MONTAP

NLM3 Monitoring Tool (MON100) Application Software

The Tool for Network Reliability Monitoring & Diagnostic Analysis

The Challenge

The reliability and performance of the physical network layer in RS485 networks are often viewed as an unknown with little internal detail available for analysis.

With the common topology of a class A redundant network, an intermittent network fault could be introduced into the system with its occurrence unrecorded due to insufficient monitoring. This unrecorded event could result in network anomalies that could be misinterpreted, resulting in incorrect fault diagnosis.

The Solution

The Instance MONTAP Application and MON100 modules were derived from the need to isolate network faults relating to the physical layer.

The MONTAP application tool was specifically developed in collaboration with the UTCFS development engineers to provide the Fire Panel network engineers with the ability to rapidly recognise and diagnose physical errors on the network. The MONTAP Software tool is used in conjunction with the MON100 Instance module as a single solution. The MON100 module interfaces with the NLM3, a UTCFS product developed to meet the class A network redundancy requirements.

The software application can be used independently when interrogating data files recovered from the MON100 modules. The data files are loaded into the application and decoded, with the diagnostic detail presented to the user in one of the three formats, namely: Top Level network view, Node Analysis view and Event Record view with Report generation.

The Tool and its diagnostic capability provide the user with the ability to record events before, during and after each system maintenance exercise. These events can be presented in a report to provide an indication of the stability of the network by including detailed information captured in a time period preceding the fault recovery event.

The Graphical View

The MONTAP application provides for easy interpretation through basic topographical network views.

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Features

The MONTAP Application is available to the user in three versions.

- Top level network view. (MONTAP Lite Version) – Free with the purchase of an INSTANCE MON100 module

  The NLM3 Network Nodes are presented with fault mapping

  NLM3 Firmware Versions are reflected

  The fault recovery originator/s are presented
- Node Analysis View. (MONTAP Professional Version) – License per workstation

  Support for all MONTAP Lite features

  The detailed content of each node is decoded and presented to the user

  A graphical "Quick View" format of all the network data is presented

  The network data traffic preceding each Recovery Event is presented
- Event Record View with a Comprehensive Report Generation Option. (MONTAP Ultimate Version) - License per workstation

  Support for all MONTAP Pro features

  All Event records are presented with network stability indicators in tabulated format

  A comprehensive report including graphical detail for each recovery event

  A "Live Monitoring" feature supports the option to view network status from a central station

Benefits

Use of the MONTAP Software Application, along with the MON100 Modules, offers the user many benefits beyond that of a pure diagnostic nature.

Immediate benefits available to the user:

- Efficient cable fault detection and diagnosis
- System stability monitoring
- Support in commissioning (NLM3 Version management, NLM3 configuration mode confirmation, Wiring polarity verification, Network configuration monitoring e.g. double address indication, Signal attenuation monitoring – booster requirements, System stability confirmation)
- Support in maintenance monitoring (Log of all physical network alterations)
- CIE watchdog/power recycle monitoring
- Early identification of intermittent fault on network cards
- Preventative maintenance opportunity through monitoring the system stability over multiple maintenance exercises.

Instance MONTAP and MON100 for Network Monitoring

The software supports the option of real time monitoring of the network physical layer. This feature requires one MON100 module to be connected to each class ring. This module is then allocated to a dedicated communication port on a monitoring station (PC). The MONTAP Software Application can support multiple instances and hence multiple rings for monitoring.

About MONTAP Software

Minimum requirements

Operating System:

Windows XP(32 bit) or
Windows 7(32 bit compatibility mode)

Hardware:

Processor: Intel Core2 3 Ghz
Memory: 2048Mbytes (2Gb)
Hard disk: 160 Gb

Instance
Managing Data Xchange
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