MConnect- Quick Install Guide

1. Connect Power

The Power Cord is included in the box. MConnect requires 9-30 V DC at 1.5 A. The wire colors are:

Black : +ve
Brown : -ve
Blue : not used

A red LED on the top of the box will show when power is connected and will change to green/yellow when the program starts (this will take 10-20 seconds).

2. Connect to NMEA 2000 network.

Two networks may be connected. They will not be bridged by MConnect, but will be treated as a single logical network, i.e. Instance numbers must be unique across both networks. The unit will work using demo data without an NMEA 2000 connection; all the demo data uses instances 100 through 104. Green LEDs on the top of the box will flash when NMEA 2000 data is being received.

3. Connect Ethernet Cable

MConnect does not have a DHCP server, so it should be connected directly to a Router. The “LAN” LED will flash when the Ethernet is connected.

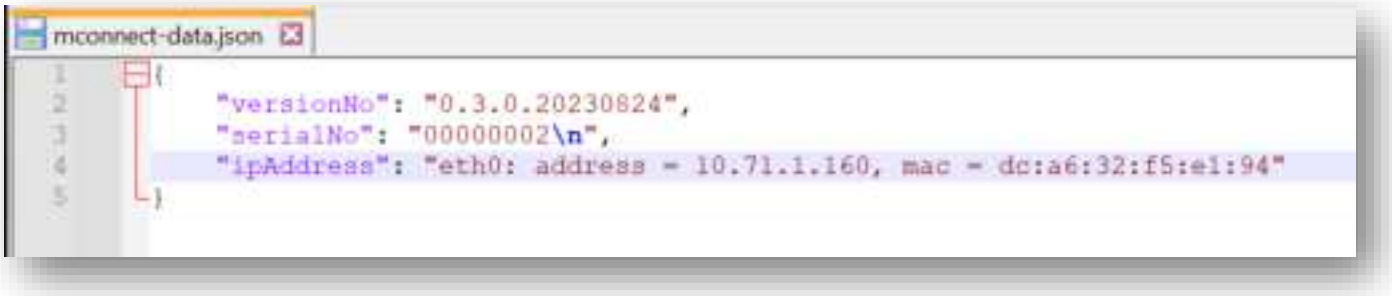
4. The MConnect URL

MConnect supports mDNS. Typing the URL **mconnect.local** in a web browser on a PC / Mac / tablet should resolve to the IP Address of the box.

If this does not work, insert a USB Drive into the port on the side of the box for 30 seconds. The “USB” LED on the top of the box should flash while the USB drive is inserted.

Note: If the “USB” LED does not flash, there is a chance that the USB is drawing more current than the USB chipset cab handle. If this happens, the USB chipset will shut down, and the box will need to be re-powered to start it up again. If this happens, try a different USB Drive or use a powered USB hub.

This will create a file **mconnect-data.json** on the root of the drive with the following contents:



Using web browser on a PC / Mac / tablet, type the URL (or the IP Address), and you should see the following screen:

Pressing the **Settings Menu** button will show the following options for dialogs. On screens that don’t have a Settings Menu button, a cog symbol will be displayed (normally at the top of the screen). Pressing the button will show the Dialog Menu:

Pressing the **Configuration** button will show the Configuration Dialog.

5. Configuration Dialog

The configuration dialog is used to select a configuration, and edit, import, and export configurations. Pressing the **Edit Configurations** button will bring up the MConnect editor in a new window.

The default configuration cannot be changed, so while edits may work, the save operation will not save them. Start with creating a **New Configuration** by pressing the New button in the CONFIGURATION dialog.

To see the list of Parameters that can be monitored, and components displayed on the screen, press the **Documentation** button at the top of the screen, and then the **Create MConnect Parameter File** button. This will create a html file and place it in your **Downloads** directory, where you can open it using a browser.

All user images that you need as backgrounds, or within gauges and buttons, need to be uploaded from your PC to MConnect using the **Image Manager** before they can be selected in the **Screens** editor.

For more details, see the full MConnect Manual, which can be downloaded from the Maretron Website https://www.maretron.com/products/mconnect/

6. Upgrading the Software

The new version of the software will be provided as a .zip file. Unzip the file to the root of a USB Drive and insert the USB Drive into the port on the side of the box. The “USB” LED on the top of the box should flash while the USB drive is inserted. Follow the instructions on the MConnect screen.

Note: If the “USB” LED does not flash, there is a chance that the USB is drawing more current than the USB chipset cab handle. If this happens, the USB chipset will shut down, and the box will need to be re-powered to start it up again. If this happens, try a different USB Drive or use a powered USB hub.

All the files are digitally signed; if any file has been changed, the update process will be aborted.

If the upgrade is configured to install automatically, the LEDs on the top of the box will flash one at a time in an oscillating up and down pattern, otherwise the user will be prompted to start the upgrade from a screen.