

TA Instrument Explorer



Getting Started Guide

Revision B
Issued September 2005



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Using the TA Instrument Explorer

The TA Instrument Explorer Window is a customizable graphical user interface for TA Messaging Agent (TAMA). It enables users to setup, view and control any instruments currently connected to the supplied private Ethernet switch/hub (Q Series only) or a Local Area Network (LAN). The TA Instrument Explorer is also used to monitor the status of data transmission from any Q Series® instrument to local controller via the Data File Acceptor (DFA).

To open the TA Instrument Explorer, double click on the icon located on your desktop to start the program.

Changing the TA Instrument Explorer Language


To change the language displayed for the TA Instrument Explorer and Instrument Control program follow these steps:

1. Click the  icon in the upper left-hand corner of the TA Instrument Explorer window to display the drop-down menu.
2. Choose **Select Language**, then select one of the three available languages, English, Deutsch (German), 日本語 (Japanese), or 中文(简体) (Chinese). After you select the language, the program will automatically be displayed in the chosen language.
3. Repeat the process to change the language again.

The language used for instrument control is based on the instrument language. To set this language see the online help topic entitled "Using the Instrument Setup Wizard."

TA Instrument Explorer Functions

The TA Instrument Explorer is used to perform the following functions:

- Double click on the instrument icon (e.g., ) on the Online Instrument view to connect to a selected instrument and automatically open the instrument control software for that instrument.
- Right click on the instrument icon on the Online Instrument view or right click on an instrument row in the Instrument Information View to connect to the instrument using the pop-up menu.
- (*Q Series only*) Right click on the instrument icon on the Online Instrument view and select **Setup Instrument** to make changes to the instrument settings such as: synchronize the instruments and PC's date and time, updating module software, resetting the instruments parameters, and configuring the instrument's network settings.
- Click the various icons on the TA Instrument Explorer tool bar to view the status of each instrument, any error information associated with that instrument, or the data file acceptor (DFA) status.
- Access the drop-down menu (from the upper left corner icon) and the right click pop-up menu to perform various functions.

Tool Bar Functions



The TA Instrument Explorer tool bar (shown in the figure above) is used to access various functions associated with the Explorer window and the instruments online.



Online Instruments View: This button is used to view all the instruments currently online. This window displays the Name, Temperature, State and Location for each instrument currently connected to the private Ethernet Switch or LAN.



Instrument Information: This button is used to view instrument information. This window displays the Instrument's Name, Location, Model, current version of instrument software installed (Inst. Ver.), Physical Address, Serial No., IP Address, Update Time (and Date), name of controller computer (Master Name), Installed Options, and the number of connections (NOC) (Q Series only) for each instrument connected to the private Ethernet Hub or LAN.



Viewing the Data File Acceptor (DFA) Status (Q Series Instruments Only): Click this button to view the Data File Acceptor (DFA) Status for all instruments. This window displays the status of data transmission from instruments to the controller as well as the Instrument Name, Number of Bytes Received, Data File Acceptor (DFA) State, Time and Date Information Last Updated, IP Address, and the Data File Path for each instrument that is sending data to the controller.



Changing the TA Instrument Explorer Settings: This button is used to view the settings for the TA Instrument Explorer. This window allows you to customize the appearance of the TA Instrument Explorer based on the options selected.



Refreshing the TA Instrument Explorer: Click this button to immediately refresh all of the information displayed in the TA Instrument Explorer.



Internet Explorer: This button is used to connect to the specified Internet Home Page address that was set using the TA Instrument Explorer Settings.




Help: Click on the Help button to open the Adobe Acrobat Reader (PDF) file containing information on the TA Instrument Explorer.



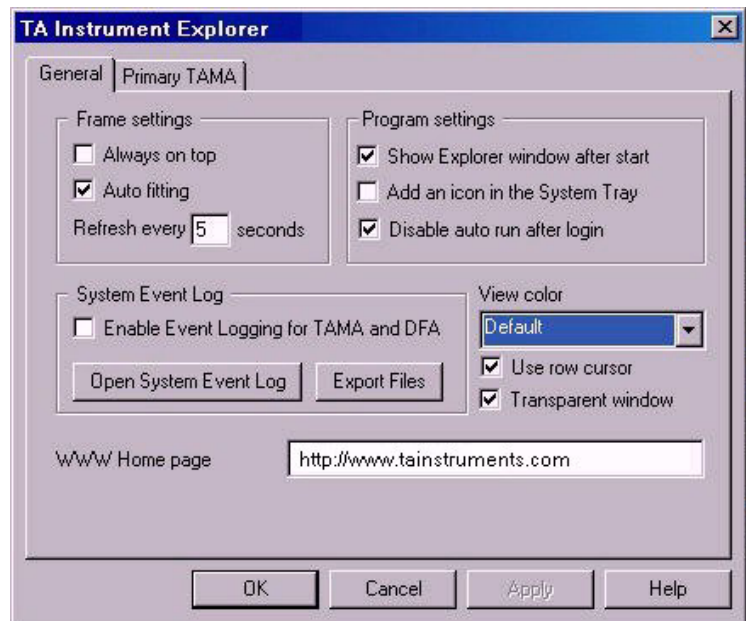
Sorting Instruments: Use the two drop-down menus to sort the instruments connected online based on location or instrument type in the TA Instrument Explorer. To display all of the instruments, select **All Locations** or **All Types**.

Changing the TA Instrument Explorer Settings

Click the  button on the TA Instrument Explorer tool bar, then click the **General** tab to view the settings for the TA Instrument Explorer as shown in the figure to the right.



Follow these instructions to set up the Explorer window.

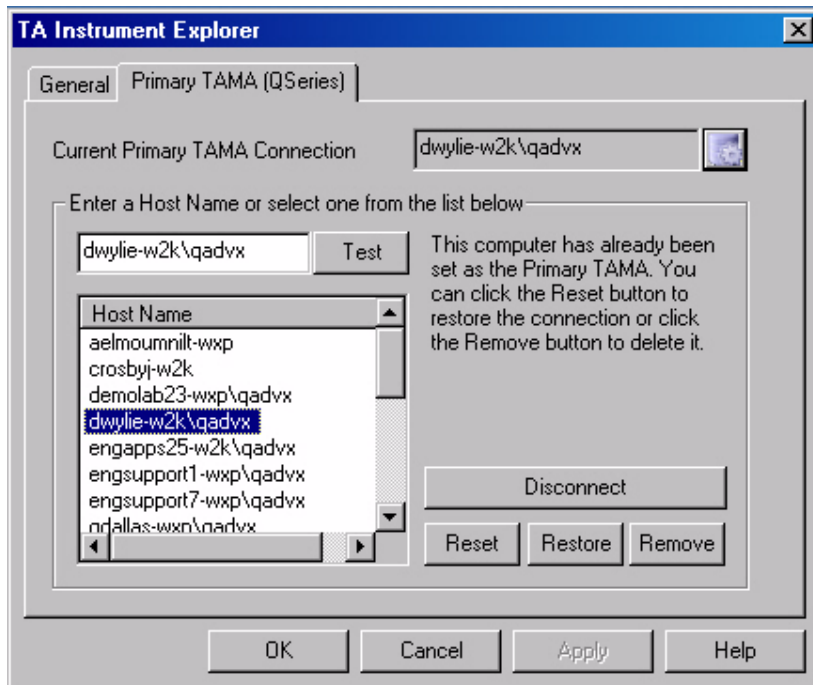
1. Check **Always on Top**, if you want the TA Instrument Explorer window to be displayed on top of any other open window. If left unchecked, the window will be displayed in the regular fashion.
2. Check **Auto Fitting**, if you want to automatically adjust each column width so that the items will fit into columns in the Instrument Information view.
3. Enter the desired refresh time in the **Refresh every** ___ seconds field, which is the time that will elapse before the TA Instrument Explorer window is updated again with new information.
4. Check **Show Explorer** window after start to automatically display the Explorer window every time your computer is started.
5. Check **Add an icon in the System Tray** to automatically add an icon for the Explorer to the system tray when the window is open.
6. Check **Disable auto run after login** to keep the Explorer from running after logging on to Microsoft Windows.
7. Check **Enable Event Logging for Q Series TAMA** to enable the logging of Thermal Q Series TAMA and DFA messages in the event log.
8. Click the **Open System Event Log** button to open the System Event Log. This log contains information about hardware, software and system problems.
9. Click the **Export Files** button to export the Event and Application Logs to the desktop.
10. Select a color from the **View Color** drop-down list to change the background color of the Explorer window.
11. Check the **Use row cursor** box to show a highlighted selection bar as you move the cursor up and down the Instrument Information view. This is to allow you to easily see which instrument you are pointing to. Leave the box empty to remove this feature.
12. Check the **Transparent window** box to to turn the Explorer window transparent when you drag it to a different position on the desktop. Leave the box empty to remove this feature.
13. Enter a default **WWW Home page** URL address for the Internet icon on the tool bar.
14. Click **OK** when completed.



Setting Up the Platinum Messaging Feature (Q Series Instruments Only)

When you install the Advantage software (V4.3 or higher) you will have the option of installing the Platinum Mail Messaging Database option. This component creates a localized database on your system to manage all of the messaging requests. If you have multiple controller computers, you will only need to install this option once and specify the Messaging Database (Primary TAMA database) on the other controllers. Follow the instructions below to verify or specify the primary TAMA database.

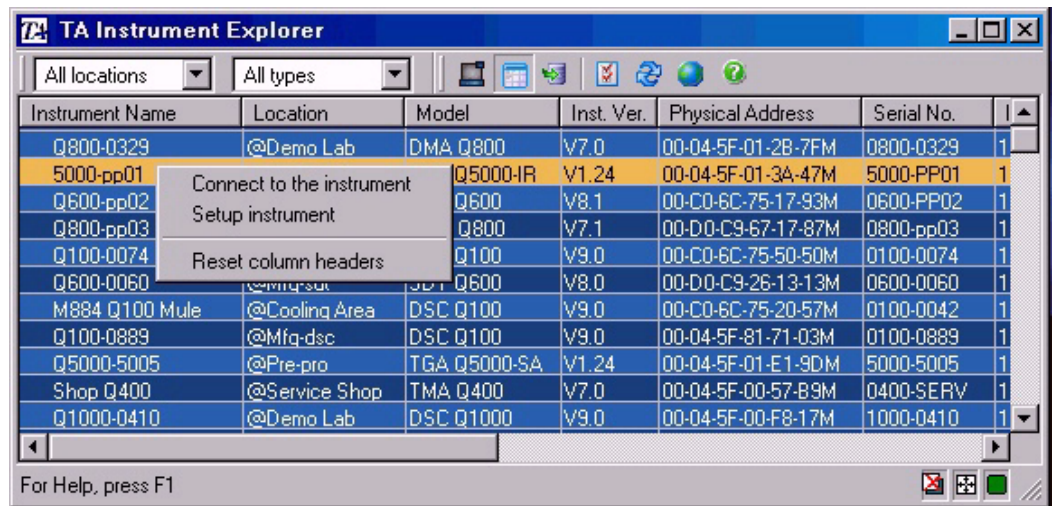
1. Click the  button on the TA Instrument Explorer tool bar.
2. Click on the **Primary TAMA** tab. The figure shown to the right is displayed.
3. Check to see if the database is already connected by looking in the **Current Primary TAMA Connection** field. If the database is not currently connected, look in the **Host Name** list for an available TAMA database station. Listed are all the visible computers that have a SQL database installed. The computers having a database available will have the format "hostname\qadvx."
4. Choose from one of the following steps:
 - If the desired QAdvX database is available, select **Test** to verify TAMA database installation and operation. A message will be posted, if test is successful. Select **Yes** to connect to computer, if desired. (Alternatively, you can connect using the **Connect** button.)
 - If there are no QAdvX database servers available, you will need to install MSDE (Microsoft SQL Server Desktop Engine) by clicking on the MSDE button, , and stepping through the installation windows.
5. Select **OK** to close Explorer settings window.



NOTE: Once the Messaging feature is configured with a computer, you will need to set up the email, profile, and other options. See the document "Configuring & Testing Platinum Mail &

Explorer Pop-up Menu Functions

To access the TA Instrument Explorer Pop-up menu, right click on the instrument icon in the **Online Instrument View** or right click on an instrument row in the **Instrument Information View** as shown in the figure to the right.



Select from one of the following menu options:

- **Connect to the instrument:** Select this menu item to connect the selected (highlighted) instrument to your computer and automatically open instrument control software for that instrument.
- **Setup instrument (Q Series Instruments Only):** Select this function to make changes to the instrument settings for the selected (highlighted) instrument. This will open the **Instrument Setup Wizard** dialog that can be used to synchronize the instruments and PC's Date and Time, Update Module Software, Reset the Instruments Parameters, and Configure the Instruments Network Settings. See the online help topic for the Instrument Set Wizard for more information.
- **Reset column headers:** Select this menu item to reset the columns and their headers to the default positions. This feature is helpful if the columns have been repositioned and no longer display as desired.

Explorer Drop-down Menu Functions

To access the TA Instrument Explorer drop-down menu, click on the icon located in the upper left-hand corner of the window. Select from the following menu options.

- **Restore:** Used to reset the TA Instrument Explorer window to its previous size and/or position.
- **Move:** Used to reposition the TA Instrument Explorer window. A four-sided arrow is displayed when this function is selected. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the window to the desired position, then release the button.
- **Size:** Used to resize the TA Instrument Explorer window. A four-sided arrow is displayed when this function is selected. Move your pointer to any edge or corner of the TA Instrument Explorer window. When the four-sided arrow is displayed, hold down the left mouse button and drag the window border until the desired size is reached. Then release the mouse button.
- **Minimize:** Used to minimize the TA Instrument Explorer window to a button on the Task bar.

- **Maximize:** Used to open (maximize) the TA Instrument Explorer window so that it completely fills the available monitor space.
- **Close:** Used to close the TA Instrument Explorer window.
- **Hide TA Instrument Explorer:** Used to hide the TA Instrument Explorer window from view. You must reopen the window by clicking the icon in the system tray to display it again.
- **Connect to Remote TA Message Agent (TAMA) (Q Series Instruments Only):** TA Message Agent (TAMA) is a Windows Service Program that operates behind-the-scenes to control various instrument functions. When you select Connect to Remote TA Message Agent (TAMA) from the menu a window is displayed to allow you to change to a remote TAMA.
- **Show This Computer License:** When you select this function from the menu, a window is displayed to allow you to view the user information, unit information, license information, and permissions associated with the computer.
- **Show Version Information:** When you select this function from the menu, a window is displayed to allow you to view the current versions of all of the software components.
- **Reset TA Message Agent:** Select this menu item to close and restart both the TA Instrument Explorer and the TA Message Agent (TAMA).
- **Locate instrument with default IP address (Q Series Instruments Only):** Select this function to find an instrument that has just had its IP address reset to the default IP address 172.23.160.31 and does not appear in the TA Instrument Explorer. After choosing this menu item a window will be displayed containing instructions that you need to follow.
- **Select Language:** This program may be localized to select the desired language : English, German (Deutsch), Japanese, and Chinese. To localize the instrument control and data analysis programs, follow the instructions provided in the help topic called "Selecting a Language."
- **About TA Instrument Explorer:** Select this menu item to display the version number for the TA Instrument Explorer and the controller identification number for the current controller computer.