MSS-VIA Installation Guide

For MSS-VIA Universal Thin Servers

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Rev. B

WARNING

This product has been designed to comply with the limits for a Class A digital device pursuant to Part 15 of FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against such interference when operating in a commercial environment. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy, and if not installed and used in accordance with this guide, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

Operation of this equipment in a residential area is likely to cause interference in which case the user, at his or her own expense, will be required to take whatever measures may be required to correct the interference.

Changes or modifications to this device not explicitly approved by Lantronix will void the user's authority to operate this device.

Cet appareil doit se soumettre avec la section 15 des statuts et règlements de FCC. Le fonctionnement est subjecté aux conditions suivantes:

(1) Cet appareil ne doit pas causer une interférence malfaisante.

(2) Cet appareil doît accepter n'importé quelle interférence reiue qui peut causer uneopération indésirable.

Contents

1: Introduction

The Lantronix MSS family of Universal Thin Servers allows you to network-enable a variety of serial devices that were not originally designed to be networked: personal computers, terminals, modems, industrial machinery, and more. Typically, an MSS achieves this by providing a serial port on one end and either a 10BASE-T (MSS1, MSS485, and MSSLite) or 10/100BASE-T (MSS100 and MSS-VIA) Ethernet I/O port on the other end.

The MSS-VIA, the newest introduction to the MSS family, is actually a superset of MSS485 and MSS100 technologies *plus* a PC card interface, which enables the MSS-VIA to use a variety of technologies. When an 802.11 PC card is installed in the MSS-VIA PC card slot, the MSS-VIA can link its attached serial device to your wireless LAN. In the future, other PC cards will be supported.

Note: *For a current list of supported PC card technologies, please contact Lantronix.*

This manual assumes knowledge of the IEEE 802.11 Standard governing wireless networking. If you are not familiar with wireless networking concepts and implementation, please refer to the Standard or the documentation that came with your wireless PC card.

Throughout this manual, the MSS may be referred to as **the MSS** or as **the Server**.

1.1 MSS Family Features

- TCP/IP and UNIX Compatibility

  The MSS supports a variety of TCP/IP features, including Telnet, Rlogin, UDP, DNS, SNMP, WINS, FTP, DHCP, BOOTP, RARP, and HTTP.

- Connectivity

  The MSS connects serial devices directly to a wired 10BASE-T or wireless 802.11 Ethernet network.

- Ease of Use

  The MSS-VIA has a simple but powerful command interface for both users and system managers. The MSS Local mode supports command line editing, command line recall, and command completion. An extensive **Help** facility is included.

  The EZWebCon utility (provided on the CD-ROM) allows you to configure the MSS from a any host machine running the Java Virtual Machine (JVM). It also allows remote host logins into the MSS-VIA, which are similar to Telnet and LAT logins.

The Lantronix ThinWeb Manager, a set of HTML pages stored on the MSS-VIA, allows you to configure server information via a JavaScript-enabled web browser. For more information, see *Web Browser Login and Configuration* on page 3-6.

- Remote Configuration

  The MSS-VIA can be logged into and remotely configured via a network login, a Telnet login to the remote console port, EZWebCon, or a web browser connection to the MSS-VIA's internal HTTP server.

- Context-Sensitive Help

  Context-sensitive on-line help is available at any time. You may type **HELP** by itself for overall help, **HELP <command>** for help on a specific command, or a partial command line followed by a question mark for help on what is appropriate at that particular point.

Note: *See the MSS Reference Manual for more information.*

- Reloadable Operating Software

  The MSS-VIA stores its operating code in Flash ROM, which means that it does not have to download code at boot time. If necessary, you can upgrade the MSS-VIA's operating code to support additional features as newer code becomes available. Also, you can configure the MSS-VIA to request a downloaded configuration file at boot time.

- Security

  The MSS-VIA includes several configurable security features:

  - Automatic session logouts when a port is disconnected or a device is turned off.
  - Password protection for privileges, ports, services, maintenance commands, and the remote console.
  - An IP security table, which allows the Server manager to restrict incoming and outgoing TCP/IP connections to certain ports and hosts. This allows managers to restrict MSS-VIA access to a particular local network segment or host.

- Diagnostics

  Power-up and interactive diagnostics help system managers troubleshoot network and serial line problems.

- SDK Support

  The MSS-VIA supports the Lantronix Software Developer Kit (SDK), which allows users to customize the MSS-VIA and add functionality.

Note: *The SDK does not allow users to configure custom PC card support.*

1.2 Protocols

A network protocol is a method of communicating over Ethernet (wired or wireless). Each protocol specifies a certain arrangement of data in the Ethernet packets, and provides different services for its users. The MSS supports the following protocols:

- TCP/IP

  Support includes Telnet, Rlogin, UDP, DNS, and WINS. The Telnet terminal protocol, supported on most UNIX systems, is an easy-to-use interface that creates terminal connections to any network host supporting Telnet. Rlogin is a protocol that allows users to initiate a TCP/IP login session. UDP (User Datagram Protocol) is a connectionless protocol that results in smaller packet headers, no session overhead, and the ability to send to multiple hosts. The MSS also supports the use of Domain Name Servers (DNS), allowing a network nameserver to translate text node names into numeric IP addresses. For WINS support, the MSS can be configured to announce itself as a WINS node.

  The MSS also implements basic Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) functionality. SNMP commands enable users, usually system administrators, to get information from and control other nodes on a local area network (LAN), and respond to queries from other network hosts. The MSS allows configuration of one community name with read/write access.

- IPX/ SPX (NetWare)

  The MSS provides IPX/SPX access to the serial device from NetWare and any other IPX/SPX nodes. It allows users to download system files from NetWare hosts and log into the MSS via NetWare for remote configuration.

  The MSS supports all four NetWare frame types: Ethernet v2, Native mode, 802.2, and 802.2 SNAP.

- Local Area Transport (LAT)

  LAT is a protocol developed by Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) for local network connections and is supported on most DEC operating systems. The MSS provides logins to remote hosts and host-initiated connections, as well as access to the MSS serial port from LAT hosts.

1.3 Terms

The following terms are used throughout this manual.

Host
: A computer attached to the network. The term host is generally used to denote interactive computers, or computers that people can log into.

Local Mode

The MSS user interface. It is used to issue configuration and session management commands and to establish connections. When in Local mode, users will see a **Local>** prompt.

Node

Any intelligent device directly connected to the Ethernet network such as a host, a printer, or a terminal server. All nodes have their own Ethernet addresses. The MSS is a node. Devices connected to the MSS are not nodes.

Server/server

Server, when capitalized, refers to your Lantronix MSS server product. When not capitalized, it refers to a generic network server machine.

Session

A logical connection to a service. A typical session is a terminal connected to a host through the server.

1.4 About The Manuals

The rest of this documentation is divided into chapters as follows:

- Chapter 2, *Installation*, explains the MSS connectors and the installation process.
- Chapter 3, *Getting Started*, contains configuration information to get the unit up and running. Read this chapter in its entirety, and be sure to configure the required items.
- Chapter 4, *Configuration*, contains additional configuration information.
- Chapter 5, *Using the MSS*, contains information about how the MSS can be used in different applications. Read this chapter to get the most out of using the MSS in your situation.
- Appendices include *Contact Information*, *Troubleshooting*, *Pinouts*, *Updating Software*, and *Specifications*. Read them as necessary.
- The comprehensive *Index* can be used to find specific information.

The *MSS Reference Manual*, located on the CD-ROM in HTML and PDF formats, provides the full MSS family command set as well as additional configuration information.

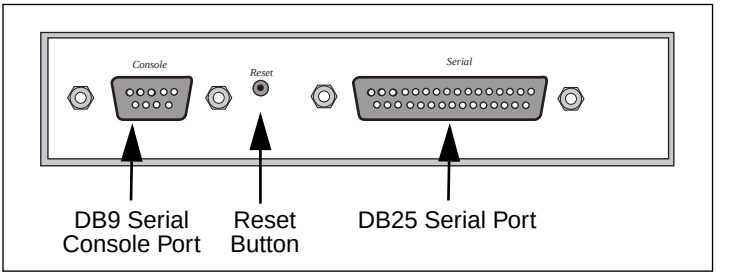
2: Installation

This chapter covers the installation of the MSS-VIA in an Ethernet network and the attachment of a PC card. Basic knowledge of networking installation is assumed. Read this chapter completely before continuing.

2.1 Components

The MSS-VIA front panel has a male DB9 serial console connector, a reset button, and a male DB25 serial connector.

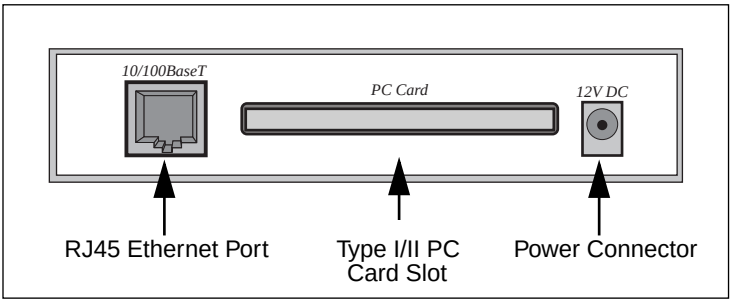
Figure 2-1: MSS-VIA Front Panel



Note: *When the reset button is pressed and held during the power up and boot procedures, the MSS returns to its factory default configuration.*

The MSS-VIA rear panel has an RJ45 Ethernet connector, a PC card slot, and a power connector.

Figure 2-2: MSS-VIA Rear Panel



Five LEDs are located on the top of the unit. Table 2-1 explains their functions.

Table 2-1: MSS-VIA LEDs

LED	Function
Serial	Blinks green to indicate serial activity.
OK	Blinks green or orange/yellow to indicate network activity. Green: Network connection present Orange/Yellow: Packets sent or received
PC Card	Blinks yellow, green, or red to indicate PC card status: Off: No PC card inserted Red blinking: PC card not read or not supported Red solid: PC card hardware failure Yellow blinking: Scanning for Access Point (AP) or ad-hoc peer Yellow solid: PC card identified, initialization in progress Green blinking: Negotiating settings with AP or ad-hoc peer Green solid: 802.11 link established, PC card ready for use
100	Glows green to indicate a 100 Mb Ethernet connection.
Link	Glows green while the Server is connected properly to a wired 10BASE-T or 100BASE-T Ethernet network.

Note: *Although a red LED during boot mode usually signals an error, red LED patterns are part of the normal operation of the MSS and are not necessarily indicative of errors or dangerous operation.*

2.2 Installation Procedure

The MSS can be used to network-enable serial devices in either a wired or a wireless network, as shown in the following figures.

Figure 2-3: Example Wired Network Layout

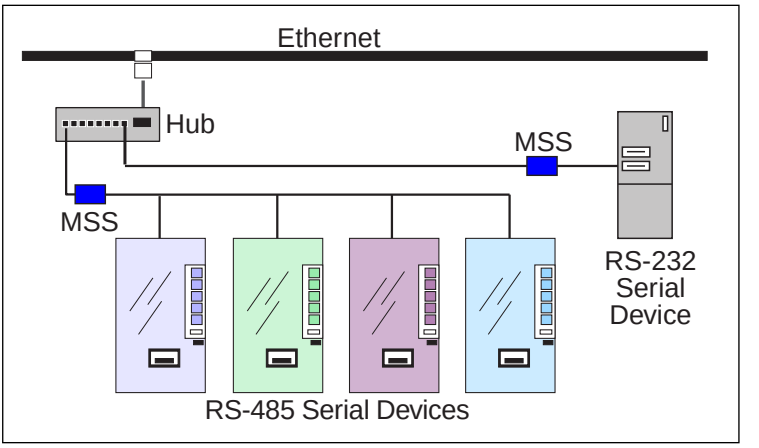
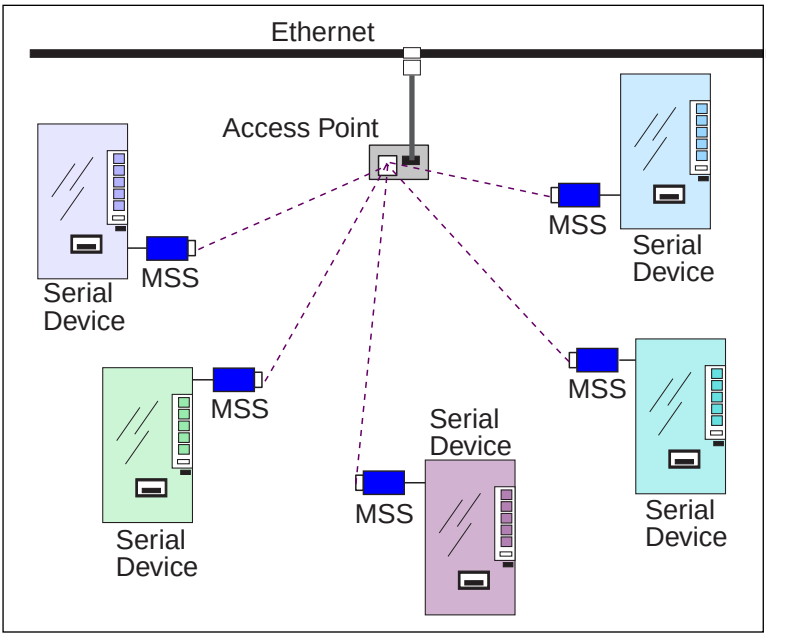


Figure 2-4: Example Wireless Network Layout

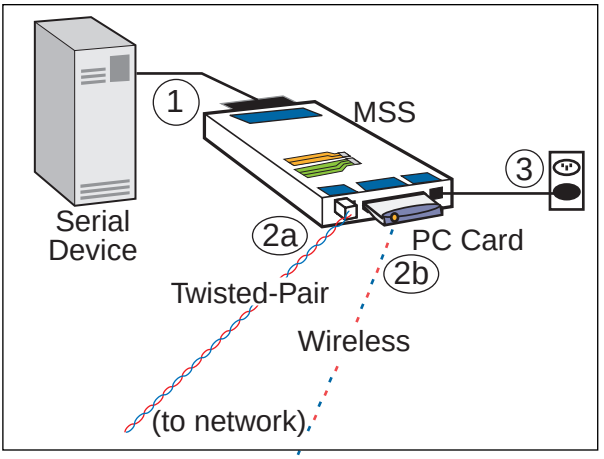


The MSS should be positioned close to the device it will be servicing. Since powering down the unit will terminate any active sessions, it may be desirable to place the server in a location secure from user access. Also be aware of the unit's environmental operating limits and cabling requirements. See *Appendix C* and *Appendix E* for details.

When using a wireless LAN PC card for the network connection, be sure to read the PC card manual for specific placement and distance requirements.

The following diagram shows a properly-installed MSS. The numbers in the diagram refer to the installation steps in this section.

Figure 2-5: MSS Connected to Serial Device and Network



1 Connect the MSS to a serial device.

A Connect one end of a serial cable to the MSS DB25 connector. See *Appendix C* for MSS connector pinout information.

You may want to connect a serial terminal to the MSS DB9 console port for the first connection, both to ensure that your server is working and to configure the necessary network settings. The console port is permanently set for 9600 baud, 8 data bits, one stop bit, and no parity.

B Connect the other end of the cable to your serial device's serial port.

2 Connect the MSS to the network via **one** of the following methods.

❍ Connect one end of a twisted-pair 10/100BASE-T cable to the Ethernet network. Connect the other end of the cable to the RJ45 Ethernet port on the back of the MSS.

Note: *You must use a 10/100BASE-T wired connection if you wish to perform initial configuration via the network.*

❍ Insert a PC card into the MSS PC card slot. To see which PC cards the MSS supports, see *Appendix C*.

Note: *Any time you insert a PC card into the MSS PC card slot, you must reboot the MSS so it can identify and initialize the card. Reboot the MSS by removing and replacing the power cord.*

3 Supply power to the MSS.

A Connect the barrel jack end of the power cable to the MSS power jack.

B Connect the power cube end of the power cable to a standard wall outlet.

When the MSS receives power, it will begin a three-step boot process.

- The MSS runs through a set of power-up diagnostics for approximately five seconds. The **OK** and **Serial** LEDs should show varying patterns corresponding to the test being run.

Note: *The Link LED should remain solid green once the unit has completed booting, assuming there is a valid connection to an Ethernet network.*

- The MSS tries to obtain TCP/IP configuration information via DHCP, BOOTP, and/or RARP. This procedure takes approximately 20 seconds if no hosts answer the request, and boot messages will be sent to the console port. The **OK** LED will blink green approximately three times per second, and occasionally yellow as packets are sent and received.

Note: *For more information on BOOTP, RARP, or DHCP, refer to your operating system's documentation.*

- The MSS determines if the code in the Flash ROMs is valid. If so, it loads the code and begins normal execution. This step takes approximately five seconds.

Once the MSS is running normally, the **Link** LED should be solidly lit to indicate a functioning Ethernet connection and the **OK** LED should blink once every two seconds. The **PC Card** LED should remain lit as long as there is a PC card inserted into the PC card slot.

4 Supply power to the serial device, if necessary.

5 Ensure the MSS is working. There are a few ways to check:

- Wait for approximately 30 seconds after powering the unit up. If the **Link** LED is solidly lit and the **OK** LED blinks green once every two seconds, the MSS is operating normally.

- If you have connected a serial terminal to the MSS DB25 or DB9 port, press the **Return** key. You should see several lines of start-up messages followed by a **Local>** prompt.

- Ping the MSS from a TCP/IP host. For more instructions, see *IP Address Configuration* on page 3-2.

Figure 2-6: Pinging the MSS

```
% ping nnn.nnn.nnn.nnn
```

3: Getting Started

This chapter covers all of the steps needed to get the MSS on-line and working. There are three basic methods used to log into the MSS and begin configuration.

- Incoming (Remote) Logins: EZWebCon is the preferred configuration method. Users can also log into the MSS' internal HTTP server via a standard web browser.
- Serial Port Logins: Users can connect a terminal directly to the serial port, log in, and use the command line interface to configure the unit.
- Remote Console Logins: TCP/IP users can make a Telnet connection to the remote console port (port 7000).

It is important to consider the following points before logging into and configuring the MSS:

- The MSS IP address must be configured before any TCP/IP functionality is available (see *IP Address Configuration* on page 3-2).
- Connecting a terminal to the serial port or logging into the remote console port does not automatically create privileged user status. You must use the **Set Privileged** command to configure the unit (see Privileged User Status on page 3-1).
- Only one person at a time may be logged into the remote console port (port 7000). This eliminates the possibility of several people simultaneously attempting to configure the MSS.
- Remote console logins cannot be disabled. The system manager will always be able to access the unit.
- Only one terminal at a time may be connected to the serial port (although in RS-485 mode, multiple terminals could be connected as slaves).

3.1 Privileged User Status

Many MSS commands require privileged user (superuser) status. For example, only the privileged user can change server-wide or port-specific settings.

To become the privileged user, enter the following command. The default privileged password is **system**. Any user logged into the MSS can become the privileged user.

Figure 3-1: Set Privileged Command

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
```

Note: *Default passwords pose a security risk and should be changed as soon as possible. This is especially true of the privileged password.*

If another user is currently the privileged user for the MSS, use the **Set Privileged Override** command to forcibly become the privileged user. To relinquish privileged status, enter the **Set Noprivilege** command.

The privileged password can be changed with the **Change Privpass** command. Specify a new password of up to six alphanumeric characters.

Figure 3-2: Changing Privileged Password

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> system (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE PRIVPASS “walrus”
```

3.2 IP Address Configuration

Note: *When you set the IP address, you may also need to change the subnet mask from the default configuration (255.255.255.0). See Subnet Mask on page 4-2 for more information.*

3.2.1 Using EZWebCon

Use the following steps to assign an IP address using the EZWebCon Expert Shell.

1. From the **Action** menu, select **Assign IP Address**.
2. Enter or change the IP-related settings:
   - **A** For **Ethernet Address**, enter the number that appears on the bottom label of your MSS.
   - **B** For **IP Address**, enter the desired IP address to use for this MSS.
   - **C** For **Subnet Mask**, change the values provided only if you wish to use a mask other than the default. The default value should be correct in most cases.
   - **D** For **Loadhost**, enter the IP address of the loadhost where you intend to store your operating code and SDK files (if used).
3. Click **OK**.
4. Reboot the MSS. EZWebCon will let you know whether the configuration was successful.

Note: *If you have an older version of EZWebCon, refer to the Readme that was included with it.*

3.2.2 Using a Web Browser

The ThinWeb Manager web browser interface can be used to change the IP address once an initial IP address has been configured. The IP address can be changed from the Server Properties subpage or the TCP/IP subpage. See *Web Browser Login and Configuration* on page 3-6 for more information about the ThinWeb Manager.

3.2.3 Using ARP and Ping

The ARP/ping method is available under UNIX, Windows 95, and Windows NT. If the MSS has no IP address, it will set its address from the first directed IP packet it receives.

Note: *The ARP/ping method only works during the first two minutes of MSS operation. After two minutes, an alternate method must be used or the MSS must be rebooted.*

On a **UNIX** host, create an entry in the host's ARP table and substitute the intended IP address and the hardware address of the server, then ping the server (See Figure 3-3). This process typically requires superuser privileges.

Figure 3-3: Entering ARP and Ping (UNIX)

```
# arp -s 192.0.1.228 00:80:a3:xx:xx:xx
% ping 192.0.1.228
```

For the ARP command to work on **Windows**, the ARP table on the PC must have at least one IP address defined other than its own. Type **ARP -A** at the DOS command prompt to verify that there is at least one entry in the ARP table. If there is no other entry beside the local machine, ping another IP machine on your network to build the ARP table. This has to be a host other than the machine on which you're working.

Use the following commands to ARP the IP address to the MSS and make the MSS acknowledge the IP assignment.

Figure 3-4: Entering ARP and Ping (Windows)

```
C:\ ARP -S 192.0.1.228 00-80-A3-XX-XX-XX
C:\ PING 192.0.1.228
```

Note: *There should be replies from the IP address if the ARP command worked.*

When the MSS receives the ping packet, it will notice that its IP address is not set and will send out broadcasts to see if another node is using the specified address. If no duplicate is found, the server will use the IP address and will respond to the ping packet.

The MSS will not save the learned IP address permanently. This procedure is intended as a temporary measure to enable EZWebCon to communicate with the server, or allow an administrator to Telnet into the MSS. Once logged in, the administrator can enter the **Change IPaddress** command to make the address permanent.

Figure 3-5: Changing the IP Address

```
% telnet 192.0.1.228

Trying 192.0.1.228

Lantronix Version n.n/n (yymmdd)
Type Help at the 'Local_>' prompt for assistance.

Enter Username> gopher
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> system (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE IPADDRESS 192.0.1.228
```

Any host wishing to access the MSS will have to be told the MSS's IP address.

3.2.4 Using a DHCP, BOOTP, or RARP Reply

A host-based DHCP, BOOTP, or RARP server can provide information for the MSS to use to configure an IP address when the unit boots. See the host-based man pages for configuration information. Keep in mind that many BOOTP daemons will not reply to a BOOTP request if the download file name in the configuration file does not exist. If this is the case, create a file in the download path to get the BOOTP daemon to respond.

BOOTP and RARP are enabled by default on the MSS. If you wish to disable them, use the **Change BOOTP Disabled** and **Change RARP Disabled** commands. To enable DHCP, use the **Change DHCP Enabled** command.

3.2.5 Using the Serial Console

Connect a terminal to the serial console and press the **Return** key. You will see the Local> prompt. Become the privileged user and enter the **Change IPaddress** command.

Figure 3-6: Entering the IP Address at the Local Prompt

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> system (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE IPADDRESS 192.0.1.228
```

If the MSS encounters a problem with the Ethernet network, it will send an alert message to the console and wait ten seconds to detect serial port activity before attempting to finish booting. If you press a key during that time period, the MSS will display the Boot prompt at which you can enter the **Change IPaddress** command to set the unit's IP address.

Note: *For more information on Boot Configuration Program (BCP) commands, see Appendix B: Troubleshooting.*

3.3 Incoming Logins

Incoming Telnet logins are enabled by default, and incoming LAT logins are disabled. This behavior can be changed with the **Change Incoming** command and one of the following parameters:

Telnet	Enables Telnet logins
LAT	Enables LAT logins
Both	Enables both Telnet and LAT logins
None	Disables Telnet and LAT logins

For security reasons, you may wish to disable incoming logins. If it is undesirable to disable incoming logins, the MSS can be configured to require a login password for incoming connections with the **Change Incoming** command. The incoming password feature can be disabled with the **Change Incoming Nopass** command.

3.3.1 Login Password

The login password is required for remote console logins and when the MSS password protection feature is enabled. The default login password is **access**. To specify a new login password, use the **Change Loginpass** command and specify a new password of up to six alphabetic characters.

Figure 3-7: Changing the Login Password

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> system (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE LOGINPASS "badger"
```

Note: *Default passwords may pose a security risk and should be changed as soon as possible. This is especially true of the privileged password.*

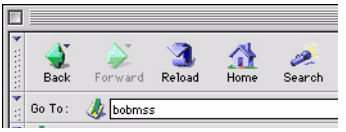
Note: *The login password affects both serial ports.*

3.3.2 Incoming TCP/IP Logins

3.3.2.1 Web Browser Login and Configuration

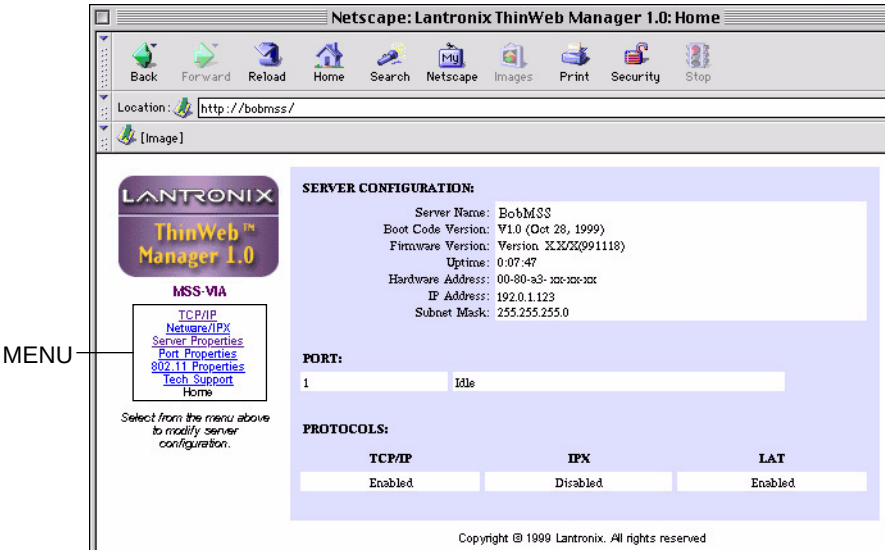
If your MSS has an IP address, you can log into it using a standard web browser with Java enabled. Simply type the MSS IP address or resolvable text name into the browser's URL/ Location field.

Figure 3-8: Sample Web Browser Login



Once you have connected to the MSS, you will see the Lantronix ThinWeb Manager interface. Use the left-hand menu to navigate to subpages where you can configure important settings as well as view statistics and other server information.

Figure 3-9: ThinWeb Manager Interface



3.3.2.2 EZWebCon Login and Configuration

EZWebCon enables users on TCP/IP networks to log into and configure the MSS. The program offers a simple interface that prompts the user for the information necessary to configure the server. Instructions for installing, running, and using EZWebCon are included on the CD-ROM.

3.3.2.3 Telnet

To log into the MSS, type **Telnet** followed by the MSS IP address. The MSS must have an IP address assigned in order for this command to work.

Figure 3-10: A Telnet Connection

```
% telnet 192.0.1.88
```

3.3.2.4 Rlogin

Rlogin allows users to connect to a remote device as if they were on the local network. Rlogin is enabled by default.

Figure 3-11: An Rlogin Connection

```
% rlogin 192.0.1.88
```

3.3.3 Serial Port Logins

Attach a terminal to the serial port and press the **Return** key. The **Local>** prompt should be displayed. Proceed to the *Configuration* chapter to configure the unit using the command line interface.

If there is a problem during the boot process, pressing any key will display the Boot prompt. This prompt enables you to enter a special set of commands, called Boot Configuration Program (BCP) commands, which are discussed in *Appendix B*.

3.3.4 Remote Console Logins

The MSS enables users to configure the server via a single Telnet connection to the remote console port, designated as port 7000. Connections to the console port cannot be disabled. This ensures that administrators will always be able to log into the port.

To connect to the remote console port, use the **Telnet** command followed by the MSS IP address and the remote console port number. You will have to enter the login password. The default login password is **access**.

Figure 3-12: Connecting to the Console Port

```
% telnet 192.0.1.88 7000
Trying 192.0.1.88
Connected to 192.0.1.88
Escape character is '^]'

# access (not echoed)

Lantronix MSS Version n.n/n (yymmdd)
Type Help at the 'Local>' prompt for assistance.

Enter Username> jerry
```

3.4 Outbound Connections

When logged into the MSS, users can make basic outgoing connections using the methods described in this section. See the *MSS Reference Manual* on the CD-ROM for more information about incoming and outgoing connections.

Note: *Outgoing connections cannot be made via the same method as the incoming connection was made.*

3.4.1 Telnet

To start an outgoing Telnet session, type **Telnet** at the Local> prompt, followed by either the host's name or its numeric IP address.

Figure 3-13: Telnet Connection

```
Local> TELNET 192.0.1.66
```

3.4.2 SPX

The MSS and the target device must advertise themselves via SAP announcements. To view all available SPX devices (those advertising themselves), type `Show Nodes SPX` at the Local prompt. Then type `SPX` followed by the target device's SAP name.

Figure 3-14: SPX Connection

```
Local> SPX sap_name
```

3.4.3 LAT

To connect to a LAT service, type the word "LAT" followed by the name of the desired host or service. To view available LAT nodes and services, enter **Show Nodes LAT** or **Show Services** at the Local prompt. The example below shows how to connect to the highest-rated service named "modem" on the network.

Figure 3-15: LAT Service Connection

```
Local> LAT "modem"
```

3.5 Logout

To manually log out of the MSS, type **Logout** or **Logout Port** at the Local> prompt or press Ctrl-D.

Figure 3-16: Logging out of the MSS

```
Local> LOGOUT
```

4: Configuration

4.1 Overview

Certain parameters must be configured before the MSS can function in the network. Although many users will prefer to use the EZWebCon graphical user interface, this chapter explains how to configure the MSS via the command line interface.

Note: *Instructions for using EZWebCon are included on the distribution CD-ROM. EZWebCon also has on-line help to assist you with configuration.*

The command line interface allows users to enter commands at the Local> prompt to configure, monitor, and use the MSS. This chapter covers the more important MSS commands, such as:

- Protocol Configuration for TCP/IP, NetWare, and LAT protocols (page 4-1)
- RS-485 Configuration, with a special note on using the MSS in RS-422 applications (page 4-6)
- Serial Port Configuration (page 4-9)
- 802.11 Configuration (page 4-14)

The full command set is discussed in detail in the *MSS Reference Manual*.

Note: *To return to factory defaults, press and hold the Reset button while cycling power on the unit, or enter the Initialize Factory command at the Local> prompt.*

4.2 Protocol Configuration

4.2.1 TCP/IP Configuration

Note: *Instructions for setting the MSS IP address are located in your Installation Guide.*

4.2.1.1 IP Address

The IP address can be changed with the **Change IPAddress** command. For more information, see Section 3.2 on page 3-2.

Figure 4-1: Changing the IP Address

```
Local>> CHANGE IPADDRESS 192.0.1.228
```

4.2.1.2 Subnet Mask

IP networks can be divided into several smaller networks by subnetting. When a network is subnetted, some of the host part of each address is given to the network part of the address. The subnet mask denotes how much, and allows the server to decide at connection time whether a given TCP/IP host is part of the local network segment. All hosts must agree on the subnet mask for a given network.

When you configure the IP address, a default subnet mask will be configured automatically. This should work for most networks. If your network is divided into subnetworks, you will need to create a custom subnet mask. Use the **Change Subnet Mask** command.

Figure 4-2: Setting the Subnet Mask

```
Local>> CHANGE SUBNET MASK 255.255.255.0
```

4.2.1.3 Gateway

Usually, a TCP/IP internet is broken down into networks and subnetworks, and a host is only able to see the hosts on its own network. TCP/IP networks rely on routers, or gateways, to transfer network traffic to hosts on other networks. Gateways are typically connected to two or more networks and will pass or route TCP/IP packets across network boundaries.

The MSS can be told which hosts are the gateways for the local network. If no gateway is specified, the MSS will listen to network broadcasts from other gateways to decide which hosts are acting as gateways. The command below tells the MSS which host is the preferred gateway.

Figure 4-3: Specifying a Gateway

```
Local>> CHANGE GATEWAY 192.0.1.73
```

Note: *A secondary gateway can also be configured in case the primary gateway is unavailable.*

If you do not wish to use a gateway, specify 0.0.0.0 as the IP address in the above command. See **Change Gateway** in the *MSS Reference Manual* for more information.

4.2.1.4 Name Server

A TCP/IP host generally has an alphanumeric host name, such as Phred, in addition to its IP address. For this reason, the MSS supports domain name servers (DNS). A DNS is a host that can translate text host names into the numeric addresses needed to make a connection. To specify a domain name server, use the following command:

Figure 4-4: Configuring a Nameserver

```
Local>> CHANGE NAMESERVER 192.0.1.67
```

A secondary nameserver can also be specified for use when the primary nameserver is unavailable. See **Change Nameserver** in the *MSS Reference Manual* for more information.

Note: *If the MSS cannot resolve a text host name, use the numeric IP address.*

The MSS also allows you to set a default domain name to be appended to any host name for the purpose of name resolution. When a user types a host name, the MSS will add this domain name and attempt the connection. Name checking applies to any MSS commands that require text name resolution, such as Telnet, Rlogin, and Ping. To set the default domain, enter the **Change Domain** command followed by the desired domain name in quotes

Figure 4-5: Configuring the Default Domain

```
Local>> CHANGE DOMAIN “xyzcorp.com”
```

Note: *Some nameservers will not resolve host names that do not have a domain at the end.*

4.2.1.5 IP Security

IP security allows the system administrator to restrict incoming and outgoing TCP/IP sessions and access to the serial port. Connections are allowed or denied based upon the source IP address (for incoming connections) or the destination IP address (for outgoing connections).

IP security information can be added to the IP local host table. To add an entry, specify an IP address and whether to allow (Enabled) or deny (Disabled) connections. For example, the command below disables outgoing connections for all addresses between 192.0.1.1 and 192.0.1.254.

Figure 4-6: IP Security Command

```
Local>> CHANGE IPSECURITY 192.0.1.255 DISABLED
```

Single addresses can also be specified. See **Change IPSecurity** in the *MSS Reference Manual* for more information.

To view the host table entries, enter the **Show IPsecurity** command. To remove an entry, use the **Delete IPSecurity** command followed by the IP address that you want to remove.

4.2.1.6 WINS

If WINS is enabled, the MSS will broadcast a WINS name announcement at boot time, and answer broadcast WINS name queries . Other hosts can locate the MSS this way. The MSS will rebroadcast whenever its IP address or name changes.

Figure 4-7: Enabling WINS

```
Local>> CHANGE WINS ENABLED
```

4.2.1.7 SNMP

Once you enable an SNMP write community, you can configure the following things on the MSS. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are saved to NVR.

RS232 MIB:	PortInSpeed* (also changes PortOutSpeed) PortOutSpeed* (also changes PortInSpeed) PortInFlowType* (also changes PortOutFlow-Type) PortOutFlowType * (also changes PortInFlow-Type) AsyncPortBits* AsyncPortStopBits* AsyncPortParity * AsyncPortAutobaud*
Character MIB:	PortName PortReset PortInFlowType PortOutFlowType PortSessionMaximum SessionKill.

4.2.2 IPX (NetWare) Configuration

Four NetWare settings can be configured: routing and encapsulation parameters, the internal network number to use for internal routing, and the NetWare loadhost to use at boot time.

4.2.2.1 Routing and Encapsulation

The first layer of an IPX Ethernet packet is the frame type. It includes routing information. By default, the MSS is configured to route packets of all four NetWare frame types.

If more than one frame type is in use on the LAN, the MSS will advertise itself as a router to the network using its internal network number. This behavior allows nodes and fileservers to access the MSS regardless of the frame type being used.

The MSS can be restricted to a single frame format, in which case it will not need routing support. Two commands control this behavior: **Change NetWare Routing** and **Change NetWare Encapsulation**.

- **Change NetWare Routing** enables or disables the use of the internal network number. By default, internal routing is enabled.

  Note: *If two or more frame types are enabled, internal routing must be enabled. To see which frame types are enabled, enter the Show NetWare command.*

- Change NetWare Encapsulation controls which of the frame types are used. The choices are Ether_II, Native, 802_2, and SNAP which provide for Ethernet v2, 802.3 Native mode, 802.2, and 802.2 SNAP encapsulation types.

Figure 4-8 displays an example routing and encapsulation configuration. The 802.3 Native mode and 802.2 SNAP frame types are enabled, while Ethernet v2 and 802.2 are disabled. Because more than one frame type is enabled, internal routing must also be enabled.

Figure 4-8: Enabling Selected Frame Types

```
Local>> CHANGE NETWARE ENCAPSULATION NATIVE ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE NETWARE ENCAPSULATION SNAP ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE NETWARE ENCAPSULATION ETHER_2 DISABLED
Local>> CHANGE NETWARE ENCAPSULATION 802_2 DISABLED
Local>> CHANGE NETWARE ROUTING ENABLED
```

4.2.2.2 Internal Network Number

The internal network number is used when internal routing is enabled, and must be unique in the network. When addressing IPX packets to a file server, devices use the file server's internal network number as the destination address.

The internal network number for the MSS is a four-byte number that defaults to the last four bytes of the unit's Ethernet address (for example, a3001234). It is unlikely that this number will need to be changed.

Note: *If you change the internal network number, reboot the MSS.*

4.2.2.3 Loadhost

A loadhost is a NetWare fileserver that the MSS will try to load from if an **Initialize Reload** command is entered. If the software loadfile or loadhost address changes, you will have to change the configured parameters for the next reboot. For the following example, the loadhost is *phred*, and the name of the loadfile is "MSSVIAx.SYS".

Figure 4-9: Changing the NetWare Loadhost

```
Local_2>> CHANGE NETWARE LOADHOST phred
Local_2>> CHANGE SOFTWARE sys:login/MSSVIAx.SYS
```

4.2.3 LAT Configuration

Three LAT parameters can be configured for the MSS: the server's identification string, its service group list, and its internal circuit timer.

4.2.3.1 Server Identification

The MSS has a default name that it uses when announcing itself to the LAT network (mss_*xxxxxx* where *xxxxxx* represents the last six characters of its hardware address). Users can change the name. Users can also configure a more descriptive identification string.

Figure 4-10: LAT Name and Identification

```
Local> CHANGE NAME "Bio5"
Local> CHANGE LAT IDENTIFICATION "Biolab 2"
```

4.2.3.2 Service Groups

A service is any resource on the network that can be accessed locally or via a network connection, such as a modem. The MSS serial port and the services on the network each belong to one or more service groups. When a user or device requests a connection to a service, the LAT host will check the service groups to which both the requester and the service belong. If any group number is common to both, the connection attempt will continue. If not, access will be denied.

The **Change LAT Groups** command establishes group numbers for the MSS and its serial port.

Figure 4-11: Changing Service Groups

```
Local>> CHANGE LAT GROUPS 1,7,13,105,210-216
```

Note: *Each time the Change LAT Groups command is entered, the previous group list is replaced.*

4.2.3.3 Circuit Timer

Message transmission on LAT networks is controlled by timers. The MSS circuit timer specifies when messages will be sent from the server to other network nodes. This timer value is set to a widely-used default at the factory and should not need to be changed.

If you need to change the length of the circuit timer, use the **Change LAT CircTimer** command followed by a timer value integer. The timer value can range from 30 to 200 milliseconds.

Figure 4-12: Changing Timer Delay

```
Local>> CHANGE LAT CIRCTIMER 50
```

4.3 RS-485 Configuration

The configuration instructions in this section apply only to the MSS-VIA. If you have an MSS-485, which uses jumpers for configuration, consult your *Installation Guide* for configuration instructions.

The RS-485 standard allows a serial connection to be shared like a “party line.” As many as 32 devices can share the multidrop network. Typically, one device is the master and the other devices are slaves. There are a few important things to note about RS-485 networking with the MSS.

- The MSS can be used in either two-wire or four-wire mode. Refer to the following sections to determine which mode to use.
- The maximum RS-485 network cabling length (without repeaters) is 4,000 feet. Lantronix recommends the use of shielded twisted-pair cabling.

Note: *A large number and variety of protocols run over RS-485. However, the MSS does not convert or interpret serial data. It only moves data between serial and Ethernet. Any RS-485 protocol will have to be implemented by host software. See Appendix C for information about the RS-485 DB25 connector.*

To enable RS-485 mode on the MSS, enter the **Change RS485 Enabled** command. RS-232 mode is enabled by default.

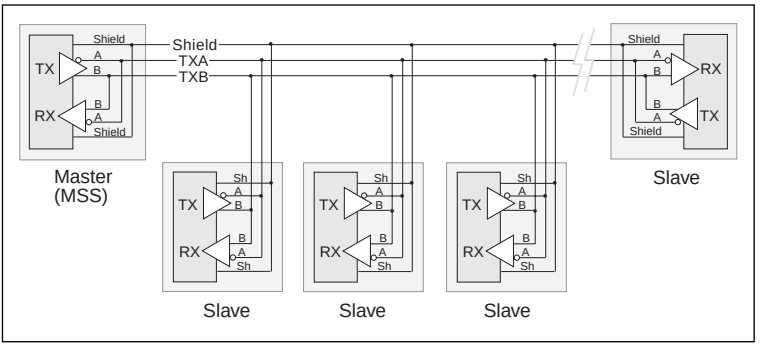
Figure 4-13: Enabling RS-485 Mode

```
Local> CHANGE RS485 ENABLED
```

4.3.1 Two-wire Mode

In two-wire mode, the MSS operates in half duplex: one pair of wires shares transmit and receive signals, and an optional third wire can be used for shield/ground. The main advantage of using two-wire mode is reduced cabling costs.

Figure 4-14: Example Two-wire Mode Network



On a two-wire RS-485 network, the MSS must turn its transmitter on when it is ready to send data and then off a certain period of time after the data has been sent so that the line is available to receive again. At most baud rate settings, the timing delay is typically one character length with a maximum of 1.5 character lengths.

Figure 4-15: Enabling Two-Wire RS-485 Mode

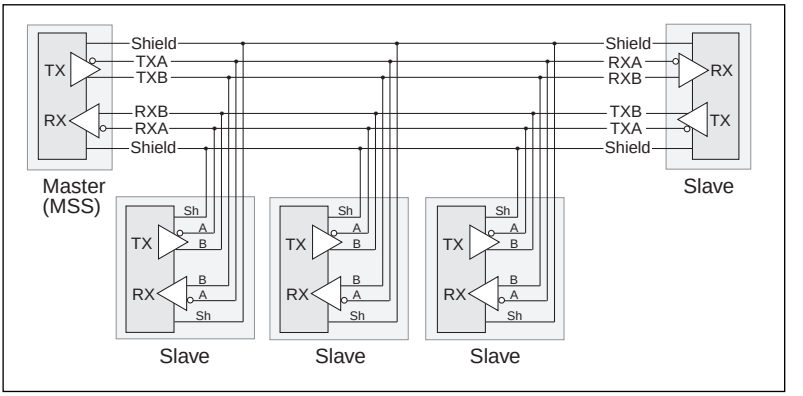
```
Local> CHANGE RS485 MODE 2WIRE
```

Note: *For two-wire mode, the TXDrive setting must be set to Automatic (see TXDrive on page 4-8). If you enable two-wire mode and TXDrive is set for Always, the MSS will return an error.*

4.3.2 Four-wire Mode

In four-wire mode, the MSS operates in full duplex: one pair of wires functions as the transmit pair, another pair of wires functions as the receive pair, and there is a shield/ground wire for each pair. In a four-wire RS-485 network, one device acts as master while the other devices are slaves.

Figure 4-16: Example Four-wire Mode Network



It is important to connect the transmitter of the master device to the wire that is connected to the receive terminals on the slave devices, and connect the receiver of the master device to the wire that is connected to the transmit terminals on the slave devices. In essence, the master device will be connected to the slave devices with a *swapped* cable.

In four-wire mode, the MSS is able to send and receive data simultaneously. The advantages of four-wire mode are double the throughput of two-wire mode and a guaranteed open path to each slave device's receiver.

Figure 4-17: Enabling Four-Wire RS-485 Mode

```
Local> CHANGE RS485 MODE 4WIRE
```

4.3.2.1 TXDrive

The MSS-VIA can be configured to always drive the TX (transmit) signal, or tri-state (transmit, receive, or ignore) when not actively transmitting. The **Change RS485 TXDrive** command takes one of two parameters. The **Always** parameter sets the MSS for continuous TXDrive, both high and low. The **Automatic** parameter sets the MSS for TXDrive only when transmitting.

Figure 4-18: Changing TXDrive

```
Local>> CHANGE RS485 TXDRIVE AUTOMATIC
```

Note: *You can only set TXDrive for Always when using four-wire mode. It has no effect for two-wire mode.*

4.3.3 Termination

RS-485 connections must be terminated properly in order to work. Termination is necessary when using long cable runs, although **only** end nodes should be terminated.

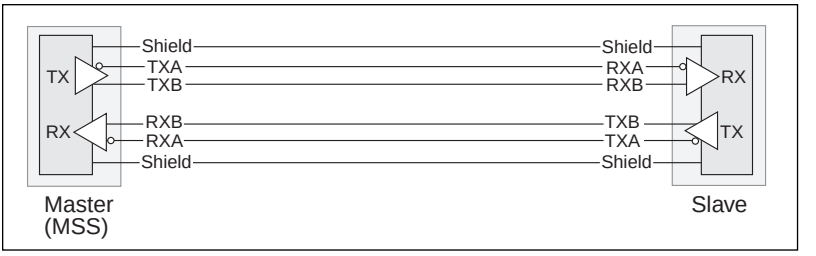
Figure 4-19: Enabling RS-485 Termination

```
Local> CHANGE RS485 TERMINATION ENABLED
```

4.3.4 A Note About RS-422 Networking

The MSS is compatible with RS-422 networks in four-wire RS-485 mode. Connect the MSS to a single slave device using a *swapped* cable, as shown below, and configure the MSS as if you were going to use it for four-wire RS-485 networking.

Figure 4-20: RS-422 Connection



4.4 Serial Port Configuration

The serial ports are set at the factory for 9600 baud, 8 data bits, one stop bit, and no parity. These and other serial port features can be customized only on the full-featured (generally DB25) MSS serial port as shown in the following sections. Remember that ports should be logged out after configuration.

Note: *Serial console port default settings are the same, but they cannot be changed.*

4.4.1 Access Mode

The serial port access mode governs which connections the port can accept. **Local** access permits local logins on the serial port. **Remote** access allows network hosts to connect to the MSS serial port. **Dynamic** access (the default) allows both local and remote access. To change the serial port's access mode, enter the **Change Access** command.

Figure 4-21: Changing Serial Port Access Mode

```
Local>> CHANGE ACCESS LOCAL
```

4.4.2 Autostart

Normally, the serial port will wait for a carriage return before starting a connection. When the Autostart option is enabled, the MSS will establish a connection as soon as it boots (or if modem control is enabled, as soon as the DSR signal is asserted). To control this feature, enter the **Change Autostart** command.

Figure 4-22: Enabling Autostart

```
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART ENABLED
```

A port set for Autostart will never be idle, and therefore will not be available for network connections. If network connections are desired, Autostart should remain disabled (the default).

Autostart can also be triggered by a specific input character. There is no default Autostart character, you will have to configure one. For example, when using *Modem Emulation Mode*, you may want to use **A** so that Autostart will happen as soon as an **AT** modem command is entered. See *Enabling Modem Mode* on page 5-12 for more information. Keep in mind that when you configure an Autostart character, you can no longer use <CR> to get to the Local> prompt.

Figure 4-23: Configuring an Autostart Character

```
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART CHARACTER "A"
```

4.4.3 Baud Rate

The MSS and attached serial device, such as a modem, must agree on a speed or baud rate to use for the serial connection. Valid baud rates for the MSS are 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600 (the default), 19200, 38400 (the MSSLite's maximum), 57600, 115200 (the MSS1's maximum), and 230400 baud. The baud rate can be changed with the **Change Speed** command followed by a baud rate number.

Figure 4-24: Changing the Baud Rate

```
Local>> CHANGE SPEED 19200
```

The MSS supports Autobaud, which allows the serial port to match its speed to the attached serial device upon connection (see **Change Autobaud** in the *MSS Reference Manual* for an explanation of the baud rate negotiation process). Autobaud is disabled by default, but can be enabled with the following command.

Figure 4-25: Enabling Autobaud

```
Local>> CHANGE AUTOBAUD ENABLED
```

4.4.4 Character Size, Parity, and Stop Bits

The default character size of 8 data bits can be changed to 7 data bits. Similarly, the default stop bit count of 1 bit can be changed to 2 bits. Parity is normally None, but can also be Even, Mark, Odd, or Space. To change these parameters, use the following commands:

Figure 4-26: Configuring Serial Port Parameters

```
Local>> CHANGE CHARSIZE 7
Local>> CHANGE STOPBITS 2
Local>> CHANGE PARITY EVEN
```

4.4.5 Flow Control

Note: *RTS/CTS Flow Control is not available in RS-485 mode.*

Both RTS/CTS (hardware) and XON/XOFF (software) flow control methods can be used on the MSS. RTS/CTS controls data flow by sending serial port signals between two connected devices. XON/XOFF controls data flow by sending particular characters through the data stream: **Ctrl-Q** to accept data (XON) and **Ctrl-S** when data cannot be accepted (XOFF).

Note: *Applications that use Ctrl-Q and Ctrl-S will conflict with XON/XOFF flow control, in which case RTS/CTS is recommended.*

To switch between flow control methods, use the **Change Flow Control** command followed by the preferred method. If you do not wish to use flow control at all, specify **None**.

Figure 4-27: Enabling Recommended Flow Control

```
Local>> CHANGE FLOW CONTROL CTSRTS
```

If you're using XON/XOFF flow control, the XON/XOFF characters will be removed from the data stream by default. To prevent this removal, the Passflow option can be enabled. However, passflow is unnecessary in most situations. See the *Commands* chapter in the *MSS Reference Manual* for more information.

4.4.6 Modems and Modem Signaling

The following sections explain some of the MSS options that are typically considered to be modem-related. They do not apply exclusively to modems, but to communications devices in general. Most options are mutually exclusive when enabled.

Note: *Modem Emulation Mode, in which the MSS acts like a modem and only accepts AT modem commands, is discussed in Chapter 5.*

After configuring modem-related settings, refer to the *Modem Configuration Checklist* on page B-5.

4.4.6.1 Modem Control

If a connection has ended, the MSS should be able to log out the port and prepare to accept a new connection. Similarly, if no connection is open, the MSS should know to ignore spurious characters from the port and only accept valid connection attempts. The MSS can do both of these when modem control is enabled. Modem control implies three things:

- DSRLogout enabled, meaning the MSS will log out the port when DSR is dropped.
- DTR wiggle on logout, meaning the MSS will hold DTR low for approximately 3 seconds after the port is logged out.
- No Autostart until the attached device asserts DSR.

To enable modem control, enter the **Change Modem Control** command.

Figure 4-28: Enabling Modem Control

```
Local>> CHANGE MODEM CONTROL ENABLED
```

4.4.6.2 Signal Checking

The MSS uses the Data Signal Ready (DSR) input signal to decide if there is a valid device connection. When MSS signal checking is enabled, the MSS will check for the presence of a DSR signal before allowing incoming connections. Remote (network) connections to the serial port will not be permitted unless the DSR signal is asserted. To enable DSR signal checking, use the **Change Signal Check** command.

Figure 4-29: Enabling Signal Checking

```
Local>> CHANGE SIGNAL CHECK ENABLED
```

4.4.6.3 DSRLogout

Note: *DSRLogout is not available in RS-485 mode.*

When a connection is lost, the MSS should log out the port and close any sessions. If it does not do so, security problems may result when the next user logs in.

When a device connected to the MSS is disconnected or powered off, the DSR signal is de-asserted. The MSS can be configured to automatically log out the port when this occurs using the **Change DSRLogout Enabled** command. This also prevents users from accessing other sessions by switching terminal lines.

Figure 4-30: Enabling DSRLogout

```
Local>> CHANGE DSRLOGOUT ENABLED
```

4.4.6.4 DTRWait

Note: *DTRWait is not available in RS-485 mode.*

Spurious characters from the modem may be interpreted as a user login, which could cause the port to be unavailable for connections. To avoid this behavior, the MSS uses the Data Transmit Ready (DTR) output line to signal the serial device that a connection is possible or acceptable.

Normally DTR will be asserted when the port is idle, which allows devices to answer an incoming connection; many devices will not do so unless DTR is asserted. The DTRWait feature keeps the MSS from asserting DTR until the port is actually in use (whether due to a login or a network connection). To control DTRWait, use the **Change DTRWait** command.

Figure 4-31: Enabling DTRWait

```
Local>> CHANGE DTRWAIT ENABLED
```

The MSS will generally assert DTR when a connection begins and de-assert DTR when the connection ends.

4.4.7 Logouts

In addition to DSRLogouts, the port can be manually logged out, or it can be configured to automatically log out when it has been inactive for a pre-determined length of time. To manually log out of the MSS, type **Logout** at the Local> prompt, or press **Ctrl-D**.

Figure 4-32: Logging out of the MSS

```
Local>> LOGOUT
```

To log out the port after a specified period of inactivity, use the **Change Inactive Logout** command. This command works in conjunction with **Change Inactive Timer,** which defines how long a port must remain idle before it is automatically logged out.

For example, to make the MSS log out the port after two minutes of inactivity, use the following commands. The inactivity logout timer period can be specified in seconds (s) or minutes (m). For example, changing **1m** in the example to **60s** produces the same results.

Figure 4-33: Enabling Timed Inactivity Logout

```
Local>> CHANGE INACTIVE LOGOUT ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE INACTIVE TIMER 1m
```

4.4.8 Preferred Port Service

A default host for a port can be defined using the **Change Preferred** command. The MSS attempts to use the preferred host for connections when no service name is specified in a connection command.

Figure 4-34: Defining a Preferred Service

```
Local>> CHANGE PREFERRED TCP 192.0.1.66
```

4.4.9 Dedicated Port Service

A dedicated host can also be defined for a port using the **Change Dedicated** command. A dedicated port automatically connects the user to the specified host; they cannot return to local mode. When the connection is closed, the user is automatically logged out of the MSS.

Figure 4-35: Defining a Dedicated Service

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED TCP 192.0.1.66
```

Environment strings can be added to the command to change connection characteristics. See the **Change Dedicated** command in the *MSS Reference Manual* for more information.

4.5 802.11 Configuration

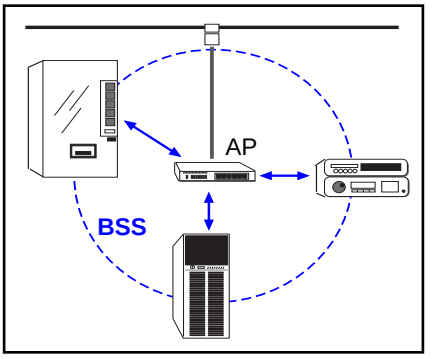
The following parameters should be configured only if you are using the MSS for 802.11 wireless Ethernet networking and have installed a wireless LAN PC card into the MSS PC card slot. In the United States, the MSS should work out of the box with its default 802.11 settings, and settings can be changed as needed. For other countries, users must set the Region before 802.11 functionality will be available. See Section 4.5.2 on page 4-15 for more information.

This section assumes that you understand IEEE 802.11 concepts and architectures. If you do not, please refer to the IEEE 802.11 Standard or the documentation that came with your PC card or Access Point (AP).

The following acronyms are used in this section:

AP	Access Point, a device that relays communications between one or more wireless devices and possibly other devices on a network. APs are usually connected to a physical network.
BSS	Basic Service Set (or Cell), a group comprising one or more APs and their associated wireless devices.

Figure 4-36: Simple Wireless Network BSS



ESS Extended Service Set, a network consisting of two or more BSSs. An ESS can contain multiple APs.

IBSS Independent Basic Service Set, a BSS with no APs. Devices work in an ad-hoc networking mode.

4.5.1 Enabling 802.11 Networking

To use the MSS in an 802.11 network, you must enable wireless networking. This will allow the MSS to check for a compatible wireless networking PC card at startup. If a compatible card is present, the MSS will enable wireless networking at the Local> prompt and ignore the 10/100BASE-T Ethernet interface. If no compatible PC card is present, the MSS will use the 10/100BASE-T Ethernet interface.

Figure 4-37: Enabling 802.11

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 ENABLED
```

Note: *You must reboot after enabling 802.11, and you must enter the Change 80211 Reset command after changing any of the other settings listed in this section.*

4.5.2 802.11 Region

When using 802.11 networking, you **must** configure the regulatory region under which you will operate the MSS. Configuring this option incorrectly may cause the MSS to broadcast on frequencies that are illegal in your area. The factory default setting is correct for the United States; users in other countries should change it to a value appropriate for their area before attempting 802.11 operation.

Figure 4-38: Setting the 802.11 Region

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 REGION IC
```

Recognized values are:

FCC	United States (the default)
IC	Canada
ETSI	Europe (most countries - check with your local regulatory body to make sure that the entire ETSI frequency range is allowed in your area)
SPAIN	Spain
FRANCE	France
MKK	Japan

4.5.3 MAC Address

A MAC address is a unique identifier that distinguishes different devices on the 802.11 network. It is the same as the unit's hardware address.

For networking purposes, the MSS-VIA can be configured to use either the PC card's MAC address or its own internal MAC address (the default) with the **Change 80211 MACADDRESS** command. Using the MSS MAC address allows for more seamless operation when switching between wired and wireless networking.

Figure 4-39: Configuring the MAC Address

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 MACADDRESS CARD
or
Local>> CHANGE 80211 MACADDRESS MSS
```

4.5.4 Extended Service Set ID (ESSID)

Whenever there is more than one ESS in a wireless LAN architecture, devices need to be told which ESS they belong to. The ESSID ensures that devices communicate with the right AP.

To tell the MSS-VIA what ESS it belongs to, enter the **Change 80211 ESSID** command. The exact string you enter will be determined by the settings of the AP with which you want the MSS-VIA to communicate.

Figure 4-40: Configuring the ESS ID

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 ESSID "floor3"
```

You can enter an empty string ("") to associate the MSS-VIA with the AP that gives the strongest signal, or when there is only one AP available.

4.5.5 Network Mode

There are two types of 802.11 networks: ad-hoc and infrastructure. In an ad-hoc network, devices communicate directly with one another on a peer-to-peer basis. In an infrastructure network (the default), several devices communicate with one or more APs, and the APs may or may not be connected to a physical Ethernet network. You must tell your MSS-VIA which type of network is present with the **Change 80211 NETWORKMODE** command.

Figure 4-41: Configuring the Network Mode

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 NETWORKMODE ADHOC
or
Local>> CHANGE 80211 NETWORKMODE INFRASTRUCTURE
```

The network mode setting relates to the channel setting, explained next.

4.5.6 Channel

The frequency band allocated to 802.11 wireless communications is subdivided into different channels to allow subnetworking. Generally speaking, your MSS-VIA needs to know which channel it should use for communications — it will be the same as the one being used by the local AP. You can also set the channel to **Any**, the default, which causes the MSS-VIA to use the same channel used by the strongest AP with the same ESSID.

Note: *Because some of the channels overlap slightly, avoid using adjacent channels within a workgroup area or crosstalk and lower throughput may result. Channel overlap depennds on the Region setting—see your PC card documentation for specific information about which channels are available in your area.*

Figure 4-42: Configuring the 802.11 Channel

```
Local>> CHANGE 80211 CHANNEL 7
```

The channel setting relates to the network mode setting. For infrastructure network mode, you should set the channel to Any so that the MSS can sync with an AP. For Ad-Hoc network mode, you should set a specific channel number so that the MSS can start a new IBSS if needed. When the channel is set to Any, the MSS can only join an existing IBSS.

5: Using the MSS

This chapter explains how to use the MSS once it is running. Host-initiated (incoming) connections include socket connections, using host applications, and using the code examples included on the MSS distribution CD-ROM. Interactive uses include manipulating sessions, making outgoing connections, and viewing server and network information with the help of the Show commands. In addition, this chapter explains:

- Setting up two MSS units to emulate a direct serial connection over the LAN (see Section 5.5, *Serial Tunnel*).
- Using the MSS as a data pipe between a serial device and multiple hosts on the network (see Section 5.6, *Multihost Mode*).
- Making the MSS look like a modem so that it can be used with existing communications software (see Section 5.7, *Modem Emulation Mode*).
- Using the Lantronix COM Port Redirector software to redirect PC COM ports (see Section 5.8, *COM Port Redirector*).

5.1 Incoming Connections

5.1.1 Socket Connections

Each node on a network has a node address, and each node address can allow connections on one or more sockets. Sometimes these sockets are referred to as ports. TCP/IP and IPX connections can be made directly to the MSS serial port using sockets.

There are two categories of sockets. Well-known sockets are those that have been defined in RFCs (Requests for Comments); for example, port 23 is used for Telnet connections. There are also custom sockets that users and developers define for their specific needs.

Note: *If the serial port is in use, the socket connection will be refused.*

There are some important points to remember when making a socket connection.

- Port access **must** be set to either Dynamic or Remote to allow network connection requests. Local access does not allow a port to receive connection requests from the network. To change the port's access type, use the **Change Access** command followed by either Dynamic or Remote.
- The port **must** be idle. Use the **Show Ports** command to verify that the port is not in use. To ensure that the port will be idle, Telnet to the remote console port rather than attaching a terminal to the serial port.

- Only one serial port connection is allowed at a time, except in the case of *Multihost Mode* (see Section 5.6).
- Timing between serial signals (such as DSR, RTS, and CD) is not preserved, and the state of such signals is not readable.

5.1.1.1 TCP/IP Socket Connections

The MSS supports TCP/IP socket connections to ports 2001 and 3001. Opening a TCP session to port 3001 will form a raw TCP/IP connection to the serial port. Use port 2001 when you need Telnet IAC interpretation.

To specify a connection to a socket, use the **Telnet** command followed by the MSS IP address (or resolvable name), a colon, and the desired socket number. Do not add spaces.

Figure 5-1: TCP/IP Socket Connection

```
% Telnet 192.0.1.228:2001
```

5.1.1.2 IPX/SPX Socket Connections

The MSS supports SPX socket connections to port 9001. To make a socket connection, use the **SPX** command followed by the SAP name of the MSS.

Figure 5-2: SPX Socket Connection

```
Local> SPX MSS_xxxxxx_S1
```

5.1.2 LAT Connections

Most VMS applications require the creation of a LAT application port to access the MSS serial port. Programs can use the LAT application port as they would use a physical port for input and output. For example, an application might be configured to use port LTA3419 which would allow it to access a device connected to the MSS serial port.

To configure LAT on your VMS host, create a new and unique application port using the host's LATCP program (in Figure 3-3, `LTAnnnn` represents any unused LAT port number). Map the application port to the MSS by specifying the MSS node name and the serial port name. Enter the following commands at the VMS prompt:

Figure 5-3: Creating a LAT Application Port

```
$ RUN SYS$SYSTEM:LATCP
LCP> CREATE PORT LTAnnnn/APPLICATION
LCP> SET PORT LTAnnnn/node=MSSname/port=port_1
LCP> SHOW PORT LTAnnnn
LCP> EXIT
```

Note: *The procedure is similar for DEC UNIX LAT.*

If heavy input or output loads are expected on the LTA port, you can set alternate type ahead to reduce flow control on the ports.

Figure 5-4: Reducing Flow Control

```
$ SET TERM/PERM/ALTYPEAHD LTAnnnn
```

5.1.3 Connecting to the MSS

To connect to the MSS serial port from a VMS host, use the command below and include the appropriate LAT application port number:

Figure 5-5: Connecting to the MSS

```
$ SET HOST/DTE ltannnn
```

5.2 Host Applications

The MSS can be used with applications on Unix, Windows, Windows NT, OS/2, LAT, and Macintosh hosts, and any other hosts that have a TCP/IP or SPX socket interface.

When a host application makes a socket connection to the MSS, it uses the socket as a data pipe to send and receive data. The host application performs general read/write tasks, and works with the MSS as if it were a directly-attached serial device.

5.3 Code Examples

The MSS distribution CD-ROM includes example code for TCP/IP and SPX/IPX applications. Refer to the *Readme* file included with the code examples for further information and instructions.

5.4 Interactive Connections

Interactive mode refers to entering commands at the Local> prompt. Commands can be used to configure the MSS, connect to remote services, manipulate a connection, or receive feedback. Interactive use requires an input device, such as a terminal.

5.4.1 Outgoing Connections

The MSS can make outgoing connections to hosts on TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, and LAT networks via its serial port. Telnet and Rlogin connections are supported. In addition, environment strings are supported within the connection commands. See the *Command Reference* chapter of the *MSS Reference Manual* on the CD-ROM for more information.

5.4.1.1 Telnet

To start an outgoing Telnet session to a remote host on a TCP/IP network, type **Telnet** at the Local> prompt, followed by either the host's name or its numeric IP address.

Figure 5-6: Opening a Telnet Connection

```
Local> TELNET 192.0.1.66
```

Note: *If a preferred service has been configured, a host name is not required.*

You can also make a Telnet connection to a specific port number, as described in *Serial Tunnel* on page 5-9.

5.4.1.2 Rlogin

Rlogin allows a user to log into a remote host as if he or she were a local user. In the example below, **shark** is the remote host and **lola** is the username. Unless the username is password protected, the user will be logged in normally.

Figure 5-7: Connecting with Rlogin

```
Local> RLOGIN shark "lola"
```

Note: *Because Rlogin can bypass the normal password/login sequence and is therefore a potential security problem, it may be disabled on some hosts. It is disabled by default on the MSS.*

5.4.1.3 SPX

For SPX connections on IPX networks, the connecting device and the target device must advertise themselves via SAP announcements. The MSS advertises itself at boot time as **MSS_xxxxxx_S1** where **xxxxxx** represents the last six digits of its hardware name.

As long as the target device is advertising itself via SAP announcements, the MSS should be able to make an SPX connection. Enter the following command including the target device's SAP name.

Figure 5-8: Making an SPX Connection

```
Local> SPX sap_name
```

To view all available SPX devices (those advertising themselves via SAP announcements) enter the **Show Node LAT/SPX** command.

5.4.1.4 LAT

LAT devices broadcast their services to the network along with ratings, which are estimates of how busy the services are. Ratings range from 0 to 255; a 255 rating means that the service can accept connections while a zero rating means that the service is in use and connection attempts will be denied. By default, connection attempts are made to the highest-rated service bearing a given name.

To connect to a LAT service, type the word "LAT" followed by the service name. To view available LAT nodes and services, enter **Show Nodes**

LAT or **Show Services** at the Local> prompt. The example below shows how to connect to the highest-rated service named *modem* on the network.

Figure 5-9: Connecting to a Service

```
Local> LAT modem
```

Connections to particular hosts and ports can be forced if desired. Forcing a connection in this way may be necessary if more than one host on a network can provide a given service, or if the desired host does not have the highest rating for that service. For example, the following command will attempt a connection to a service named *modem* on port 5 of a VAX host named **vax8**.

Figure 5-10: Connecting to a Specific Port

```
Local> LAT modem LN=vax8:LD=0005
```

Note: *If the information supplied in the command is incorrect, or if there is no such service on the specified host or port, the connection will be refused.*

If the MSS has been configured to allow incoming LAT logins, the MSS will also show up as a service on the network. Users can connect to the MSS from another LAT-based server by typing the appropriate connection command.

5.4.2 Session Control

When a user makes a connection to a service on the network (via Telnet, Rlogin, SPX, or LAT), a session is created. A user can have several connections to various services at once, although only one is displayed on the screen at a time. Each separate connection is a session. The following section explains command used to manipulate these sessions.

5.4.2.1 Break Key and Local Switch

The Break key allows users to leave an active session and return to the MSS Local> prompt without disconnecting sessions. By default, the MSS handles the Break key locally. Users can change whether the Break key is processed by the MSS (Local), processed by the remote host (Remote), or ignored (None) using the **Change Break** command.

Figure 5-11: Changing the Break Key

```
Local>> CHANGE BREAK REMOTE
```

If your terminal does not have a Break key, you can configure a local break switch key.

Figure 5-12: Defining a Local Switch

```
Local>> CHANGE LOCAL SWITCH ^L
```

5.4.2.2 Backward, Forward, and Switches

The **Backward** and **Forward** commands, when entered at the Local> prompt, allow users to navigate through current sessions.

A user's open sessions can be thought of as a list from the earliest to the most recently created. *Forward* refers to a more recent connection, while *Backward* refers to a session started earlier. The list is also circular; going forward from the most recently created session takes you to the earliest session, and going backward from the earliest session resumes the most recent session. For example, user Bob connects to host Thor. He then breaks to local mode and connects to host Duff. After working, he breaks and connects to host Conan. His session list, shown with the **Show Session** command, would be:

Thor
Duff
Conan

Conan is the **current session**, meaning the session to which the user is currently connected or the last session the user was in before entering local mode. If Bob presses the backward key while working in Conan, he will resume his session on Duff. If he presses the forward key while working in Conan, he will move to his session on Thor.

The **Change Backward Switch** and **Change Forward Switch** commands define keys used to switch sessions without returning to local mode. Backward and forward switch keys must be explicitly defined.

Figure 5-13: Defining Switches

```
Local>> CHANGE BACKWARD SWITCH ^B
Local>> CHANGE FORWARD SWITCH ^F
```

Note: *To specify a control character, precede it with a carat (^).*

Note: *The MSS intercepts and processes switch keys; it does not pass them to the remote host.*

5.4.2.3 Disconnect and Resume

Users need a method of controlling and disconnecting sessions from local mode. For example, if a session on a remote host freezes or hangs while executing code, the user can exit the session using the Break key, then terminate the connection by entering the **Disconnect** command at the Local> prompt. A user may resume a session after returning to local mode by entering the **Resume** command. Both commands can affect any active sessions, not just the current session.

5.4.2.4 Session Limits

The number of active session a user can have on the MSS is limited by three factors: available server memory resources, a server-wide limit, and a port-specific limit. The absolute maximum number of sessions for the MSS is eight. To reduce the limit further, enter the **Change Session Limit** command followed by a number from one to seven.

5.4.3 Status Displays

The commands listed in this section display information about the current configuration and operating status of the MSS. The following sections describe what a user will see when typing the Show commands in interactive (local) mode.

5.4.3.1 Show 80211

This command shows the current 802.11 (wireless Ethernet) networking settings, including MAC address, ESSID, network mode, and channel number. These settings are effective whenever there is a compatible wireless LAN PC card in the MSS PC card slot.

5.4.3.2 Show Hostlist

This command shows the current contents of the host table used for multihost mode connections. Host entries are numbered from 1 to 8.

5.4.3.3 Show IPsecurity

This command shows the current TCP/IP security table, if one exists. Addresses or ranges of addresses are listed according to the kind of restrictions placed upon them.

5.4.3.4 Show NetWare

All necessary information related to IPX/SPX connections can be viewed including the name of the NetWare loadserver and the number of frames transmitted. Specifically, a user can find out which frame types are enabled, if internal routing is enabled, and what internal network number governs internal routing.

5.4.3.5 Show Node LAT/SPX

This command shows the LAT or SPX nodes that the MSS can see. For LAT, the name of each service node is listed along with its identification string and availability. For SPX, node information includes each node's socket number, hop count, frame type, and status.

5.4.3.6 Show Ports

This command displays the configuration and connection status of the serial port. Settings such as flow control, baud rate, parity, and default hosts are shown. In addition, users can view the status of DSR and DTR serial signals, port access type, and login status. Errors are summarized, although in less detail than in the **Show Server Counters** display.

5.4.3.7 Show RS485

This command shows the current settings for RS-485 serial connections, including wire mode (two-wire or four-wire), termination, and driving of the TX (transmit) signal.

5.4.3.8 Show Server Bootparams

This command displays MSS identification and boot procedure information. The first lines display the MSS version, hardware address, network name and node number, identification string, and how long the MSS has been running. Software and ROM versions, configured loadhosts, and startup files are also displayed.

5.4.3.9 Show Server Characteristics

This command displays network-related server identification information including the MSS hardware address, node address, IP address, domain, any configured gateways and nameservers, and the subnet mask. In addition, inactivity and retransmission limits, password restrictions, and the types of incoming logins permitted are shown.

5.4.3.10 Show Server Counters

This command enables the system administrator to view quantitative information about send and receive errors. It also displays error information for the Ethernet and TCP/IP protocols that can be used to diagnose network transmission problems.

5.4.3.11 Show Services

This command displays characteristics of LAT services offered on the network. Information shown includes service names, service ratings, group codes, offering nodes, service identification strings, and availability.

5.4.3.12 Show Sessions

This command displays information about current sessions including each active port, user, and type of session.

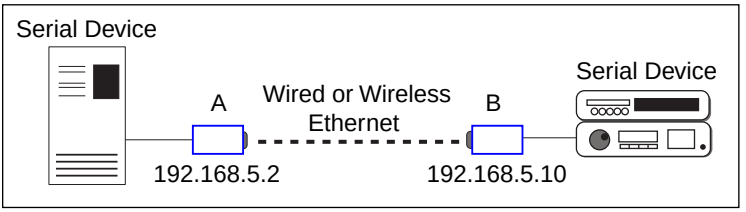
5.4.3.13 Show Users

This command displays the name, port number, and connection status of all current users, or a specified user.

5.5 Serial Tunnel

Two MSS's can be connected to emulate a direct serial connection across a LAN or WAN. Servers connected in this way can pass data only—they will not be able to pass status signals (DSR/DTR, CTS/RTS, etc.) or preserve timing between characters. The basic network configuration for this virtual serial line is shown in Figure 5-14.

Figure 5-14: Back-to-Back MSS Connections



5.5.1 TCP Configuration

Assuming the MSS serial port parameters have been configured properly, the Servers would be configured as follows:

MSS_A

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED TCP
192.168.5.10:3001T
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART ENABLED
```

MSS_B

```
Local>> CHANGE ACCESS REMOTE
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED NONE
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART DISABLED
```

Note: *If the Servers are on different IP subnets, the default gateway on each unit will have to be configured with the Change Gateway command.*

The above commands create a raw (8-bit clean) TCP connection between the serial ports of the two Servers once the units have been power-cycled. The commands for **MSS_A** ensure that it will automatically connect to **MSS_B** each time it is booted. The commands for **MSS_B** ensure that it is always available to accept connections from **MSS_A**.

5.5.2 UDP Configuration

When the UDP protocol is used, there is no connection; each MSS must be told explicitly which hosts it is allowed to accept packets from. Each MSS would have to be configured to both send packets to and accept packets from the other MSS.

MSS_A

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED TCP
192.168.5.10:4096U
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE ACCESS DYNAMIC
```

MSS_B

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED TCP
192.168.5.2:4096U
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE ACCESS DYNAMIC
```

Setting up Dedicated hosts ensures that the units will always talk to each other. Enabling Autostart for both units enables one MSS to send data to the other MSS without having to wait for a serial carriage return to start the session.. The second MSS knows exactly which other MSS to accept connections from. Finally, when Autostart is enabled, the access mode must be either Local or Dynamic (Dynamic is more flexible).

5.6 Multihost Mode

Multihost mode is used to set up a data pipe between a serial device attached to the MSS and multiple hosts on the network. Data from any network host goes out of the MSS serial port, and data from the serial port is sent to all connected network hosts. The MSS does not alter the data in any way, it merely forwards it from one point to another.

There are a few important things to note about multihost connections:

- The MSS attempts to send data in the order it is received. That is, it reads in and sends data from one host before reading in data from another host.
- The MSS will ping TCP and UDP hosts before sending packets to make sure the remote hosts are alive. If they are alive, the MSS makes the real connection and passes the data. If not, the MSS will retry later. Similarly, if one of the host connections is terminated prematurely, the MSS will attempt to reconnect at preset intervals.

  Note: *Retry affects data flow to all hosts, so unreliable hosts should be removed from the host list.*

- If a host's flow control or other settings block the MSS from sending, the MSS will skip it and send the data to the other hosts. However, the MSS does not keep a list of which hosts were skipped in the past—it consults all hosts each time it has data to send.

- When the MSS serial port is logged out, all host sessions are disconnected, leaving the port idle.

5.6.1 Enabling Multihost Mode

To configure the MSS for a dedicated multihost connection, use the **Change Dedicated** command.

Figure 5-15: Enabling Multihost Mode

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED HOSTLIST
```

When a dedicated connection is enabled, local mode hotkeys for session manipulation are disabled.

5.6.2 Adding Hosts

The host list can include up to twelve host entries in any combination of TCP (raw, Telnet, and Rlogin) and UDP addresses, SPX addresses, and LAT addresses.

Figure 5-16: Adding Entries to the Host Table

```
Local>> CHANGE DEDICATED HOSTLIST
Local>> HOST ADD TCP 192.0.1.35:T
Local>> HOST ADD UDP 192.0.2.255
Local>> LOGOUT PORT 1
```

In the example, the UDP host entry is actually a broadcast IP address. Data is sent to all hosts on that particular subnet.

5.6.3 Removing Hosts

To remove an entry from the host table, use the **Show Hostlist** command to find out its entry number, and then use the **Host Delete** command to delete it.

Figure 5-17: Removing Entries from the Host Table

```
Local>> SHOW HOSTLIST
1 192.73.0.233
2 192.0.1.176
3 192.0.4.255
Local>> HOST DELETE 2
```

5.7 Modem Emulation Mode

In modem emulation mode, the MSS presents a modem interface to the attached serial device: it accepts AT-style modem commands, and handles the modem signals correctly.

Normally there is a modem connected to a PC and a modem connected to some other remote machine. A user must dial from his PC to the remote machine and accumulate phone charges for each connection. With the MSS in modem mode, you can replace your modems with MSS's and use an Ethernet connection instead of a phone call, all without having to change communications applications. You can then connect to any remote machine that has an MSS without making potentially-expensive phone calls.

Note: *If the MSS is in modem emulation mode and the serial port is idle, the MSS can still accept network TCP connections to the serial port.*

To use modem mode, enable modem emulation and set your MSS for Autostart using **A** as the autostart character. This triggers the MSS to enter modem mode when it encounters a modem-style **AT** command.

Figure 5-18: Enabling Modem Mode

```
Local>> CHANGE MODEM EMULATION ENABLED
Local>> CHANGE AUTOSTART CHARACTER "A"
Local>> LOGOUT PORT 1
```

As soon as someone types an **AT** command, the MSS will enter modem mode and begin processing the **AT** commands.

5.7.1 Modem Mode Commands

The following commands are available only in modem mode—they will have no effect when typed at the Local> prompt.

Table 5-1: Modem Mode Commands

Command	Function
AT?	Help; gives list of valid AT commands.
ATC <command>	Pass-through to normal command line interface. **Ex:** `ATC CH NAMESERV 192.0.1.76`
ATDT <ipaddress>	Forms a TCP connection to the specified host. Two IP address formats are allowed. The first uses periods, while the second omits periods and adds zeroes to segments less than 3 characters long: **Ex:** `ATDT 192.0.55.22:3001T` **Ex:** `ATDT 192000055022:3001T` Users can specify sockets as well; in the examples, **:3001T** tells the MSS to form a raw TCP connection to socket 3001.
ATE	Echo mode off (ATE0) or on (ATE1, the default).
ATH	Disconnects the network session.
ATI	Displays modem version information.
ATQ	Result codes on (ATQ0, the default) or off (ATQ1).
ATS	Allows serially-attached devices to control how the MSS accepts a network call. ATS0=0 will cause the MSS to send the RING string to the serial device when it receives a network connection request. The serial device must reply with the ATA string. ATS0=1 allows the MSS to automatically accept network connections (the default).
ATV	Displays result codes. There are four options: ATV0 = text codes, bad commands return an error. ATV1 = numeric codes, bad commands return an error. ATV2 = numeric codes, bad commands discarded. ATV3 = text codes, bad commands discarded.
ATZ	Accepted but ignored.
AT&F	Resets modem NVR to factory default settings.

Table 5-1: Modem Mode Commands, cont.

Command	Function
AT&W	Writes modem settings to NVR.
AT&Z	Restores modem settings from NVR.
+++	Returns the user to the command prompt when entered from the serial port during a remote host connection.

Multiple commands can be entered on the same line (for example, `ATE0Q1V0` will work). However, if the MSS encounters a command that it doesn't recognize, it will ignore the whole command line. For this reason, you should enter only one command per line.

5.7.2 Wiring Requirements

Serial signals work differently when the MSS is in modem mode. First, the MSS will enable DTRWait and will not drive DTR until a valid connection is made with the ATDT command (see Section 5.7.1). Second, the MSS will drop DTR whenever the TCP session is disconnected. DSRLogout is enabled implicitly. The intent is that the MSS DTR signal will be used as a simulated CD signal to the attached serial device.

If you are using an MSS with a DB25 connector, you will need to change the way you wire the DB25 adapters.

- The serial device's **DTR** goes out to BOTH its own **DSR in** and the MSS **DSR in**. When the device asserts its DTR, it will see its DSR asserted. That way the device thinks that the "modem" (the MSS) is ready to accept commands all the time and the MSS can log out the serial port when the device disconnects.

The MSS **DTR out** goes to the serial device's **CD in**. That way the MSS can signal the serial device that there is a valid connection, and the serial device will know it can send data to the remote device.

5.8 COM Port Redirector

The Lantronix COM Port Redirector application allows PCs to share modems and other serial devices connected to an MSS using Microsoft Windows or DOS communication applications. Using their existing communications software, PC users dial out to a remote host through a modem connected to the MSS.

The Redirector intercepts communications to specified COM ports and sends them over an IP network connection to the MSS serial port. This enables the PC to use the MSS serial port as if it were one of the PC COM ports.

Note: *The redirector works over 802.11 connections.*

The COM Port Redirector software and installation instructions are included on the distribution CD-ROM.

A: Contact Information

If you are experiencing an error that is not listed in *Appendix B* or if you are unable to fix the error, contact your dealer or Lantronix Technical Support at 800-422-7044 (US) or 949-453-3990. Technical Support is also available via Internet email at **support@lantronix.com**.

A.1 Problem Report Procedure

When you report a problem, please provide the following information:

- Your name, and your company name, address, and phone number
- Lantronix MSS model number
- Lantronix MSS serial number
- Software version (use the **Show Server** command to display)
- Network configuration, including the information from a **Netstat** command
- Description of the problem
- Debug report (stack dump), if applicable
- Status of the unit when the problem occurred (please try to include information on user and network activity at the time of the problem)

A.2 Full Contact Information

Address: 15353 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618 USA
Phone: 949/453-3990
Fax: 949/453-3995
World Wide Web: http://www.lantronix.com

North American Direct Sales: 800/422-7055
North American Reseller Sales: 800/422-7015
North American Sales Fax: 949/450-7232
Internet: sales@lantronix.com

International Sales: 949/450-7227
International Sales Fax: 949/450-7231
Internet: intsales@lantronix.com

Technical Support: 800/422-7044 or 949/453-3990
Technical Support Fax: 949/450-7226
Internet: support@lantronix.com

B: Troubleshooting

This Appendix discusses how to diagnose and fix errors quickly yourself without having to contact a dealer or Lantronix. It will help to connect a terminal to the serial port while diagnosing an error to view any summary messages that are displayed.

When troubleshooting, always ensure that the physical connections (power cable, network cable, and serial cable) are secure. If you have trouble with wireless networking, it may help to connect the MSS to a wired Ethernet nework to verify that it is working prperly and to check the wireless settings.

Note: *Some unexplained errors may be caused by duplicate IP addresses on the network. Make sure that your MSS IP address is unique.*

B.1 Power-up Troubleshooting

Problem situations and error messages are listed in Table B-1. If you cannot find an explanation for your problem, try to match it to one of the other errors. If you cannot remedy the problem, contact your dealer or Lantronix Technical Support.

Table B-1: Power-up Problems and Error Messages

Problem/Message	Error	Remedy
The MSS is connected to a power source, but there is no LED activity.	The unit or its power supply is damaged.	Contact your dealer or Lantronix Technical Support for a replacement.
The MSS is unable to complete power-up diagnostics.	This generally indicates a hardware fault. One of the LEDs will be solid red for three seconds, followed by one second of another color.	Note the blinking LED and its color, then contact your dealer or Lantronix Technical Support. The MSS will not be operational until the fault is fixed.
The MSS completes its power-up and boot procedures, but there's no noticeable serial activity.	There is a problem with the serial connection or the set-up of the serial device.	Check the terminal setup and the physical connections, including the cable pinouts (see *Appendix C*). Try another serial device or cable, or cycle power on the MSS.
	A rapidly-blinking OK LED may signal boot failure.	Reboot the unit. When the MSS is running normally, the OK LED blinks every two seconds.

Table B-1: Power-up Problems and Error Messages, cont.

Problem/Message	Error	Remedy
The terminal shows a Boot> prompt rather than a Local> prompt.	The MSS is not connected properly to the Ethernet.	Ensure that the MSS is firmly connected to a functional and properly-terminated network node.
	The MSS Ethernet address is invalid.	The MSS Ethernet address is located on the bottom of the unit. Use the **Change Hardware** command to set the correct address, then reboot.
	Init Noboot command was entered.	See *Entering Commands at the Boot Prompt* on page B-5.
The MSS passes power-up diagnostics, but attempts to download new Flash ROM code from a network host.	If the OK LED blinks rapidly, the Flash ROM code may be corrupt.	Reboot the unit. If you get the same message, you will need to reload Flash ROM. See *Reloading Software on page D-3*.
	If you did not request a TFTP boot, the flash ROM code is corrupt. The unit will remain in boot mode.	

B.2 DHCP Troubleshooting

Table B-2: DHCP Troubleshooting

Area to Check	Explanation
DHCP is enabled on the MSS	Use the **Change Server DHCP Enabled** command. If you manually enter an IP address, DHCP is automatically disabled.
Make sure the DHCP server is operational.	Check to see that the DHCP server is on and is functioning correctly.
The MSS gets its IP address from the DHCP server	Refer to the **DHCP Manager** on your DHCP server for information about addresses in use. If the DHCP server doesn't list your MSS IP address, there may be a problem.

B.3 BOOTP Troubleshooting

If the BOOTP request is failing and you have configured your host to respond to the request, check these areas:

Table B-3: BOOTP Troubleshooting

Area to Check	Explanation
BOOTP is in your system's **/etc/services** file	BOOTP must be an uncommented line in **/etc/services**.
The MSS is in the loadhost's **/etc/hosts** file	The MSS must be in this file for the host to answer a BOOTP or TFTP request.
The download file is in the correct directory and is world-readable	The download file must be in the correct directory and world-readable. Specify the complete pathname for the download file in the BOOTP configuration file, or add a default pathname to the download filename.
The MSS and host are in the same IP network	Some hosts will not allow BOOTP replies across IP networks. Either use a host running a different operating system or put the MSS in the same IP network as the host.

B.4 RARP Troubleshooting

Table B-4: RARP Troubleshooting

Area to Check	Explanation
The MSS name and hardware address in the host's **/etc/ethers** file	The MSS name and hardware address must be in this file for the host to answer a RARP request.
The MSS name and IP address in the **/etc/hosts** file	The MSS name and IP address must be in this file for the host to answer a RARP request.
The operating system	Many operating systems do not start a RARP server at boot time. Check the host's RARPD documentation for details, or use the **ps** command to see if there is a RARPD process running.

B.5 TFTP Troubleshooting

If the TFTP request fails even though you have configured your host to respond to the request, check the areas discussed in the following table.

Table B-5: TFTP Troubleshooting

Area to Check	Explanation
Is TFTP enabled on the loadhost?	Ensure that the **/etc/inetd.conf** file has an uncommented line enabling the TFTP daemon. Machines may have the TFTP daemon line commented out. If the **/etc/inetd.conf** file has to be modified, the TCP/IP server process (daemon) has to be told of this via a signal. Find the process ID (PID) of the inet daemon, and then signal the process. Normally, the process is signalled by sending it a HUP signal (kill -HUP nnnnn). The **/etc/inetd.conf** or **/etc/netd.conf** file is re-read whenever the UNIX host boots. See the man pages (man inetd) for more information.
Is the filename correct?	The name and case of the software download file must be correct. The software file names are uppercase, but can be renamed. The server will look for uppercase names by default.

B.6 Modem Configuration Checklist

Note: *Modem functions do not apply to RS-485.*

Most modem problems are caused by cabling mistakes or incorrect modem configuration. However, the following items should be verified after any modem configuration, and re-checked when there is modem trouble.

- The modem must disconnect immediately when DTR is de-asserted.
- The modem must assert CD (or DSR, if connected) when connected to another modem. It must not assert CD when disconnected. The modem may optionally assert CD during outbound dialing.
- The modem and MSS must agree on the flow control method and baud rate scheme.
- The modem must not send result codes or messages to the MSS except optionally during outgoing calls.
- The modem should be set to restore its configuration from non-volatile memory when DTR is dropped.
- The modem should be configured to answer the phone if incoming connections are to be supported. Generally this is done with the **ats0=1** command.
- The modem should not be configured to answer the phone unless the MSS asserts DTR.
- MSS Modem control must be enabled. Using modems on ports without modem control enabled will lead to security problems.
- The MSS Autobaud feature should be enabled only when required.

B.7 Entering Commands at the Boot Prompt

If the Boot> prompt appears on the serial console instead of the Local> prompt, one of two things may be wrong. Either the MSS does not have enough information to boot, or the network or flash boot has failed. If pressing the **Return** key does not display a prompt, press any other key. The Boot> prompt should appear.

If the MSS does not have enough information to boot, or the network or flash boot has failed, it will print a message to the console and wait ten seconds for serial port activity. If it detects serial port activity, it will continue booting provided the flash is good. However, if the user presses a key during that ten second time period, the MSS will display the Boot> prompt.

Note: *If you see the message "Will attempt another download in x minutes," press any key for the Boot> prompt.*

A series of commands called Boot Configuration Program (BCP) commands can be entered at the Boot> prompt to configure the MSS. These commands are a subset of the entire MSS command set. For example, a typical TCP/IP configuration might use the following commands:

Figure B-1: BCP Command Examples

```
Boot> CHANGE IPADDRESS 192.0.1.229
Boot> CHANGE SOFTWARE /tftpboot/MSSVIAx.SYS
Boot> CHANGE LOADHOST 192.0.1.188
Boot> CHANGE SECONDARY 192.0.1.22
Boot> FLASH
% Initialization begins in 5 seconds.....
```

These commands set the Server's address, the software loadfile, and the loadhost's IP address (as well as that of a backup loadhost). The server then reboots using the **Flash** command and will attempt to load the file MSSVIAx.SYS from the host at 192.0.1.188.

HELP

Displays a one-page summary of available commands and what they do.

INIT 451

Reboots the MSS after it has been configured. If the MSS can find and load the specified software loadfile, it will restart itself with full functionality. If the loadfile is not found, the server will attempt to reload continuously. If there is an error, or if the console's **Return** key is pressed, the MSS will re-enter the Boot Configuration Program.

CHANGE BOOTP {Enabled, Disabled}

Enables or disables the sending of BOOTP queries during the boot sequence. It is enabled by default.

CHANGE DHCP {Enabled, Disabled}

Enables or disables the sending of DHCP queries during the boot sequence. It is enabled by default.

CHANGE HARDWARE xx-xx-xx

Specifies the last three numbers of the server's Ethernet address. The first three numbers will be supplied automatically.

The Ethernet address should have been set at the factory. Setting an incorrect address could cause serious network problems.

CHANGE IPADDRESS ip_address

Specifies this server's IP address. Uses the standard numeric format.

CHANGE LOADHOST ip_address

Specifies the host to attempt to load the file from. The IP address should be in standard numeric format (no text names are allowed).

CHANGE RARP {ENABLED, DISABLED}

Enables or disables the sending of RARP queries during the boot sequence. It is enabled by default.

CHANGE SECONDARY ip_address

Specifies a backup loadhost. The IP address should be in standard numeric format (no text names are allowed). The backup loadhost will be queried if the primary host cannot load the server.

CHANGE SOFTWARE filename

Specifies the name of the file to load. The MSS will automatically add **.SYS** to the filename you specify. Note that all protocols must have a filename specified (either the default or set by the user). For more information, see *Appendix D*.

TCP/IP users must use the Software option to specify the loadhost, the loadfile, and their own network address.

TFTP users can specify a complete path name (up to 31 characters) if the file is located in a directory other than the default.The case of the filename must match that of the filename loaded onto the host computer.

SHOW SERVER

Use this command before and/or after issuing other commands to view the current MSS setup.

FLUSH NVR

This command is used to restore the MSS's non-volatile RAM to its factory default settings. It will reset everything that is configurable on the server, including the unit's IP address.

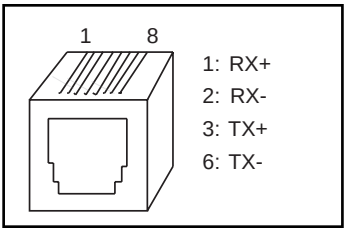
FLASH

This command will force the MSS to download new operational code and reload it into Flash ROM. This is necessary when a new version of software is released and you wish to upgrade your unit. If the server cannot download the file, the code in Flash ROM will still be usable.

C: Pinouts

C.1 Ethernet Connector

Figure C-1: RJ45 Ethernet Connector Pinout



C.2 PC Card Slot

The MSS-VIA PC card slot accepts Type I/II PC cards. At the time this manual was written, the MSS-VIA software only supported IEEE 802.11 wireless networking PC cards. Other types of PC cards are planned for future revisions.

For the most current information on which PC card technologies are supported and which cards are compatible with the MSS-VIA, please refer to the Lantronix web site:

http://www.lantronix.com/products/uts/mssvia/specs.html

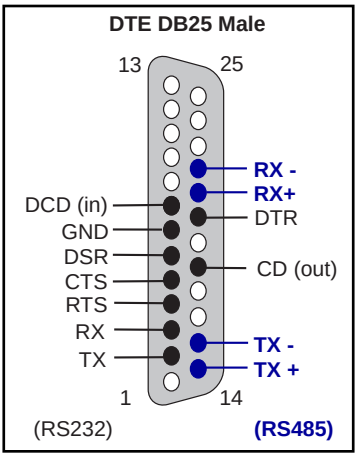
Note: *Changes in firmware revision may affect compatibility.*

C.3 Serial Connectors

C.3.1 RS-232/RS-485 DB25 Connector

The MSS-VIA DB25 connector provides a dual RS-232/RS-485 DTE serial port. The default serial port settings are 9600 baud, 8 bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit.

Figure C-2: DB25 Serial Connector



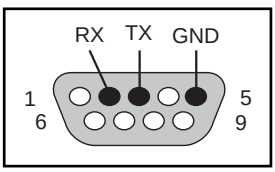
The dual DB25 port can be used for **either** an RS-232 connection **or** an RS-485 connection. **Do not** attempt to connect both interfaces at the same time. The MSS-VIA drives TX on both interfaces simultaneously, but only enables RX on the selected interface.

For more information, see *RS-485 Configuration* on page 4-6.

C.3.2 RS-232 DB9 Connector

The MSS-VIA DB9 connector provides an RS-232 DTE serial port. The default serial port settings are 9600 baud, 8 bits, no parity, and 1 stop bit.

Figure C-3: DB9 Serial Connector



D: Updating Software

Lantronix intends to provide multiple software files for the MSS-VIA. Each software file will contain the core MSS operating code as well as code needed to support a specific type of PC card. Choose the software file that supports the type of PC card you wish to use.

For IEEE 802.11 wireless networking PC cards, use the software file named **MSSVIAA.SYS**. For other PC card types, please consult Lantronix.

D.1 Obtaining Software

Current software files (MSSVIAx.SYS) are available on the distribution CD. Software updates and release notes for the MSS can be downloaded directly from the Lantronix development systems in one of three ways: via the Lantronix World Wide Web site (www.lantronix.com), using anonymous FTP through the Internet (ftp.lantronix.com), and via dial-up modem.

D.1.1 Via the Web

The latest version of MSSVIAx.SYS can be downloaded from the Lantronix Web site. The following instructions will lead you through the web site to the software file.

1. On the home page, http://www.lantronix.com, click on **Firmware Downloads**.
2. From the **All Products** pop-up menu, select **Universal Thin Servers: MSS, Cobox**.
3. From the **All Categories** pop-up menu, select **Latest Firmware and Software**.
4. Click the **Submit** button. You will go to a page that shows links for MSS-related firmware and software.
5. From the available files, select **Latest firmware for MSS-VIA Universal Thin Server**.
6. Click the **Submit** button. You will go to a page that describes the selected software file.
7. If this is the correct file, click the **Download MSS-VIA Firmware VX.X/X Binary** link. If it is not the correct file, use your browser's **Back** button to return to the previous page to choose a different option.

Note: *As a result of Netscape Navigator's configuration, clicking on the software name may not allow you to download the file. You may have to save the file as a source document to your host.*

D.1.2 Via FTP

The MSS software resides on the Lantronix FTP server (ftp.lantronix.com). Most of these files are binary data, so the binary option must be used to transfer the files. All released files are in the **pub** directory. Always download the README file in the pub directory before downloading anything else; it contains a list of available software files.

To log into the FTP server, enter a username of **anonymous** and enter your full email address as the password. The following text will be displayed:

Figure D-1: Sample FTP Login

```
230-Welcome to the Lantronix FTP Server.
230-
230-IMPORTANT: Please get the README file before proceeding.
230-IMPORTANT: Set BINARY mode before transferring executables.
220-
230-Direct questions to support@lantronix.com or 800-422-7044
(US) or 949-453-3990
230-
230 Guest login ok, access restrictions apply.
Remote system type is [your type will be displayed here].
ftp>
```

D.1.3 Via the Lantronix BBS

The Lantronix system uses high speed modems for the physical connection and allows file transfers using KERMIT, xmodem, ymodem, and zmodem. The modem phone number is (949) 367-1051. The account name is **ets** and the password is **server**.

Remember that the download files (MSSVIAx.SYS) and executable images are image data and should only be transferred in binary mode, otherwise the files will be corrupted.

Figure D-2: Sample BBS Login

```
SunOS UNIX (nexus)
login: ets
Password: server (not echoed)
SunOS Release 4.1.3_U1 (NEXUS) #2: Fri Dec 2 10:08:39 PST 1997
Welcome to the Lantronix BBS. Type ‘h’ for help
userid (‘new’ for new user): new
Welcome, new user! Enter a userid, 1-12 characters, no spaces.
Userid: bob
Enter Passwd: platypus (not echoed)
Confirm Passwd: platypus (not echoed)
User Name: bob
Terminal type (default=vt100):
Email address, if any: bob@widgets.com
Welcome to the “NEW” Lantronix Bulletin Board System
```

Once logged in, you will receive instructions for using the BBS system.

D.2 Reloading Software

The MSS stores software in Flash ROM to control the initialization process, operation, and command processing. The contents of Flash ROM can be updated by downloading a new version of the operational software via NetWare, TCP/IP, or MOP. Regardless of which protocol is used to update Flash ROM, the following points are important:

- The Flash ROM software file name, **MSSVIAx.SYS**, should not be changed.
- The download file should be world-readable on the host.
- There is a sixteen character length limit for the path name.
- There is a twelve character limit for the filename.
- Use the **List Server Boot** command to check settings before rebooting.

Note: *It is very important to check MSS settings before using the Initialize Reload command to ensure that you are reloading the correct software file.*

D.2.1 Reloading Sequence

If DHCP, BOOTP, or RARP is enabled on the MSS, the MSS will request assistance from a DHCP, BOOTP, or RARP server before starting the download attempts. The MSS will then try TFTP, NetWare, and MOP booting (in that order) provided that it has enough information to try each download method.

Downloading and rewriting the Flash ROM will take approximately two minutes from the time the **Initialize** command is issued. If the download file cannot be found or accessed, the MSS can be rebooted with the code still in Flash ROM. The OK/ACT LED will blink quickly while the MSS is booting (and reloading code) and then slowly when it returns to normal operation.

Note: *If you experience problems reloading Flash ROM, refer to Section D.3.*

D.2.1.1 TCP/IP

Before the MSS downloads the new software, it will send DHCP, BOOTP, and/or RARP queries (all are enabled by default). Next, the MSS will attempt to download the MSSVIAx.SYS file using TFTP (Trivial File Transfer Protocol).

Note: *EZWebCon can also be used to reload software.*

If a host provides DHCP, BOOTP, or RARP support, it can be used to set the MSS IP address (all methods) and loadhost information (BOOTP and RARP only).

Some BOOTP and TFTP implementations require a specific directory for the MSSVIAx.SYS file. See your host's documentation for instructions.

To manually configure the MSS IP parameters for software reload, use the following commands.

Figure D-3: Configuring TCP/IP Reload

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> SYSTEM (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE SERVER IPADDRESS nnn.nnn.nnn.nnn
Local>> CHANGE SERVER SOFTWARE "/tftpboot/MSSVIAx.SYS"
Local>> CHANGE SERVER LOADHOST nnn.nnn.nnn.nnn
Local>> LIST SERVER BOOT
Local>> INITIALIZE RELOAD
```

Note: *For instructions on how to log into the MSS to enter these commands, see Section 3.3.*

The path and filename are case-sensitive and must be enclosed in quotation marks. When attempting to boot across an IP router, you must configure the router to proxy-ARP for the MSS, or use the bootgateway feature. For more information, see **Change Bootgateway** in the *Commands* chapter of the *MSS Reference Manual* located on the CD-ROM.

D.2.1.2 NetWare

The MSSVIAx.SYS file should be placed in the login directory on the NetWare file server. The MSS cannot actually log into the file server (since it knows no username/password); it can only access files in the login directory itself. On the MSS, specify the file server name, filename, and path.

Figure D-4: Configuring NetWare Reload

```
Local> SET PRIVILEGED
Password> SYSTEM (not echoed)
Local>> CHANGE SERVER NETWARE LOADHOST fileserver
Local>> CHANGE SERVER SOFTWARE SYS:\LOGIN\MSSVIAx.SYS
Local>> INITIALIZE RELOAD
```

D.2.1.3 MOP

The MSSVIAx.SYS filename is the only parameter that the MSS needs to reload via MOP. Make sure the service characteristic is enabled on the host's Ethernet circuit, copy the MSSVIAx.SYS file to the MOM$LOAD directory, and reload the MSS using the **Initialize Reload** command.

Note: *If an error message is displayed indicating an invalid record size on the VAX console, the MSSVIAx.SYS file was not transferred in binary mode.*

D.3 Troubleshooting Flash ROM Updates

Many of the problems that occur when updating the Flash ROM can be solved by completing the following steps:

Table D-1: Flash ROM Troubleshooting

Protocol	Area to Check
NetWare	Ensure the file is in the login directory. Since the MSS cannot actually log into the file server, it has very limited access to the server directories.
TFTP	Check the file and directory permissions.
	Ensure the loadhost name and address are specified correctly and that their case matches that of the filenames on the host system.
	Ensure the file and pathnames are enclosed in quotes to preserve case.
	Ensure that TFTP is enabled on the host; several major UNIX vendors ship their systems with TFTP disabled by default.
MOP	The Ethernet circuit must have the **service** characteristic enabled.
	Ensure that the MOM$LOAD search path includes the directory containing the MSSVIAx.SYS file.
	Ensure that the files were transferred in binary mode

E: Specifications

E.1 Power Specifications

The MSS power cube adaptor has the following specifications:

Adapter input voltage:	110 V AC US, 230 V AC International
Adapter output voltage:	12 V DC
Operating current:	1A @ 12 V
Power consumption:	4.2 Watts maximum

E.2 Environmental Information

E.2.1 Temperature Limitations

Operating range:	5˚ to 50˚ C (41˚ to 122˚ F)
Storage range:	-40˚ to 66˚ C (-40˚ to 151˚ F)
Max temperature change/hr:	20˚ C (36˚ F)

Rapid temperature changes may affect operation. Do not operate the MSS near heating or cooling devices, large windows, or doors that open to the outdoors.

E.2.2 Relative Humidity Limitations

Operating range:	10% to 90% noncondensing, 40% to 60% recommended
Storage range:	10% to 90% noncondensing

E.2.3 Altitude Limitations

Operating:	2.4 km (8,000 ft)
Storage:	9.1 km (30,000 ft)

When operating the MSS above 2.4 km (8,000 ft), decrease the operating temperature rating by 1.8˚C for each 1,000 m (1˚F for each 1,000 ft).

Warranty Statement

Lantronix warrants for a period of 5 YEARS from the date of shipment that each MSS-VIA Universal Thin Server supplied shall be free from defects in material and workmanship. During this period, if the customer experiences difficulties with a product and is unable to resolve the problem by phone with Lantronix Technical Support, a Return Material Authorization (RMA) will be issued. Following receipt of a RMA number, the customer is responsible for returning the product to Lantronix, freight prepaid. Lantronix, upon verification of warranty will, at its option, repair or replace the product in question, and return it to the customer freight prepaid. No services are handled at the customer's site under this warranty.

Lantronix warrants software for a period of sixty (60) days from the date of shipment that each software package supplied shall be free from defects and shall operate according to Lantronix specifications. Any software revisions required hereunder cover supply of distribution media only and do not cover, or include, any installation. The customer is responsible for return of media to Lantronix and Lantronix for freight associated with replacement media being returned to the customer.

Lantronix shall have no obligation to make repairs or to cause replacement required through normal wear and tear of necessitated in whole or in part by catastrophe, fault or negligence of the user, improper or unauthorized use of the Product, or use of the Product in such a manner for which it was not designed, or by causes external to the Product, such as, but not limited to, power or failure of air conditioning.

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Warranty claims must be received by Lantronix within the applicable warranty period. A replaced product, or part thereof, shall become the property of Lantronix and shall be returned to Lantronix at the Purchaser's expense. **All return material must be accompanied by a return material authorization number assigned by Lantronix**.

Declaration of Conformity

(according to ISO/IEC Guide 22 and EN 45014)

Manufacturer's Name & Address:	Lantronix 15353 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618 USA
	Declares that the product:
Product Name:	Device Server
Model Name/Number:	MSS-VIA
	Conforms to the following standards or other normative documents:
Safety:	EN60950:1988+A1, A2
Electromagnetic Emissions:	EN55022: 1998 (CISPR 22, Class A: 1993, A1: 1995, A2: 1996) IEC 1000-3-2/A14: 2000 IEC 1000-3-3: 1994
Electromagetic Immunity:	EN55024: 1998 Information Technology Equipment-Immunity Characteristics IEC 6100-4-2: 1995 Electro-Static Discharge Test IEC 6100-4-3: 1996 Radiated Immunity Field Test IEC 6100-4-4: 1995 Electrical Fast Transient Test IEC 6100-4-5: 1995 Power Supply Surge Test IEC 6100-4-6: 1996 Conducted Immunity Test IEC 6100-4-8: 1993 Magnetic Field Test IEC 6100-4-11: 1994 Voltage Dips & Interrupts Test (L.V.D. Directive 73/23/EEC)
Supplementary Information:	*The product complies with the requirements of the Low Voltage Directive 72/23/EEC and the EMC Directive 89/336/EEC.*
Manufacturer's Contact:	Director of Quality Assurance, Lantronix 15353 Barranca Parkway, Irvine, CA 92618 USA General Tel: 949/453-3990 Fax: 949/453-3995

Index

G

H

I

L

M

N

O

P

R

S

T

U

W