



TECH FAX

TFN: 090201

To: All Fire Alarm Technicians

From: EST Technical Services

Date: September 30, 2002

Topic: EST3 Signature Controller Application Code and Boot Code Update

Introduction

EST has identified some field situations that could adversely affect Signature Series device operation. Unwarranted alarms can result from installing Signature devices in areas that "exceed" the environmental specification of the devices, or from exposing the devices to water. (Refer to the device installation sheets for environmental specifications.)

New Signature Controller application code has been created to minimize the effect of moisture on Signature devices and to improve Signature communications. This code is available for use with the 3-SSDC and 3-SDDC. We strongly recommend that all EST3 sites update to the new application microcode as a preventive measure.

Caution: To avoid possible controller failures during an upgrade, be sure to follow the instructions under the heading "Boot code upgrade" later in this Tech Fax *before* you start any download.

New Signature controller application code

In order to simplify updating the 3-SSDC or 3-SDDC application microcode, we have made the new code available in the versions listed below. After verifying that your boot code is version 2.1 or later, you need only update the application microcode on the 3-SSDC or 3-SDDC. No other changes are required. Update application microcode using following guidelines:

- Versions 1.5 or earlier are updated with version 1.52
- Version 2.0 is updated with version 2.1
- Versions 3.0 and 3.1 are updated with version 3.3

Getting the new microcode

Get a copy of the required microcode from the EST web site (www.est.net). The Microcode can be found by logging on to myEST and going to "In the News" or choosing "Download Product Info & Software" from the Search menu (select Software as the Category, then click Search). Save the downloaded files for import into your 3-SDU project.

Import the new microcode into the 3-SDU

To import the new microcode, choose Import MicroCode from the Options menu. Use the MicroCode Import dialog box to navigate to the downloaded files. Select the correct file and click Import.

Boot code upgrade

If your system has Signature controller boot code version earlier than 2.1 you **must** download the new boot code version to the controller devices **before** you download the application code.

Caution: In a small percentage of cases, updating version 2.0 or earlier of the 3-SSDC boot code may corrupt the 3-SSDC module. EST recommends having a spare 3-SSDC module with V2.1 (or later) boot code available should this occur. Modules corrupted during this process may be returned to EST using the Warranty RMA process, at no charge.

If your system has boot code versions earlier than version 2.1 and you are upgrading your boot code to version 3.0 or later, you must first take your boot code to version 2.1 as an intermediate step, and then upgrade to version 3.0 or later. This step significantly decreases any failure associated with upgrading the boot code.

After completing the boot code upgrade you will see an improvement in all types of download operation.

Download the new microcode to the EST3 system

Please follow the download sequence outlined in the SDU Online Help or in the release notes for the version of SDU that you are using.

Compatibility table

3-SSDC and 3-SDDC application microcode version 3.3 is supported by version 3.0 or later of the 3-SDU and version 3.0 or later of the 3-CPU1 application microcode.

3-SSDC and 3-SDDC application microcode version 2.1 is supported by version 2.0 or later of the 3-SDU and is compatible with versions 2.x of the 3-CPU1 application microcode.

3-SSDC and 3-SDDC application microcode version 1.52 is supported by versions 1.x, 2.x, and 3.x of the 3-SDU and is compatible with versions 1.x of the 3-CPU1 application microcode.