

ICOtronic Package Documentation

MyToolIT

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1 Introduction

ICOtronic is a Python library (based on `python-can`) for the ICOtronic system. The main purpose of the software is **data collection**:

- directly via the API or
- the script `icon`

The software reads data from the Stationary Transceiver Unit (STU) via CAN using the MyToolIT protocol. The STU itself reads from and writes data to a sensor node via Bluetooth.

1.1 Requirements

1.1.1 Hardware

In order to use the ICOtronic system you need at least:

- a PCAN adapter:
including:
 - power injector, and
 - power supply unit (for the power injector):

Note: Other CAN adapters supported by `python-can` should work as well. However, you need to update the configuration for the CAN connection accordingly.

- a Stationary Transceiver Unit:
- a sensor node, such as a Sensory Tool Holder:

1.1.1.1 Setup

1. Connect the power injector
 1. to the PCAN adapter, and
 2. the power supply unit.
2. Connect the USB connector of the PCAN adapter to your computer.
3. Make sure that your sensor node (SHA/STH/SMH) is connected to a power source. For an STH this usually means that you should check that the battery is (fully) charged.



Figure 1: PCAN Adapter



Figure 2: Power Injector

1.1.2 Software

1.1.2.1 Python For the currently supported Python versions, please take a look the “Meta” section of the ICOTronic package on the Python Package Index (PyPI). We recommend you use a current 64-bit version of Python.

You can download Python here. When you install the software, please do not forget to enable the checkbox “Add Python to PATH” in the setup window of the installer.

1.1.2.2 PCAN Driver To communicate with the STU you need a driver that works with the PCAN adapter. The text below describes how to install/enable this driver on

- Linux,
- macOS, and
- Windows.

1.1.2.2.1 Linux You need to make sure that your CAN adapter is available via the SocketCAN interface. The following steps describe one possible option to configure the CAN interface on (Fedora, Ubuntu) Linux **manually**.

1. Connect the CAN adapter to the computer that runs Linux (or alternatively a Linux VM)
2. Check the list of available interfaces:

```
networkctl list
```

The command output should list the CAN interface with the name `can0`

3. Configure the CAN interface with the following command:

```
sudo ip link set can0 type can bitrate 1000000
```

4. Bring up the CAN interface

```
sudo ip link set can0 up
```

You can also configure the CAN interface **automatically**. For that purpose please store the following text:

```
[Unit]
description=Set default CAN adapter speed

[Match]
Name=can*

[CAN]
BitRate=1000000
```

in a file called `/etc/systemd/network/80-can.network`. Afterwards enable `networkd` and reload the configuration with the commands:

```
sudo systemctl enable systemd-networkd
sudo systemctl restart systemd-networkd
# Note: The command `networkctl reload` only works in systemd 244 or newer
sudo networkctl reload || sudo systemctl reload systemd-networkd
```

You can check the status of the CAN connection with the command:

```
networkctl list
```

If everything works as expected, then the output of the command should look similar to the text below:

IDX	LINK	TYPE	OPERATIONAL	SETUP
...				
7	can0	can	carrier	configured

Sources:

- SocketCAN device on Ubuntu Core
- Question: How can I automatically bring up CAN interface using netplan?
- networkd › systemd › Wiki › ubuntuusers

1.1.2.2.2 macOS On macOS you can use the PCBUSB library to add support for the PCAN adapter. For more information on how to install this library, please take a look at the issue “How to install the PCBUSB-Library on Mac”.

1.1.2.2.3 Windows You can find the download link for the PCAN Windows driver here. Please make sure that you include the “PCAN-Basic API” when you install the software.

1.2 Install

Please use the following command:

```
pip install icotronic
```

to install the latest official version of the ICOTronic library from PyPi.

1.2.1 Install the Package Using Windows Terminal

1. Install (Windows) Terminal if you have not done so already; On Windows 11 this application should be installed by default.
2. Open Terminal
3. Copy and paste the following text into the Terminal

```
pip install icotronic
```

4. Press Return
5. Wait until the install process finished successfully

1.2.2 Install the Development Version of ICOTronic

Note: Please only use the command below, **if you know what you are doing!**

```
pip install 'git+https://github.com/MyToolIT/ICOTronic'
```

2 Data Collection

The ICOTronic package provides two different options to collect sensor data with the ICOTronic system:

1. Use the API to write your own Python scripts: To learn more about this option, please take a look at the API documentation.
2. Use the `icon` script to collect data: We will describe how to measure some basic data with this script in the text below

Note: Since ICOTronic currently only provides very basic functionality for data collection you might be happier using one of the tools below. Both are currently based on an older (deprecated) version of this Python package:

- ICODaq: A closed source Electron application for Windows
- ICOC: A text based UI for Windows

2.1 Sensor Node Identifiers

To connect to a sensor node (SHA, STH, SMH) you need to know an identifier for the node, which can be one of the following:

- Bluetooth advertisement **name**: up to 8 characters, no special characters allowed
- Bluetooth **MAC address**: 8 Bytes, usually written in hexadecimal format
- **Node number**: starting with 0, up to the number of available sensor nodes minus one (e.g. for 8 sensor nodes, the maximum sensor node number will be 7)

If you do not know any of the above identifiers for your sensor node you can use the command

```
icon list
```

to show the available nodes:

```
Name: Test-STH, Number: 0, MAC Address: 08-6B-D7-01-DE-81, RSSI: -51
```

In the example above, we see that one sensor node is available with the following identifiers:

- node number: 0
- name: `Test-STH`
- MAC address: `08-6B-D7-01-DE-81`

Note: The last value “-51” of the example output is the current received signal strength indication (RSSI).

2.2 Collecting Data

After you determined one of the identifiers (name, MAC address, node number) of your sensor node you can use the command:

```
icon measure
```

to collect measurement data. For example, to collect data from an STH with the name “Test-STH” for 10 seconds you can use the following command:

```
icon measure --name Test-STH --time 10
```

After the measurement took place the command will print some information about the collected data, including the location of the HDF5 measurement file:

```
Sample Rate: 9523.81 Hz
Data Loss: 0.0 %
Filepath: Measurement_2025-05-14_15-11-25.hdf5
```

By default measurement files will be stored in the current working directory with

- a name starting with the text **Measurement**
- followed by a date/time-stamp, and
- the extension **.hdf5**.

2.3 Measurement Data

Note: ICon **assumes** that the sensor node always measures **acceleration data** in multiples of the gravity of earth, commonly referred as g or g_0 . While this is true for most of the sensor hardware (such as STHs), some sensor nodes measure other values, e.g. force or temperature. Even in this case the measurement software will (incorrectly) convert the data into multiples of g . We are **working on adding support for configuring the sensor type** in the firmware and the ICOTronic package to **fix this issue**.

To take a look at the measurement data you can use the tool HDFView.

Note: Unfortunately you need to create a free account to download the program. If you do not want to register, then you can try if one of the accounts listed at BugMeNot works. Another option is to download the application from here. Just click on the folder for the latest version of the application (**hdfview-...**) and afterwards on the folder **bin** to see a list of compressed binaries (**.zip** & **.tar.gz**) for the different supported operating systems.

The screenshot below shows a measurement file produced by the ICOTronic library:

As you can see the table with the name **acceleration** stores the acceleration data. The screenshot above displays the metadata of the table. The most important meta attributes here are probably:

- **Start_Time**, which contains the start time of the measurement run in ISO format, and
- **Sensor_Range**, which specifies the range of the used acceleration sensor in multiples of earth’s gravitation ($g \approx 9.81 \text{ m/s}^2$).

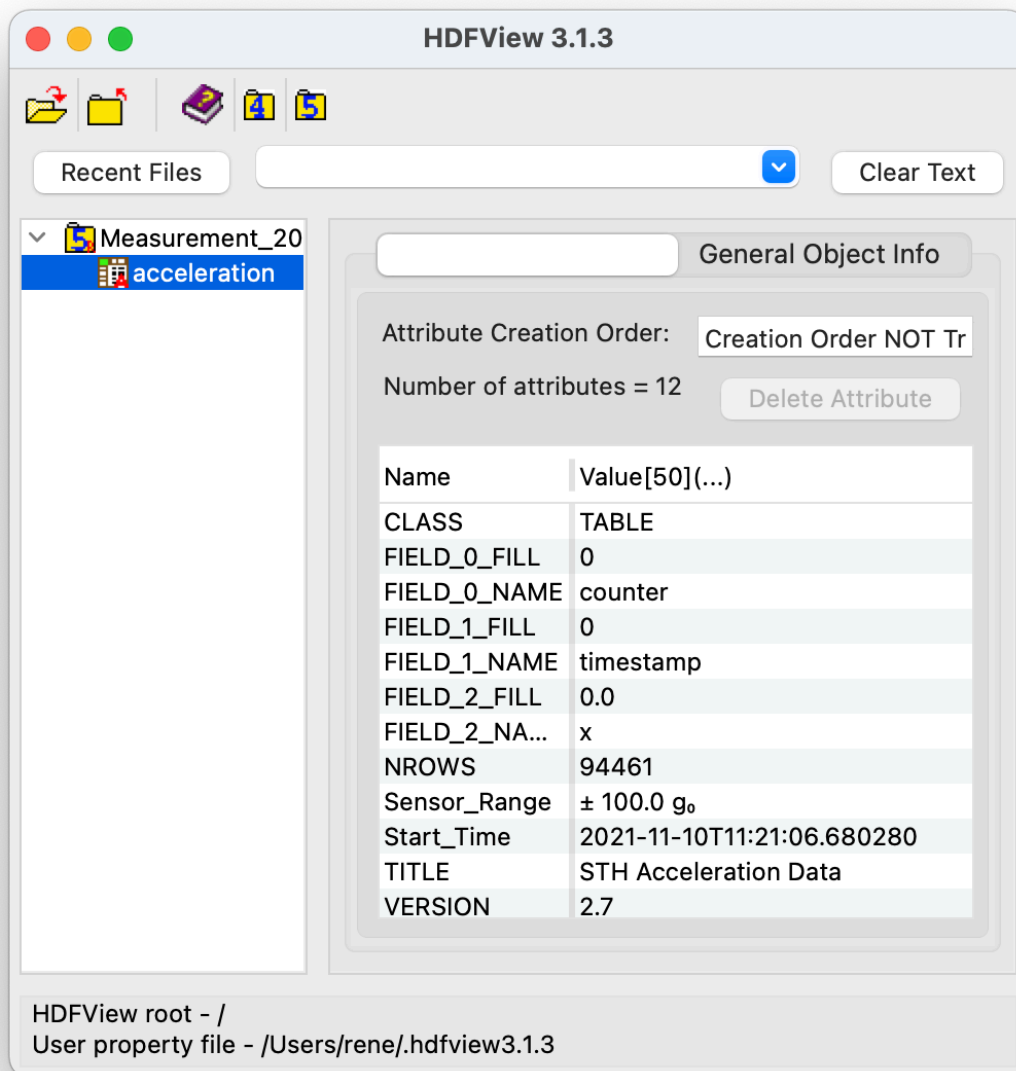


Figure 3: Main Window of HDFView

After you double click on the acceleration table on the left, HDFView will show you the actual acceleration data:

As you can infer from the **x** column above the table shows the acceleration measurement data (in multiples of g) for a single axis. The table below describes the meaning of the columns:

Column	Description	Unit
counter	A cyclic counter value (0–255) sent with the acceleration data to recognize lost packets	–
timestamp	The timestamp for the measured value in microseconds since the measurement start	s
x	Acceleration in the x direction as multiples of earth’s gravitation	g (9.81 m/s^2)

Depending on your sensor and your settings the table might also contain columns for the **y** and/or **z** axis.

If you want you can also use HDFView to print a simple graph for your acceleration data. To do that:

1. Select the values for the the ordinate (e.g. click on the x column to select all acceleration data for the x axis)
2. Click on the graph icon in the top left corner
3. Choose the data for the abscissa (e.g. the timestamp column)
4. Click on the “OK” button

The screenshot below shows an example of such a graph:

For a more advanced analysis of the data files you can use our collection of measurement utilities IColyzer.

2.3.1 Adding Custom Metadata

Sometimes you also want to add additional data about a measurement. To do that you can also use HDFView. Since the tool opens files in read-only mode by default you need to change the default file access mode to “Read/Write” first:

1. Open HDFView
2. Click on “Tools” → “User Options”
3. Select “General Settings”
4. Under the text “Default File Access Mode” choose “Read/Write”
5. Close HDFView

Now you should be able to add and modify attributes. For example, to add a revolutions per minute (RPM) value of 15000 you can use the following steps:

1. Open the measurement file in HDFView
2. Click on the table “acceleration” in the left part of the window
3. In the tab “Object Attribute Info” on the right, click on the button “Add attribute”
4. Check that “Object List” contains the value “/acceleration”
5. Enter the text “RPM” in the field “Name”
6. In the field “Value” enter the text “15000”
7. The “Datatype Class” should be set to “INTEGER”
8. For the size (in bits) choose a bit length that is large enough to store the value. In our example everything equal to or larger than 16 bits should work.

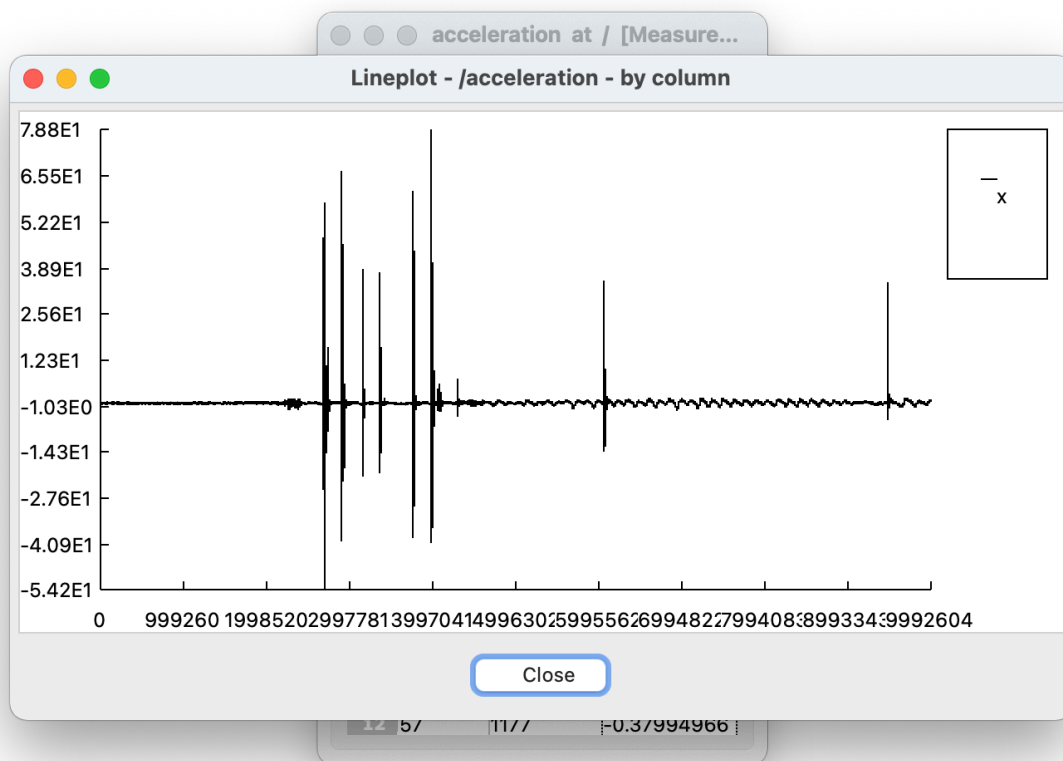


Figure 4: Acceleration Graph in HDFView

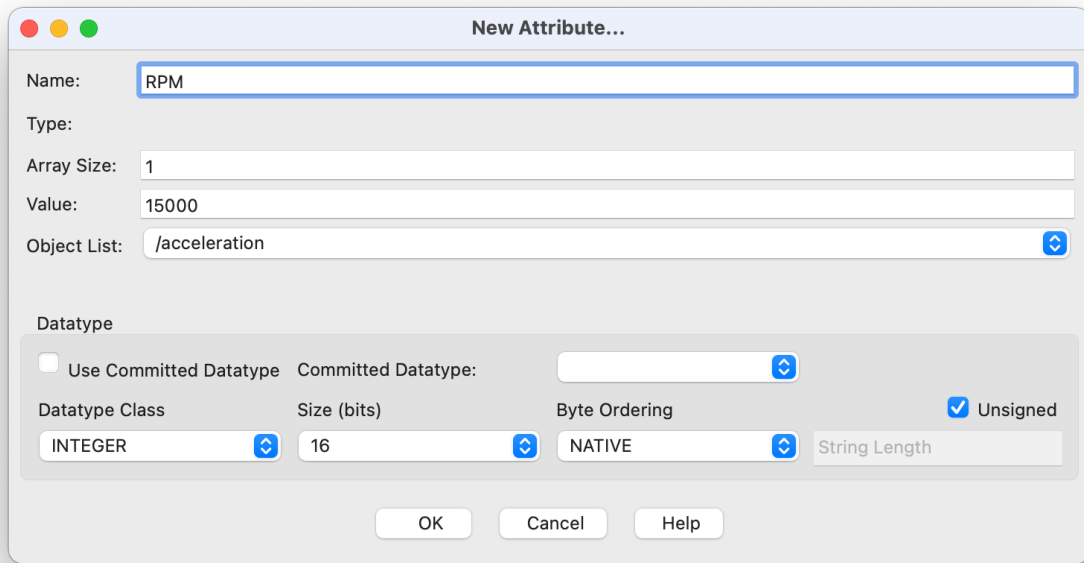


Figure 5: HDFView: RPM Attribute

9. Optionally you can also check “Unsigned”, if you are sure that you only want to store positive values
10. Click the button “OK”

Sometimes you also want to add some general purpose data. For that you can use the “STRING” datatype class. For example, to store the text “hello world” in an attribute called “Comment” you can do the following

1. Repeat steps 1. – 4. from above
2. Choose “STRING” as “Datatype Class”
3. Under “Array Size” choose a length that is large enough to store the text such as “1000” (every size larger than or equal to 11 characters should work)
4. Click the button “OK”

If you want you can also add multiline text. Since you can not add newlines using `\n` in HDFView directly, we recommend you open your favorite text editor to write the text and then copy and paste the text into the value field. HDFView will only show the last line of the pasted text. However, after you copy and paste the text into another program you will see that HDFView stored the text including the newlines.

3 Tutorials

3.1 Changing Configuration Values

Note: If you only use the `icon` command line tool, then you most probably do not need to change the configuration at all.

All configuration options are currently stored in YAML files (handled by the configuration library Dynaconf). The default values are stored inside the package itself. If you want to overwrite or extend these values you should create a user configuration file. To do that you can use the command:

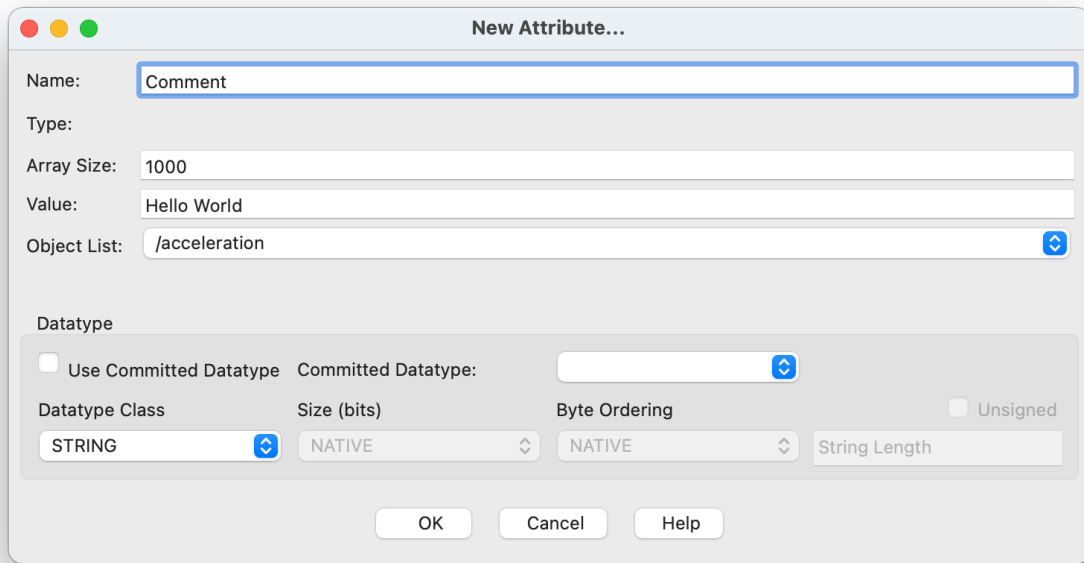


Figure 6: HDFView: Comment Attribute

```
icon config
```

which will open the the user configuration in your default text editor. You can then edit this file and save your changes to update the configuration. For a list of available options, please take a look at the default configuration.

Please make sure to not make any mistakes when you edit this file. Otherwise some parts of the ICOTronic library will not work correctly, printing an error message about the (first) incorrect configuration value. If there is an configuration error the library will also (try to) open the user configuration file in your standard text editor so you can fix the problem.

3.1.1 Changing the CAN Device (Channel) Name

1. Open the user configuration file in your default text editor using the command line tool `icon`:

```
icon config
```

2. Update the values for you CAN device; For example, if you want to use the CAN adapter `can1` instead of the default (`can0`) in Linux, then add the following text (below `dynaconf_merge: true`):

```
can:
  linux:
    channel: can1
```

3. Save the modified configuration file

3.1.2 Changing the CAN Interface Name

1. Open the user configuration file in your default text editor using the command line tool `icon`:

```
icon config
```

2. Update the configuration values for your CAN interface according to the description at the python-can website. Please add the values below `can` → `<OS>`, where `<OS>` should be replaced with the name of you operating system, either:

- `linux`,
- `mac`, or
- `windows`.

For example, to use

- the interface ETAS on Windows (`windows`)
- with the channel identifier `ETAS://ETH/ES910:abcd/CAN:1`

add the following text (below `dynaconf_merge: true`):

```
can:
  windows:
    interface: etas
    channel: ETAS://ETH/ES910:abcd/CAN:1
```

3. Save the modified configuration file

3.2 ICon CLI Tool

3.2.1 Help

To show the available subcommands and options of `icon` you can use the option `-h` or `--help`:

```
icon -h
```

To show the available options for a certain subcommand add the subcommand before the option. For example, to show the help text for the subcommand `measure` you can use the following command:

```
icon measure -h
```

3.2.2 Listing Available Sensor Nodes

To print a list of all available sensor nodes, including their identifiers (name, MAC address, node number), please use the subcommand `list`:

```
icon list
```

3.2.3 Collecting Measurement Data

To collect and store measurement data from an STH you can use the subcommand `measure`:

```
icon measure
```

By default the command will collect streaming data for 10 seconds for the first measurement channel and store the data in a file starting with the name **Measurement** and the extension **.hdf5** in the current working directory.

3.2.3.1 Specifying the Sensor Hardware The **measure** subcommand requires that you specify one of the identifiers of a sensor node.

To connect to a sensor node by **name** use the option **-n** or **--name**. For example, the command below collects data from the sensor node with the name **Test-STH**:

```
icon measure -n 'Test-STH'
```

You can also use the MAC address to connect to a certain sensor node with the option **-m** or **--mac-address**:

```
icon measure -m '08-6B-D7-01-DE-81'
```

To connect using the node number use the option **-d** or **--node-number**:

```
icon measure -d 0
```

3.2.3.2 Changing the Run Time To change the run time of the measurement you can use the option **-t**, which takes the runtime in seconds as argument. The command

```
icon measure -t 300
```

for example, changes the runtime to 300 seconds (5 minutes).

3.2.3.3 Channel Selection To enable the measurement for the first (“x”) channel and second (“y”) measurement channel for

- an “older” STH (Firmware 2.x, BGM113 chip) or
- a “newer” STH (Firmware 3.x, BGM121 chip)

you can use the following command:

```
icon measure -1 1 -2 2 -3 0
```

Here:

- 0 indicates that you want to disable the specified measurement channel, while
- using the same number for the measurement channel (option) and the sensor/hardware channel (argument for the option) specifies that you want to use the specified channel.

Since the default value

- for the option **-1** is already 1, and
- for the option **-3** is already 0

you can also leave out these options to arrive at the shorter command:

```
icon measure -2 2
```

Note: Due to a problem in the current firmware the amount of **paket loss is much higher**, if you

- use the standard ADC configuration values, and
- enable data transmission for **exactly 2 (channels)**.

We strongly recommend you **use either one or three channels**.

For newer STH versions (Firmware 3.x, BGM121 chip) or SMHs (Sensory Milling Heads) you can also change the hardware/sensor channel for the first, second and third measurement channel. For example, to select

- hardware channel 8 for the first measurement channel
- hardware channel 1 for the second measurement channel, and
- hardware channel 3 for the third measurement channel

you can use the following command:

```
icon measure -1 8 -2 1 -3 3
```

If you just want to enable/set a measurement channel and use the hardware channel with the same number you can also just leave the argument for the specific measurement channel empty. For example, to use

- hardware channel 1 for measurement channel 1,
- hardware channel 2 for measurement channel 2, and
- hardware channel 3 for measurement channel 3

you can use the following command:

```
icon measure -1 -2 -3
```

or even shorter, since the default value for measurement channel 1 is hardware channel 1:

```
icon measure -2 -3
```

3.2.3.4 Changing the Reference Voltage For certain sensor nodes you have to change the reference voltage to retrieve a proper measurement value. For example, STHs that use a ± 40 g acceleration sensor (ADXL356) require a reference voltage of 1.8 V instead of the usual supply voltage (VDD) of 3.3 V. To select the correct reference voltage for these nodes at startup use the option `-v 1.8`:

```
icon measure -v 1.8
```

3.2.3.5 Changing the Sampling Rate You can change the sampling rate by modifying the parameters of the ADC (analog digital converter). There are 3 parameters which influence the sampling rate.

- **Prescaler:** Prescaler used by the ADC to get the sample points (`-s, --prescaler`)
- **Acquisition Time:** Time the ADC holds a value to get a sampling point (`-a, --acquisition`)
- **Oversampling Rate:** Oversampling rate of the ADC (`-o, --oversampling`)

The formula which can be used to calculate the sampling rate can be found in the general ICOTronic system documentation under the section “Sampling Rate”. Please be aware that the actual sample rate might be slightly lower, even if there is no data loss.

For example, to use a sampling rate of about 2381 Hz you can use the following command:

```
icon measure --prescaler 2 --acquisition 8 --oversampling 256
```

3.2.4 Renaming a Sensor Node

To change the name of a sensor you can use the subcommand `rename`. For example, to change the name of the sensor node with the Bluetooth MAC address 08-6B-D7-01-DE-81 to `Test-STH` use the following command:

```
icon rename -m 08-6B-D7-01-DE-81 Test-STH
```

For more information about the command you can use the option `-h/--help`:

```
icon rename -h
```

3.2.5 Opening the User Configuration

To open the user configuration file, you can use the subcommand `config`:

```
icon config
```

If the file does not exist yet, then it will be created and filled with the content of the default user configuration. For more information on how to change the configuration, please take a look at the section “Changing Configuration Values”.

3.2.6 STU Commands

To list all available STU subcommands, please use the option `-h` (or `--help`):

```
icon stu -h
```

3.2.6.1 Retrieve the Bluetooth STU MAC Address To retrieve the STU Bluetooth address you can use the following command:

```
icon stu mac
```

3.2.6.2 Reset STU To reset the STU please use the following command:


```
icon stu reset
```

3.2.6.3 Determining Data Loss Depending on

- the hardware of the computer and
- the used sampling frequency

the ICOTronic library might not be able to keep up with the rate of measurement data that is collected by the STU and stored in the buffer of the CAN adapter. The result in this case will be a certain rate of data loss, since the CAN adapter will get rid of old data if it is not collected fast enough.

To minimize the chance of this kind of data loss you can use the command

```
icon dataloss
```

to determine the CPU usage and data loss for the current computer at certain sample rates.

4 Code Examples

For information on how to write your own code including sample code please take a look at the API documentation.

5 Virtualization

You can also use the ICOTronic package with various virtualization software. For that to work you have to make sure that (at least) the PEAK CAN adapter is attached to the virtual guest operating system. For some virtualization software you might have to install additional software for that to work. For example, VirtualBox requires that you install the VirtualBox Extension Pack before you can use USB 2 and USB 3 devices.

Note: Please be advised that the **VirtualBox Extension Pack is paid software** even though you can download and use it without any license key. **Oracle might come after you, if you do not pay for the license**, even if you use the Extension Pack in an educational setting.

The table below shows some of the virtualization software we tried and that worked (when we tested it).

Virtualization Software	Host		Guest		Notes
	OS	Archi- tecture	OS	Archi- tecture	
Parallels Desktop	macOS	x64	Ubuntu	x64	
Parallels Desktop	macOS	x64	Windows	x64	
Parallels Desktop	macOS	ARM64	Fedora	ARM64	
Parallels Desktop	macOS	ARM64	Windows	ARM64,	JLink (and hence Simplicity Commander) only works with programming adapters that support WinUSB
			11	x64	

Virtualization Software	Host		Guest		Notes
	OS	Architecture	OS	Architecture	
VirtualBox	macOS	x64	Windows 10	x64	
VirtualBox	Windows	x64	Fedora 36	x64	
WSL 2	Windows	x64	Ubuntu 22.04	x64	

5.1 Windows Subsystem for Linux 2

Using ICOTronic in the WSL 2 currently requires using a custom Linux kernel. We **would not recommend** using ICOTronic with this type of virtualization software, since the setup requires quite some amount of work and time. Nevertheless the steps below should show you how you can use the PEAK CAN adapter and hence the ICOTronic package with WSL 2.

1. Install WSL 2 (Windows Shell):

```
wsl --install
```

2. Install Ubuntu 22.04 VM (Windows Shell):

1. Install Ubuntu 22.04 from the Microsoft Store
2. Open the Ubuntu 22.04 application
 1. Choose a user name
 2. Choose a password
3. Execute the following commands in a Powershell session

```
wsl --setdefault Ubuntu-22.04
wsl --set-version Ubuntu-22.04 2
```

The second command might fail, if Ubuntu-22.04 already uses WSL 2. In this case please just ignore the error message.

3. Create Custom Kernel

Windows Shell:

Note: Please replace <user> with your (Linux) username (e.g. **rene**)

```
cd ~/Documents
mkdir WSL
cd WSL
wsl --export Ubuntu-22.04 CANbuntu.tar
wsl --import CANbuntu CANbuntu CANbuntu.tar
wsl --distribution CANbuntu --user <user>
```

Linux Shell:

```

sudo apt update
sudo apt upgrade -y
sudo apt install -y bc build-essential flex bison libssl-dev libelf-dev \
    libncurses-dev autoconf libudev-dev libtool dwarves
cd ~
git clone https://github.com/microsoft/WSL2-Linux-Kernel.git
cd WSL2-Linux-Kernel
uname -r # 5.15.74.2-microsoft-standard-WSL2 → branch ...5.15.y
git checkout linux-msft-wsl-5.15.y
cat /proc/config.gz | gunzip > .config
make menuconfig

```

Make sure the following features are enabled:

- Device Drivers → USB Support
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB announce new devices
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB Modem (CDC ACM) support
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB/IP
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB/IP → VHCI HCD
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB Serial Converter Support
- Device Drivers → USB Support → USB Serial Converter Support → USB FTDI Single port Serial Driver

Enable the following features:

- Networking support → CAN bus subsystem support
- Networking support → CAN bus subsystem support → Raw CAN Protocol
- Networking support → CAN bus subsystem support → CAN device drivers → Virtual Local CAN Interface
- Networking support → CAN bus subsystem support → CAN device drivers → Serial / USB serial CAN Adaptors (slcan)
- Networking support → CAN bus subsystem support → CAN device drivers → CAN USB Interfaces → PEAK PCAN-USB/USB Pro interfaces for CAN 2.0b/CAN-FD

Save the modified kernel configuration.

Linux Shell:

```

touch .scmversion
make
sudo make modules_install
sudo make install

```

4. Install usbipd-win (Linux Shell):

```

cd tools/usb/usbip
./autogen.sh
./configure
sudo make install
sudo cp libsrc/.libs/libusbip.so.0 /lib/libusbip.so.0
sudo apt-get install -y hwdata

```

5. Copy image (Linux Shell):

Note: Please replace <user> with your (Windows) username (e.g. **rene**)

```
cd ~/WSL2-Linux-Kernel
cp arch/x86/boot/bzImage /mnt/c/Users/<user>/Documents/WSL/canbuntu-bzImage
```

6. Create `.wslconfig` in (root of) Windows user directory and store the following text:

```
[wsl2]
kernel=c:\\users\\<user>\\Documents\\WSL\\canbuntu-bzImage
```

Note: Please replace `<user>` with your (Windows) username (e.g. `rene`)

7. Set default distribution (Windows Shell)

```
wsl --setdefault CANbuntu
```

8. Shutdown and restart WSL (Windows Shell):

```
wsl --shutdown
wsl -d CANbuntu --cd "~"
```

9. Change default user of WSL distro (Linux Shell)

```
sudo nano /etc/wsl.conf
```

Insert the following text:

```
[user]
default=<user>
```

Note: Please replace `<user>` with your (Windows) username (e.g. `rene`)

Save the file and exit `nano`:

1. Ctrl + O
- 2.
3. Ctrl + X)

10. Restart WSL: See step 8

11. Install `usbipd` (Windows Shell):

```
winget install usbipd
```

12. Attach CAN-Adapter to Linux VM (Windows Shell)

```
usbipd wsl list
# ...
# 5-3      0c72:0012  PCAN-USB FD                Not attached
# ...
usbipd wsl attach -d CANbuntu --busid 5-3
usbipd wsl list
# ...
# 5-3      0c72:0012  PCAN-USB FD                Attached - CANbuntu
# ...
```

13. Check for PEAK CAN adapter in Linux (Optional, Linux Shell):

```

dmesg | grep peak_usb
# ...
# peak_usb 1-1:1.0: PEAK-System PCAN-USB FD v1 fw v3.2.0 (1 channels)
# ...

lsusb
# ...
# Bus 001 Device 002: ID 0c72:0012 PEAK System PCAN-USB FD
# ...

```

14. Add virtual link for CAN device (Linux Shell)

```

sudo ip link set can0 type can bitrate 1000000
sudo ip link set can0 up

```

Note: If the commands above fail with the error message:

RTNETLINK answers: Connection timed out

then please disconnect and connect the USB CAN adapter. After that attach it to the Linux VM again (see step 12).

15. Install pip (Linux Shell):

```

sudo apt install -y python3-pip

```

16. Install ICOTronic (Linux Shell)

```

cd ~
mkdir Documents
cd Documents
git clone https://github.com/MyToolIT/ICOTronic.git
cd ICOTronic
python3 -m pip install --prefix=$(python3 -m site --user-base) -e .

```

17. Run a script to test that everything works as expected (Linux Shell)

```

icon list

```

If the command above fails with the message

Command 'icon' not found...

then you might have to logout and login into the WSL session again before you execute `icon list` again.

Notes:

- You only need to repeat steps
- 12: attach the CAN adapter to the VM in Windows and
- 14: create the link for the CAN device in Linux

after you set up everything properly once.

- Unfortunately configuring the CAN interface automatically does not seem to work (reliably) on WSL yet

6 Containerization

6.1 Docker on Linux

The text below shows how you can use (code of) the ICOTronic package in a Docker container on a **Linux host**. The description on how to move the interface of the Docker container is an adaption of an article/video from the “Chemnitzer Linux-Tage”.

6.1.1 Creating a Docker Image

To create a Docker image that contains ICOTronic just install the package with `pip` inside your `Dockerfile`. We recommend that you use a virtual environment to install the package. For an example, please take a look at our `Dockerfile`.

6.1.2 Building the Docker Image

If you do not want to create a `Dockerfile` yourself, you can build an image based on our Docker example file. To do that, please run the following command in the root of the repository:

```
docker build -t mytoolit/icotronic -f Docker/Dockerfile .
```

6.1.3 Using ICOTronic in the Docker Container

1. Run the container (**Terminal 1**)

1. Open a new terminal window
2. Open a shell in the Docker container

```
docker run --rm -it --name icotronic mytoolit/icotronic
```

2. Move the CAN interface into the network space of the Docker container (**Terminal 2**)

```
export DOCKERPID="$(docker inspect -f '{{ .State.Pid }}' icotronic)"
sudo ip link set can0 netns "$DOCKERPID"
sudo nsenter -t "$DOCKERPID" -n ip link set can0 type can bitrate 1000000
sudo nsenter -t "$DOCKERPID" -n ip link set can0 up
```

Note: Alternatively you can also add the option `--network host` to the Docker command from step 1. Please check out the Docker documentation to learn more about the consequences of using this option.

3. Run a test command in Docker container (**Terminal 1**) e.g.:

```
icon list
```

7 Troubleshooting

7.1 Import Errors

If `icon` fails with an error message that looks similar to the following text on Windows:

```
Traceback (most recent call last):
```

```
...
```

```
    from numexpr.interpreter import MAX_THREADS, use_vml, __BLOCK_SIZE1__
ImportError: DLL load failed while importing interpreter: The specified module could not be found.
```

```
DLL load failed while importing interpreter: The specified module could not be found.
```

then you probably need to install the “Microsoft Visual C++ Redistributable package”. You can download the latest version

- for the x64 architecture, i.e. for AMD and Intel CPUs, [here](#) and
- for the ARM64 architecture [here](#).

7.2 Insufficient Rights

If you do not have sufficient rights to install the package you can also try to install the package in the user package folder:

```
pip install --user icotronic
```

7.3 Unable to Locate HDF5

The installation of the ICOTronic package might fail with an error message that looks like this:

```
... implicit declaration of function 'H5close'
```

If you use Homebrew on an Apple Silicon based Mac you can use the following commands to fix this problem:

```
pip uninstall -y tables
brew install hdf5 c-blosc2 lzo bzip2
export BLOSC_DIR=/opt/homebrew/opt/c-blosc
export BZIP2_DIR=/opt/homebrew/opt/bzip2
export LZ0_DIR=/opt/homebrew/opt/lzo
export HDF5_DIR=/opt/homebrew/opt/hdf5
pip install --no-cache-dir tables
```

7.4 HDF5 Library Not Loaded

If `icon` fails with an error message that looks like this on macOS:

```
Library not loaded: /opt/homebrew/opt/hdf5/lib/libhdf5....dylib
```

In that case you might have installed an outdated cached version of PyTables. You should be able to fix this issue using the same steps as described above.

7.5 Unable to open OpenBLAS library

If `icon` fails with the error message:

```
ImportError: libopenblas.so.0: cannot open shared object file: No such file or directory
```

on Raspbian (or some other GNU/Linux version based on Debian) then you probably need to install the OpenBLAS library:

```
sudo apt-get install libopenblas-dev
```

7.6 Unknown Command

If `pip install` prints **warnings about the path** that look like this:

The script ... is installed in '...\Scripts' which is not on PATH.

then please add the text between the single quotes (without the quotes) to your PATH environment variable. Here `...\Scripts` is just a placeholder. Please use the value that `pip install` prints on your machine. If

- you used the installer from the Python website (and checked “Add Python to PATH”) or
- you used winget

to install Python, then the warning above should not appear. On the other hand, the **Python version from the Microsoft Store might not add the Scripts directory** to your path.

8 Development

8.1 Install

You can use the instructions below, if you want to work on the code of the ICOTronic package, i.e. add additional features or fix bugs.

1. Clone the repository to a directory of your choice. You can either use the command line tool `git`:

```
git clone https://github.com/MyToolIT/ICOTronic.git
```

or one of the many available graphical user interfaces for Git to do that.

2. Install ICOTronic with `uv`

1. Change your working directory to the (root) directory of the cloned repository
2. Install ICOTronic:

```
uv venv --allow-existing
uv sync --all-extras
```

Notes:

- The command above will install the package in a virtual environment.

- You need to prefix commands, such as `icon` with the command `uv run` (e.g. `uv run icon`) to execute it in this virtual environment.
- Using `uv run` will only work in the root folder of the repository (that contains `pyproject.toml`).

3. Install other required tools (for tests)

- `hdf5`: For the command line tool `h5dump` (Linux/macOS). You can install `hdf5` via Homebrew:

```
brew install hdf5
```

8.2 Style

Please use the guidelines from PEP 8. For code formatting we currently use Black, which should format code according to PEP 8 by default.

To format the whole code base you can use the following command in the root of the repository:

```
poetry black .
```

For development we recommend that you use a tool or plugin that reformats your code with Black every time you save. This way we can ensure that we use a consistent style for the whole code base.

8.3 Tests

The following text describes some of the measures we should take to keep the software stable:

- Please only push your changes to the `main` branch, if you think there are no new bugs or regressions. The `main` branch **should always contain a working version of the software**.
- Please **always run the automatic test** (`make run`) for **every supported OS** (Linux, macOS, Windows) before you push to the `main` branch.

8.3.1 Code Checks

8.3.1.1 Flake8 We check the code with Flake8. Please use the following command in the root of the repository to make sure you did not add any code that introduces warnings:

```
poetry run flake8
```

8.3.1.2 mypy To check the type hint in the code base we use the static code checker mypy. Please use the following command in the root of the repository to check the code base for type problems:

```
poetry run mypy icotronic
```

8.3.1.3 Pylint We currently use Pylint to check the code:

```
poetry run pylint .
```

8.3.2 Automatic Tests

8.3.2.0.1 Usage Please run the following command in the root of the repository:

```
poetry run pytest -v
```

and make sure that it reports no test failures.

8.3.3 Manual Tests

The text below specifies the manual test that should be executed before we release a new version of the ICOTronic package. Please note that the tests assume that you more or less use the default configuration values.

8.3.3.0.1 Check the Performance of the Library

1. Open your favorite terminal application and change your working directory to the root of the repository
2. Remove HDF5 files from the repository:

```
rm *.hdf5
```

Note: You can ignore errors about “no matches for wildcard” on Linux and macOS. This message just tells you that there is no file with the extension `hdf5` in the current directory.

3. Check that no HDF5 files exist in the repository. The following command should not produce any output:

```
ls *.hdf5
```

4. Give your test STH the name “Test-STH”
5. Run the following command

```
poetry run icon measure -t 300 -n Test-STH
```

- The command should not print any **no error messages**.
- The **data loss must be below 1 %**.

6. Check that the repo now contains a HDF5 (*.hdf5) file

```
ls *.hdf5
```

7. Open the file in HDFView
8. Check that the timestamp of the last value in the `acceleration` table has **approximately the value 30 000 000** (all values above 29 900 000 should be fine).

8.3.4 Combined Checks & Tests

While you need to execute some test for the ICOTronic package manually, other tests and checks can be automated.

Note: For the text below we assume that you installed **make** on your machine.

To run all checks, the STH test and the STU test use the following **make** command:

```
make run
```

8.4 Release

1. Check that the **CI jobs** for the **main** branch finished successfully
2. Check that the most recent “Read the Docs” build of the documentation ran successfully
3. Check that the **checks and tests** run without any problems on **Linux**, **macOS** and **Windows**
 1. Set the value of **sth** → **status** in the configuration to **Epoxied**
 2. Execute the command:

```
make run
```

in the root of the repository

4. Execute the **manual tests** in Windows and check that everything works as expected.
 5. Update the release notes:
 1. Open the release notes for the latest version
 2. Replace links with a permanent version:
For example instead of
 - `../../something.txt` use
 - `https://github.com/MyToolIT/ICOTronic/blob/REVISION/something.txt`,where **REVISION** is the latest version of the main branch (e.g. 8568893f for version 1.0.5)
 3. Commit your changes
6. Change the version number and commit your changes (please replace **<VERSION>** with the version number e.g. 1.0.5):

```
uv version <VERSION>
export icotronic_version="$(uv version --short)"
git commit -a -m "Release: Release version $icotronic_version"
git tag "$icotronic_version"
git push && git push --tags
```

Note: GitHub Actions will publish a package based on the tagged commit and upload it to PyPi.

7. Create a new release here
 1. Insert the version number (e.g. 1.0.5) into the tag field
 2. For the release title use “Version ”, where **<VERSION>** specifies the version number (e.g. “Version 1.0.5”)

3. Paste the release notes for the latest release into the main text field
4. Click on “Publish Release”

Note: Alternatively you can also use the `gh` command:

```
gh release create
```

to create the release notes.

8. Close the milestone for the latest release number