



# ASCII Slave

## Overview

Maple Systems' Silver Series/HMI500 Series Human Machine Interface (Maple HMIs) can communicate with an ASCII Host using a simple ASCII slave protocol. When configured with EZware-500, the HMI is the slave in a single-master, single (or multiple)-slave format. Please refer to the "Silver Series Installation and Operation Manual" for information on connecting multiple Maple HMIs to a single ASCII Host.

## Communications Cable

The Maple HMI can be connected directly to a serial port on the Host.

A list of communications cables offered by Maple Systems, as well as instructions to assist you in assembling your own cable, are available on our website at [www.maple-systems.com](http://www.maple-systems.com).

**WARNING:** If your communications cable is not wired exactly as shown in our cable assembly instructions, damage to the HMI or loss of communications can result.

## Description

The ASCII Slave protocol allows a Host to read values from and write values to the HMIs internal LW (Local Word) and LB (Local Bit) devices. With this protocol, the HMI is the slave, so the Host is the master and must control both reading from and writing to the HMI. This protocol is a silent protocol and it will not initiate communication except after it receives a command.

### REVISION HISTORY:

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| [Pds]hmi500AsciiDriver V3.0 | 12/01/2004 - Corrected the multi-HMI response error  |
| [Pds]hmi500AsciiDriver V2.0 | 02/27/2004 - Added "Parameter #5" to be used for determining the HMI station address. Corrected "System Severe Error 10001" problem. |

# Accessible HMI Memory

## Register Memory

The following table lists the HMI's register memory ranges that the Host can read/write.

Register Type	Address Range	Format	PLC Register Description
LW	0 - 8999	dddd	General Use Local Words
LW	9000 - 9999	dddd	Reserved Local Words <sup>1</sup>

## Discrete Memory

The following table lists the HMI's discrete memory ranges that the Host can read/write.

Register Type	Address Range	Format	PLC Register Description
LB	0 - 8999	dddd (d=decimal)	General Use Local Bits
LB	9000 - 9999	dddd (d=decimal)	Reserved Local Bits <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **NOTE:** These addresses are reserved for use by the HMI, and should only be used for their intended purpose. Refer to the "Silver Series Installation and Operation Manual" for a detailed list of these registers.

# EZware-500 Settings

The following table lists the communications settings that must be configured in EZware-500. These settings can be found in the Edit-Set System Parameters menu under the PLC tab. Please note:

- the **Options** column lists EZware-500's options; your controller may not support every option

Name	Recommended Settings	Options	Important Notes
PLC type:	[pds]hmi500ascii_driver Ver X.X		Use highest version for new projects.
Serial port I/F:	RS232	RS232, RS485 2W, RS485 4W	Must match port on the host
Baud Rate:	9600	9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200	Must match the host port setting.
Data Bits:	8	7 or 8	Must match the host port setting.
Parity:	None	Even, Odd, None	Must match the host port setting.
Stop Bits:	1	1 or 2	Must match the host port setting.
HMI station No.:	N/A	N/A	Not used
PLC station No.:	N/A	N/A	Not used
Multiple HMI:	Disable	Disable, Master, Slave	use for multiple HMIs
HMI-HMI link speed:	38400	4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 115200	use for multiple HMIs
PLC time out constant (sec)	3.0	1.5 to 5.0	adjust if longer timeout is required
PLC block pack:	0	0-10	see <i>Silver Series Installation and Operation Manual</i>
Parameter 1**	0	0, 1	RS485 Mode (For EasyBuilder V2.3.0 and higher, set this to 0, otherwise:) 0=Full Duplex (RS422/4-Wire) 1=Half Duplex (RS-485/2-Wire)
Parameter 2 <sup>±</sup>	0	0-999	Turn Around Delay (mSec)

Name	Recommended Settings	Options	Important Notes
Parameter 3	0	0, 1	<p>Protocol Mode:</p> <p><b>0</b> = Robust,(the protocol uses the non-printable characters STX (02H) and ETX (03H), ACK (06H), and NAK (15H); and includes a 2-byte checksum.)</p> <p><b>1</b> = Simple (Some Host devices (such as some Motion Controllers) are not capable of generating the non-printable characters, or calculating the checksum. In this mode, the data packets are formed as defined in this document, but do not include the STX, ACK, ETX, NAK, or checksum. The packet sent by the host should have a CR (0x0D) at the end of the packet, and the packet sent by the HMI should also have a CR at the end.)</p>
Parameter 4	0	0, 1	<p>Sets whether or not the HMI responds to <b>Write</b> commands.</p> <p><b>0</b> = Responses On,  <b>1</b> = Responses Off</p> <p>Note: If set to 1, the Turn Around Delay setting (Parameter 2) has no affect.</p>
Parameter 5	1	0-255	<p>HMI Station ID #  (ASCII Driver V2.0 or newer)</p>

\*\* This parameter is ignored if RS232 is selected as the PLC I/F port.

± This parameter is ignored if Parameter 4 is set to 1.

# Network Support

## **Wiring**

This ASCII slave protocol shall support network wiring using RS485 2-Wire(Half Duplex) or 4-Wire(Full Duplex) communications based on the setting of the PLC I/F port.

## **Addressing**

This protocol shall support multiple HMIs. Each unit individual unit must have a separate unique ID# stored in parameter #5. Valid station addresses are from 1 to 255. Station address 0 should not be used as a fixed station ID as this station address may be used for the host to send a broadcast message.

## **Broadcast Messages**

When a slave HMI receives a command with a station address of 0, it shall be considered a broadcast message. Broadcast messages shall be processed by the HMI, regardless of the HMI's set station ID number. The HMI will process the command, but it will issue a reply message, regardless of the setting of parameter #4.

# Protocol Description

## **Command List**

<b>Mnemonic</b>	<b>Command Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
RD	Batch Read	Reads specific data in a contiguous block
WD	Batch Write	Writes specific data in a contiguous block
RR	Random Read	Reads data from multiple, non-consecutive registers
RW	Random Write	Writes data to multiple, non-consecutive registers
RC	Read Coil	Reads the specified coils in a contiguous block
WC	Write Coil	Writes the specified coils in a contiguous block

## **Command Details**

Command requests and replies are issued as a series of ASCII coded characters, except for items specified in between the '<' '>' (greater than, less than brackets). The items that are signified by the <> brackets are hexadecimal, non-printable characters. (I.e. <STX> = hex 0x02 = 02H).

## RD (Batch Read)

### RD Request:

This command reads up to 99 consecutive 16-bit items from the HMI's 'LW' memory area. The command is always 14 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4, 5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10, 11	Byte 12	Bytes 13, 14
<STX>	Station	RD	Addr.	Number of items	<ETX>	Checksum
1 Byte	2 Bytes	2 Bytes	4 Bytes	2 Bytes	1 Byte	2 Bytes
HEX	ASCII-Hex#	ASCII	ASCII-Dec#	ASCII-Dec#	HEX	ASCII-Hex#

Byte 1: Always STX (1 byte hexadecimal value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to read (two ASCII characters representing a HEX value)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute (two ASCII characters 'RD' = 52H,44H)

Bytes 6-9: This is the starting address to read from. Must be 4 bytes long, (4 ASCII characters representing a decimal value)

Bytes 10, 11: This the number of addresses to read, up to 99. Must be 2 bytes long. (2 ASCII characters representing a decimal value)

Byte 12: Always ETX (1 byte hexadecimal value: 0x03)

Bytes 13, 14: The checksum is the lowest 8 bits (1 byte) of the sum of bytes 2 through 12. This checksum result is entered onto the end of the packet as (2) ASCII characters representing a 1 byte hexadecimal value.

**Batch Read (RD) Request Example:** Read three words starting from address LW100, from the HMI at station 10 (0AH). This will read addresses LW100 – LW102.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4, 5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10, 11	Byte 12	Bytes 13, 14
<STX>	0A	'RD'	0100	03	<ETX>	2E
02	30,41	52,44	30,31,30,30	30,33	03	32,45

The checksum (bytes 13 and 14) is calculated as the lowest 8 bits (2 hex digits) of the sum of the hexadecimal values for bytes 2 – 12. The result is then entered as two ASCII characters that represent the last two hexadecimal digits.

$$30 + 41 + 52 + 44 + 30 + 31 + 30 + 30 + 30 + 33 + 03 = 22E.$$

The lowest 8 bits of the result returns 2E. So the Checksum entered is ASCII '2' & 'E' or 32 & 45.

### RD Reply:

The reply length is:  $L = (N * 4) + 8$

Where: N = the number of requested registers

If the batch read command is successful, the reply length will be at least 12 bytes, but could be as long as 404 bytes. It consists of the STX, followed by four bytes for each requested device, then the ETX and Checksum.

Byte 1	Bytes 2, 3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-13	Bytes 14-17	Bytes 18 - (L-7)	Bytes (L-6) - (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	CMD	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3	Data 4 – Data (N-1)	Data N	<ETX>	Checksum

The above example returns the following, assuming the HMI contains the following data:

Address	Data
100	75 (4B Hex)
101	8047 (1F6F Hex)
102	16,321 (3FC1Hex)

The following is the reply packet sent from the HMI:

<STX>	'0'	'A'	'R'	'D'	'0'	'0'	'4'	'B'	'1'
02H	30H	41H	52H	44H	30H	30H	34H	42H	31H

'F'	'6'	'F'	'3'	'F'	'C'	'1'	<ETX>	'C'	'1'
46H	36H	48H	33H	46H	43H	31H	02H	43H	31H

The data values in each requested register are returned in an ASCII representation of the hexadecimal value. The checksum is calculated on bytes 2 – (L-2).

### Reply (ERROR):

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'R', 'D'	Err Code <sup>#</sup>

# - See appendix A for a list of error codes.

Phone: 425/745-3229 · Fax: 425/745-3429 · E-mail: [maple@maple-systems.com](mailto:maple@maple-systems.com) · URL: [www.maple-systems.com](http://www.maple-systems.com)



# WD (Batch Write)

## WD Request

This command writes up to 99 consecutive 16-bit items to the HMI’s LW memory area. The length of the command is:

$$L = (N * 4) + 14$$

Where N = the number of registers to write. The command will be at least 18 bytes long, but can be up to 410 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2, 3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-11	Bytes 12-15	Bytes 16-19	Bytes 20 - (L-7)	Bytes (L-6) - (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	'WD'	Addr.	No. of items	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3 – Data (N-1)	Data N	<ETX>	Checksum

Byte 1: Always <STX> (1 byte hexadecimal value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to write (2 characters of 2 hex digits)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute ('WD' or 57H,44H)

Bytes 4-7: This is the starting address (Must be characters of 4 decimal digits).

Bytes 8, 9: This is the number of registers to write to (Must be characters of 2 decimal digits).

Bytes 10 – (L-3): The data to write. Up to 99 items, each data item takes four bytes and they are characters of the hexadecimal value.

Byte (L-2): Always <ETX> (1 byte hexadecimal value 0x03).

Bytes L-1, L: Checksum. The checksum is calculated on bytes 2 – (L-2). (Characters of 2 hex digits)

**Batch Write (WD) Request Example:** Write 3 words starting from address LW201, to the HMI at station 17 (11H). This will write to addresses LW201, LW202, and LW203.

LW201 = 101 (0x65)  
 LW202 = 575 (0x23F)  
 LW203 = 1049 (0x419)

Byte 1	Bytes 2, 3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-11	Bytes 12-15	Bytes 16-19	Bytes 20 - 23	Byte 24	Byte 25, 26
<STX>	Station	WD	0201	03	0065	023F	0419	<ETX>	9A
02	31,31	57,44	30,32, 30,31	30,33	30,30,36,35	30,32,33,46	30,34,31, 39	03	39,41



The checksum (bytes 25 and 26) is calculated as the lowest 8 bits of the sum of the Hex codes for bytes 2 – 24.

$31 + 31 + 57 + 44 + 30 + 32 + 30 + 31 + 30 + 33 + 30 + 30 + 36 + 35 + 30 + 32 + 33 + 46 + 30 + 34 + 31 + 39 + 03 = 49A$ .

The lowest 8 bits of the result returns **9A**.

## WD Reply

If the command is successful, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5
<ACK>	Station	'W', 'D'

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'W', 'D'	Err Code

## RR (Random Read)

### RR Request

This command reads up to 99 independently-addressed 16-bit items from the HMI's LW memory area. The length of the command is

$$L = (N * 4) + 8$$

Where N = the number of requested devices

The command will be at least 12 bytes long, but can be up to 404 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-13	Bytes 14 - (L-7)	Bytes (L-6) - (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	'RR'	Addr 1	Addr 2	Addr 3 – Addr (N-1)	Addr N	<ETX>	Checksum

Byte 1: Always <STX> (hexidecimal value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to read (2 chars of 2 hex digits)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute ('RR' or 52H, 52H)

Bytes 6-9: This is the first address from which to retrieve data. (4 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 10, 13: This is the second address from which to retrieve data. (4 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 14 – (L-7): The remaining addresses from which to retrieve data. Each address must be 4 chars of decimal values.

Byte (L-2): Always ETX (hex value 0x03).

Bytes L-1, L: Checksum, calculated as the lower 8 bits(2 hex digits) of the sum of bytes 2 – (L-2). (2 ASCII characters of hexadecimal result)

## RR Reply

If successful, the reply length is

$$L = (N * 4) + 10$$

Where N = the number of requested devices

If successful, the reply length will be at least 12 bytes, but can be up to 406 bytes. It consists of the STX, followed by four bytes for each requested device, then the ETX and Checksum.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-13	Bytes 14-17	Bytes 15 - (L-7)	Bytes (L-6) - (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	CMD	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3	Data 4 – Data (N-1)	Data N	<ETX>	Check-sum

The values in each requested device are returned in Hex. The checksum is calculated as the lower 8 bits of the sum of bytes 2 – (L-2).

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'R', 'R'	Err Code

## RW (Random Write)

### RW Request

This command writes up to 99 independently-addressed 16-bit items to the HMI's LW memory area. The length of the command is:  $L = (N * 8) + 8$

Where N = the number of requested devices

The command will be at least 16 bytes long, but can be up to 800 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-13	Bytes 14-17
<STX>	Station	'RW'	Addr 1	Data 1	Addr 2

Bytes 18-21	Bytes (L-10) - (L-7)	Bytes (L-6) - (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
Data 2	Addr N	Data N	<ETX>	checksum

Byte 1: Always <STX> (hex value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to read (2 chars of hexadecimal value)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute ('RW' or 52H,57H)

Bytes 6-9: This is the first address to write data to. (4 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 10-13: This is the data to write to the address specified by the previous 4 bytes. (4 chars of hexadecimal values)

Bytes 14 – (L-3): The remaining addresses and data to write to the HMI. Each address and data item must be 4 bytes long with the address as 4 chars of a decimal value and the data as 4 chars of hexadecimal value.

Byte (L-2): Always <ETX> (hex value 0x03).

Bytes L-1, L: Checksum, calculated as the lower 8 bits of the sum of bytes 2 – (L-2). (2 chars of hex value)

## **RW Reply**

If the command is successful, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5
<ACK>	Station	'R', 'W'

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'R', 'W'	Err Code

## **RC (Read Coils)**

### **RC Request**

This command reads up to 99 consecutive coils from the HMI's 'LB' memory area. The command is always 14 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10, 11	Byte 12	Bytes 13, 14
<STX>	Station	'RC'	Addr.	No. of items	<ETX>	Checksum

Byte 1: Always <STX> (hex value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to read (2 chars of hex value)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute ('RC' = 52H,43H)

Bytes 6-9: This is the starting address to read from. (4 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 10, 11: This the number of coils to read, up to 99. (2 chars of decimal value).

Byte 12: Always <ETX> (0x03)

Bytes 13, 14: The checksum is the lowest 8 bits of the sum of bytes 2 through 12.

**Example:** Read 12 coils starting from address LB100, from the HMI at Station 7. This will read coils LB100 – LB111.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10, 11	Byte 12	Bytes 13, 14
<STX>	07	'RC'	0100	12	<ETX>	22
02	30,37	52,43	30,31,30,30	30,32	03	32,32

The checksum (bytes 13 and 14) is calculated as the lowest 8 bits of the sum of the Hex codes for bytes 2 – 12.

$$30 + 37 + 52 + 43 + 30 + 31 + 30 + 30 + 30 + 32 + 03 = 222.$$

The lowest 8 bits of the result returns 22.

### RC Reply

The reply length is:  $L = N + 8$

Where N = the number of requested devices

If the command is successful, the reply length will be at least 9 bytes, but could be as long as 107 bytes. It consists of the STX, followed by one byte for each requested device, then the ETX and Checksum.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Byte 6	Byte 7	Byte 8	Bytes 9 - (L-4)	Byte (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	RC	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3	Data 4 – Data (N-1)	Data N	<ETX>	Check-sum

If the HMI contains the following data:

100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111
0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1

Then, the following data is returned:

<STX>	'0'	'7'	'R'	'C'	'0'	'0'	'1'	'0'	'1'	'0'	'1'	'1'	'0'	'0'	'0'
02H	30H	37H	52H	43H	30H	30H	31H	30H	31H	30H	31H	31H	30H	30H	30H

'1'	<ETX>	'4'	'4'
31H	03H	34H	34H

The values in each requested device are returned in an ASCII representation of the hexadecimal result. The checksum is calculated on bytes 2 – (L-2).

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Byte 2,3	Byte 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'R', 'C'	Err Code

## WC (Write Coils)

### WC Request

This command writes up to 99 consecutive coils to the HMI's 'LB' memory area. The length of the command is:  $L = N + 14$

Where N = the number of requested devices

The command will be at least 15 bytes long, but can be up to 113 bytes long.

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-11	Byte 12	Byte 13	Bytes 14 - (L-4)	Byte (L-3)	Byte L-2	Byte L-1, L
<STX>	Station	WC	Addr.	No. of items	Data 1	Data 2	Data 3 - Data (N-1)	Data N	<ETX>	Check-sum

Byte 1: Always STX (hex value 0x02)

Bytes 2, 3: The Station Number of the HMI to read (2 chars of hexadecimal value)

Bytes 4, 5: The command to execute ('WC' = 57H, 43H)

Bytes 6-9: This is the starting address to write to. (4 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 10, 11: This the number of addresses to write. (2 chars of decimal value)

Bytes 12 – (L-3): The data to write. Up to 99 items, (1 char of a binary digit [0,1]for each address.

Byte (L-2): Always ETX (hex value 0x03).

Bytes L-1, L: Checksum (2 char of hexadecimal value)

**Example:** Write 5 bits starting from address LB214 to the HMI at station 12. This will write to addresses LB214 – LB218.

Write the following data:

214	215	216	217	218
1	1	0	0	1

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Bytes 6-9	Bytes 10-11	Byte 12	Byte 13	Byte 14	Byte 15	Byte 16	Byte 17	Byte 18,19
STX	0C	WC	0214	05	1	1	0	0	1	ETX	
02	30,43	57,43	30,32,31,34	30,35	31	31	30	30	31	03	

The checksum (bytes 18 and 19) is calculated as the lowest 8 bits of the sum of the Hex codes for bytes 2 – 17.

$$30 + 43 + 57 + 43 + 30 + 32 + 31 + 34 + 30 + 35 + 31 + 31 + 30 + 30 + 31 + 03 = 32F.$$

The lowest 8 bits of the result returns 2F.

### **WC Reply**

If the command is successful, the reply is:

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5
<ACK>	Station	'W', 'C'

In the event of an error, the reply is:

Byte 1	Bytes 2,3	Bytes 4,5	Byte 6
<NAK>	Station	'W', 'C'	Err. Code



# Appendix A - Error Codes

The following table lists the error conditions, and the Error Codes returned for those errors.

<b>Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
06H	Invalid Checksum
10H	Unknown Command
11H	Data Length Error – data overflowed receive buffer
12H	Communication Data Error – ETX not found
7AH	Illegal Address
7BH	More than 99 data items were requested

# Appendix B - Programming Example

The following BASIC code is typical of what might be found in a controller that uses ASCII commands for communication.

Please note that your controller may have different commands or syntax than what is shown below. Some of the variable names may be keywords in your controller, and will have to be changed for your application.

## Using the RD command

This sample shows a simple example of how to program for ASCII communications with the HMI. The first routine shows how to construct the string to send the 'RD' command to the HMI. The second routine shows how to process the data returned from the HMI.

### ' RD Example - send command to the HMI

```
Dim AS$
Dim I
Dim CS
Dim STX$
Dim Cmd$
Dim StationID$
Dim Addr$
Dim Size$
Dim ETX$

STX$ = Chr$(2) ' ASCII "STX" character
StationID$ = "0A" ' number 10 in hexadecimal (must be 2 characters)
Cmd$ = "RD" ' RD command
Addr$ = "0100" ' LW word to start reading from (must be 4 characters)
Size$ = "03" ' number of items to read (must be 2 characters)
ETX$ = Chr$(3) ' ASCII "ETX" character

' assemble the packet
A$ = STX$ + StationID$ + Cmd$ + Addr$ + Size$ + ETX$

' note that this command could also be built like this:
' A$ = Chr$(2) + "0ARD010003" + Chr$(3)

' get the checksum
' The checksum is lowest 8 bits of the arithmetic sum of the Ascii codes of the second through the last characters in the string.
For I = 2 To 12 ' there are always 12 bytes for the RD command
  CS = CS + Asc(Mid$(A$, I, 1)) ' first, add up the characters
Next I

CS = CS And 255 ' now get the lowest 8 bits
A$ = A$ + Chr$(CS) ' append the checksum to the packet

' put here the code to send A$ out the port

End
```

## ' RD Example - process the data received from the HMI

```
Dim A$
Dim CS$
Dim Value$
Dim Values(3)
Dim I, CS1, CS2, DB, C

' put here the code to get the contents
' of the port and store it in A$

' check length
If Len(A$) < 12 ' valid reply will be at least 12 bytes long
  ' take required steps
End If

' check for STX...
If Left$(A$, 1) <> Chr$(2) Then ' second byte should be STX
  ' Take required steps
End If

' check for ETX...
If Mid$(A$, Len(A$) - 3, 1) <> Chr$(3) Then ' third -to-last byte should be ETX
  ' Take required steps
End If

' check the checksum, always the last 2 bytes of the packet
CS$ = Right$(A$, 2) ' checksum as a string
CS1 = Val("&H" & CS) ' checksum as a numeric value

' calculate what the checksum should be
For I = 2 To Len(A$)
  CS2 = CS2 + Asc(Mid$(A$, I, 1))
Next I

CS2 = CS2 And 255 ' get the lowest 8 bits

' compare the 2 checksums
If CS1 = CS2 Then ' they are equal, so parse out the data

  ' get the number of data bytes
  DB = Len(A$) - 8 ' there are 8 overhead bytes in the packet
  C = 1 ' first location in the Values array

  ' get each set of 4 bytes, and extract the values
  For I = 1 To DB Step 4

    ' values are in Hexadecimal format, and start at the 6th byte
    Values(C) = Val("&H" + Mid$(A$, I+5, 4))

    C = C + 1 ' next element in the Values array
  Next I

Else ' checksums are not equal
  ' Take necessary steps
End If
End
```