285X Remote Software Special Systems

A software system specifically designed for the remote control of a number of 2850 series transmission analyzers through a Windows 95 and NT Interface

- Windows 95 / NT compatible
- Telnet (TCP/IP), MODEM or Direct link options
- Simple to use Graphical User Interface with full on-line help
- Real time logging of test results with 10 second resolution
- Graphical, Tabular and Comma Separated Variable outputs
- Logging of stored results from instruments with 1 minute resolution
- The last 72 hours results can be recalled and stored during or after a test

This modular, user friendly software is a powerful addition to the 285X series of Digital Transmission Analyzers. It runs on both Windows 95 and NT platforms, and through its easily understood user interface, with its use of a mouse and pull-down menus, it provides a comprehensive, easy to use remote operation and results collection facility, enabling fast and efficient measurement analysis.

The software can be used to expand the instrument's capability by providing virtually unlimited storage of measurement results. It will be of particular interest to those working within design and development environments, and to those with long term test or monitoring applications, either local or remote.

This package enhances the operation of the 285X by providing three key facilities:

full remote control, storage of results during or after a test, and a comprehensive results display capability.

Communication

The software offers a choice of communication methods between the controlling PC and the 285X instruments, and the software parameters for each method can be quickly and easily set up. For a direct connection the user can configure the data structure to match that of the instrument. Similarly, modem communication can be used but is limited to one instrument at any one time. Alternatively the software supports TCP/IP communication over a LAN or WAN, in which case the connection with the remote instrumentation is achieved using terminal servers. When using this method multiple instruments can be connected at one or many sites.

Virtual Instruments

Through a unique terminal mode, multiple instruments can be simultaneously controlled and a virtual instrument representation of each can be displayed on a terminal. The physical location of each virtual instrument could be in different parts of the same building, or anywhere in the world, wherever the network requires.

Instrument control is provided through simple keyboard or mouse operation. The virtual instrument buttons operate exactly as those on the actual instrument. This negates the need for extra software and instrument training. Instrument responses are displayed on the virtual instrument's real-time viewing panel. The panel has a zoom function that allows for enhanced
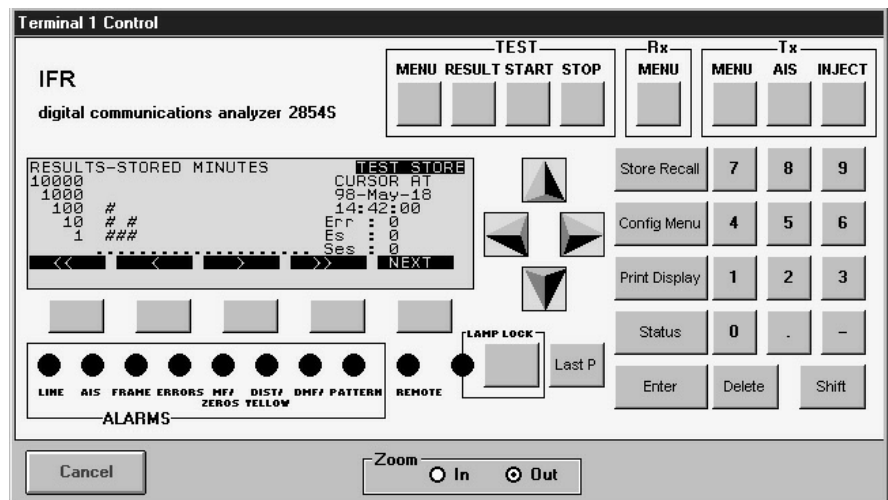
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view of the instrument.

Stored Results

On connecting to an instrument a check is made as to the status of any testing that is being performed. If a test is found to be running the operator is given the opportunity to stop the test and collect the results or to enter the virtual instrument mode to check on the status of the test. Should the operator choose to collect the results, either now or later, the results are transferred to the controller's local storage where they can be viewed in either a textual or enhanced graphical form.
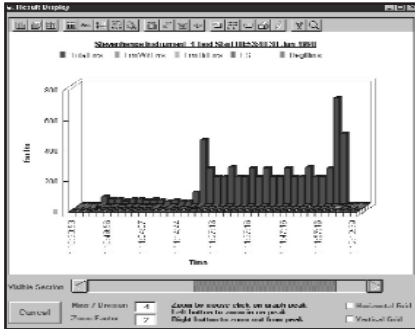
Store Live Results

If required the operator is given the opportunity to remain connected to the remote instrument whilst a test is running. This mode of operation gives access to in excess of 70 pieces of constantly updating information from up to two instruments per operator. The storage of results is limited only by disk space available. The results are saved to disk to a resolution of 10 seconds minimum. All the information stored is also displayed as it is collected on the controlling PC. A 'snapshot' button is provided that closes a log file for subsequent display or analysis on a separate PC. This facilitates the generation of status reports prior to the end of long term tests.

Where network faults are obscure and difficult to find, this facility gives a very detailed record of long term tests that can be quickly analyzed to assist in the fault localization process.

The storing of live results can also be useful where circuits need to be characterized over prolonged periods, for example digital microwave radio links whose performance is subject to seasonal variations.

Display Results

Results which are stored to disk or on an associated networked PC can be recalled and displayed in textual or graphical format.

Based upon the selection criteria the results can also be reported in a textual or graphical form, or saved in a comma separated variable form for inclusion in other applications. The results can be viewed in either a relative time to the start of test or absolute to the time of day the test took place. The greatest resolution is always shown by default but the user has the option to view the results by grouping in time intervals up to 1 month steps.

All displays and reports can be printed to a suitable printer attached to the operating PC.

All results are stored in a file that is configured by the user to define which results are needed and whether or not the results contain snap shot summary information of data that is valid as cumulative over time and hence is able to be graphed.

Specification

Communication Parameters

Link
Direct via RS-232 connection
Modem (Software will communicate with supported modems)
Local Area Network. TCP/IP link to an instrument connected to a terminal server. IFR are pleased to quote for the supply of suitable equipment.

REMOTE FUNCTIONS
Recall instrument configuration on connection to an instrument.
Full or reduced virtual instrument control of up to two instruments at a time.
Instrument operation via mouse and keyboard of the controlling PC.

Stored Results

Resolution
1 minute.

Capacity
72 hours.

Information Stored

Major error type.	
Errored seconds.	(Cumulative)
Severely errored Seconds.	(Cumulative)
Synchronization status.	(Cumulative)
Power status	(Cumulative)
Various summary data available from the instrument.	

Live Results

Resolution
10 seconds.

Capacity
Only limited by disk storage available.

Information stored
Any results available from the instrument.
Information categorized as Summary or Cumulative.
To date summary available
Continuous visibility of stored information.

Display

Types
Textual
Tabular
Graphical

Resolution
Absolute or relative
Months, days, hours, 15 minutes, minutes and seconds.

Graphical data
All graphical data user selected.
6 items per graph.
Auto scaling.
Printable and available to bitmaps and clipboard.

Software Platform
Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0

Ordering Information
When ordering please quote the full order number information

Ordering Numbers	Versions
49000/002	Single user licence
49000/003	20 user licence

http://www.ifrinternational.com

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Revision A