



COM Inspector™

Version 2.1

User Guide

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This document contains information that is PATENT PENDING

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OVERVIEW

COM Inspector™ is a serial communications test application designed to detect the current serial port settings of any DCE connected to an RS-232 port of a Microsoft Windows PC.

COM Inspector™ is a great tool for anyone who needs to connect to a serial device, but does not know what the current settings of the device may be. An example would be someone who needs to connect a logger or terminal to a modem, and needs to know the modem baud rate, parity, and stop bit settings so the terminal can be setup appropriately. Trying to do this assessment using a terminal program (such as HyperTerminal) can be tedious and time consuming. COM Inspector™ completely automates this process, working through the testing of every possible configuration array until it finds the correct one.

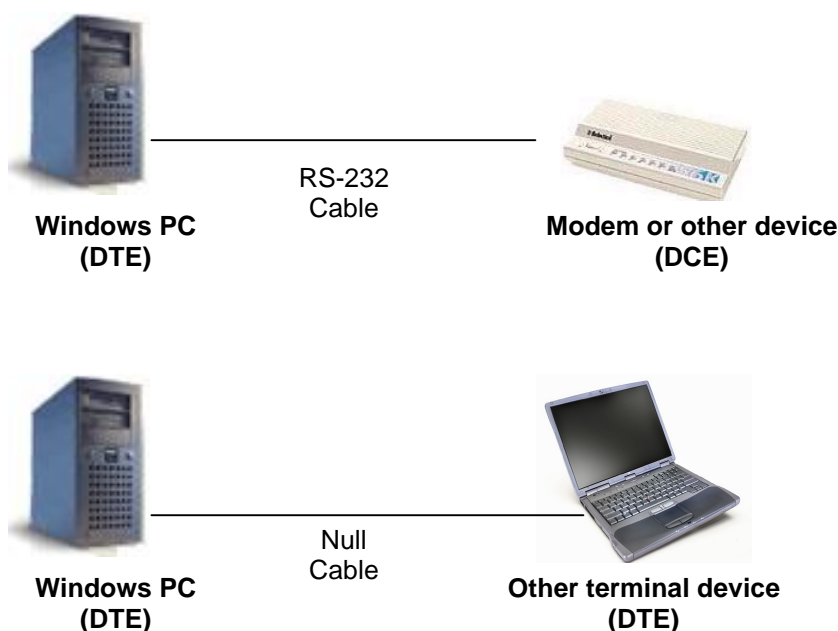
COM Inspector™ is perfect for serial device manufacturers or tech support personnel, network and telecom engineers, or data acquisition system technicians. COM Inspector™ eliminates the downtime experienced during device troubleshooting because it works in the background, letting you do something else while you wait for the results.

COM Inspector™ is great for:

- **Technical Support Staff**
- **Device Manufacturing Q/A**
- **SCADA/Telemetry Engineers**
- **Wireless Integrators**
- **Telecom Engineers**
- **Electronics Hobbyists**

HARDWARE SETUP

Connect your Windows PC to the serial device you want to test using an RS-232 serial cable. The PC (DTE) and device (DCE) connect using a standard (straight-thru) serial cable. For testing of a DTE (DTE-to-DTE connections) you will need to use a Null Adapter or Null Serial Cable.



SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

Install COM Inspector™ by downloading and unzipping the COM Inspector™ install package.

- Launch Setup.exe
- Accept the License Agreement
- Select the Destination Folder where the software will be installed
- The installer will complete the installation and automatically open the destination folder

Getting Started...

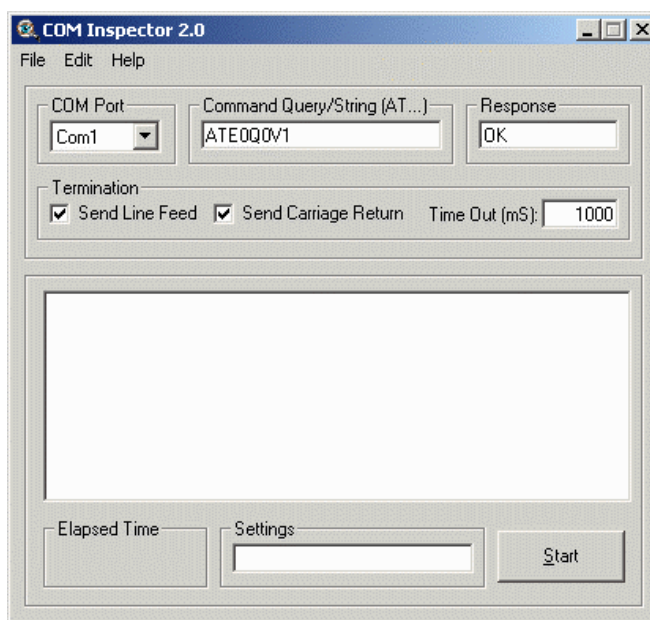
Begin setup by double-clicking the “COM Inspector™” icon. If you see this red highlighted alert screen, your version of software is unlicensed. An unlicensed version will only run for a period of 3 minutes before terminating.

Select OK and the software will open to the main screen/desktop. This is the only screen or window you will be using.

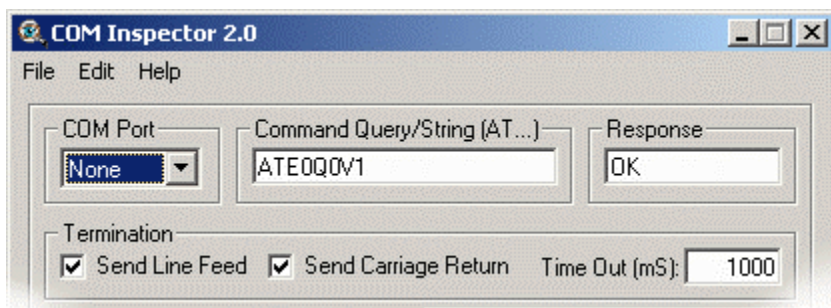


SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION

COM Inspector™ has a simple and intuitive user interface. There is no real configuration or ‘setup’ that needs to be done, as the main screen/desktop is where all the query parameters and results will be shown. This screen consists of **COM Port selection**, **Command Query String**, **Command Response**, **Command Termination Settings**, parameter display area, **elapsed time** and **results display**, and a **Start/Stop** button.



Begin by setting up the COM Port, Command Query, Response, and Termination settings.



COM Port:

- Serial Port to be monitored (where the RS-232 hardware is located).

Command Query/String (AT...):

- The Command string to be sent to the device (modem) to test for communications.
- This can be any ASCII text string you desire, but should be something simple
- The default is "ATE0Q0V1" (Echo Off, Quiet Mode Off, Verbose Responses On).

Command Response:

- The response you expect to receive from the device after sending the Command String
- This should again be something simple. The default is 'OK'.

Termination:

- The elements and timing after the Command/Query String. This includes:
 - o Line Feed
 - o Carriage Return
 - o Time Out (in milliseconds). This is the time to wait between queries. The default is 1000 (or 1 second). The maximum time is 65535.

Starting the test:

Hit the Start button to begin the test. COM Inspector™ will begin running through predetermined COM Port iterations until it receives the appropriate response.

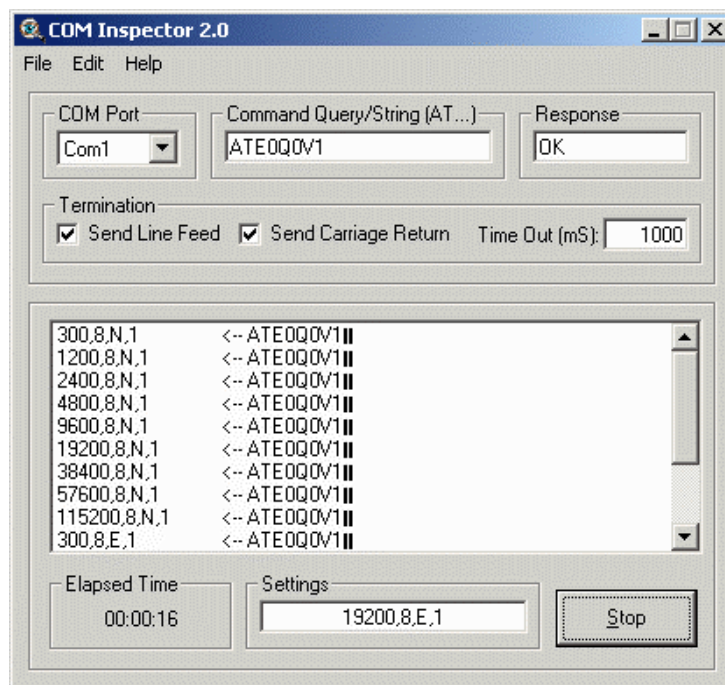
The settings included in the test iterations are as follows:

Baud Rates	Data Bits	Parity	Stop Bits
300	5	None	1
1200	6	Even	2
2400	7	Odd	
4800	8	Mark	
9600		Space	
19200			
38400			
57600			
115200			

TESTING

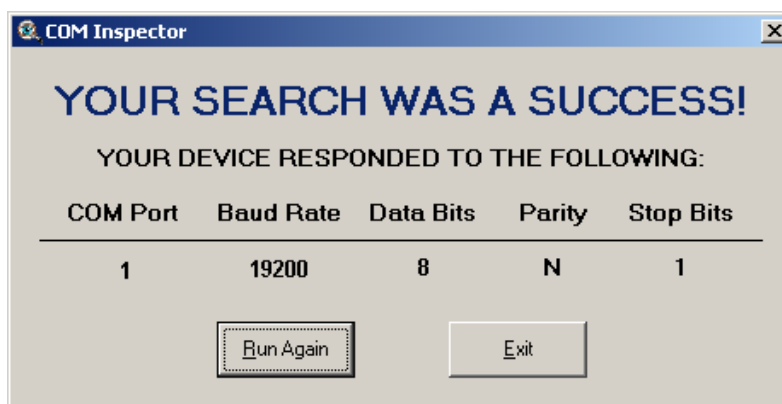
Test Display

When your test is running, you will see each tested iteration displayed in the list box. The display shows the setting used, the command query sent, and is followed by hash marks indicating the LF and or CR sent after the command string.



Results Display

When your test is complete, you will see a flashing results screen that looks like this.



The display shows the configuration of device the device as it responded to the Command Query. If you would like to change the configuration to something other than what you see, you will need to use a terminal program such as HyperTerminal. For further assistance, you can contact your COM Inspector™ dealer or contact us at support@SimpleComTools.com.

SOFTWARE LICENSING

To obtain a license, send the Serial Number shown on this screen to your SimpleComTools reseller and request a permanent license key.

If purchasing direct from SimpleComTools, enter the Serial Number shown on this screen in the appropriate field when completing your online transaction.

Questions about either process can be sent to Support@SimpleComTools.com.



Thanks for using COM Inspector!

- SimpleComTools, LLC