

Global Electronics, LTD
www.geltd.net

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Software Release Procedures

The purpose of this document is to describe the procedure(s) used to upgrade the Ford Vehicle Simulator embedded computer application software to a new revision.

The software provided with a production FVS unit is deemed to be complete and operational at the time of shipment. It will successfully operate any and all of the signal subsystems that the FVS provides in the standard configuration.

If and when a new software release evolves or is produced to correct an operational defect in a earlier version, it shall be made available to all currently registered users in a timely manner. Notification of a new software release shall occur either in writing and/or via E-mail.

Software revisions shall be identified by a unique date-stamp and version number which may be displayed/verified by accessing this information via the FVS version information screen (Press F5 key from Main Menu). Software version numbers are currently in the 1.30 level, indicating that the current configuration of the FVS is of the original design. Later releases will also reflect the evolving configuration of the simulator.

New software releases are intended to be 100 % file compatible (both CFG and Status files) with earlier versions of the FVS software. This means that when the application module is changed on a given FVS system, the status and configuration files created and/or used by the previous application module will still be completely usable by the new application module. This compatibility is documented by a certificate of compatibility document which states that the software has been specifically tested for file compatibility beyond the standard operational testing that precedes a software release.

Installing A New Application Module

1. Insert floppy diskette into FVS floppy drive
2. From the main menu, select FILE then XFER functions
3. Select FLOPPY device as the SOURCE for transfer
4. Select file "FVS.O" - this is the application module
5. Select "BIN" subdirectory as the destination for module
6. Transfer application module (this takes approx 1-2 minutes)
7. Reboot the FVS system and verify new version
(Use F5 key from main menu)

Problems Installing A New Application Module

Some common installation problems :

1. Copy (transfer) the wrong file...

This is not a serious problem. Simply copy the correct file and then remove the incorrect file from the system.

Note : Depending **where** the file was incorrectly copied, it may or may not be possible to simply remove it. If not, the system coordinator should be contacted to evaluate the adverse affects of the misplaced file.

2. Copying halts...

If this happens, something has interrupted the copy process. Try the copy again (first change FVS mode to KEY-OFF/ENGINE-OFF, to minimize interrupt activity) Other causes include possible floppy disk failure and/or SCSI disk failure.

3. Transfer is successful, but system hangs...

The new application module transferred correctly, but when the system is rebooted, it just hangs at the same screen for more than several minutes.

If this happens, something has interrupted the normal copy sequence. Recovery from this state of affairs involves connecting a terminal to the embedded computer, accessing the shell (presuming its still alive) and manually correcting the file system. See document "RECOVERY.DOC" about the steps needed to handle this situation.

4. Version number doesn't change after copy....

The copy proceeds normally, but the version number doesn't change to the installed version number.

See step #7 of Installing A New Application Module.

Until the FVS system is rebooted, it is still running the previous application module!