HL7 HL7 Driver

File Name	HL7.dll
Manufacturer	Several Manufacturers
Devices	Devices compatible with HL7 standard version 2.x
Protocol	HL7
Version	1.0.3
Last Update	09/26/2025
Platform	Win32
Dependencies	IOKit version 2.0 or later
Superblock Readings	No
Level	0

Introduction

This Driver implements the HL7 protocol, allowing an application developed by **Elipse Software** to communicate with any device that implements that protocol.

Preparing a Device

Usually, a device must communicate with this Driver though a TCP/IP connection using **MLLP** (*Minimum Lower Layer Protocol*). A device can connect to the IP address where this Driver is executing or receive a connection from this Driver.

In case this Driver performs a connection, users must inform the IP address and the destination TCP/IP port on the **Ethernet** tab of this Driver's configuration window, in the **Main IP** and **Port** options, respectively. If this Driver receives a connection, users must inform the TCP/IP port where this Driver receives that connection in the **Listen for Connections on port** option.

Regardless of the type of TCP/IP connection, after establishing a connection a device must send the messages, which are responded automatically with an **HL7 ACK**-type message by this Driver. Usually, devices have a configuration informing how many times a message is retried if an **ACK** message is not correctly received inside a specified time-out, which is also configurable by a device. After reaching that number of retries without receiving a successful message, that message is then discarded by a device.

Driver Configuration

HL7 protocol is a standard for data exchange into medical environments, maintained by *Health Level Seven International* (HL7).

The structure of an HL7 version 2 (two) message is complex, plain, delimited, and described in **ASCII** format. The current version of HL7 protocol is version 3 (three). However, older versions still exist and are used nowadays, mainly due to the huge number of customizations performed on HL7 version 2 (two) messages.

The main differences between HL7 version 2 (two) and HL7 version 3 (three) messages are the following:

1. Version 2 (two) works mainly in clinical environments, such as device measurement, medical orders, and patient's databases. Version 3 (three), on the other hand, has additional resources, such as an information model (RIM) used by information systems to meet government requirements, like reports.

2. Version 2 (two) uses a custom format, encoded and separated by a pipe with headers and several segments. Version 3 (three) uses the **XML** format.

3. All formats of version 2 (two) are compatible with previous versions.

4. Version 3 (three) has a completely different format and therefore it is not compatible with previous versions.

This Driver implements support to version 2 (two). The next code shows an example of a message in this version.

```
MSH|^~\&|MegaReg|XYZHospC|SuperOE|XYZImgCtr|20060529090131-0500||ADT^A01^ADT_A01|01052901|P|2.5
EVN||200605290901||||200605290900
PID|||56782445^^^UAReg^PI||KLEINSAMPLE^BARRY^Q^JR||19620910|M||2028-9^^HL70005^RA99113^^XYZ|260
GOODWIN CREST DRIVE^^BIRMINGHAM^AL^35209^^M~NICKELL'S PICKLES^10000 W 100TH
AVE^BIRMINGHAM^AL^35200^^O|||||||0105I30001^^^99DEF^AN
PV1||I|W^389^1^UABH^^^^3||||12345^MORGAN^REX^J^^^MD^0010^UAMC^L||
67890^GRAINGER^LUCY^X^^^MD^0010^UAMC^L|MED|||||A0||
13579^POTTER^SHERMAN^T^^^MD^0010^UAMC^L|||||||||||||||||||||||||200605290900
OBX|1|NM|^Body Height||1.80|m^Meter^ISO+|||||F
OBX|2|NM|^Body Weight||79|kg^Kilogram^ISO+|||||F
AL1|1||^ASPIRIN
DG1|1||786.50^CHEST PAIN, UNSPECIFIED^I9|||A
```

HL7 messages in version 2 (two) are formed by several **Segments**. Each **Segment** is formed by **Fields** and each **Field** is formed by **Data Types**, which may be **Simple**, such as numbers or texts, or **Composed**, such as a data structure.

Segments, Fields, and Data Type may change for each sub-version inside version 2 (two).

Health Level Seven International provides files in **XML** format, with an .xsd extension, which declare templates for these objects. This Driver needs those files to be copied into a folder, so that they can be read during initialization, thus allowing a dynamic definition of these objects. The default folder must be informed in the **Message Descriptor Folder** option on the configuration tab. Inside this folder, users must create a folder called **XML** and, inside this folder, a folder with the version number, such as **2.8.2**, where users must copy all files with the .xsd extension. These files can be downloaded at *this address*.

The **Generate Descriptors** option on the configuration window reads definitions from .xsd files and creates an example file for each message type found. The default name of this file is **Map_XXX_V_YYY.map**, where *XXX* is the message name and *YYY* is the version. The goal of this file is to provide syntax examples to declare Block Tags used in **Elipse E3**, **Elipse Power**, or **Elipse Water** through file HL7BlockDefs.map.

The block definition file, HL7BlockDefs.map, declares the names of messages processed by this Driver and which information are used in Tags. Due to the structure of Segments, Fields, and Data Types of HL7 protocol, several items may not exist or appear repeated inside a message. Also, there may be some information that must not be handled in an **Elipse E3**, an **Elipse Power**, or an **Elipse Water** application. Therefore, users must describe which values must appear in PLC Tags or Block Tag Elements.

The file HL7BlockDefs.map must be formed by several sets, and each set represents a message to process, in the following format:

```
MESSAGE_1
PATH_1;EXTRAINFO
PATH_2;EXTRAINFO
...
PATH_N;EXTRAINFO
MESSAGE_2
PATH_1;EXTRAINFO
PATH_2;EXTRAINFO
...
PATH_N;EXTRAINFO
MESSAGE_N
PATH_1;EXTRAINFO
PATH_2;EXTRAINFO
...
PATH_N;EXTRAINFO
```

In which:

- **MESSAGE_N** is the type of HL7 message, such as "ADT_A01". The names of all supported messages can be obtained by generating the example descriptor files, using the **Generate Descriptors** option
- **PATH_NNN** is the full path, up to the last level, of numeric or textual values that can be copied to a Block Tag Element. To discover the existing paths in a message, the descriptor files Map_XXX_V_YYY.map must be generated, so that users can get all possible paths for each type of message
- **EXTRAINFO** is an additional information for this Driver, which can be **TS** or **LIST**. **TS** instructs this Driver to use a Field as a timestamp of the Block Tag, as long as the corresponding path is a **Date and Time**-type (DTM) object. **LIST** informs that a Field is the beginning of a list whose members, from this point forward, may repeat. There must be only one item per message type defined as **LIST**, as well as only one item defined as **TS** per message

Example of a HL7BlockDefs.map file:

```
ORU_R01
MSH\MSH.7;TS
ORU_R01\ORU_R01.PATIENT_RESULT[]\ORU_R01.ORDER_OBSERVATION[]\OBR\OBR.2\EI.1;
ORU_R01\ORU_R01.PATIENT_RESULT[]\ORU_R01.ORDER_OBSERVATION[]\ORU_R01.OBSERVATION[]\OBX\OBX.1;LIST
ORU_R01\ORU_R01.PATIENT_RESULT[]\ORU_R01.ORDER_OBSERVATION[]\ORU_R01.OBSERVATION[]\OBX\OBX.3\CWE.1;
ORU_R01\ORU_R01.PATIENT_RESULT[]\ORU_R01.ORDER_OBSERVATION[]\ORU_R01.OBSERVATION[]\OBX\OBX.5;
ORU_R01\ORU_R01.PATIENT_RESULT[]\ORU_R01.ORDER_OBSERVATION[]\ORU_R01.OBSERVATION[]\OBX\OBX.6\CWE.1;
```

In this example, only the **ORU_R01** message was declared, instructing this Driver to use the **MSH.7** Field as the Block Tag's timestamp, and also declaring 5 (five) more Fields with information that must be reported in Block Tag Elements. In this case, the Block Tag must be created with 5 (five) Elements.

The **MESSAGE_N** Field must be used in the **Item** parameter of the Block Tag to identify which message to receive. Therefore, if the **Item** parameter is configured with a name not declared in the file, this Block Tag does not receive data.

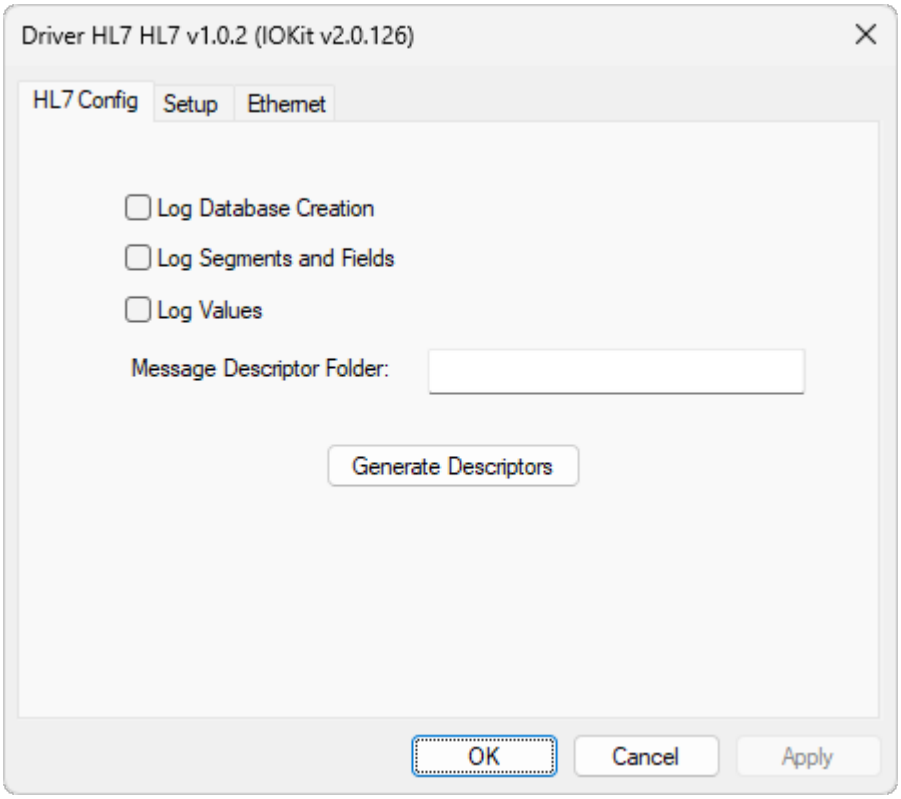
The complete folder structure must be the following:

- **C:\USER_DIR\HL7BlockDefs.map**: File with message definitions reported in Block Tags
- **C:\USER_DIR\Map_XXX_V_YYY.map**: Descriptor files of each type of message generated using the **Generate Descriptors** option. These files are optional and are used as the base to generate the HL7BlockDefs.map file
- **C:\USER_DIR\XML**: Parent folder
- **C:\USER_DIR\XML\2.8.2**: Version folder
- **C:\USER_DIR\XML\2.8.2*.XSD**: Descriptor files from *Health Level Seven International*

For more information about the configuration tabs, please check topic **Documentation of I/O Interfaces**.

Configuring Properties

The next figure shows the configuration options of this Driver.



HL7 Config tab

The available options on the **HL7 Config** tab are described on the next table.

Available options on the HL7 Config tab

OPÇÃO	DESCRIÇÃO
Log Database Creation	Indicates whether detailed logs must be generated when this Driver populates its internal database of templates, Segments, Fields and values from files in **XML** format during the initialization of this Driver
Log Segments and Fields	Indicates whether detailed logs must be generated when processing a message, informing users about Segment and Field names
Log Values	Indicates whether detailed logs must be generated when processing a message, informing users the path and value processed for every possible element of a message. The goal is to help users to identify which Fields must be declared for a block in the file HL7BlockDefs.map
Message Descriptor Folder	Folder where this Driver can generate example messages with all possible Segments and Fields
Generate Descriptors	Generates example message files in the folder indicated in the **Message Descriptor Folder** option. The name of these files is in the format **Map_XXX_V_version.map**, where *XXX* is the message name and *version* is the version of HL7 standard

In addition to this Properties Window, these settings can also be defined at run time in **Elipse E3**, **Elipse Power**, or **Elipse Water** applications. To do so, initialize this Driver in **Offline** mode, that is, execute an application with the **Start driver OFFLINE** option enabled, which is configured on the **Setup** tab of the Properties Window. The configuration options of this Driver are described on the next table.

Configuration options for HL7 HL7 Driver

TAB	PARAMETER	OFFLINE STRING	DATA TYPE	DESCRIPTION
Setup	Physical Layer	IO.Type	Text	Possible values for this Driver are **None** or **Ethernet** (default)
	Timeout	IO.TimeoutMs	Number	A time limit, in milliseconds, to receive data from a device's response. For example, the value 1000 defines a one second limit
Ethernet	Transport	IO.Ethernet.Transport	Text	Possible values for this Driver are **TCP/IP** (default) or **UDP/IP**
	Main IP	IO.Ethernet.MainIP	Text	IP address of a device, in the format **[0-255].[0-255].[0-255].[0-255]**
	Port	IO.Ethernet.MainPort	Number	TCP/IP port
HL7 Config	Log DB Creation	HL7.LogDBCreation	Number	Possible values for this option are **0**: Disabled ou **1**: Enabled
	Log Segments and Fields	HL7.LogSegments	Number	Possible values for this option are **0**: Disabled ou **1**: Enabled
	Log Value Processing	HL7.LogValuePath	Number	Possible values for this option are **0**: Disabled ou **1**: Enabled
	Descriptor Folder	HL7.DescriptorPath	Text	Name of the base folder to generate examples of message files

All offline properties must be configured via PLC Tags in **String** format, by using the *N1* parameter equal to -1 (minus one), the *N2* parameter equal to 0 (zero), the *N3* parameter equal to 0 (zero), and the *N4* parameter equal to 3 (three). For more details and examples, please check topic **Documentation of I/O Interfaces**.

Tag Reference

This section contains information about the configuration of **N** and **B** Tags of this Driver.

PLC Tags and Block Tags

In its current version, this Driver only allows PLC Tags and Block Tags.

The type or name of a message must be informed in the **Item** parameter. The **Device**, **N1**, **N2**, **N3**, and **N4** parameters are not used.

As soon as this Driver receives a message of the same type, the values are received according to the order they were declared in the file HL7BlockDefs.map.

As an example, if the file HL7BlockDefs.map declares a message **ADT_A01** with 3 (three) information items, users must create a Block Tag with 3 (three) Elements to receive those information items, defining the **Item** parameter with the address **ADT_A01**.

NOTE

If the **Item** parameter is defined with a message name not declared in the file HL7BlockDefs.map, the PLC Tag or Block Tag is never read.

Documentation of I/O Interfaces

This section contains the documentation of I/O Interfaces referring to the **HL7** Driver.

Configuration of a Driver

I/O Interface configuration is performed on a Driver's configuration dialog box. To access the configuration of this dialog box in **Elipse E3** in version 1.0, follow these steps:

1. Right-click a Driver object (IODriver).
2. Select the **Properties** item on the contextual menu.
3. Select the **Driver** tab.
4. Click **Other parameters**.

In **Elipse E3** version 2.0 or later, click **Configure driver** on a Driver's toolbar. In **Elipse SCADA**, follow these steps:

1. Open the Organizer.
2. Select a Driver on Organizer's tree.
3. Click **Extras** on the **Driver** tab.

Currently, an I/O Interface allows opening only one connection for each Driver. This means that, if users want to access two serial ports, they must add two Drivers to an application and then configure each one of these Drivers for each serial port.

Configuration Dialog Box

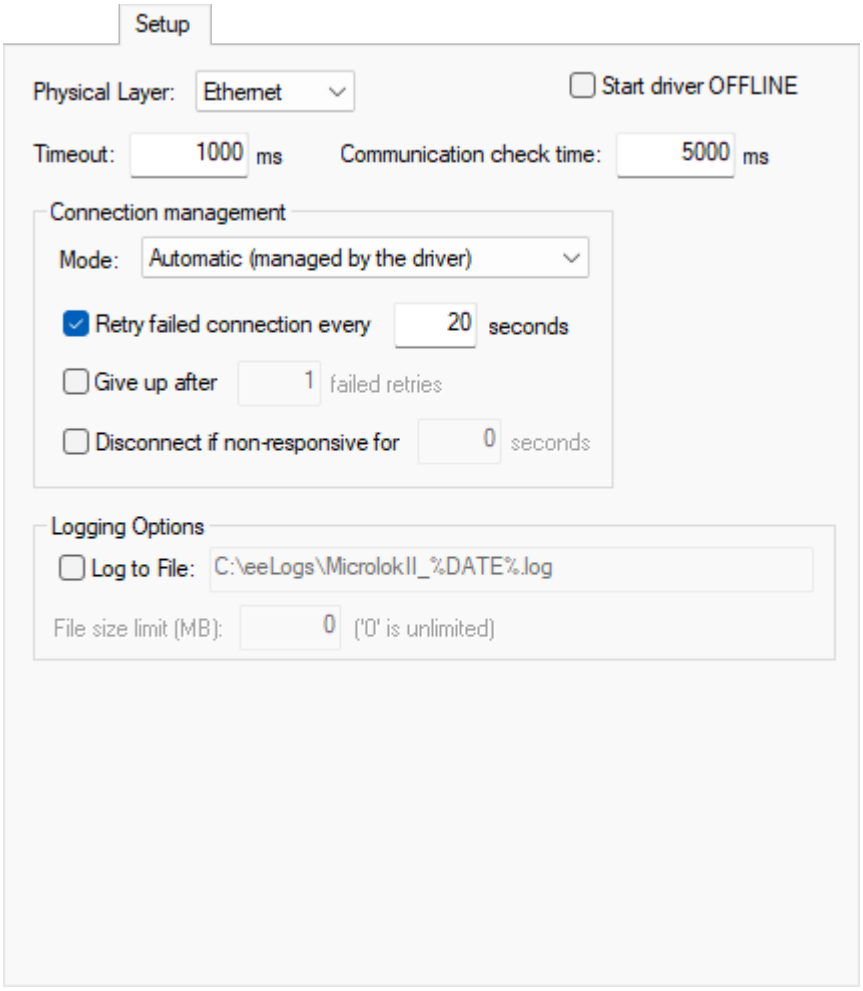
The dialog box of I/O Interfaces allows configuring the I/O connection used by a Driver. This dialog box contains the **Setup**, **Serial**, **Ethernet**, **Modem**, and **RAS** tabs, described on the next topics. If a Driver does not implement a specific I/O connection, its corresponding tab is not available for configuration. Some Drivers may contain additional tabs, specific for that Driver, on the configuration dialog box.

Setup Tab

The **Setup** tab contains general configurations of a Driver. This tab is divided into the following groups:

- **General configurations**: Configurations of a Driver's physical layer, time-out, and initialization mode
- **Connection management**: Configurations on how the I/O Interface keeps a connection and which recovery policy is used on failure

- **Logging options**: Controls the generation of log files



Setup tab

General options on the Setup tab

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
Physical Layer	Select the physical layer on a list. Available options are **Serial**, **Ethernet**, **Modem**, and **RAS**. The selected interface must be configured on its specific tab
Timeout	Configure a time-out, in milliseconds, for the physical layer. This is the amount of time an I/O interface waits to receive any byte from the reception's buffer
Communication check time	Set the time, in milliseconds, to define the interval at which communication is considered to be in an inactive state. As long as an I/O Driver receives valid data, its communication state is considered active. However, if during operation an I/O Driver does not receive valid data inside this period of time, the state is considered inactive. The communication state is shown in the **IO.CommunicationStatus** Tag
Start driver OFFLINE	Select this option so that a Driver starts in **Offline** mode or stopped. This means that the I/O interface is not created until this Driver is configured to **Online** mode by using a Tag in an application. This mode enables a dynamic configuration of an I/O interface at run time

Options on the Connection management group

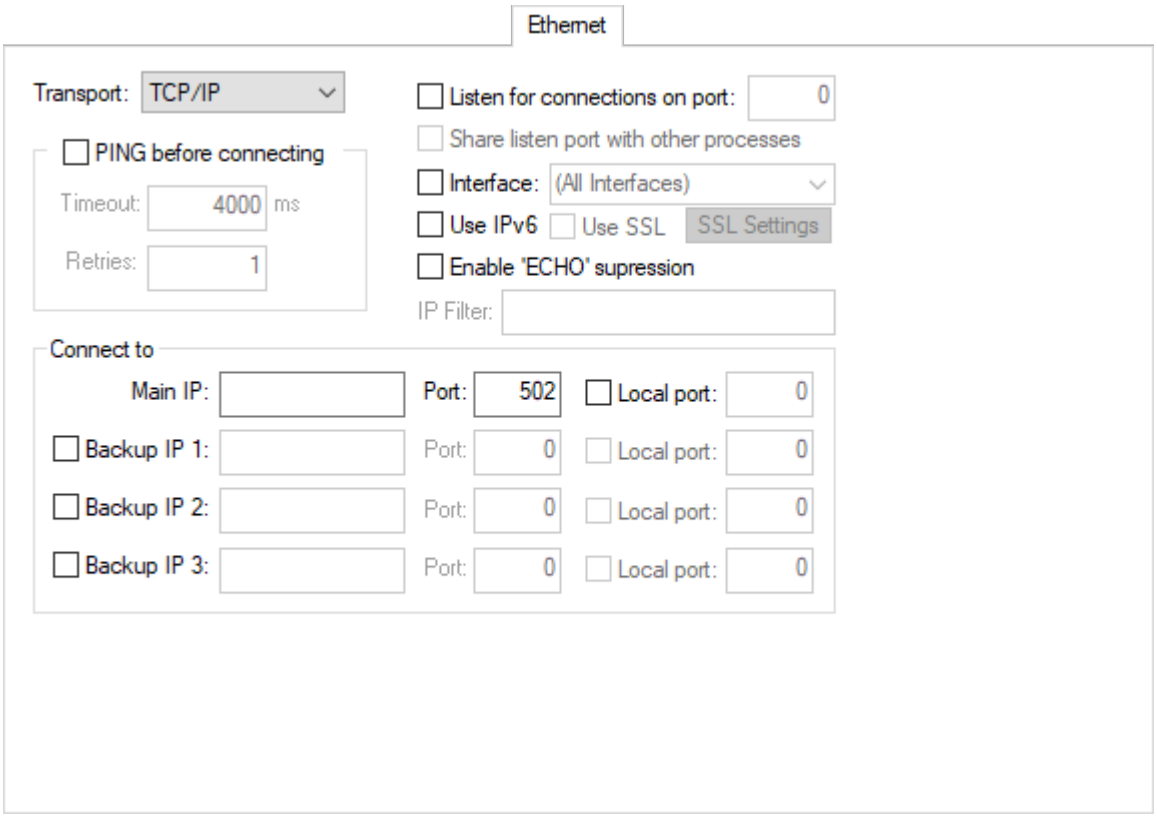
OPTION	DESCRIPTION
Mode	Selects a management mode of a connection. Selecting the **Automatic** option allows a Driver to manage the connection automatically, as specified in the next options. Selecting the **Manual** option allows an application to fully manage a connection
Retry failed connection every ... seconds	Select this option to enable a Driver's connection retry in a certain interval, in seconds. If the **Give up after failed retries** option is not selected, this Driver keeps retrying until a connection is performed, or until the application is stopped
Give up after ... failed retries	Enable this option to define a maximum number of connection retries. When the specified number of consecutive connection retries is reached, a Driver goes to the **Offline** mode, assuming that a hardware problem was detected. If a Driver establishes a successful connection, the number of unsuccessful retries is cleared. If this new connection is lost, then the retry counter starts at zero
Disconnect if non-responsive for ... seconds	Enable this option to force a Driver to disconnect if no byte was received by the I/O interface during the specified time-out, in seconds. This time-out must be greater than the time-out configured in the **Timeout** option

Options on the Logging Options group

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
Log to File	Enable this option and configure the name of a file to write a log. Log files can be large, so use this option for short periods of time, only for testing and debugging purposes. If the **%PROCESS%** macro is used in the log file name, it is replaced by the identifier of the current process. This option is particularly useful when using several instances of the same Driver in **Elipse E3**, thus allowing each instance to generate a separate log file. For example, when configuring this option with value "c:\e3logs\drivers\sim_%PROCESS%.log", it generates a file named c:\e3logs\drivers\sim_00000FDA.log for process **0FDAh**. Users can also use the **%DATE%** macro in the file name. In this case a log file is generated every day, in the format **aaaa_mm_dd**. For example, when configuring this option with value "c:\e3logs\drivers\sim_%DATE%.log", it generates a file named c:\e3logs\drivers\sim_2005_12_31.log in 12/31/2005 and a file named c:\e3logs\drivers\sim_2006_01_01.log in 01/01/2006. Similarly, the **%DATE_HOUR%** macro generates one log file per hour, in the format **aaaa_mm_dd_hh**
File size limit (MB)	Configure the log file size limit, in megabytes. A value equal to 0 (zero) means that there is no size limit for the log file

Ethernet Tab

Use this tab to configure parameters of an **Ethernet** Interface. These parameters, except port configurations, must also be configured for use in the **RAS** Interface.



Ethernet tab

Available options on the Ethernet tab

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
Transport	Select the value **TCP/IP** for a TCP socket (*stream*) or select the value **UDP/IP** to use a UDP socket (*connectionless datagram*)
Listen for connections on port	Use this option to wait for new connections in a specific IP port, common in Slave Drivers. If this option remains unselected, a Driver connects to the address and port specified in the **Connect to** option
Share listen port with other processes	Select this option to share the listening port with other Drivers and processes
Interface	Select the local network interface, identified by its IP address, that a Driver uses to establish and receive connections, or select the value **(All Interfaces)** to allow connection in any network interface
Use IPv6	Select this option to force a Driver to use addresses in **IPv6** format on all Ethernet connections. Leave this option deselected to use the **IPv4** format
Enable 'ECHO' suppression	Enable this option to remove the echo from received data. An echo is a copy of sent data, which can be returned before a reply message
IP Filter	List of restricted or allowed IP addresses from where a Driver accepts connections (*Firewall*). Please check the **IO.Ethernet.IPFilter** property for more information
PING before connecting	Enable this option to execute a **ping** command, that is, to check whether a device can be reached on a network, for a device before trying a socket connection. This is a quick way

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
	of determining a successful connection before trying to open a socket with a device. The time-out of a connection with a socket can be very high. The available options are: • **Timeout**: Specify the number of milliseconds to wait for a reply from a **ping** command. Users must use a **ping** command to check the normal reply time, configuring this option for a value above that average. Usually this value can be configured between 1000 and 4000 milliseconds, that is, between 1 (one) and 4 (four) seconds • **Retries**: Number of retries of a **ping** command, not counting the first attempt. If all attempts fail, then the socket connection is aborted

Available options on the Connect to group

OPTION	DESCRIPTION
Main IP	Type the IP address of a remote device. Users can use an IP address separated by dots, as well as a URL. In case of a URL, a Driver uses the available DNS service to map that URL to an IP address, such as "192.168.0.13" or "Server1"
Port	Type the IP port of a remote device, between 0 (zero) and 65535
Local port	Select this option to use a fixed local IP port when connecting to a remote device
Backup IP 1, 2, and 3	Indicate the IP address, the IP port, and the fixed local IP port of up to 3 (three) backup addresses of a remote device

General Configurations

This section contains information about the configuration of general **I/O Tags** and **Properties** of I/O Interfaces.

I/O Tags

General I/O Interfaces Tags (N2/B2 = 0)

The Tags described next are provided for all supported I/O Interfaces.

IO.CommunicationStatus

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Reading
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	6 (six)
String Configuration	IO.CommunicationStatus

This Tag informs the communication status of a Driver. It indicates how communication works relative to receiving valid data within a time period arbitrated in the configuration. For more information, please check topic **Setup Tab**. Possible values are **0 - Inactive communication**: The Driver did not receive valid data or stopped receiving data after *n* milliseconds, as configured in the properties window, or **1 - Active communication:** The Driver is receiving valid data.

IO.IOKitEvent

Type of Tag	Block Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
B1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
B2 Parameter	0 (zero)
B3 Parameter	0 (zero)
B4 Parameter	1 (one)
Size Property	4 (four)
ParamItem Property	IO.IOKitEvent

This Block returns Driver events generated by several sources in I/O Interfaces. The **TimeStamp** property of this Block represents the moment this event occurred. The Block Elements are the following:

- **Element 0**: Type of event. Possible values are **0**: Information, **1**: Warning, or **2**: Error
- **Element 1**: Source of an event. Possible values are **0**: Driver (specific of a Driver), **-1**: IOKit (generic events of I/O Interfaces), **-2**: **Serial** Interface, **-3**: **Modem** Interface, **-4**: **Ethernet** Interface, or **-5**: **RAS** Interface
- **Element 2**: Error number, specific for each source of event
- **Element 3**: Message of an event, a **String** specific for each event

NOTE

A Driver keeps a maximum number of 100 events internally. If additional events are reported, older events are discarded.

IO.PhysicalLayerStatus

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	2 (two)
String Configuration	IO.PhysicalLayerStatus

This Tag indicates the status of a physical layer. Possible values are the following:

- **0**: Physical layer stopped, that is, a Driver is in **Offline** mode, the physical layer failed when initializing, or exceeded the maximum number of reconnection attempts
- **1**: Physical layer started but not connected, that is, a Driver is in **Online** mode but the physical layer is not connected. If the **Connection management** option is configured with the value **Automatic**, the physical layer can be connecting, disconnecting, or waiting for a reconnection attempt. If the **Connection management** option is configured with the vlaue **Manual**, then the physical layer remains in this status until forced to connect
- **2**: Physical layer connected, that is, the physical layer is ready for use. This **DOES NOT** mean a device is connected, only that the access layer is working

IO.SetConfigurationParameters

Type of Tag	Block Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
B1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
B2 Parameter	0 (zero)
B3 Parameter	0 (zero)
B4 Parameter	3 (three)
Size Property	2 (two)
ParamItem Property	IO.SetConfigurationParameters

Use this Tag to change any property of a Driver's configuration dialog box at run time.

This Tag works only while a Driver is in **Offline** mode. To start a Driver in **Offline** mode, select the **Start driver OFFLINE** option on that Driver's configuration dialog box. Users can write to a PLC Tag or to a Block Tag containing the parameters to change. Writing individual Block Elements is not supported, the whole Block must be written at once.

In **Elipse SCADA**, users must use a Block Tag. Every parameter to configure uses two Block Elements. For example, if users want to configure 3 (three) parameters, then the size of the Block must be 6 (six, 3 × 2). The first Element is the property's name, as a **String**, and the second Element is the property's value, according to the next example.

```
// 'Block' must be a Block Tag with automatic reading,
// scan reading, and automatic writings disabled.
// Configure all parameters
Block.element001 = "IO.Type" // Parameter 1
Block.element002 = "Serial"
Block.element003 = "IO.Serial.Port" // Parameter 2
Block.element004 = 1
Block.element005 = "IO.Serial.BaudRate" // Parameter 3
Block.element006 = 19200
// Writes the whole Block
Block.Write()
```

When using **Elipse E3**, the ability to create arrays at run time allows using an I/O Tag as well as a Block Tag. Users can use the **Write** method of a Driver to send the parameters directly to that Driver, without creating a Tag, according to the next example.

```
Dim arr(6)
' Configure all array elements
arr(1) = "IO.Type"
arr(2) = "Serial"
arr(3) = "IO.Serial.Port"
arr(4) = 1
arr(5) = "IO.Serial.BaudRate"
arr(6) = 19200
' There are two methods to send parameters
' Method 1: Using an I/O Tag
tag.WriteEx arr
' Method 2: Without using a Tag
Driver.Write -1, 0, 0, 3, arr
```

A variation of the previous example uses a bidimensional array.

```
Dim arr(10)
' Configure all array elements. Notice the array was resized
' to 10 elements. Empty array elements are ignored by a Driver
arr(1) = Array("IO.Type", "Serial")
arr(2) = Array("IO.Serial.Port", 1)
arr(3) = Array("IO.Serial.BaudRate", 19200)
Driver.Write -1, 0, 0, 3, arr
```

A Driver does not validate parameter names or passed values, therefore be careful when writing parameters and values. The **Write** method fails if the configuration array is incorrectly created. Users can check the log of a Driver or use the *writeStatus* parameter of the **WriteEx** method to find out the exact cause of an error.

```
Dim arr(10), strError
arr(1) = Array("IO.Type", "Serial")
arr(2) = Array("IO.Serial.Port", 1)
arr(3) = Array("IO.Serial.BaudRate", 19200)
If Not Driver.WriteEx -1, 0, 0, 3, arr, , , strError Then
  MsgBox "Failed configuring Driver parameters: " + strError
End If
```

IO.WorkOnline

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Reading or Writing
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	4 (four)
String Configuration	IO.WorkOnline

This Tag informs the current status of a Driver and allows starting or stopping the physical layer. Possible values are the following:

- **0 - Driver Offline**: Physical layer is closed or stopped. This mode allows a dynamic configuration of a Driver's parameters using the **IO.SetConfigurationParameters** Tag
- **1 - Driver Online**: Physical layer is open or executing. While in **Online** mode, the physical layer can be connected or disconnected and its current status can be checked using the **IO.PhysicalLayerStatus** Tag

In the next example, using **Elipse E3**, a Driver is configured to **Offline** mode, its COM port is changed, and then configured to **Online** mode again.

```
'Configure to Offline mode
Driver.Write -1, 0, 0, 4, 0
'Change port to COM2
Driver.Write -1, 0, 0, 3, Array("IO.Serial.Port", 2)
'Configure to Online mode
Driver.Write -1, 0, 0, 4, 1
```

The **Write** method may fail when configuring a Driver to **Online** mode, that is, writing the value 1 (one). In this case, this Driver remains in **Offline** mode. The cause of failure can be:

- Type of physical layer incorrectly configured, probably an invalid value was configured in the **IO.Type** property
- This Driver may have run out of memory
- Physical layer probably did not create its working thread. Search the log file for a message "Failed to create physical layer thread!"
- Physical layer could not start. The cause of this failure depends on the type of physical layer. It can be an invalid serial port number, a failure when starting Windows Sockets, or a failure when starting TAPI (modem), among others. This cause is recorded on the log file

IMPORTANT

Even if the configuration of a Driver to **Online** mode is successful, this does not necessarily mean the physical layer is ready to use, that is, ready to execute input and output operations with an external device. The **IO.PhysicalLayerStatus** Tag must be checked to ensure the physical layer is connected and ready for communication.

Properties

These are general properties of all supported I/O Interfaces.

IO.ConnectionMode

9 Controls the management mode of a Connection. Possible values are **0**: Automatic mode, in which a Driver manages the connection or **1**: Manual mode, in which an application manages the connection.

IO.GiveUpEnable

◩ When configured to True, defines a maximum number of reconnection attempts. If all reconnection attempts fail, a Driver enters the **Offline** mode. When configured to False, a Driver tries until a reconnection is successful.

IO.GiveUpTries

9 Number of reconnection attempts before this one is aborted. For example, if the value of this property is equal to 1 (one), a Driver tries only one reconnection when the connection is lost. If this one fails, this Driver enters the **Offline** mode.

IO.InactivityEnable

◩ Configure to True to enable and to False to disable inactivity detection. The physical layer is disconnected if inactive for a certain period of time. The physical layer is considered inactive only if it is capable of sending data but not capable of receiving it back.

IO.InactivityPeriodSec

9 Number of seconds to check for inactivity. If the physical layer is inactive for this period of time, it is then disconnected.

IO.RecoverEnable

Configure to True to enable a Driver to recover lost connections and to False to leave a Driver in **Offline** mode when a connection is lost.

IO.RecoverPeriodSec

Delay time between two connection attempts, in seconds.

NOTE

The first reconnection is executed immediately after a connection is lost.

IO.StartOffline

Configure to True to start a Driver in **Offline** mode and to False to start a Driver in **Online** mode.

NOTE

It is pointless to change this property at run time, as it can only be changed when a Driver is already in **Offline** mode. To configure a Driver in **Online** mode at run time, write the value 1 (one) to the **IO.WorkOnline** Tag.

IO.TimeoutMs

Defines a time-out for the physical layer, in milliseconds. One second is equal to 1000 milliseconds.

IO.Type

Defines the type of physical interface used by a Driver. Possible values are the following:

- **N or None**: Does not use a physical interface, that is, a Driver must provide a customized interface
- **S or Serial**: Uses a local serial port (COM*n*)
- **M or Modem**: Uses a local modem, internal or external, accessed via TAPI (*Telephony Application Programming Interface*)
- **E or Ethernet**: Uses a TCP/IP or UDP/IP socket
- **R or RAS**: Uses a **RAS** (*Remote Access Server*) Interface. A Driver connects to a RAS device using the **Ethernet** Interface and then sends an **AT** (*dial*) command

Statistical Configuration

This section contains information about the configuration of **I/O Tags** and **Properties** of I/O Interfaces statistics.

I/O Tags

Tags of I/O Interface Statistics (N2/B2 = 0)

The Tags described next display statistics for all I/O Interfaces.

IO.Stats.Partial.BytesRecv

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1101
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Partial.BytesRecv

This Tag returns the number of bytes received in the current connection.

IO.Stats.Partial.BytesSent

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1100
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Partial.BytesSent

This Tag returns the number of bytes sent through the current connection.

IO.Stats.Partial.TimeConnectedSeconds

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1102
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Partial.TimeConnectedSeconds

This Tag returns the number of seconds a Driver is connected in the current connection or 0 (zero) if a Driver is disconnected.

IO.Stats.Partial.TimeDisconnectedSeconds

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1103
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Partial.TimeDisconnectedSeconds

This Tag returns the number of seconds a Driver is disconnected since the last connection ended or 0 (zero) if a Driver is connected.

IO.Stats.Total.BytesRecv

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1001
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Total.BytesRecv

This Tag returns the number of bytes received since a Driver was loaded.

IO.Stats.Total.BytesSent

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1000
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Total.BytesSent

This Tag returns the number of bytes sent since a Driver was loaded.

IO.Stats.Total.ConnectionCount

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1004
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Total.ConnectionCount

This Tag returns the number of connections a Driver already established, successfully, since it was loaded.

IO.Stats.Total.TimeConnectedSeconds

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1002
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Total.TimeConnectedSeconds

This Tag returns the number of seconds a Driver remained connected since it was loaded.

IO.Stats.Total.TimeDisconnectedSeconds

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	0 (zero)
N4 Parameter	1003
Configuration by String	IO.Stats.Total.TimeDisconnectedSeconds

This Tag returns the number of seconds a Driver remained disconnected since it was loaded.

Properties

Currently, there are no properties defined specifically to display I/O Interface statistics at run time.

Ethernet Interface Configuration

This section contains information about the configuration of **I/O Tags** and **Properties** of an **Ethernet** Interface.

I/O Tags

Tags of an Ethernet Interface (N2/B2 = 4)

The Tags described next allow controlling and identifying an **Ethernet** Interface at run time and they are also valid when the **RAS** Interface is selected.

IMPORTANT
These Tags are available **ONLY** while a Driver is in **Online** mode.

IO.Ethernet.IPSelect

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Reading or Writing
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	4 (four)
N4 Parameter	0 (zero)
String Configuration	IO.Ethernet.IPSelect

Indicates the active IP address. Possible values are **0**: The main IP address is selected, **1**: The first alternative or backup IP address is selected, **2**: The second alternative or backup IP address is selected, or **3**: The third alternative or backup IP address is selected.

If the **Ethernet** or **RAS** Interface is connected, this Tag indicates which one of the four configured IP addresses is in use. If the Interface is disconnected, this Tag indicates which IP address is used first on the next attempt to connect.

During the connection process, if the active IP address is not available, the I/O Interface tries to connect using the other IP address. If the connection with the alternative IP address works, it is configured as the active IP address (automatic switchover).

To force a manual switchover, write values from 0 (zero) to 3 (three) to this Tag. This forces a reconnection with the specified IP address (**0**: Main address or **1, 2, 3**: Alternative address) if a Driver is currently connected. If a Driver is disconnected, this Tag configures the active IP address for the next attempt to connect.

IO.Ethernet.IPSwitch

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Write-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	4 (four)
N4 Parameter	1 (one)
String Configuration	IO.Ethernet.IPSwitch

Any value written to this Tag forces a manual switchover. If the main IP address is active, then the first alternative or backup IP address is activated, and so on for all alternative IP addresses and returning to the main address until a connection is established.

If a Driver is disconnected, this Tag configures the active IP address for the next attempt to connect.

IO.Ethernet.SocketState

Type of Tag	I/O Tag
Type of Access	Read-Only
N1 Parameter	-1 (minus one)
N2 Parameter	0 (zero)
N3 Parameter	4 (four)
N4 Parameter	2 (two)
String Configuration	IO.Ethernet.SocketState

The Value property of this Tag corresponds to socket states as a map of bits:

- **Bit 0**: 0 (zero, not listening) or 1 (one, listening)
- **Bit 1**: 0 (zero, disconnected) or 1 (one, connected)

Properties

These properties control the configuration of an **Ethernet** Interface.

NOTE

The **Ethernet** Interface is also used by the **RAS** Interface.

IO.Ethernet.AcceptConnection

◩ Configure to False if a Driver must not accept external connections, that is, if a Driver behaves as a master, or configure to True to enable the reception of connections, that is, if a Driver behaves as a slave.

IO.Ethernet.BackupEnable[2,3]

Configure to True to enable an alternative or backup IP address. If the reconnection attempt with the main IP address fails, a Driver tries to use an alternative IP address. Configure to False to disable its usage.

IO.Ethernet.BackupIP[2,3]

Alternative or backup IP address of a remote device. Users can use a numerical address, as well as a device's host name, such as "192.168.0.7" or "SERVER2".

IO.Ethernet.BackupLocalPort[2,3]

Local port number to be used when connecting to an alternative IP address of a remote device. Used only if **IO.Ethernet.BackupLocalPortEnable** is equal to True.

IO.Ethernet.BackupLocalPortEnable[2,3]

Configure to True to force the use of a specific local port when connecting to an alternative or backup IP address or configure to False to use any available local port.

IO.Ethernet.BackupPort[2,3]

Port number of an alternative or backup IP address of a remote device, used with the **IO.Ethernet.BackupIP** property.

IO.Ethernet.IPFilter

List with a comma-separated IPv4 or IPv6 addresses, which defines from which addresses a Driver accepts or blocks connections. Users can use asterisks, such as "192.168.*.*", or intervals, such as "192.168.0.41-50", in any part of IP addresses. To block an IP address or a range of IP addresses, use the tilde ("~") character at the beginning of the address, according to the next examples:

- **192.168.0.24**: Accepts only connections from IPv4 address 192.168.0.24
- **192.168.0.41-50**: Accepts connections from IPv4 addresses in the interval between 192.168.0.41 and 192.168.0.50
- **192.168.0.***: Accepts connections from IPv4 addresses in the interval between 192.168.0.0 and 192.168.0.255
- **fe80:3bf:877::*:* (expands to fe80:03bf:0877:0000:0000:0000:*:*)**: Accepts connections from IPv6 addresses in the interval between fe80:03bf:0877:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000 and fe80:03bf:0877:0000:0000:0000:ffff:ffff
- **192.168.0.10, 192.168.0.15, 192.168.0.20**: Accepts connections from IPv4 addresses 192.168.0.10, 192.168.0.15, and 192.168.0.20
- **~192.168.0.95, 192.168.0.***: Accepts connections from IPv4 addresses in the interval between 192.168.0.0 and 192.168.0.255, except the IPv4 address 192.168.0.95

When a Driver receives a connection attempt, the list of filters is scanned sequentially from left to right, searching for a specific authorization or block for the IP address where the connection comes from. If no element on the list corresponds to the IP address, the authorization or block are dictated by the last element of that list:

- If the last element on the list is an authorization, such as "192.168.0.24", then all IP addresses not found on the list are blocked
- If the last element on the list is a block, such as "~192.168.0.24", then all IP addresses not found on the list are authorized

If an IP address appears on more than one filter on the list, the leftmost filter has precedence. For example, in case of "~192.168.0.95, 192.168.0.*", the IP address 192.168.0.95 fits both rules, but the rule that wins is the leftmost one, "~192.168.0.95", and therefore this IP address is blocked.

When **IOKit** blocks a connection, it logs a message "Blocked incoming socket connection from {IP}!".

In case of UDP connections in broadcast listening mode, in which a Driver can receive packets from different IP addresses, blocks or permissions are performed at each packet received. If a packet is received from a blocked IP address, it logs a message "Blocked incoming packet from {IP} (discarding {N} bytes)!".

IO.Ethernet.ListenIP

A IP address of the local network interface that a Driver uses to establish and accept connections. Leave this property empty to establish and accepts connections using any local network interface.

IO.Ethernet.ListenPort

9 Number of the IP port used by a Driver to listen to connections.

IO.Ethernet.MainIP

A IP address of a remote device. Users can use a numerical address, as well as a device's host name, such as "192.168.0.7" or "SERVER2".

IO.Ethernet.MainLocalPort

9 Local port number to use when connecting to the main IP address of a remote device. This value is only used if the **IO.Ethernet.MainLocalPortEnable** property is equal to True.

IO.Ethernet.MainLocalPortEnable

◩ Configure to True to force the use of a specific local port when connecting to the main IP address of a remote device or configure to False to use any available local port.

IO.Ethernet.MainPort

9 Number of the IP port of a remote device, used with the **IO.Ethernet.MainIP** property.

IO.Ethernet.PingEnable

◩ Configure to True to enable sending a **ping** command to the IP address of a remote device, before trying to connect to the socket. This socket's connection time-out cannot be controlled, therefore sending a **ping** command before connecting is a fast way to detect if the connection is going to fail. Configure to False to disable a **ping** command.

IO.Ethernet.PingTimeoutMs

9 Delay time to wait for a response from a **ping** command, in milliseconds.

IO.Ethernet.PingTries

9 Maximum number of attempts of a **ping** command. Minimum value is 1 (one), including the first **ping** command.

IO.Ethernet.ShareListenPort

Configure to True to share a listening port with other Drivers and processes or False to open a listening port in exclusive mode. To successfully share a listening port, all Drivers and processes that use that port must open it in shared mode. When a listening port is shared, each incoming connection is distributed to one of the processes listening. This way, if a Slave Driver only supports one connection at a time, users can use several instances of this Driver listening on the same port, therefore simulating a Driver with support for multiple connections.

IO.Ethernet.SupressEcho

Configure to True to eliminate echoes in communication. An echo is the unwanted reception of an exact copy of all data packets a Driver sent to a device.

IO.Ethernet.Transport

Defines a transport protocol. Possible values are **T or TCP**: Uses the TCP/IP protocol or **U or UDP**: Uses the UDP/IP protocol.

IO.Ethernet.UseIPv6

Configure to True to use IPv6 addresses on all Ethernet connections or configure to False to use IPv4 addresses (default).

Driver Revision History

VERSION	DATE	AUTHOR	COMMENTS
1.0.3	09/26/2025	M. Ludwig	• Driver updated to **IOKit** library version **3.0** and Visual Studio 2022 (*Case 37975*).
1.0.2	02/23/2022	M. Salvador	• Initial version of this Driver.

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