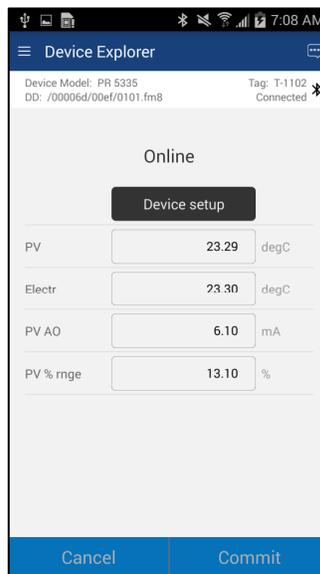

Advantages of a Mobile App Based HART Communicator

Introduction

It's now time to upgrade to a new HART Communicator. Your old hand held HART Communicator is obsolete and receives limited support. You shop around and find that it costs between \$3000 and \$7000 for a new hand held HART Communicator. A Google search reveals mobile based App alternatives. Will the mobile App perform as required? What should you look for?

The PC based HART Communicator has been around for many years, but until recently it has not been a true “hand held” HART communicator. The main reason is that Windows devices are large, power hungry, and no Windows based mobile phone exists. The mobile device App revolution has taken care of those problems and now is a good time to review the capabilities of a mobile App based HART Communicator.



Sample Root Menu in DevComDroid, Smart Device Communicator

BYOD (Bring Your Own Device)

A key advantage of a mobile App solution over traditional hand held HART Communicators is that you can use the mobile device you already own. In addition to already owning the main piece of hardware required, it is typically upgraded every couple of years for a very low cost (if not for free). You are continuously getting more features and more processing power without any effort.

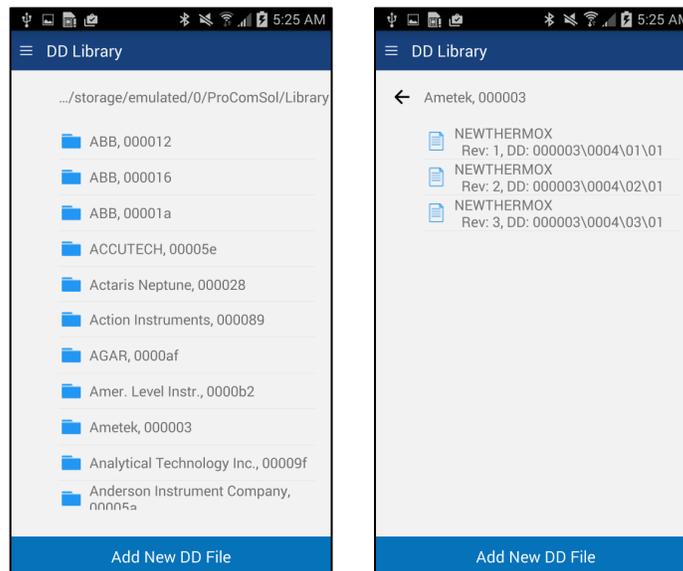
Today's mobile devices are cheap enough that spares are easily available. Even if a device replacement is required, same day turns are often possible. Damaging a special hardware device like a traditional HART communicator could take days, or even weeks to replace.

Hardened mobile devices are available for extra protection. There are even mobile devices rated for hazardous areas.

Device Descriptions (DD's)

The key criterion is that the mobile App must be “DD based”. This means the mobile App uses the HART Device’s DD binary file to present menus, variables, and methods. The HART device manufacture spent a considerable amount of time developing the DD so that the full functionality of the device is available to the user. The DD was tested extensively before release to the FieldComm Group DD Library. This DD is the only approved way to interface to a HART device.

Unless you have full DD access to the HART device, you may be stuck in the field without the ability to change a necessary parameter or perform a calibration on the HART device.



DD Library Details in DevComDroid

Ease of Updating

Once you have established that the candidate mobile App based HART Communicator is DD based, you can look deeper into other criteria. One is the DD Library itself. The registered DD Library is updated four times per year by the FieldComm Group (FCG). Does the mobile App contain all devices released by the FCG? Is it easy (and inexpensive) to update the library? Some hand held HART communicators are extremely difficult and expensive to update. Mobile App based HART Communicators can take advantage of push notifications and automatic updates to maintain the library.

Single Function vs. Multi-function

Traditional hand held HART Communicators can only perform one function - HART Communications. A mobile App based solution offers the advantage of having all your needs met with one tool: Email, user manuals, operating procedures, reports, contact database, etc. are all available on your mobile device. In fact HART Communications on

Conclusion

With the advent of the mobile App revolution, truly “hand held” HART Communicators are now a reality. Make sure the mobile App is DD based, easy to update, and can save and write device configurations.

All Apps in th DevCom family of Smart Device Communicator Apps from ProComSol, Ltd are DD based. DevCom mobile Apps are available for both Android and iOS. They are feature rich, stable, and reliable. They offer full configuration saves and downloads. Configuration reports are easy to read and distribute via PDF files that are customizable. They use HART Bluetooth modems, and the DD Library is easy to update. Contact ProComSol for more information.

ProComSol, Ltd Contact:

Irena Wasylyk, Technical Sales
13001 Athens Ave
Suite 220
Lakewood, OH 44107
Phone: 216.221.1550
Email: sales@procomsol.com
Web: www.procomsol.com

HART Expert Ltd

14, St. Patricks Court, Brockworth,
Gloucestershire
GL3 4NT
Phone: 07966 233639
Email: info@HART-Expert.co.uk
Web: www.HART-Expert.co.uk