

REMOTE MONITORING USING A MODEM WITH THE AFN HOST PORT

Background

A whole new world of applications opens up if you connect a modem to the Host serial port of an AlphaSense for Networks unit. Instead of having to be hard-wired directly to equipment (or having to install the AFN right at the same location of the equipment you wish to monitor), using a modem with AFN lets you "connect from a distance" without wires or cables. Also, several remote devices can call their alarms or status message information into one AFN, and it can then selectively send wireless or data messages to the proper people. All AFN features remain the same, and data from the different "remote" sites, can be screened for user-defined content, and then forwarded to the correct people's pagers, cellphones, or wherever else. If you have any questions, call Compuquest, Inc. at 1-630-830-2700, and we will assist you.

Here are a few special things you must do to connect a modem to the AFN Host serial port:

Use any modem, but if you are expecting to receive data call-ins from legacy AlphaSense or PBXaminer units, you should use a 212A-compatible modem, i.e., any new or older modem that is 1200 baud compatible.

Prior to connecting the modem to AFN, you will need to set the modem up a certain way so it will operate properly. Please make sure the following settings shown below are operational. Depending on your particular make and model of modem, these settings are done with either dip switches or through software commands.

- a) Set DTR to "always ON". This will avoid false data messages when the caller-side releases the phone line.
- b) Set CD (carrier detect) to "always ON"
- c) Set speed to 9600 baud 8 bits, no parity (1200 baud if supporting legacy AlphaSense or PBXaminer units).
- d) Set "Fixed DTE speed". This will keep the serial port fixed at the set baud rate.
- e) Set to answer on one ring. (Usually "ATS0=1")
- f) When all above setups are done, disable result code messages (usually AT Q1). This will prevent the modem from sending AFN useless messages each time it connects a new call, like "connect 1200" or "carrier lost", etc.
- g) Set your AFN "pbaud" parameter to match the baudrate set in step c.

Use a standard PC modem cable to connect the modem to the AFN Host port (Serial Port2). Turn the modem on, and it will receive the incoming messages and pass them into the AFN. If AFN units are used at the remote sites to call into the "central" AFN, we suggest using the "prefix" element of message rulesets, entering descriptive text. That will allow the "central" AFN to use that text as a ruleset element in the "actrule" field, thus taking action based on the site where the message originated, in addition to other rule parameters.

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