



Application Note

Networking GfG DS400 Docking Station

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Preface

Corporate users of GfG's G400 series of multi-gas detectors and GfG's DS400 docking stations may want to install DS400 docking stations in multiple locations to allow access to each of the docks over a network (LAN).

Using third-party remote USB hubs in these installations is easy; any number of DS400 can be installed literally worldwide and accessed from one central location.

Technical Background

The GfG DS400 docking station uses a USB connection to communicate with a computer, whereas a network uses a Ethernet connection.

Using a third-party hub such as AnywhereUSB from Digi International[†], allows the installation of remote USB ports on any accessible network; just as if they were part of the local host computer connected to the hub.



AnywhereUSB Hub

The installation of USB hub(s) generally requires the involvement of your IT team, as there are two technical issues to attend to.

1. For 100% transparent operation, it is strongly advised that each of the USB hubs be assigned a static IP address. This will ensure that the host computer can automatically reconnect to the hub(s) if the network is ever rebooted or reconfigured.

Your IT team add the MAC addresses (programmed into every AnywhereUSB) to the network protocols allowing automatic assignment(s) of IP static addresses, whenever and wherever they may be installed using DHCP.

2. The IT team needs to make sure that the network locations where the hubs are installed can be "seen" from the host computer.

Because the AnywhereUSB is a third-party product, GfG strongly recommends that the purchase and installation of these devices be left to your IT team. GfG also recommends that the IT team installs and fully tests the AnywhereUSB hub(s) in advance of the installation of the GfG DS400 docking station(s).



DS400 Installation

Once the AnywhereUSB hubs are installed and configured, the installation of the GfG DS400 docking stations is simple.

Prior to purchasing the DS400 docking stations, please advise GfG that the dock(s) will be installed on a network. GfG will then supply each dock with a uniquely programmed connection cable that makes the plug-and-play installation easy.

Simply connect one docking station at a time and allow the automatic installation of the GfG communication drivers on the host computer.

References

AnywhereUSB datasheet and specifications:
<http://www.digi.com/products/usb/anywhereusb.jsp>

[†] Only AnywhereUSB from Digi International has been tested by GfG.