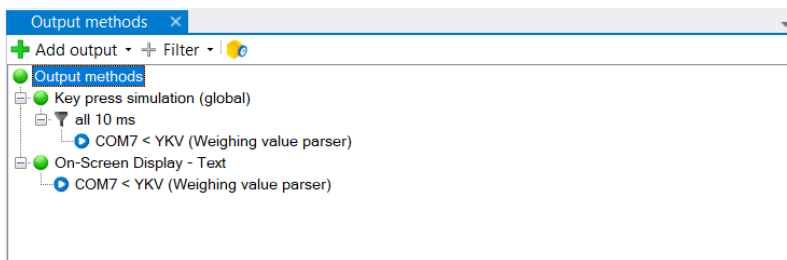
10 Outputs / output methods-General

A transmission from a device that has been disassembled into its component values is then passed through a "pipeline" to the configured outputs.

An output can, for example, be a file, an Excel spreadsheet, another application, a presentation directly on the computer or even another device (e.g. printer).

10.1 Overview

The "Output Methods" window in the main window shows all currently configured outputs and output filters.

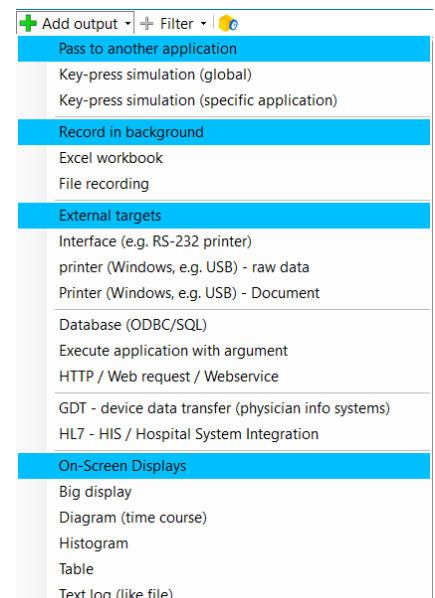


At the top level, the tree displays all outputs and filters that are yet assigned to any output.

Associated data sources (i.e. inputs or upstream filters) are displayed as sub-nodes.

To manage the entries, use the toolbar or the context menu (right mouse button):

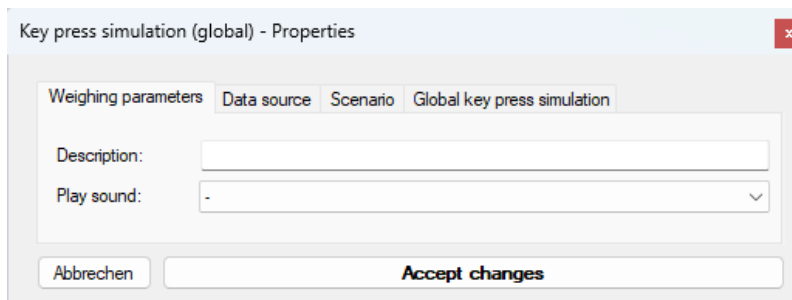
- **Add new outputs:**
Press the "Add" button.
This will open a dropdown menu with a selection of available output methods, grouped by category of the method.
Simply choose the desired type.
A new instance of the type will be added.
For details on how to edit its properties see below.
- **Adding new output filters:**
For details on output filters see chapter 12.
- **Editing spending and filters:**
Double-click entries to edit the properties of the filter or output.
- **Deleting outputs and filters:**
To delete an output / filter, select it and press the "Delete" button.



10.2 Configuration of outputs

The configuration dialog for output opens when you create or double-click on an output. Each output has the following properties:

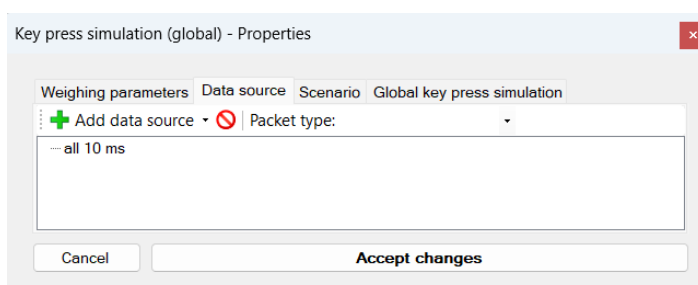
10.2.1 General properties



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "Key press simulation (global) - Properties". It has four tabs: "Weighing parameters", "Data source", "Scenario", and "Global key press simulation". The "Global key press simulation" tab is selected. Inside the dialog, there are two input fields: "Description:" and "Play sound:". The "Description:" field is empty. The "Play sound:" field has a dropdown menu with a minus sign and a downward arrow. At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Abbrechen" (Cancel) and "Accept changes".

- **Description (optional):**
A description you enter here will be displayed instead of the automatically generated description for the output.
- **Play sound (optional):**
Plays a Windows-sound or a custom sound file whenever an output receives a data packet.

10.2.2 Data Sources



The screenshot shows the same dialog box as before, but with the "Data source" tab selected. It features a "+ Add data source" button with a green plus icon, a "Packet type:" dropdown menu with a red circle and slash icon, and a list box containing "all 10 ms". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Accept changes".

In the "Data Source" tab, you can manage the inputs or upstream filters will be used as sources of data packets for the output. Data packets of these inputs are thus forwarded to the output and processed there.

10.2.3 Output Scenarios

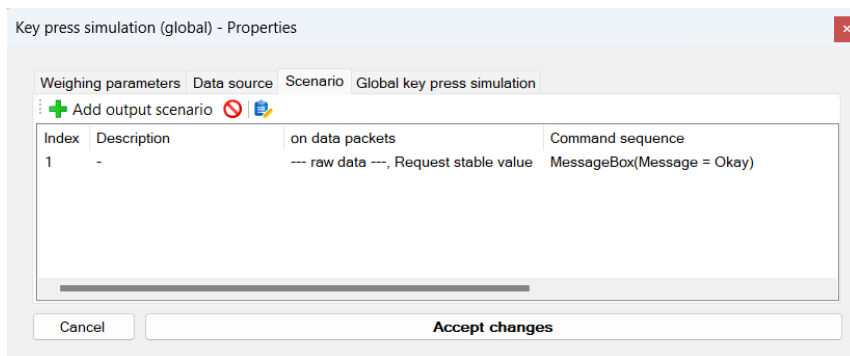
In its basic configuration, an output passes data on whenever it receives a data packet, regardless of the type or meaning of the data.

Most output methods allow to specify different “scenarios” for different types of data (e.g. calibration protocol, stable measured value) and react accordingly.

For example, a calibration protocol can be transferred to a different location or in a different way than regular reading.

This is achieved by individual command sequences that are run in the context of this output scenario.

For the configuration of output scenarios, see the tab "scenarios".



10.3 Text Formatting (output patterns / templates)

To output the data received from the scale flexibly, most output methods offer a possibility to specify an output pattern (template).

An output pattern is a string (text) which may also contain variables, shortcuts and functions.

On each output action, these parts are replaced with the appropriate value.

10.3.1 Rules on output patterns

An output pattern is a simple text with the following extensions:

- **Key press:** `{F3}`
In an output pattern key presses can be integrated in braces (e.g. {F3}). For outputs not compatible with keys, the program tries to convert the key press into a text element. For special keyboard shortcuts, the configuration dialogs described below offer a designated input box. See the Microsoft .NET Framework SendKeys() function for more details on the key specification.
- **Direct variables:** `<<<VariableName>>>`
The program checks for a variable with the given name. If there is no variable with that name, the program is looking for a variable with a sub-property of that name.
- **Sub-properties of variables:** `<<<VariableName.SubProperty>>>`
When a variable name is followed by a period, the specified sub-property of the value of the variable is output instead. The available sub-features are in section described 8.3.2.1.2.
- **Functions:** `<<<FunctionName(Argument1,Argument2, ...)>>>`
Functions allow for complex transformations of output values. This ranges from simple functions such as capitalization, extracting parts of strings and even to rendering image code for label printers. The available functions are listed in the configuration dialog for complex patterns. When selecting a function in the configuration dialog, the expected parameters will be prefilled with example values.

An output pattern can be specified in many places of the program.

For simple configuration, there are two input dialogs for output patterns, explained in detail below.

10.3.2 First example of an output pattern

In the following example, the output pattern is applied to a simple data packet containing a variable "weight" of type weight (sub-properties "sign", "value" and "unit"):

```
<<<pcdate.y>>> <<<weight.sign>>> KERN {F3}  
<<<weight.value>>> {LEFT} <<<uppercase(unit)>>>{ENTER}
```

The result is (depending on the output method):

```
2015 + KERN  
0.00 G
```

Explanation:

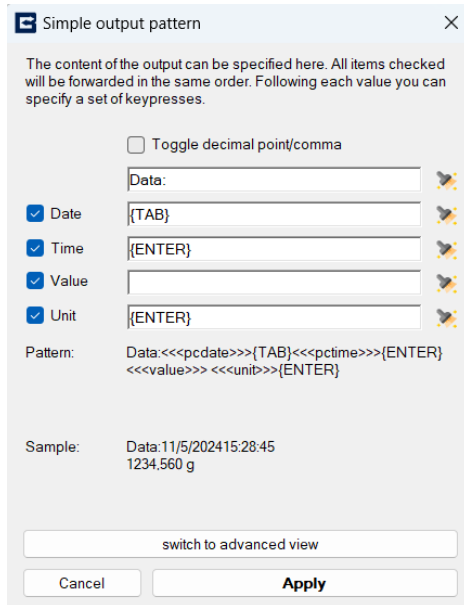
- The variable "pcdate" includes the current date of the computer. The sub-property "y" instead displays only the year.
- The variable "weight" includes the transferred weight value with sign, numerical value and unit. The sub-property "sign" extracts only the sign and this represents after year.
- The text "KERN" is displayed directly.
- The code "{F3}" triggers a keystroke on F3 for some types of outputs. For non-compatible types of expenditure is trying to convert the key press in a text element.
- "weight.value" will be resolved similar to "weight.sign" but instead displays the numerical value of "weight".
- {Left} actuates the left cursor key.

"Uppercase (unit)" calls the output function "uppercase" on the argument "unit". The variable "unit" is not included in the data packet. Therefore, the program checks for a variable with a sub-property "unit". That's why, "weight.unit" will be evaluated and converted to uppercase.

10.3.3 Configure a simple pattern

By default, when you edit an output pattern, the dialogue for a simple pattern opens first. See [chapter 5.6](#) on how to operate it.

Click on "advanced" to open the configuration dialog for complex output patterns described below.



The dialog box is titled "Simple output pattern" and contains the following elements:

- Instructions:** "The content of the output can be specified here. All items checked will be forwarded in the same order. Following each value you can specify a set of keypresses."
- Toggle:** "Toggle decimal point/comma" (unchecked).
- Fields:** Four rows with checkboxes and input fields:
 - ☒ **Date:** {TAB}
 - ☒ **Time:** {ENTER}
 - ☒ **Value:** (empty)
 - ☒ **Unit:** {ENTER}
- Pattern:** Data:<<<pcdate>>>{TAB}<<<pctime>>>{ENTER}<<<value>>> <<<unit>>>{ENTER}
- Sample:** Data:11/5/202415:28:45
1234.560 g
- Buttons:** "switch to advanced view", "Cancel", and "Apply".

10.3.4 Configure complex output patterns

The configuration dialog for complex output patterns includes not only lists for known variables and functions but also have the option simply enter complex key sequences.

Complex output pattern

Instructions:
Here you can specify the data required in the output. You can separate the values with key presses or alter them with functions. Also, the output can include general data like date and time.

Example:
<<<value>>>[TAB]<<<unit>>>[ENTER]
=> 12.34 kg<Neue Zeile>

General:

Data:
value
unit
date
brutto
netto
tara
summe
stückzahl

Subproperty:
with function:

Key press:
vv Add vv vv Add vv vv Add vv

Format template:
Data: <<<pdate>>>[TAB]<<<pctime>>>[ENTER]<<<value>>> <<<unit>>>[ENTER]

☐ Disable key presses
☐ Toggle decimal point/comma

Sample result:
Data: 12/3/2024 18:27:49
1234,560 g

Sample packet: Sample data Show content...

< simple mode Cancel Apply

The "Disable Key Presses" option is available only for the HTTP method. When enabled, users can create JSON-formatted data using the Output Pattern and send the data via the POST method.

The compiled output patterns can be applied to a preview of recently received packets.

To do this, select the desired package from the dropdown "sample package". The result of the pattern applied to the sample package will be shown in the field "result".

11 Output methods in detail

This section describes the output methods available in the current version of BalanceConnection. For general information on output methods see [chapter 10](#).

11.1 Key simulation (keyboard wedge)

When the target application only provides a simple interface for entering values and doesn't allow import of measurement values, simple keyboard simulation may be the best solution to transfer measurement data to it.

This type of transfer of measured values works with all Windows applications, however, requires cooperation with the users, since the keyboard / application cannot be used for other purposes while the program is "typing".

The BalanceConnection software supports two concepts of transfer by keyboard simulation:

11.1.1 Global keys simulation (active application)

With global key simulation, the output is always directed to the active application. Here it is important that the input focus is in the desired (start) input field.

The configuration of the output pattern is described in [Chapter 10.3](#).

11.1.2 Targeted key simulation (to a particular application)

In contrast to the global key simulation targeted key simulation allows specifying a target application and when to transfer the data:

Settings for key simulation to a specific target application.

Search tool: 

☐ Selected application: 

Window class: 

Window title: 

Simulation type: 

Formatted output: ☒

Simple output pattern: 

The configuration dialog offers the following additional configuration options:

- **Target program / window:**
The target program or the target window can be selected and saved as described in [Chapter 5.3](#).
- **Simulation mode:**
The simulation mode determines how and when keys will be transferred to the target application. Supported modes are:
 - **keep in the foreground:**
On each keystroke, it is made sure that target window is still in focus. If not, it is brought into focus again.
 - **bring in the foreground (once):**
The target window is brought into focus once and keys are simulated then.
 - **wait until in foreground:**
Keystrokes are cached until the application is activated by the user. After activating the window, all outstanding keystrokes are sent.
 - **regardless of application activation:**
Identical to the global key simulation.
 - **send in the background:**
The key simulation is performed via Windows messages in the background.
This method is not officially supported by Microsoft and is therefore unreliable and does not work with all applications.

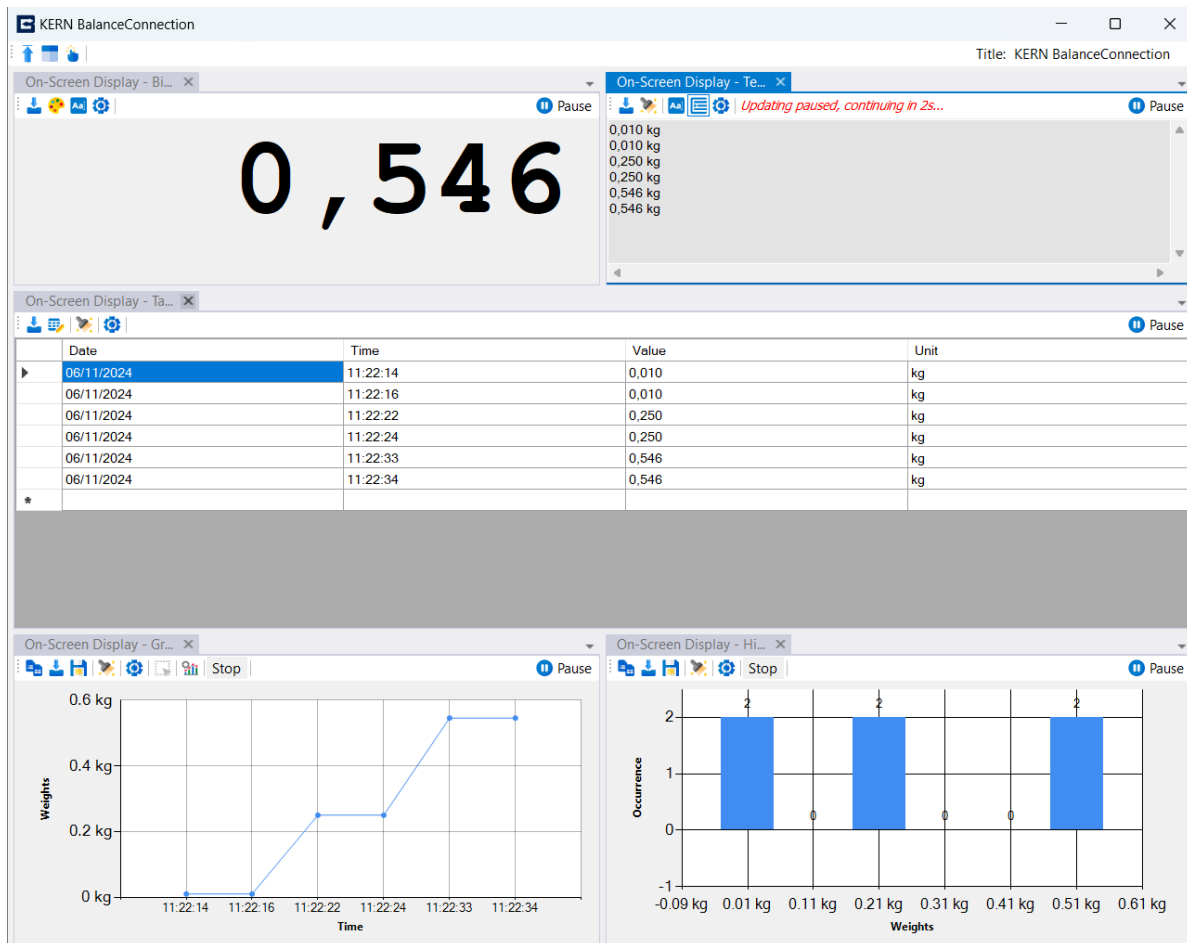
11.2 On-Screen Displays / In program displays

An on-screen display (OSD) is a display for measured values within the BalanceConnection software.

Such representations often provide a good overview of current readings of the connected devices and can be used simultaneously with a permanent record of the readings.

Most on-screen displays also allow you to save the results displayed there permanently.

The following screenshot shows several on-screen displays:



On-screen displays are, like other windows of the program, dockable and can be moved and rearranged within a window.

Such a window can be configured so that it is always displayed in the foreground. The title of the window can be modified in the toolbar as needed.

The update of each on-screen display can be interrupted by clicking on "Pause".

On-screen displays are created and configured same as the other outputs. The following sections describe the particularities of the OSDs.

11.2.1 Big display



The big display shows the result of the application of an output pattern to an incoming data packet in big font in a custom color.

The configuration of font and output patterns is done via the toolbar.

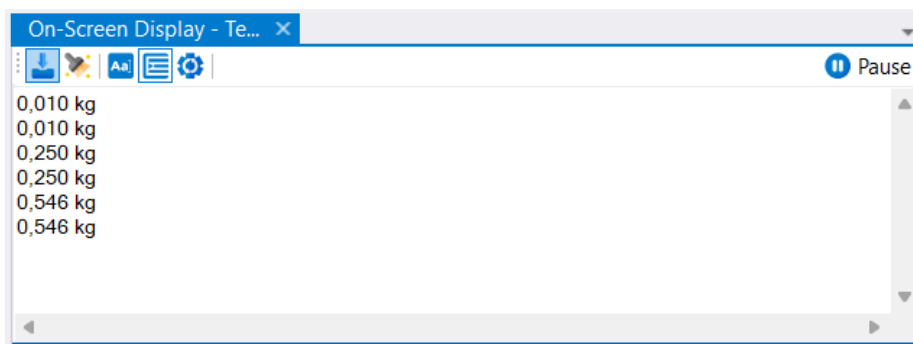
Please note that the big display requires data from the scale to update. Please configure, for example, a timed trigger (timer) to request the current weighing result or set the balance to continuous transmission.

The big display data can be exported using the "Save as file" button in formats such as PNG, Word, and PDF, allowing for easy processing and sharing.



Please note Word and PDF export are only available in the Pro-version.

11.2.2 Recording in a text log

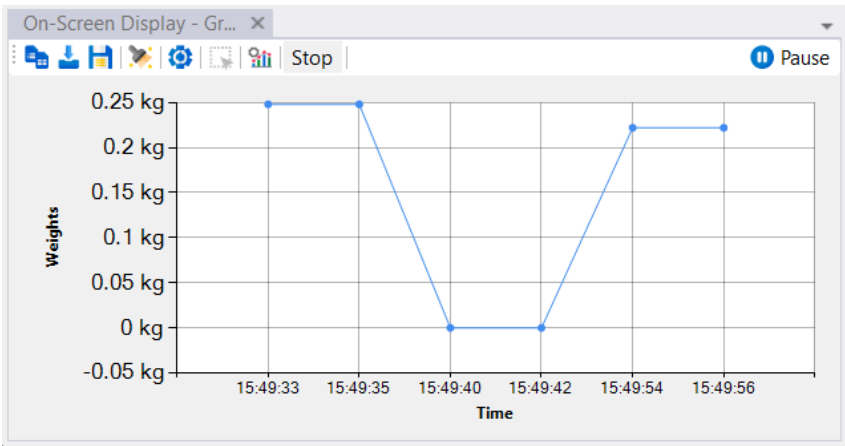


This on-screen display works very similar to the big display, to the extent that incoming data packets are converted to formatted text using an output pattern. The resulting text here is, however, recorded in a continuous fashion, like a file recording or a printer.

Like the big display, font and output pattern can be changed via the toolbar. Click the "Formatted output" to display raw data (useful for complicated scale output).

Using the "Save" button, the current contents of the window can be saved as a text file.

11.2.3Chart



This on-screen display allows measurements in a chart / graph display (plotted over time).

The data series displayed in the diagram are defined as combinations of names and output patterns:

- **Start/Stop Button:** This button controls chart generation, updating data in real time from connected devices.

The X-axis can be set to show data based on runtime (session duration) or system time (real-world time) for flexibility.

The data series shown in the chart is defined as combinations of name and output patterns:

OSD settings			
Define series			
Unit:		X axis: Current time	
	Serie	Name	Output pattern
	0	Value	<<<value>>>
▶*	0		

The result of the output pattern must be interpretable as a number (without unit) (e.g. "123,456").

With buttons on the toolbar, the image of the chart can be copied to the clipboard, stored as a file (with manual selection of the destination) and automatically (with the current date and time).



The chart can be exported using the "Save as file" button in various formats, including PNG, Excel, CSV, Word and PDF, and can be processed in programs such as Microsoft Excel.



Please note Excel, CSV, Word and PDF export are only available in the Pro-version.

Range Selection (Pro version): This function allows users to draw a rectangular range on the chart, displaying key metrics such as Minimum Y, Maximum Y, the difference in Y values, and the time difference between the start and end points within the selected range.

The chart – **pro version** offers several visualization options to enhance data analysis:

- **Trendlines:** Users can add trendlines like Polynomial, Linear, Exponential, Power, Moving Average, and Logarithmic to identify patterns in data over time.
- **Filters:** Options such as Area Under Curve (AUC) and Gradient can be applied to specific Y-axis series. AUC highlights cumulative values, while Gradient shows the rate of change between data points.
- **Show Last Value:** Always show the last value of the chart data.

11.2.4 Histogram (Pro-version)



A special type of chart is the „histogram“. It categorizes the weighing values into buckets of a given size.

The on-screen display then shows a bar graph with the number of packets received for each class.

This allows visualizing the underlying probability distribution easily.

The Histogram can be exported using the "Save" button in various formats, including Excel, CSV, Word, PDF, and PNG, and can be processed in programs such as Microsoft Excel.

11.2.5Table

The image shows two windows from a software application. The top window, titled "On-Screen Display - Ta...", displays a table with four columns: Date, Time, Value, and Unit. The table contains eight rows of data. The bottom window, titled "OSD settings", shows the "Define columns" tab with a table mapping column names to output patterns. Below this table is a large grey rectangular area and two buttons: "Cancel" and "Apply".

	Date	Time	Value	Unit
▶	11/5/2024	16:01:29	0,222	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:30	0,222	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:37	0,222	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:39	0,222	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:44	0,462	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:45	0,462	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:50	0,220	kg
	11/5/2024	16:01:51	0,220	kg

	Column name	Output pattern
▶	Date	<<<pdate>>>
	Time	<<<pctime>>>
	Value	<<<value>>>
	Unit	<<<unit>>>
*		

This on-screen display allows you to show readings in table form. The definition of the columns shown in the table consists of combinations of name and output patterns:

If several devices are sending at the same time, use a synchronization filter as data source for this output method with multiple inputs (see [chapter 12.2.1](#)).

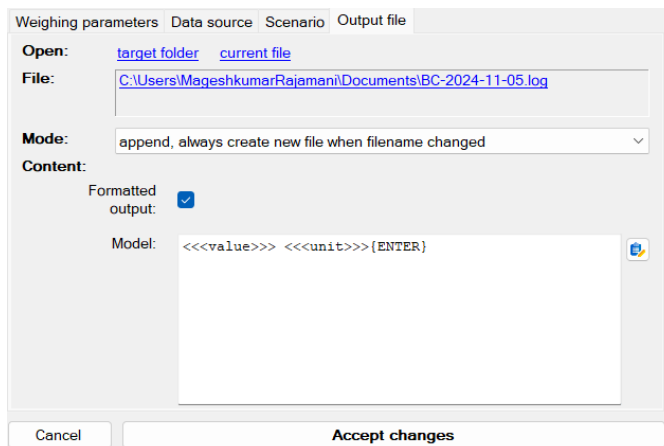
The table shown can be exported via the "Save" button in various formats, such as Excel, CSV, Word, and PDF, and can, for example, be processed in Microsoft Excel. However, for this use, the Excel output method is better suited (for flexible output to Excel, see [chapter 11.9](#)).



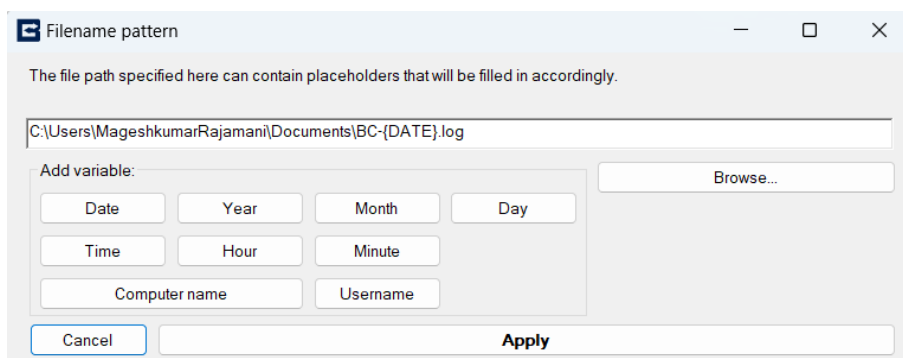
Please note Excel, Word and PDF export are only available in the Pro-version.

11.3 File record

This output method stores the result of applying an output pattern to a data packet in a text file. The following screen shows the configuration dialog:



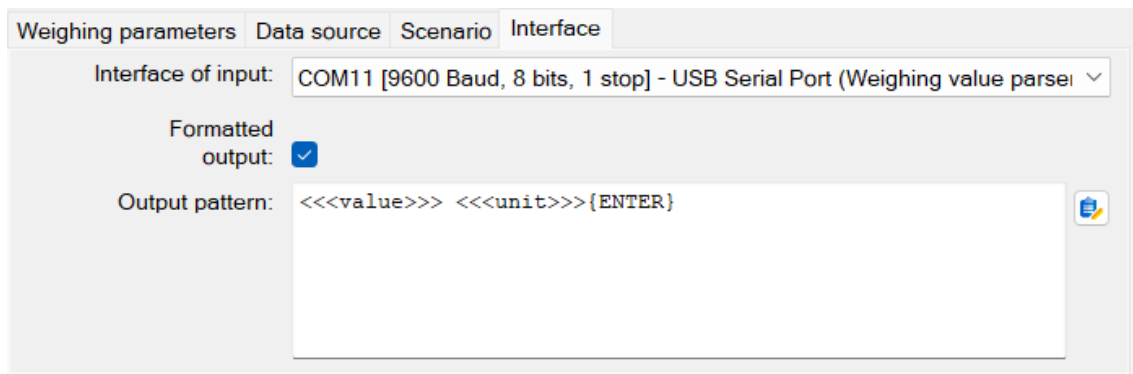
Note that the output path can include variable names.
For easy configuration of the file name, click on the file name shown above.



This shows the configuration dialog for the file name.
Here the directory path and file name pattern can be set accordingly.

11.4 Forwarding to another port (e.g. RS232 printer)

This output method sends the result of applying an output pattern to a data packet to another connected interface.



The screenshot shows the 'Interface' tab of a configuration window. It has four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'Interface'. The 'Interface' tab is active. It contains the following fields:

- 'Interface of input:' with a dropdown menu showing 'COM11 [9600 Baud, 8 bits, 1 stop] - USB Serial Port (Weighing value parser)'.
- 'Formatted output:' with a checked checkbox.
- 'Output pattern:' with a text box containing '<<<value>>> <<<unit>>>{ENTER}' and a copy icon to the right.

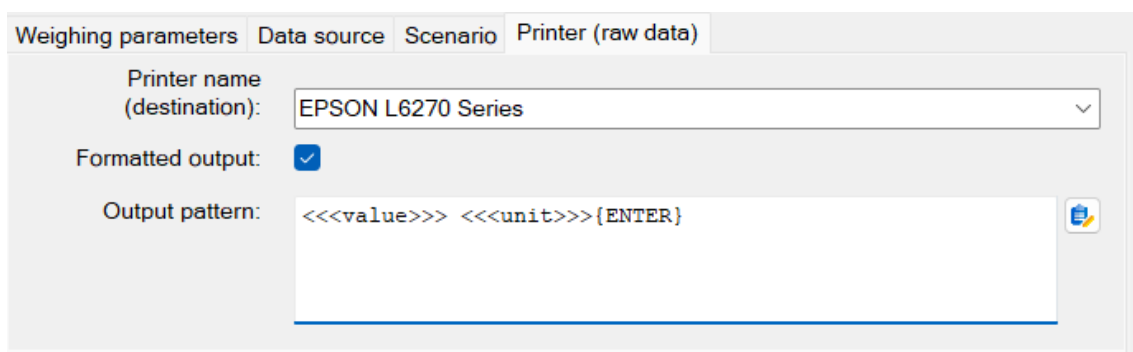
This allows, for example, to format a scale output in a particular way and forward it to a printer. Special functions for ZPL2 printers allow to use images or rendered PC fonts with compatible printers.

11.5 Forwarding to a Windows printer (Pro-version)

This output method sends the result of applying an output pattern to a data packet to a printer port installed in Windows. Please note that this uses only the printer port to send raw data and does not utilize the printer driver to generate data.

Therefore, it will not work with PCL printers yet.

Compared to the previously mentioned output to another port, this method allows to use printers connected to the PC over USB.



The screenshot shows the 'Printer (raw data)' tab of the same configuration window. It has four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'Printer (raw data)'. The 'Printer (raw data)' tab is active. It contains the following fields:

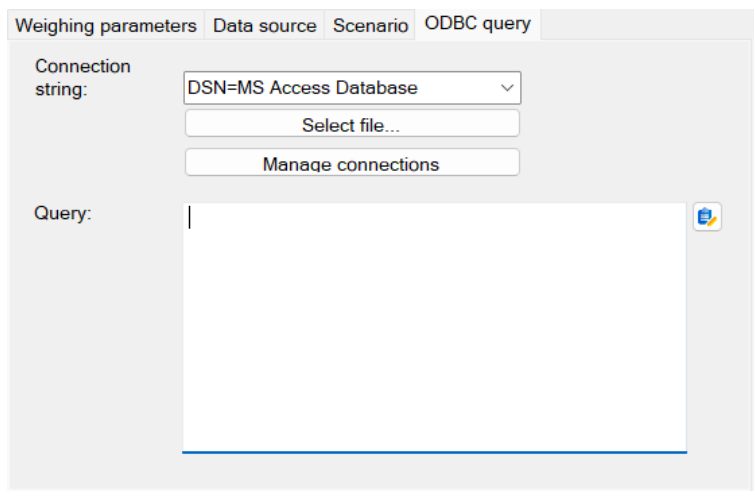
- 'Printer name (destination):' with a dropdown menu showing 'EPSON L6270 Series'.
- 'Formatted output:' with a checked checkbox.
- 'Output pattern:' with a text box containing '<<<value>>> <<<unit>>>{ENTER}' and a copy icon to the right.

This allows, for example, to format a scale output in a particular way and forward it to a printer. Special functions for ZPL2 printers allow to use images or rendered PC fonts with compatible printers.

11.6 Databases / ODBC / SQL queries (Pro-version)

An ODBC connection allows accessing a variety of database systems like Microsoft SQL Server, Access, Excel or third-party databases like MySQL, SQLite or similar.

For this, the correct ODBC driver must be installed within Windows.



The screenshot shows a software window with four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'ODBC query'. The 'ODBC query' tab is active. It contains a 'Connection string:' label followed by a dropdown menu showing 'DSN=MS Access Database'. Below the dropdown are two buttons: 'Select file...' and 'Manage connections'. Below these is a 'Query:' label followed by a large text area for entering a query. A small icon is visible on the right side of the text area.

A universal connection string specifies the target database.

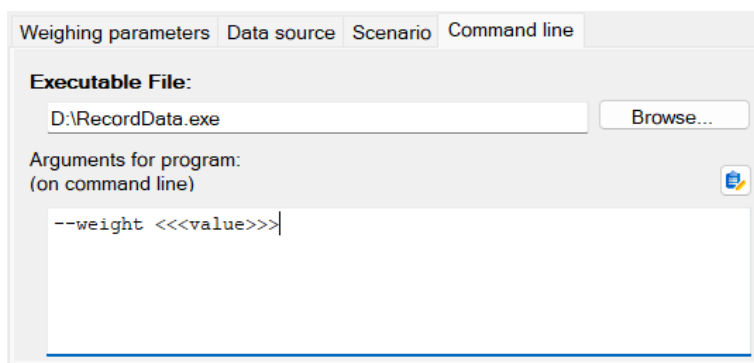
It either can be a system or user DSN or a file DSN.

The software creates an ODBC connection to the specified database and executes the query given by the user with variables filled in accordingly (please refer to the above image for an example).

The query usually is an INSERT statement, but also UPDATE statements could be used.

11.7 Start a program with arguments (Pro-version)

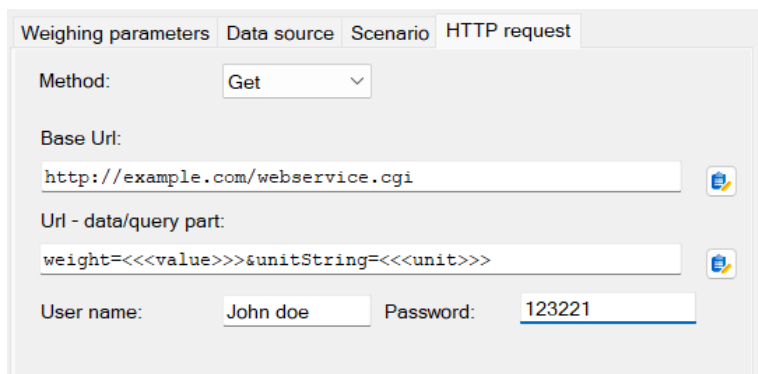
Is there already a program or script that can record or process the weighing values as desired, then this output method allows to execute it with a certain set of command line arguments:



The screenshot shows a software window with four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'Command line'. The 'Command line' tab is active. It contains an 'Executable File:' label followed by a text field with 'D:\RecordData.exe' and a 'Browse...' button. Below this is an 'Arguments for program: (on command line)' label followed by a text area containing the command line argument '--weight <<<value>>>'. A small icon is visible on the right side of the text area.

11.8 HTTP / Website / Webservice (Pro-version)

Is there already a web service or web form that can record or process the weighing values as desired, then this output methods allows to pass the measurement values over HTTP to the webserver within the URL query string:



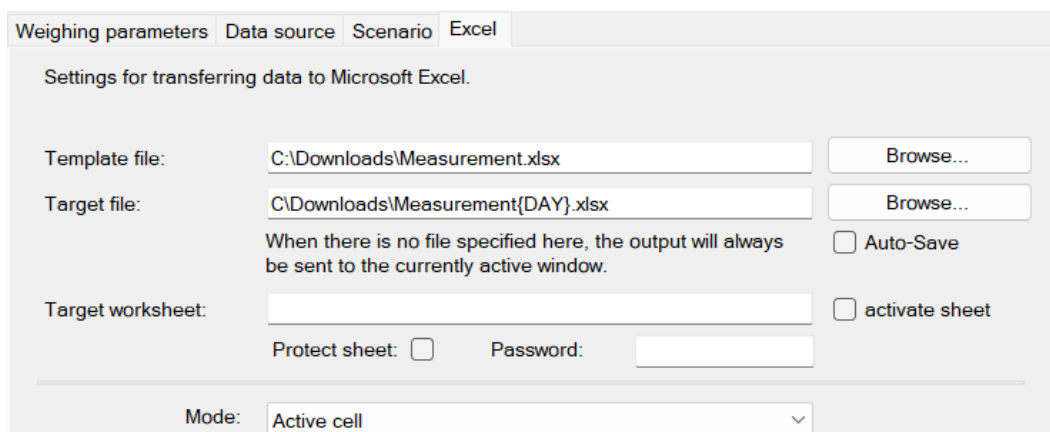
The screenshot shows a configuration window with four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'HTTP request'. The 'HTTP request' tab is active. It contains the following fields:

- Method:** A dropdown menu set to 'Get'.
- Base Url:** A text field containing 'http://example.com/webservice.cgi' with a copy icon to its right.
- Url - data/query part:** A text field containing 'weight=<<<value>>>&unitString=<<<unit>>>' with a copy icon to its right.
- User name:** A text field containing 'John doe'.
- Password:** A text field containing '123221'.

11.9 Transfer data to Microsoft Excel

One of the most used output methods is the transfer to Microsoft Excel. Compared to logging data first in a file or an on-screen tabular output, data here can be further processed live. Examples are formulas or charts that are constantly updated. See section 15.2 for an example application.

Another advantage of the Excel output method is that it, unlike the key simulation, can work in the background and that multiple worksheets can be filled simultaneously.



The screenshot shows a configuration window with four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'Excel'. The 'Excel' tab is active. It contains the following fields and options:

- Settings for transferring data to Microsoft Excel.**
- Template file:** A text field containing 'C:\Downloads\Measurement.xlsx' with a 'Browse...' button to its right.
- Target file:** A text field containing 'C:\Downloads\Measurement{DAY}.xlsx' with a 'Browse...' button to its right.
- When there is no file specified here, the output will always be sent to the currently active window.**
- Auto-Save:** An unchecked checkbox.
- Target worksheet:** A text field with an 'activate sheet' checkbox to its right.
- Protect sheet:** An unchecked checkbox.
- Password:** A text field.
- Mode:** A dropdown menu set to 'Active cell'.

The configuration dialog for the Excel output method includes the following general properties:

- **Template file:**

If the target Excel file does not exist or the current file name is no longer valid (for example, on the next day), the template file specified here is opened and saved as a new target file.

- **Target file:**

The active Excel application is searched for the file specified here. If it is found, the data will be transferred to the open file. If it is not found, the file will be either be created based on the template (if defined) or opened as an empty file.

If no target file is specified, the output will be directed to the active worksheet.

- **Target worksheet:**

When the target file contains multiple worksheets, the desired worksheet can be defined here. If this is empty, the active worksheet is used.

This is particularly useful when multiple outputs try access the same Excel file.

If the "activate" control box is set, the target worksheet will be activated (brought to the front) before inserting data.

- **Mode:**

The specified mode here describes which cells are to be filled with what content. The modes and their configuration are described in more detail in the following sections.

If no mode fits the task, it may be possible to use an output scenario. (see [chapter 10.2.3](#)).

11.9.1 Excel Output Mode "tabular output"

The mode "tabular output" fills, starting from the given top-left corner cell, a table column by column with defined values.

The values are always entered into the next completely blank line.

For example, if the start area and column definitions filled as follows ...

Index	Output pattern for this column		
1	<<<value>>>		
2	<<<unit>>>		
3	<<<pcDate>>>		
4	<<<pcTime>>>		

... the result is a table of this structure.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1						
2						
3		weight	unit	date	time	
4		208,88	g	12.03.2024	11:23:38	
5		208,88	g	12.03.2024	11:28:16	
6		1191,91	g	12.03.2024	11:28:34	
7						

Any cells not affected by the table definition can be pre-filled with other values or formulas.

11.9.2 Excel output mode "fill cell ranges"

When a simple tabular output is not possible or too inflexible, the mode "fill cell ranges" offers more configuration options. In this mode, for individual cells or entire cell ranges output patterns can be define, as demonstrated in the following window:

Mode: Fill cells / ranges

Target cell range: B4 (top left corner)

Output columns/cells:

Edit output Pattern

	Target cell/range	Output pattern for this column	Overwrite
	D3:D10	<<<value>>>	☐
	E3:E10	<<<unit>>>	☐
	F3	<<<pcdate>>>	☐
	F4	<<<adjustmentdate>>>	☐
*			☐

A range of cells can be specified in usual Excel style as a single cell address ("F3"), as a range of cells ("D3:D10") or as the name of the cell (if defined).

The outgoing data is always filled into the next free cell in a range. If only one cell is specified, the value of this cell will always be overwritten.

The specification shown above fills the following Excel spreadsheet correctly:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1								
2				Value	Unit			
3				1049.96	g	18/03/2024	Date	
4				1049.96	g	16/03/2024	Adjustment	
5				1049.96	g			
6				1049.96	g			
7								
8								
9								
10								
11								
12								
13								

11.9.3 Excel Output Mode "separate text into cells"

Is the interface protocol of a device very complex and you want to process all data sent in Excel, anyway, consider using the mode "separate text into cell".

Mode: 

Target cell range: (top left corner)

Here, the transmitted raw data from the device (as text) will be split at set separator characters (e.g. spaces, tabs) into parts and these parts are then stored into individual cells of the Excel file.

The split-up data can then be further processed easily and individually.

As in tabular mode, the data is output in the first free cell of the target range.

KERN	&	Sohn	GmbH
TYPE	DBS	60-3	
SN	WB11AH0003		
ID	1234		
CODE	KA07		
DATE	03.12.2001		
TIME	19:35		
PNO.	4		
UNIT	M/W		
MODE	SLOW		
TEMP	100C		
STOP	00:02		
Wet	W(g)	20,612	
TIME	M/W(%)		
	00:00:00	0,01	
	00:00:02	0,02	
	00:00:04	0,03	
	00:00:06	0,04	
	00:00:08	0,06	
	00:00:10	0,08	
	00:00:12	0,1	
	00:00:14	0,2	
	00:00:16	0,3	
	00:00:18	0,5	

11.10 GDT–Transfer data to physician information systems

(On request)

The GDT output method realizes the transfer of data between balances and physician information systems.

The screenshot shows the 'GDT - Properties' dialog box with the 'GDT' tab selected. The dialog has four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'GDT'. The 'GDT' tab contains the following fields and options:

- Directory:** A text field with a browse button (...).
- Name:** A text field containing 'KERNBalanceConnection'.
- Shortcut:** A text field containing 'KERN'.
- Server name:** A text field containing 'TargetPC'.
- Server shortcut:** A text field containing 'TAPC'.
- GDT version:** A dropdown menu showing 'GDT 3.0'.
- Use assigned fields:** A radio button that is selected.
- Use free patterns:** An unselected radio button.
- Weight pattern:** A text field containing 'Weight: <<<weight>>>' with a help icon.
- Height pattern:** An empty text field with a help icon.
- Buttons:** 'Cancel' and 'Accept changes' at the bottom.

Here, the transmitted raw data from the devices will be converted into the GDT output pattern (GDT-Version).

After that, the data will be saved into the transfer directory.

In addition to the standard, free text patterns can be used to send the data formatted to the target system.

11.11 HL7–Exchange of data in the Health Level 7 format (On request)

The HL7 output method is international standard for the exchange of data in the healthcare system.

It allows connections between scales and computer systems to be established.

Data can be sent and received on the selected ports.

The IP or the name of the receiving device is entered into the IP address field.

The desired encoding can be selected in the encoding field.

HL7 - Properties

Weighing parameters Data source Scenario **HL7**

IP-Address: 127.0.0.1

Output-Port: 5000

Input-Port: 5001

Message-Header: 0b

Message-Footer: 1c 0d

Encoding: Unicode (UTF-8) ▾

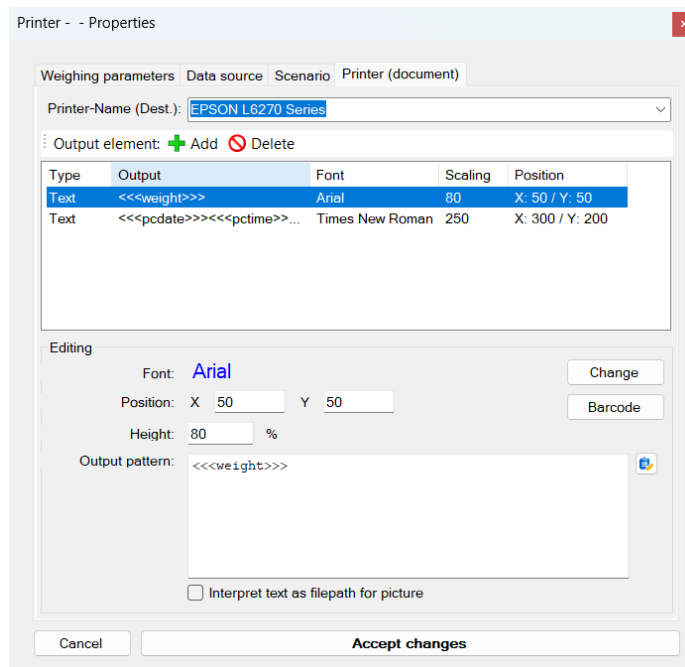
Abbrechen Accept changes

11.12 Forwarding of formatted data to a Windows printer (Pro-version)

This output method allows the printing of freely designable documents without dependency on third-party applications (e.g. Word).

For this purpose, the scales data as well as other values are prepared for printing and then be sent to a configured Windows printer as a finished document.

In contrast to the transfer of raw data to the printer (as in the output method according to [chap. 11.5](#)), this works with all printers connected to Windows and allows printing of images, colors and texts in different fonts.



By clicking on the "Change" button, the font and color can be changed.

In the "Size" field, the font size or image size (in %) can be adjusted.

The position of the data can be adjusted in the "Position" field (by default, the position (X: 0, Y: 0) is located in the upper left corner).

Specify the desired output in the "Output pattern" field.

By hitting the "Interpret text as image path" check box, the output pattern is recognized as a file path.

Because of that, images can also be included

in the output document

(see example on the right).



12 Output Filters

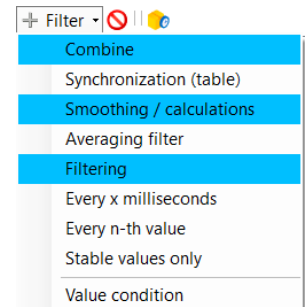
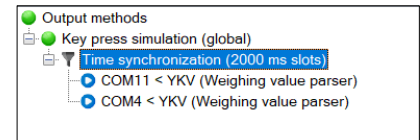
In the "pipeline" of data packets, output filters can be interposed between an input and an output.

These filters allow you to filter out data packets, alter them (computed fields) or to synchronize packets (record multiple scales at the same time).

12.1 General information about filters

An output filter can be added through the drop-down filter menu.
Select the type of filter required.

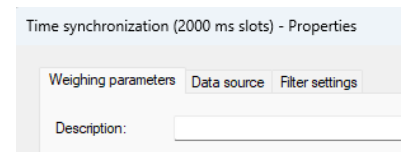
Analogous to an output,
a filter has a description field and a data sources tab.
Additionally it has other parameters that depend on the type of filter.
These are described in more detail on the next page.



12.2 Types of filters

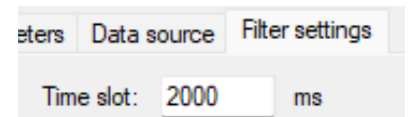
12.2.1 Synchronisation (-> Table)

If multiple devices are connected to the same computer, each device will send its measurement value to a different point in time to another input. In some use cases, it is necessary to synchronize the inputs – to “bring them to one line”.



The filter "time synchronization" serves to synchronize the processed data packets from several devices; that is simultaneously forward them to an output. Depending on the nature of the output, this allows to fill or to form a table of values or calculate values by combining different measurement devices.

Up to what point measurements of the devices arrive at the “same time” is defined by the property "time slot".

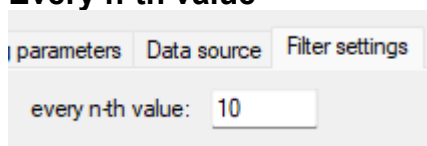


If a device does not respond within this period, its variables will remain undefined in the final packet. The variable names in the data packets of the responding devices are passed on with an index (suffix, starting with 1).

12.2.2 Each n-th value / Every x milliseconds

When a measuring instrument is set to continuous transmission, it often provides values faster than the target application can process. The following filters allow discarding superfluous values:

Every n-th value



Passes only every n-th value.
Other values are discarded.

Every x-millisecond



Passes a value only every
x milliseconds.
Other values are discarded.

12.2.3 Value condition

This function serves to refine output data by specifying comparative conditions. It employs logical operators (AND, OR) and relational operators (>, <, <=, >=, =, ~) to construct conditions with associated weight values.

Weighing parameters		Data source		Filter settings	
	Logic	Value A	Op	Value B	
	And	<<<weight>>>	>=	260 g	
...	And	<<<weight>>>	<=	540 g	
*					

12.2.4 Averaging filter / Stability filter

This function implements a data packet averaging mechanism tailored for diverse stability scenarios. It functions as a periodic filter, applying specified stability thresholds and threshold detections over time. Data recording can be constrained using two distinct methods:

- Send only stable values.
- Send stable value once.

Weighing parameters		Data source		Filter settings	
Time window:		2000	ms		
☒	Outlier detection	2	Measurement		
☒	Swap / Threshold	20g			
☒	Stability tolerance	12g			
☒	send only stable values				
☐	send stable value once				

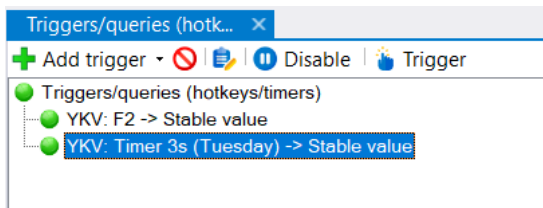
13 Triggers / Queries

Most measurement devices with communication interface allow to trigger certain functions / operations of the device via the interface by means of remote-control commands. A "trigger" specifies when what device will trigger a particular operation with certain parameters.

A "device operation" can be a query of the measured value, setting an internal parameter or trigger the adjustment, zero or tare of the balance. Depending on operation, several parameters may be necessary. Also, whether the device acknowledges, or answers depends on the type of operation and device.

13.1 Overview

The list of triggers in the main program window shows all currently configured triggers.

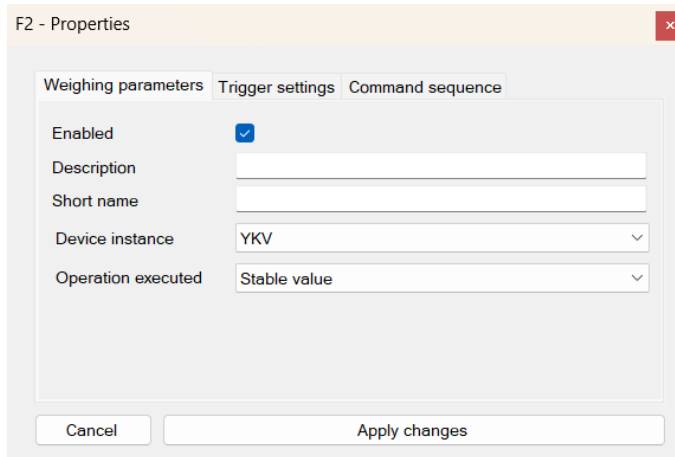


As with the other main windows you can alter the state, as well as the parameters of the trigger on the toolbar and the context menu.

The toolbar also offers the possibility with the "trigger" button to execute the underlying action manually. If a trigger is fully configured, it also can be triggered by double-clicking on it.

13.2 General information about triggers

Trigger on the dropdown button can be added with the "Add trigger" button. As with the other dialogs of the program, choose the type of the trigger from the context menu. This will open the Properties dialog of the trigger:



The screenshot shows a dialog box titled "F2 - Properties" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. It has three tabs: "Weighing parameters", "Trigger settings", and "Command sequence". The "Trigger settings" tab is selected. The form contains the following fields:

- Enabled:** A checkbox that is checked.
- Description:** An empty text input field.
- Short name:** An empty text input field.
- Device instance:** A dropdown menu with "YKV" selected.
- Operation executed:** A dropdown menu with "Stable value" selected.

At the bottom of the dialog are two buttons: "Cancel" and "Apply changes".

The general part of the properties of a trigger includes the following items:

- **Enabled:** Determines whether the trigger is activated / is operational.
- **Description:** The name you enter here will be displayed instead of the automatically generated name of the trigger.
- **Device instance:**
The device instance on which the operation has to be triggered.
- **Device operation:** The device operation to be triggered. Alternatively, "command sequence" can be selected. In this case, the tab "command sequence" specifies the commands to be run within the context of the trigger.

Below, all available types of triggers are described in more detail

13.3 Hotkeys / shortcuts

The **Trigger Settings** section provides common configuration options for hotkey and timer triggers.

This window allows users easily to switch between trigger types depending on their requirements.

- **Default Selection**

By default, the trigger type is set to **Hotkey**. In this mode, hotkey properties are enabled, while timer properties remain disabled.

- **Switching Trigger Types**

If desired, the trigger type can be changed to **Timer**. In this case, timer properties become available, and hotkey properties are disabled.

F2 - Properties

Weighing parameters Trigger settings Command sequence

Configure the hotkey and timer trigger settings to execute commands

Trigger type: Hotkey

Hotkey properties

Key combination F2

☒ Enable here to prevent the above hotkey from triggering actions in other programs.

Timer properties

Timer interval 00:00:10.000

From time 12:00:00 AM To time 11:59:59 PM

Choose the days when the timer should run.

☒ Monday ☒ Tuesday ☒ Wednesday ☒ Thursday ☒ Friday

☒ Saturday ☒ Sunday

Timer start/stop key combination

☒ Enable here to prevent the above hotkey from triggering actions in other programs.

☐ Automatically stop timer after 0 Days Timer 00:00:00

Cancel Apply changes

13.3.1 Hotkeys / shortcuts

A "hotkey" trigger waits for the press of a key combination within Windows. The desired key combination is defined in the tab "Hotkey":

Hotkey properties

Key combination F2

☒ Enable here to prevent the above hotkey from triggering actions in other programs.

Press the desired key combination in the input box for it to be recognized.

13.3.2 Timers / time-controlled requests

A "timer" trigger triggers the desired action in a defined regular time interval. The active time can be further constrained by specifying start and end time as well as active weekdays.

Timer properties

Timer interval 00:00:01.000

From time 00:00:00 To time 23:59:59

Choose the days when the timer should run.

☒ Monday ☒ Tuesday ☒ Wednesday ☒ Thursday ☒ Friday

☒ Saturday ☒ Sunday

Timer start/stop key combination F3

☒ Enable here to prevent the above hotkey from triggering actions in other programs.

☒ Automatically stop timer after 100 Days Timer 00:00:00

Additional timer options include:

1. **Start/Stop Using Hotkey**

- Allows users to define a hotkey specifically for starting and stopping the timer trigger.
- If no hotkey is defined, the timer will continue running according to the configured schedule.

○

2. **Activate Run Time**

- Enables specification of a total runtime for the timer. For example, if a runtime of 30 minutes is set, the timer will automatically stop after this duration.
- To restart the timer after it has stopped, a start/stop hotkey must be defined.

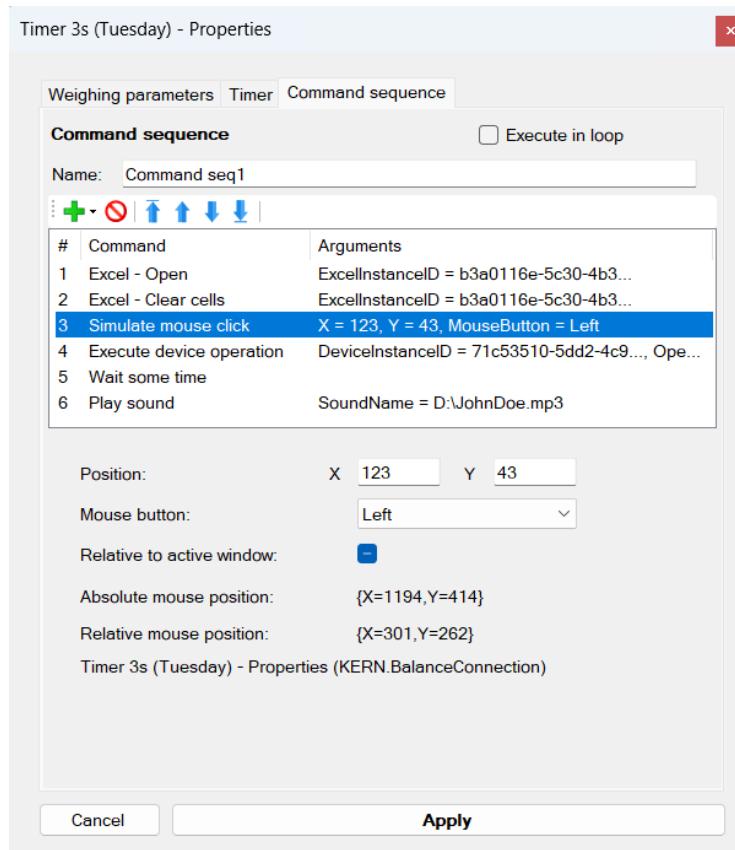
○

i	The limit of the total runtime are 100 days
----------	---

14 Command sequences

In the context of triggers or output methods complex command sequences can be triggered instead of only the hard-wired standard function. A command sequence consists of a series of commands with individual parameters. Therefore, they can be compared to scripts; however the flexibility is not as high as in written code.

Examples of command sequences are clicks, keystrokes, activation of windows or as a special example highlighting a cell range in Excel.



The processing of an instruction sequence is analogous to the other main windows of the program. Command steps can be individually added, deleted or moved within the command sequence.

Each command has several parameters. Depending on the type of the command is the processing of the command parameter from a simple list. For complex commands a special input screen helps you configure.

Depending on the context of the command sequence (within a trigger or different output methods) are not all the commands available.

The "Execute in Loop" option allows all commands to run continuously in a loop. This feature is useful for users who need to perform tasks in a repeated manner.

If you have problems with command sequences, please note the output in the program log (see [chapter 7.4](#)).

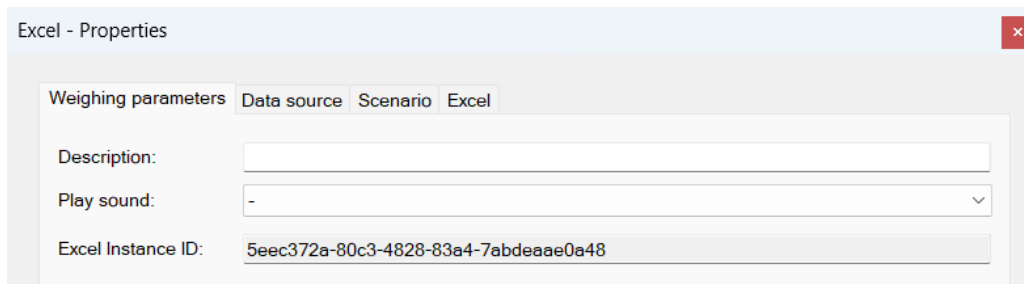
14.1 Excel command sequences

When working with Excel command sequences, it is important to understand how to use an Excel Instance ID. Here's a simplified guide:

- **Excel Instance ID:**
Every time you create an Excel output method or use the Open Excel command with a valid file path, an Excel Instance ID is generated. This ID is used to identify which Excel instance the commands should target.
-
- **Using Excel Instance ID:**
For all Excel commands (except the Open operation), you must select or map the correct Excel Instance ID. This ID ensures that the commands, such as setting values or clearing cells, are applied to the correct Excel file.
-
- **Deletion of Excel Instance ID:**
If you delete the Open Excel command sequence or the Excel output method, the associated Excel Instance ID will also be deleted. This means you can no longer use that ID for any Excel command sequences it was mapped to.
-
- **Defining Excel Command Sequences:**
To execute Excel commands, you must specify the target Excel file using its Excel Instance ID.

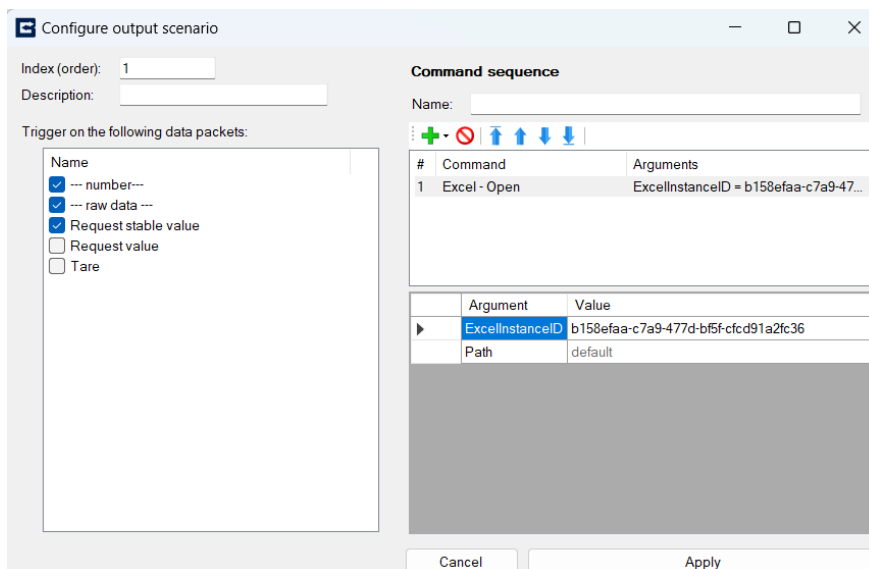
For Excel command sequences created within Excel output methods, if no 'ExcelInstanceID' is chosen, the commands will run on the target Excel file specified by that Excel output method.

You can find the 'ExcelInstanceID' in the Excel settings when creating an Excel Output method as shown below.

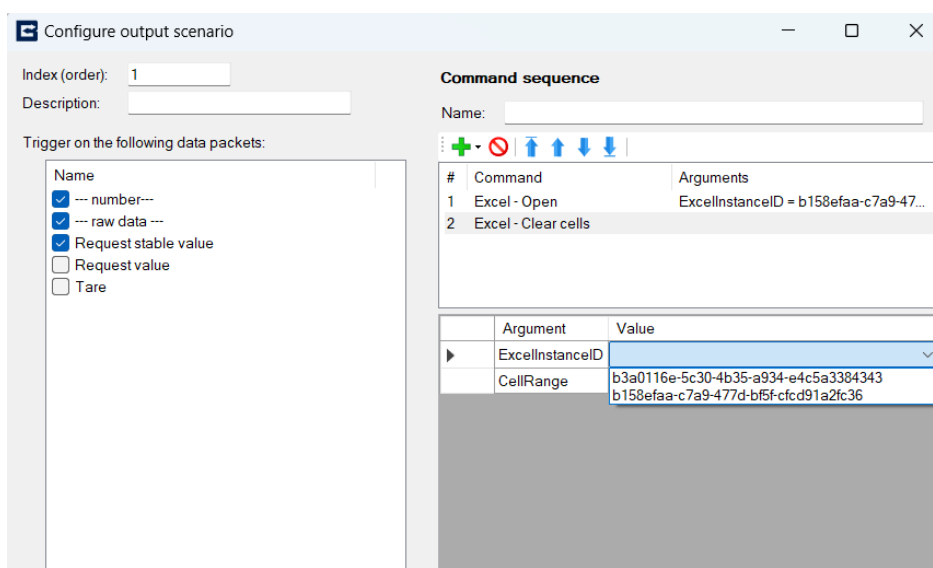


The screenshot shows a window titled 'Excel - Properties' with a red close button in the top right corner. Inside the window, there are four tabs: 'Weighing parameters', 'Data source', 'Scenario', and 'Excel'. The 'Excel' tab is currently selected. Below the tabs, there are three input fields: 'Description:' (empty), 'Play sound:' (set to '-'), and 'Excel Instance ID:' (containing the text '5eec372a-80c3-4828-83a4-7abdeaae0a48').

The excel instance ID of the opened excel can be found on the Excel Open command sequence edit window as shown below. The other excel command sequences can be mapped to this opened excel to do the excel operations.



For all Excel command sequences except the Open command sequence, you can select the Excel Instance ID from a dropdown menu available in each command sequence window.



15 Application and configuration examples

15.1 Print a user-defined label on a YKB-01N printer

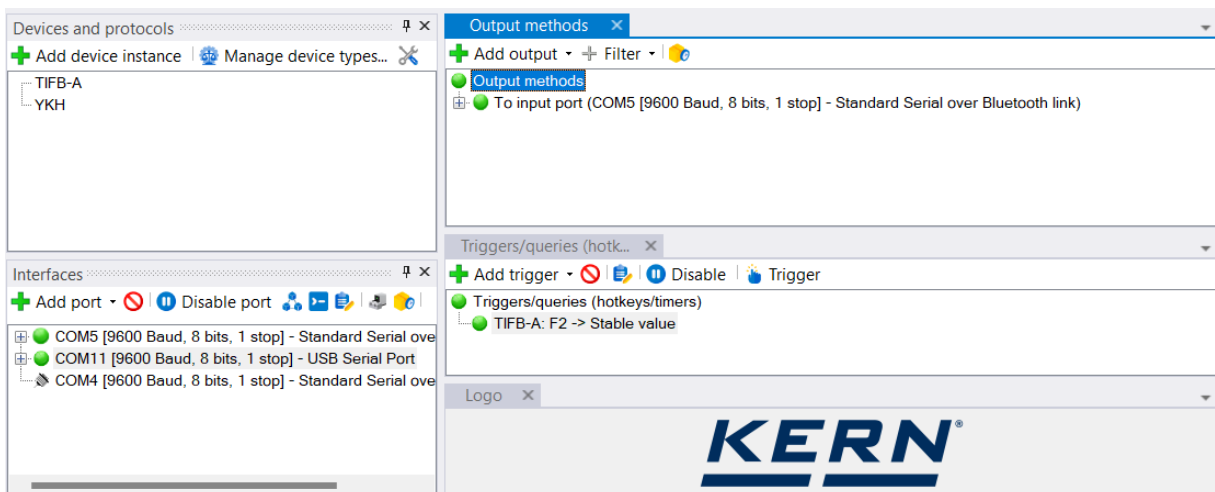
Hardware Setup:

- **COM11**: KERN YKH printer thermo-printer
- **COM9**: TIFB-A KERN platform scale

Goal:

- By pressing a key, the current value of the balance is to be requested and it should be printed on a printout with date / time (but the weighing value should have no decimal places).

Configuration of inputs and outputs:



Printer and balance are connected to different ports.

For request, a hotkey trigger (F2 key) is used, which requests the stable weighing value.

As output method redirect to an interface is setup (printer to COM11).

The output pattern is defined as follows:

Format template:	KERN & Sohn GmbH ===== Date: <<<pdate>>> Time: <<<left(pctime,5)>>> Net: <<<round(value,0)>>> <<<unit>>> Thank you for your trust.
☒ Toggle decimal point/comma	
Sample result:	KERN & Sohn GmbH ===== Date: 2/12/2024 Time: 13:11 Net: 1235 g Thank you for your trust.

Functions are used to round the weighing value and remove the digits part of the PC time.

The full label contents will be printed after pressing the F2 button.

15.2 Drying protocol with the drying process for a moisture analyser

Hardware Setup:

- DBS 60-3 via USB on COM11

Target:

- Recording a drying process in an Excel form during the drying process.
The current drying value is to be displayed in a large format display.
- Excel form (empty state) to fill (right)

Mustermann GmbH			
Trockenobst ... garantiert trocken!			
Messprotokoll	Aprikose		
Charge	KW50/2015		
gemessen am:			1,20
Feuchtebestimmer			1,00
Seriennummer:			0,80
Sachbearbeiter:	Hr. Kerni		0,60
Trocknungszeit:			0,40
bei	°C		0,20
Startmasse:		g	0,00
Trockenmasse:		g	00:00
Wassergehalt:	#DIV/0!		
absolut:	0	g	
Messwerte			
Zeitpunkt	Wert		

Configuration-interface protocol:

The interface protocol of DBS 60-3 for a measurement is divided into three parts: head, single value or footer. The variables defined here may be used for filling the form.

Used protocol: manage...

Name of the protocol: DBS

Name	Triggered by	Pattern
Moisture - analyser - end valu...	Device	\{time:time\} \{value:number\}
Moisture - analyser - end valu...	Device	Dry W(g) \{dryWeightnumber\}
Moisture analysis - protocol f...	Device	\{time:time\} \{value:number\} * Dry W(g) \{dryWeightnumb
Moisture analysis - protocol h...	Device	\{title:string\} TYPE \{model:modelname\} SN \{serial:ser
Moisture analysis - protocol v...	Device	\{time:time\} \{value:number\} \{LF\}

Initiated by: Gerät

Interaction name/identification: Moistureanalyzer - protocol - header

Restart output when received ☒

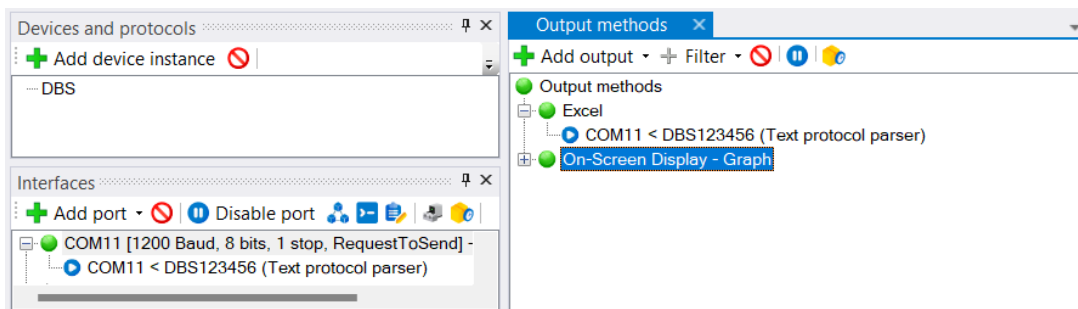
Request command/pattern edit...

Response pattern: edit...

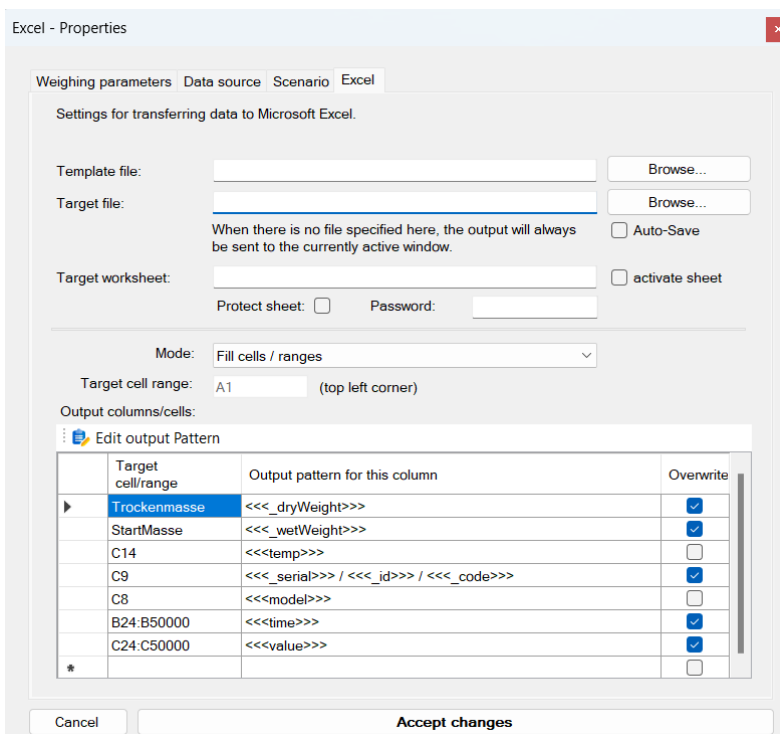
```
{title:string}
TYPE {model:modelname}
  SN {serial:serial}
  ID {id:number}
CODE {code:string}
DATE {startDate:date}
TIME {startTime:time}
```

Configuration-Inputs and outputs:

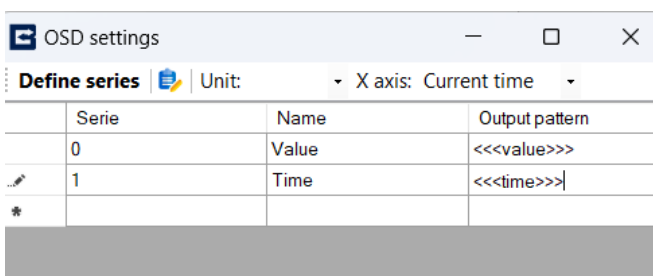
The following view shows the inputs and outputs configuration.
All outputs have a source to DBS moisture analyzer. It itself connected to COM9.



As mode for Excel output "cell ranges fill" is used. There are all target cells indicated:



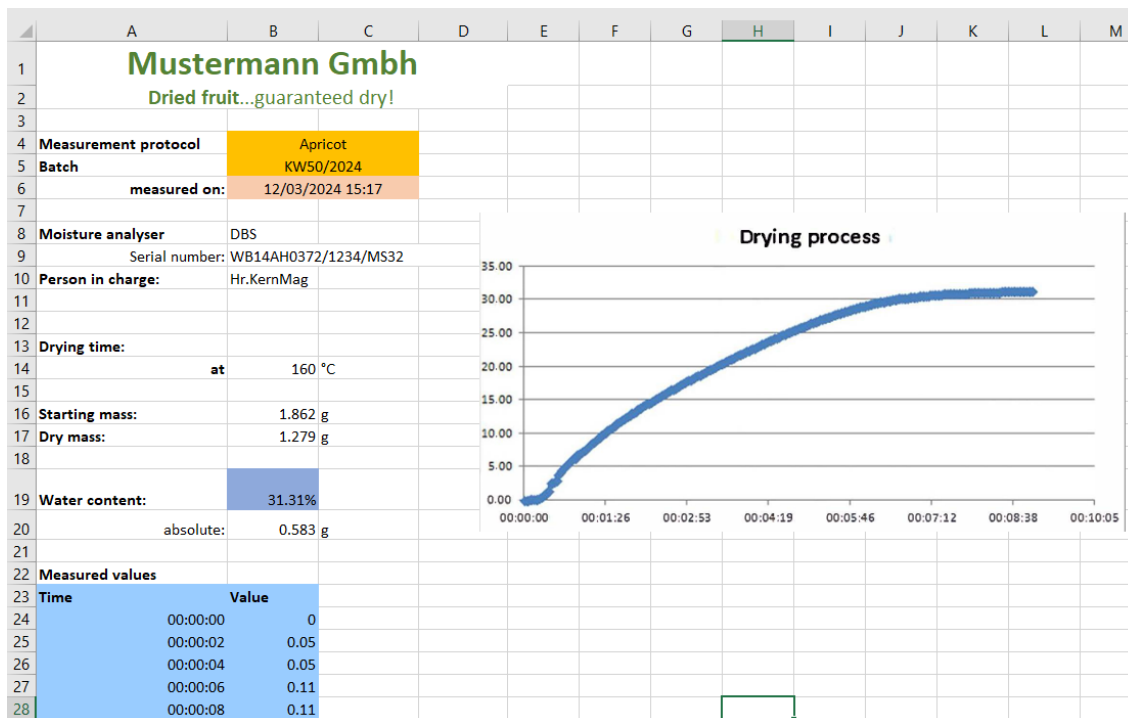
The series definition for the on-screen diagram is very simple:



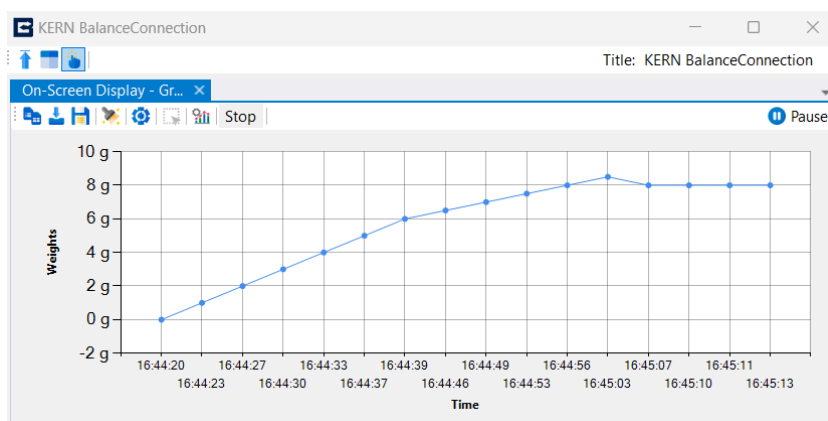
The big display is defined analogously (output pattern: "<<<value>>> %")

Result:

After completing a moisture measurement with live transmission, the result can be seen on the PC. The drying process was recorded both in BalanceConnection itself as well as in Excel.



Result in BalanceConnection (simultaneously):



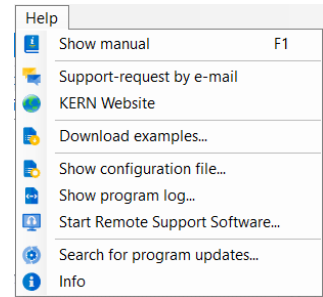
The chart data in BalanceConnection can be saved as an image.

16 Software Update

The BalanceConnection software is regularly updated to correct errors and to implement new features and improvements.

You will receive software updates via the Internet and by contacting KERN.

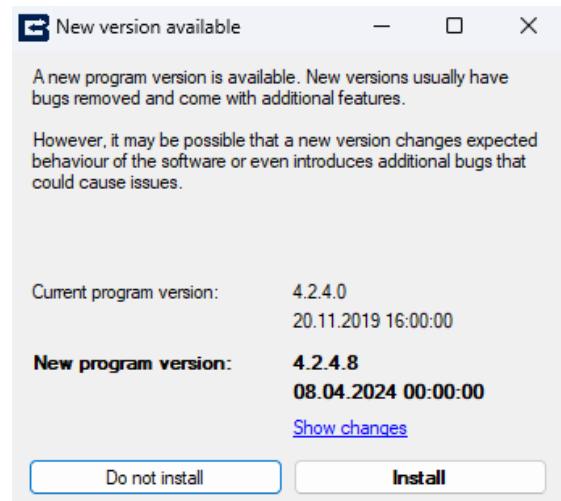
In Info dialog box and the Help menu of expert mode, you will find "Search Program Update" option. Please make sure before clicking that the computer has a working Internet connection (TCP / IP port 80).



If a new program version available, so the dialog box to the right appears.

If you want to install the update, press the "Install" button.

Please note that a program update can also bring unexpected / unwanted changes. Furthermore, it is possible that your configuration cannot be adopted without errors in the new version.



17 Common Errors / Troubleshooting

Values are not passed on correctly.

Please proceed as follows:

- Check the status of inputs, outputs and filters.
Do those already show an error?
- Open the terminal for the interface used.
Can you see data here?
- Open the most recently received packets of the input.
Is data visible here and has it been parsed correctly?
- Open the most recently received packets of the output or intermediate filters.
Is data visible here and has it been parsed correctly?
- Check the program log for errors.

The interface protocol in the software does not fit on my KERN scale.

Due to product changes, improvements on the interface protocol may have been carried out so that the software version is no longer compatible with the revision of the scale.
Please contact KERN in this case.

The program is crashing. / The program does not start.

Please contact KERN. You will receive an immediate solution or a software update.