115 Helpsheet

GDS INSTRUMENTS LIMITED

World Leaders in Computer Controlled Testing Systems for Geotechnical Engineers and Geologists

Software

GDSLAB

Quick Installation Guide and Check List

1. Introduction

The purpose of this helpsheet is to provide a guide to installing GDSLAB software. It is a "quick start" guide. It does not replace any manuals, but provides a useful check lists to a complete installation. It may also be used in the future as a simple troubleshooting or reminder sheet.

2 Installing GDSLAB kernel

If you are re-installing a newer version of GDSLAB, please refer to GDS helpsheet 116, "Updating GDSLAB to a newer version".

- Insert CD and run D:\setup.exe. This will install the **GDSLAB Kernel.**
- If some of the system files need updating you *may* need to re-boot and run setup again.

3 Running the Installation Manager

- Under START, PROGRAMS, GDSLAB you will find the GDSLAB Installation Manager. Run this to install initialisation files, test modules and HASP security key (dongle) software.
- The installation manager may also be accessed from within GDSLAB (main side bar).

4 Installing correct Test Modules

Pressing "Test Modules" will scan your GDSLAB CD for available test modules. Any module may be installed by clicking on the directory and selecting GO, but think carefully before installing all modules as only full versions of those modules enabled on your HASP security dongle will be installed.

5 Choosing your INI (initialisation) file

Pressing "Station INI files" will scan your GDSLAB CD for currently created INI files. INI files describe the hardware connected to your PC, and are available on the CD for all "standard" system set-ups. GDS will recommend to you the correct INI file for your hardware setup, or contact GDS for a customised INI file. Pressing "GO" will copy the INI file selected to your C:\GDSLAB\ directory. Again, only transfer those INI files you think you will use, as too many files will clutter the directory and may cause confusion.

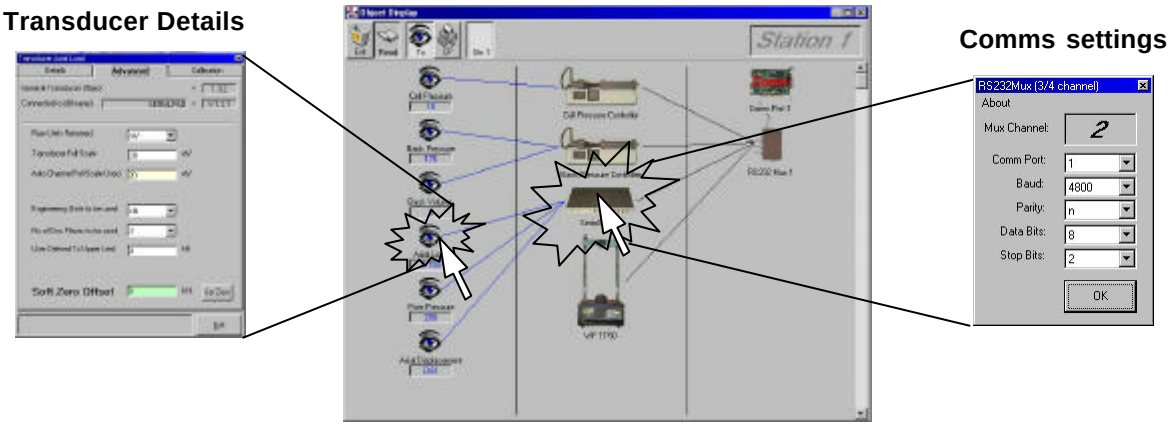
6 Installing HASP security key

Press the “HASP Install” button followed by “GO” and the complete HASP installation will automatically run, and install required software for your HASP security key. If the HASP software is provided on a floppy disk, select the “Floppy (A:)” option on the form. The security key should be placed on the printer port (parallel port) of your PC.

7 Checking GDSLAB hardware settings

The next stage after installing the GDSLAB software is to check the hardware settings. When you first setup GDSLAB, transducer sensitivities are set to a default that is almost certainly not correct for your system. For this we use the Object Display which can be found in the “management” section of the main GDSLAB side bar (on left of kernel).

By clicking on any of the devices within the object display, information about this device will appear. Depending on the hardware arrangement, this may simply be an information box, or a box where comms (communications) settings must be entered (e.g. RS232 or IEEE parameters). These parameters must match the settings expected by the hardware. Refer to the manufacturers hardware instructions for required communications parameters.



Assuming the hardware is connected to the system correctly, clicking on the “EYE” icon will bring up the transducer details. It is important to enter the correct details in the ADVANCED tab such as Transducer Full Scale, Decimal Places and Transducer Upper Limit. The calibration tab is also important, where either a full calibration may be performed, or the transducer sensitivity is entered.

Once all of the correct details are entered, each transducer should be read individually and the value should be checked for its validity. Some transducers may have to be zeroed (e.g. load cells or pressure transducers). All control parameters should also be checked, ensuring each device may be controlled where necessary.

8 Where to go from here

Once all of the above steps have been completed, your system settings will be remembered for the next time the system is started. When you installed the GDSLAB kernel, all the hardware device drivers available from GDS at the time of creation were installed on your PC. This gives you the most flexibility in that you may immediately use compatible hardware by selecting the appropriate ini file. Also, test modules to add functionality to your test suite may be added at any time, by simply allowing GDS to update the modules enabled by your HASP security dongle.