

DATRAN VI

Product Release Notice DATRAN VI v6.74

April 2019





April 2019.....	1
Contact QTech.....	3
Revision Details.....	3
Introduction	4
The Benefits of Upgrading	4
This Release	5
Prerequisites for Upgrade.....	5
Summary of New Features and Modifications.....	5
Summary of Issues Resolved.....	6
Disclaimer	7
Ongoing Support	7



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Contact QTech

QTech Data Systems Limited

12 Midas Place, Middleton

Christchurch 8024

New Zealand

Phone: +64-3-366-3713

Fax: +64-3-365-2815

www.qtech.co.nz

Revision Details

1.0 April 2019

Initial Issue for 6.74

Introduction

DATRAN VI version 6.74 is now available and is provided to all software maintenance agreement (SMA) holders.

Please log in to the Members section of the QTech website to download this software.

This version is an exciting and significant upgrade with many new features and enhancements.



A minimum of DATRAN v6.71.0 is a prerequisite for the use and integration of the new DATRAN XL4 *Plus* RTUs onto your SCADA system.

A Getting Started Guide is also provided to step you through the installation and help ensure a seamless introduction of the upgrade.

Your feedback on the product and possible future enhancements is always appreciated, so please do not hesitate to contact QTech on +64 3 366 3713 or email it to techsupport@qtech.co.nz.

The Benefits of Upgrading

Software and hardware is continually evolving. Many of our customers have been using DATRAN for over 25 years, and it has remained a stable product on a variety of platforms, from the early DOS days, to the current Windows Operating Systems.

DATRAN VI is a major evolution of our early products and we feel that it combines the best of the features from all these products, along with a quality control program used to manage its development and release that is essential for software being used in the roles that DATRAN is used.

For all DATRAN VI users with a current SMA, this upgrade is available to download from the members section of our website.

We strongly recommend that all systems are updated to the current release, and suggest to DATRAN VI users without Software Maintenance Agreements (SMA) that they consider this significant upgrade, as this release will be where QTech is able to focus its direct support.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to DATRAN.

The DATRAN team

This Release

The following sections detail the new features and user requested enhancements in this version of DATRAN VI. We have also resolved a number of requested tweaks and bug fixes. Please keep these improvement suggestions coming.

Prerequisites for Upgrade

Prior to upgrading to DATRAN VI v6.74 from any previous version, the following should be considered:

- If your current installation is older than v6.52, please contact us as there are additional tasks required to perform the migration.
- It is important that any sites that have RTUs with firmware older than v7.0 do not have any point count values of 255. If they do then either disable the site, upgrade the firmware, or set the point count value to 254, for example.

Summary of New Features and Modifications

This version:

- adds SMS Direct capability to emulate display and control of nodes by phone as per the Datashed interface
- fixes issues with the handling of long site names and wildcards
- adds support for floating point and double functions

QTech Id	Category	Summary of changes made
6785	SMS Direct	Add SMS commands to query, set, etc. TreeBase nodes similarly to XDI/Datashed
6843	XDI - XML Service	Notify clients about new nodes being exposed
6854	Derived Value Generator	Add a Float() and Double() functions

Float() and Double() Functions in the DVG

The addition of Float and double functions provides a way to collect floating point data from a field, e.g. a modbus slave device. In the case that triggered this feature request the collected data is provided by the device through 2 modbus registers that hold the MSB and LSB of an IEEE-754 represented floating point number. The added feature should be able to use 2 arbitrary tree base nodes to make a single IEEE-754 float number. Similarly, the new feature provides methods that use 4 arbitrary tree base nodes to make an IEEE-754 double precision float number.

SMS Direct feature additions

Traditionally access to DATRAN nodes to view or change node data was provided via the XML Data Interchange facility over the Datashed SMS Gateway. This enabled simple manipulation of data using a mobile phone or similar device. This facility has now been ported across to the SMS Direct Interface enabling peer to peer connection from a phone instead of using the gateway. This also enables mobile enabled devices such as tablets to also view and control DATRAN site data.

Summary of Issues Resolved

The following issues have been resolved since the base version of DATRAN VI v6.73.

ID	Category	Summary
6862	XDI - SMS Service	SMS service fails to failback to SMS Direct if no connection to Datashed has been detected yet

6862: This fixes a problem where alarm annunciations could be lost if the connection to Datashed is abruptly lost. The link status to Datashed is ascertained by regular polling approximately every minute but if an alarm is raised in the interim the link state is not checked immediately prior to sending the message to Datashed. If the link is down (e.g. by removing the ethernet cable to the RTU) DATRAN might attempt to use the connection nonetheless. The fix tests the connection and sets the interface to a disconnected state and re-annunciates the alarm which will then fail over correctly.

Disclaimer

While every endeavour has been made to ensure that the product description is accurate, details are subject to change. QTech Data Systems Ltd reserves the right to alter the system specifications if required. It is our firm intention to continue to develop the features of the DATRAN VI product range and add additional modules.

QTech Data Systems Ltd does not warrant the suitability of this product for any particular application as the conditions in which it is used are beyond our control. This is not withstanding warranty of merchantability.

Increasingly, systems are being connected to the Internet. QTech Data Systems Ltd cannot guarantee these services will be available or functional 100% of the time, because the integrity of network connections is beyond our control.

Ongoing Support

QTech Data Systems Ltd encourages clients to configure their systems to allow remote access via a directly connected modem or internet based VPN. This allows for off-site support from either QTech Data Systems Ltd staff, or in-house staff outside of work hours.

DATRAN is a registered trademark of QTech Data Systems Ltd.