

Keltron DataTap™ FACP Interface Keltron DataText™ Software Option

Overview

Keltron DataText is a software option for the Keltron DataTap serial data FACP interface. It enables transmission of the FACP textual data over the Keltron mesh radio network. Providing text from the fire panel reduces the need for and expense of manual programming text into the receiving station system.

To enable receipt of the FACP text at the receiving station requires a specially-configured Keltron RF7500 Radio Receiver, and the Keltron LS 7000 Life Safety Event Management System.

How it works

The Keltron DataTap FACP Interface receives event information from the serial printer ports of many brands and models of FACPs. Event and device information is processed by the Keltron DataTap and sent to the receiving station in Contact ID Group and Zone format. The Keltron DataText software option sends the unprocessed FACP text, including device descriptions such as "smoke detector" or "pull-station", the device ID in the FACP's native format, and importantly - the custom labels programmed into the FACP for each device that typically identify its location or purpose.

The Keltron DataText software is field-configurable by means of jumper options, to separately enable text with Alarm signals, Supervisory signals, and/or Trouble signals.

The Keltron DataText fully supports the Keltron intelligent device reporting (IDR) feature that uses special custom label text to tailor the Contact ID event codes applied to specific devices.

Limitations

The transmission of FACP textual messages over the Keltron radio network uses more bandwidth than basic Keltron DataTap messages. In a large Keltron radio system with over 100 radios monitoring over 100 FACPs, there is some risk that one of the FACPs could experience an SLC circuit failure, resulting in possibly hundreds of addressable device trouble signals in a very short time frame. If text is included with that deluge of trouble signals, the required radio bandwidth could exceed what the network can provide and adversely affect or delay signal throughput from other radios on the network.

It is for that reason that the Keltron DataText factory default does not enable text with trouble signals. Keltron recommends that only alarm and supervisory signals have text enabled during normal operation for Keltron radio systems. However, smaller radio systems carry less risk. For any Keltron radio system equipped with Keltron DataText, text transmission should be enabled carefully with regard for the specific environment.

Likewise, the Keltron DataTap has limited buffer memory to store FACP signals awaiting transmission by the radio. Storing full text messages uses more buffer memory than basic Keltron DataTap messages, therefore, fewer text messages can be stored. During periods of elevated signal traffic and once the text buffer memory is full, subsequent signals will be stored and ultimately transmitted without text even if text is enabled.

Keltron develops and manufactures universally-compatible, UL listed life safety event management systems for multi-building facilities and municipal environments. Solutions include Ethernet (IP), active network radio (RF), distributed multiplex, digital communicator/receivers, and direct wire systems. This document is not intended for installation or maintenance purposes. All specifications are subject to changes without notice. For more information visit www.keltroncorp.com or contact us at 781-894-8710. Made in the USA.

© 2015 Keltron Corporation. All rights reserved.