

2015 CONTROL SYSTEM HARDWARE

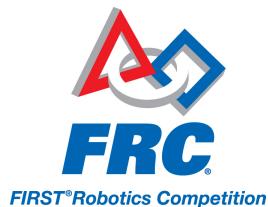


Table of Contents

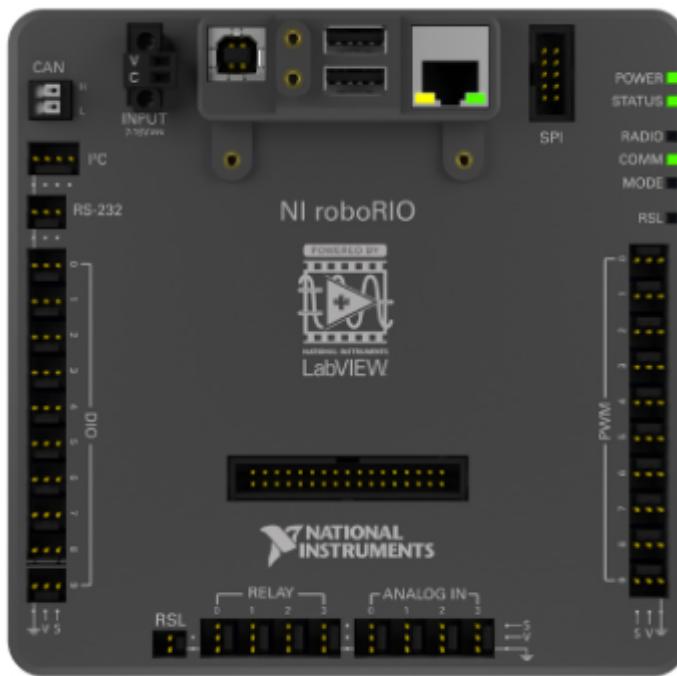
General Hardware	3
2015 FRC Control System Hardware Overview	4
Wiring the 2015 FRC Control System.....	20
Wiring CAN Jaguars in the 2015 System	47
Updating CAN Jaguar Firmware	51
Wiring pneumatics in the 2015 System	56
Updating and Configuring Pneumatics Control Module and Power Distribution Panel.....	61
Status Light Quick Reference	76
RoboRIO	90
RoboRIO Webdashboard.....	91
RoboRIO FTP	101
RoboRIO User Accounts and SSH	103
RoboRIO Brownout and Understanding Current Draw	106

General Hardware

2015 FRC Control System Hardware Overview

The goal of this document is to provide a brief overview of the hardware components that make up the 2015 FRC Control System. Each component will contain a brief description of the component function, a brief listing of critical connections, and a link to more documentation if available. Note that for complete wiring instructions/diagrams, please see the [Wiring the 2015 Control System](#) document.

National Instruments roboRIO



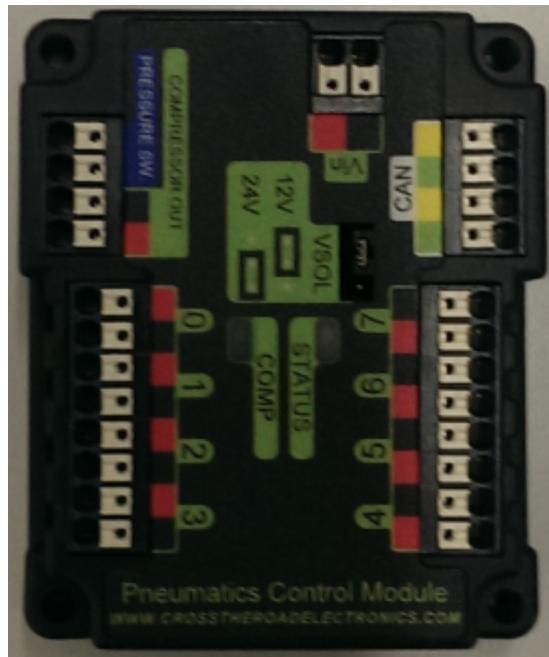
The NI-roboRIO is the main robot controller used for FRC 2015. The roboRIO includes a dual-core ARM Cortex™-A9 processor and FPGA which runs both trusted elements for control and safety as well as team-generated code. Integrated controller I/O includes a variety of communication protocols (Ethernet, USB, CAN, SPI, I2C, and serial) as well as PWM, servo, digital I/O, and analog I/O channels used to connect to robot peripherals for sensing and control. The roboRIO should connect to the dedicated 12V port on the Power Distribution Panel for power. Wired communication is available via USB or Ethernet. Detailed information on the roboRIO can be found in the [roboRIO User Manual](#).

Power Distribution Panel



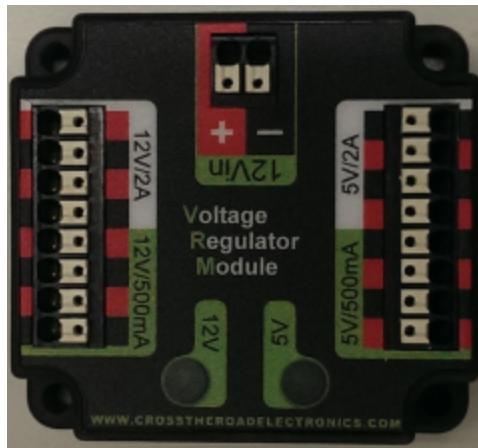
The Power Distribution Panel (PDP) is designed to distribute power from a 12VDC battery to various robot components through auto-resetting circuit breakers and a small number of special function fused connections. The PDP provides 8 output pairs rated for 40A continuous current and 8 pairs rated for 30A continuous current. The PDP provides dedicated 12V connectors for the roboRIO, as well as connectors for the Voltage Regulator Module and Pneumatics Control Module. It also includes a CAN interface for logging current, temperature, and battery voltage. For more detailed information, see the [PDP User Manual](#).

Pneumatics Control Module



The PCM is a device that contains all of the inputs and outputs required to operate 12V or 24V pneumatic solenoids and the on board compressor. The PCM is enabled/disabled by the roboRIO over the CAN interface. The PCM contains an input for the pressure sensor and will control the compressor automatically when the robot is enabled and a solenoid has been created in the code. The device also collects diagnostic information such as solenoid states, pressure switch state, and compressor state. The module includes diagnostic LED's for both CAN and the individual solenoid channels. For more information see the [PCM User Manual](#).

Voltage Regulator Module



The VRM is an independent module that is powered by 12 volts. The device is wired to a dedicated connector on the PDP. The module has multiple regulated 12V and 5V outputs. The purpose of the VRM is to provide regulated power for the D-Link 1522 RevB radio, custom circuits, and IP vision cameras. **Note: The two connector pairs associated with each label have a combined rating of what the label indicates (e.g. 5V/500mA total for both pairs not for each pair). The 12V/2A limit is a peak rating, the supply should not be loaded with more than 1.5A continuous current draw.** For more information, see the [VRM User Manual](#).

Motor Controllers

There are a variety of different motor controllers which work with the FRC Control System. These devices are used to provide variable voltage control of the brushed DC motors used in FRC.

Jaguar Motor Controller



The Jaguar Motor Controller from VEX Robotics (formerly made by Luminary Micro and Texas Instruments) is a variable speed motor controller for use in FRC. The Jaguar can be controlled using either the PWM interface or over the CAN bus. The Black Jaguar can also be used to convert from RS232 (from the BDC-Comm PC program) to the CAN bus. The Jaguar should be connected using one of these control interfaces and powered from the Power Distribution Panel. For more information, see the Jaguar Getting Started Guide, Jaguar Datasheet and Jaguar FAQ on [this page](#).

Talon Motor Controller



The Talon Motor Controller from Cross the Road Electronics is a variable speed motor controller for use in FRC. The Talon is controlled over the PWM interface. The Talon should be connected to a PWM output of the roboRIO and powered from the Power Distribution Panel. For more information see the [Talon User Manual](#).

Talon SRX



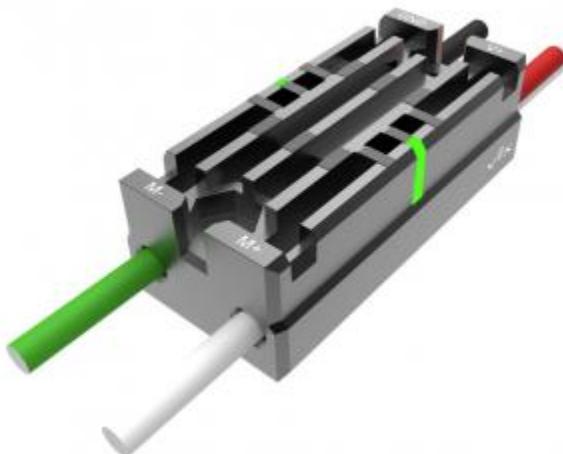
The Talon SRX motor controller is a CAN-enabled "smart motor controller" from Cross The Road Electronics/VEX Robotics. The Talon SRX has an electrically isolated metal housing for heat dissipation, making the use of a fan optional. The Talon SRX can be controlled over the CAN bus or PWM interface. When using the CAN bus control, this device can take inputs from limit switches and potentiometers, encoders, or similar sensors in order to perform advanced control such as limiting or PID(F) closed loop control on the device. For more information see the [Talon SRX User Manual](#).

Victor 888 Motor Controller / Victor 884 Motor Controller



The Victor 888 Motor Controller from VEX Robotics is a variable speed motor controller for use in FRC. The Victor 888 replaces the Victor 884, which is also usable in FRC. The Victor is controlled over the PWM interface. The Victor should be connected to a PWM output of the roboRIO and powered from the Power Distribution Panel. For more information, see the [Victor 884 User Manual](#) and [Victor 888 User Manual](#).

Victor SP



The Victor SP motor controller is a PWM motor controller from Cross The Road Electronics/VEX Robotics. The Victor SP has an electrically isolated metal housing for heat dissipation, making the use of the fan optional. The case is sealed to prevent debris from entering the controller. The controller is approximately half the size of previous models. For more information, see the [Victor SP User Manual](#).

Spike H-Bridge Relay



The Spike H-Bridge Relay from VEX Robotics is a device used for controlling power to motors or other custom robot electronics. When connected to a motor, the Spike provides On/Off control in both the forward and reverse directions. The Spike outputs are independently controlled so it can also be used to provide power to up to 2 custom electronic circuits. The Spike H-Bridge Relay should be connected to a relay output of the roboRIO and powered from the Power Distribution Panel. For more information, see the [Spike User's Guide](#).

Axis M1013/M1011/206 Ethernet Camera



The Axis M1013, M1011 and Axis 206 Ethernet cameras are used for capturing images for vision processing and/or sending video back to the Driver Station laptop. The camera should be wired to a 5V power output on the Voltage Regulator Module and either the D-Link 1522 RevB (if used on the robot) or the ethernet port of the roboRIO. For more information, see [Configuring an Axis Camera](#) and the [Axis 206](#), [Axis M1011](#), [Axis M1013](#) pages.

Microsoft Lifecam HD3000



The Microsoft Lifecam HD3000 is a USB webcam that can be plugged directly into the roboRIO. The camera is capable of capturing up to 1280x720 video at 30 FPS. For more information about the camera, see the [Microsoft product page](#). For more information about using the camera with the roboRIO, see the Vision Processing section if this documentation.

D-Link DAP-1522 Rev B



The D-Link DAP-1522 Rev B robot radio is used to provide wireless communication functionality to the robot. The device can be configured as an Access Point for direct connection of a laptop for use at home. It can also be configured as a bridge for use on the field. The robot radio should be powered by one of the 5V outputs on the VRM and connected to the roboRIO controller over Ethernet. For more information, see [Programming your radio for home use](#) and the [D-Link DAP1522 Support Page](#).

120A Circuit Breaker



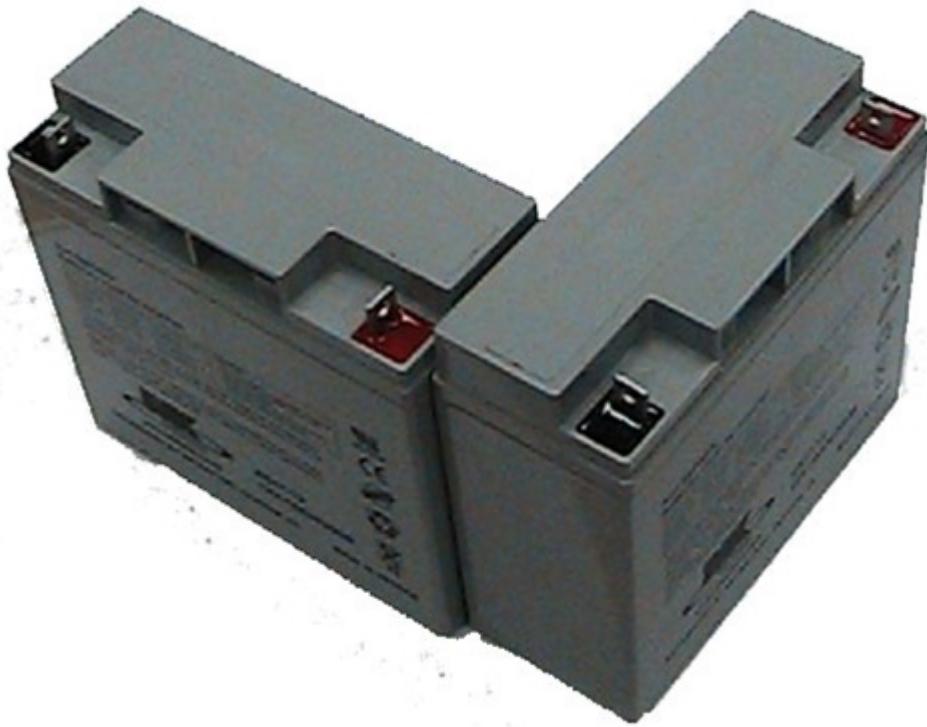
The 120A Main Circuit Breaker serves two roles on the robot: the main robot power switch and a protection device for downstream robot wiring and components. The 120A circuit breaker is wired to the positive terminals of the robot battery and Power Distribution boards. For more information, please see the [Cooper Bussmann 18X Series Datasheet](#) (PN: 185120F)

Snap Action Circuit Breakers



The Snap Action circuit breakers, MX5-A40 and VB3 series, are used with the Power Distribution Panel to limit current to branch circuits. The MX5-A40 40A MAXI style circuit breaker is used with the larger channels on the Power Distribution Panel to power loads which draw current up to 40A continuous. The VB3 series are used with the smaller channels on the PDP to power circuits drawing current of 30A or less continuous. For more information, see the Datasheets for the [MX5 series](#) and [VB3 Series](#).

Robot Battery



The power supply for an FRC robot is a single 12V 18Ah battery. The batteries used for FRC are sealed lead acid batteries capable of meeting the high current demands of an FRC robot. For more information, see the Datasheets for the [MK ES17-12](#) and [Enersys NP18-12](#). Note that other battery part numbers may be legal, consult the 2015 FRC Manual for a complete list.

Image credits

Image of roboRIO courtesy of [National Instruments](#). Images of Jaguar Motor Controller, Talon SRX, Victor 888 Motor Controller, Victor SP Motor Controller, and Spike H-Bridge Relay courtesy of [VEX Robotics, Inc.](#). Lifecam, PDP, PCM, and VRM photos courtesy of FIRST. All other photos courtesy of [AndyMark Inc.](#).



FRC

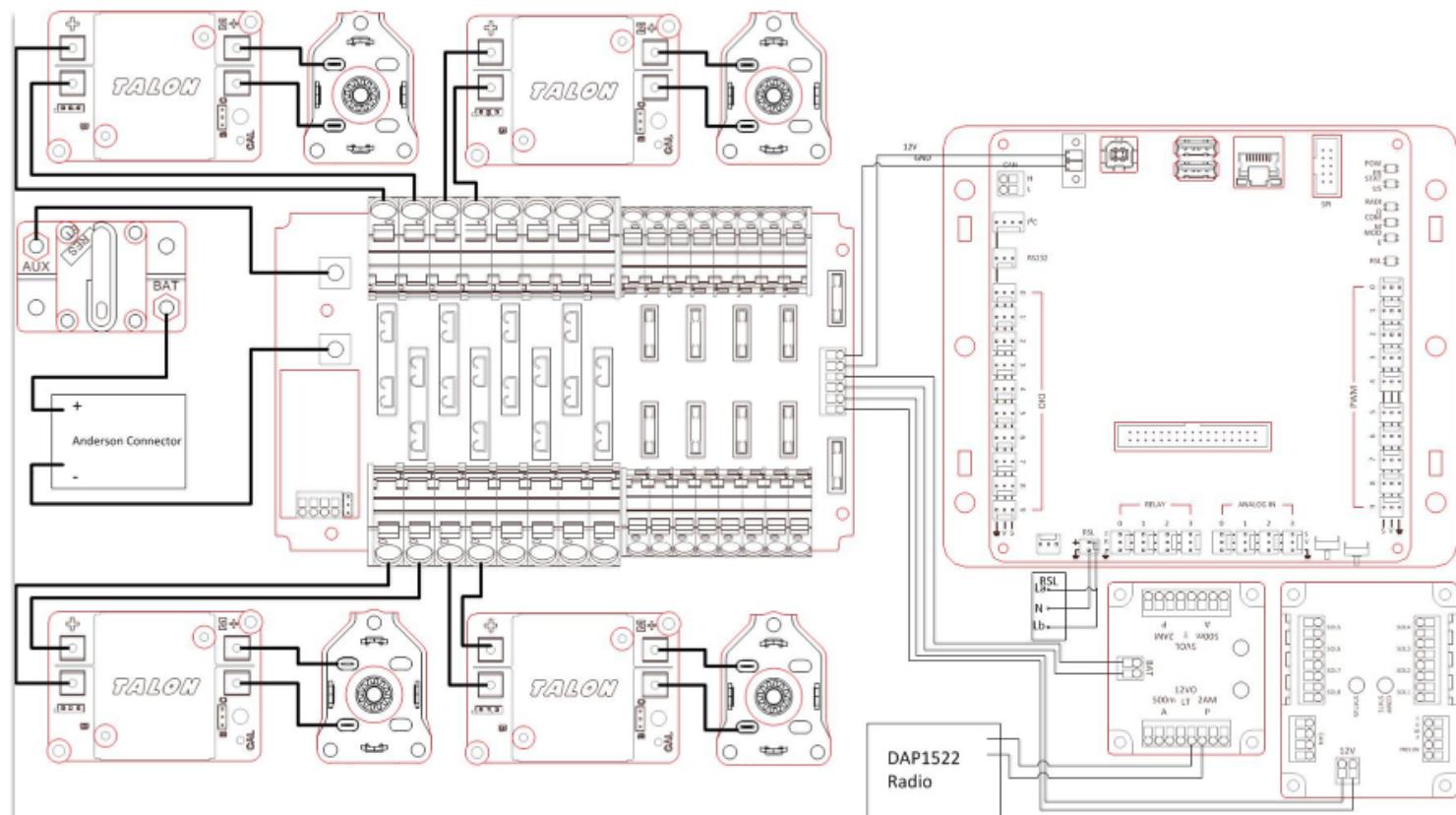
FIRST® Robotics Competition

Wiring the 2015 FRC Control System

This document details the wiring of a basic electronics board for bench-top testing.

The images shown in this section reflect the setup for a Robot Control System using a roboRIO and Talon SR motor controllers. The setup is similar for Jaguars, Talon SRXs, Victor 884/888s, or Victor SPs.

Gather Materials



Locate the following control system components and tools

- Kit Materials:
 - Power Distribution Panel (PDP)
 - roboRIO
 - Pneumatics Control Module (PCM)



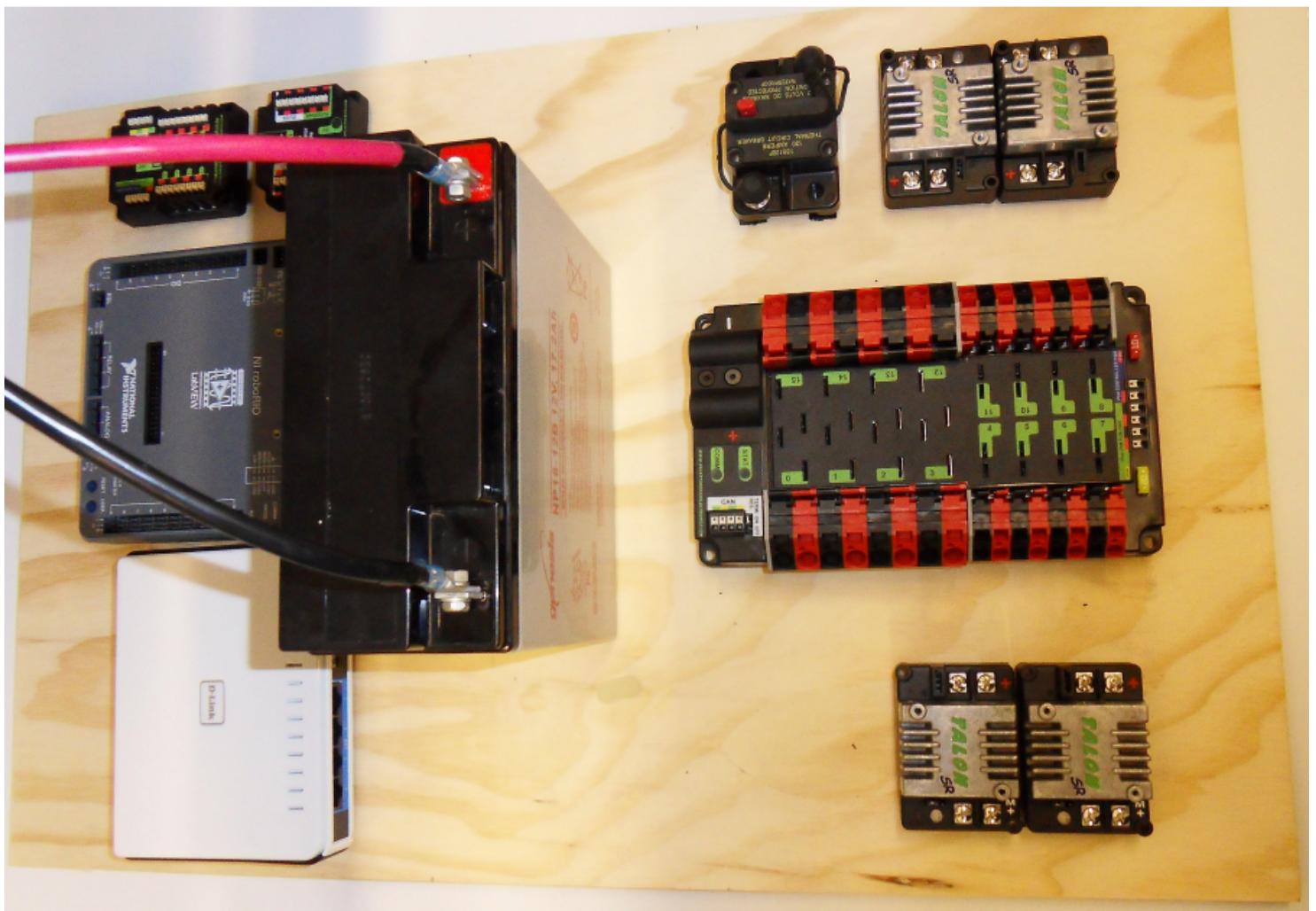
FIRST®Robotics Competition

- Voltage Regulator Module (VRM)
 - DAP1522 Radio (with power supply and Ethernet cable)
 - Robot Signal Light (RSL)
 - 2x Talon SR speed controllers
 - 2x PWM cables
 - 2x PWM y-cables
 - 120A Circuit breaker
 - 4x 40A Circuit breaker
 - 6 AWG Red wire
 - 10 AWG Red/Black wire
 - 18 AWG Red/Black wire
 - 22AWG yellow/green twisted CAN cable
 - 2x Andersen SB50 battery connectors
 - 6AWG Terminal lugs
 - 16x Yellow ring terminals (from bag of assorted crimp terminals)
 - 12V Battery
 - Red/Black Electrical tape
 - Dual Lock material or fasteners
 - Zip ties
 - 1/4" or 1/2" plywood
- Tools Required:
 - Wago Tool or small flat-head screwdriver
 - Very small flat head screwdriver (eyeglass repair size)
 - Philips head screw driver
 - 5mm Hex key (3/16" may work if metric is unavailable)
 - 1/16" Hex key
 - Wire cutters, strippers, and crimpers
 - 7/16" box end wrench or nut driver

Create the Base for the Control System

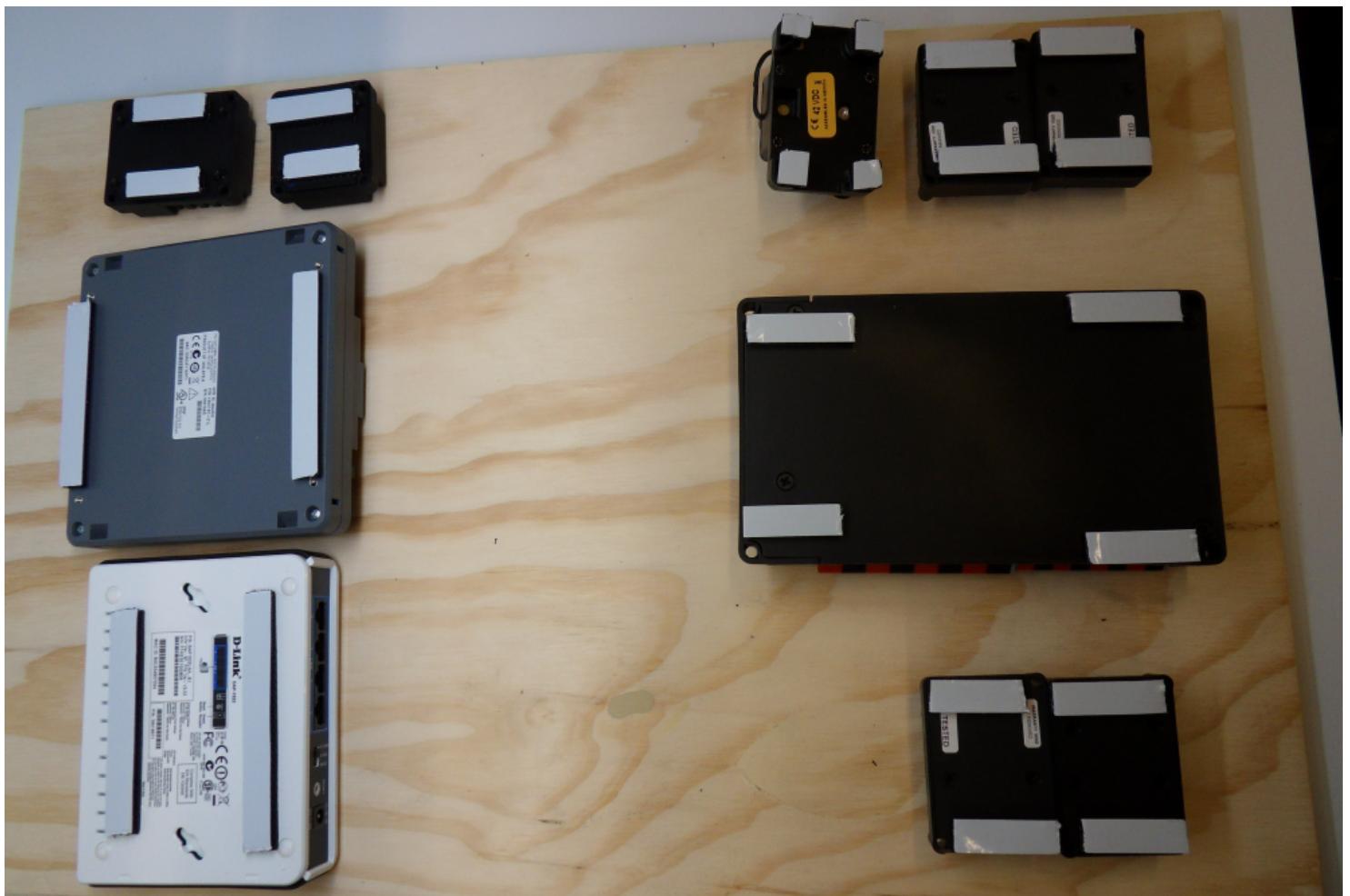
For a benchtop test board, cut piece of 1/4" or 1/2" material (wood or plastic) approximately 24" x 16". For a Robot Quick Build control board see the supporting documentation for the proper size board for the chosen chassis configuration.

Layout the Core Control System Components



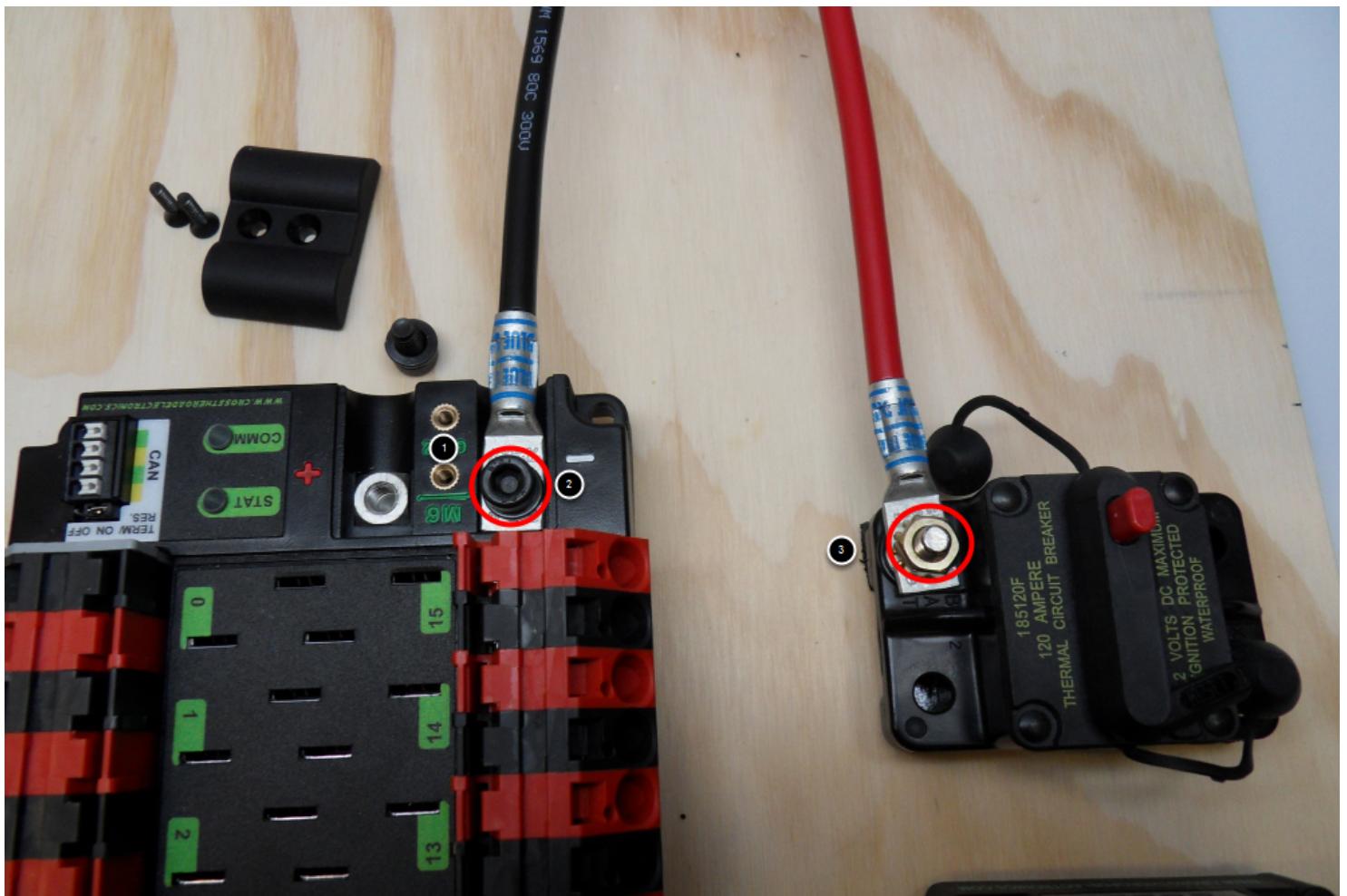
Layout the components on the board. One layout that should work is shown in the images above.

Fasten components



Using the Dual Lock or hardware, fasten all components to the board. The image shows an example of possible Dual Lock placement.

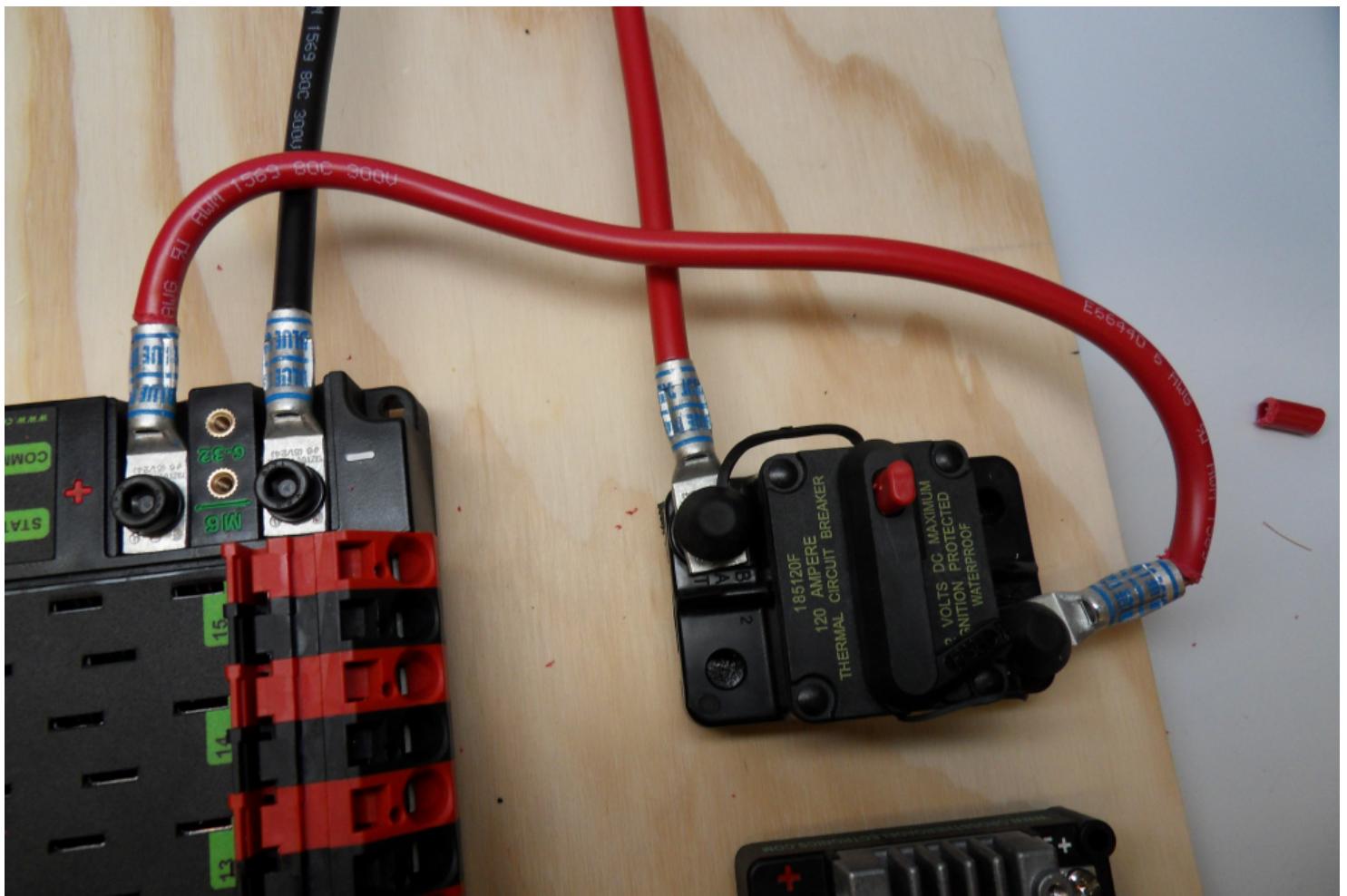
Attach Battery Connector to PDP



Requires: Battery Connector, 6AWG terminal lugs, 1/16" Allen, 5mm Allen, 7/16" Box end

1. Attach terminal lugs to battery connector.
2. Using a 1/16" Allen wrench, remove the two screws securing the PDP terminal cover.
3. Using a 5mm Allen wrench (3/16" will work if metric is not available), remove the negative (-) bolt and washer from the PDP and fasten the negative terminal of the battery connector.
4. Using a 7/16" box end wrench, remove the nut on the "Batt" side of the main breaker and secure the positive terminal of the battery connector

Wire Breaker to PDP

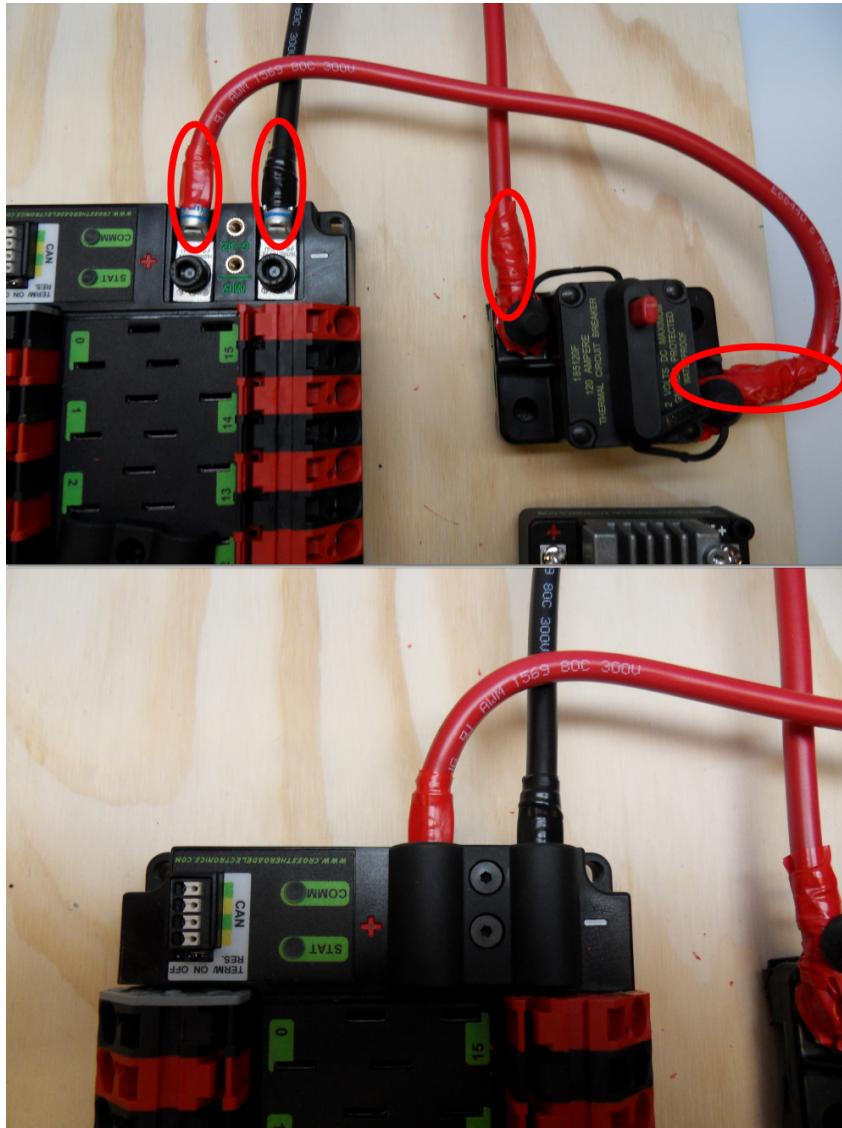


Requires: 6AWG red wire, 2x 6AWG terminal lugs, 5mm Allen, 7/16" box end

Secure one terminal lug to the end of the 6AWG red wire. Using the 7/16" box end, remove the nut from the "AUX" side of the 120A main breaker and place the terminal over the stud. Loosely secure the nut (you may wish to remove it shortly to cut, strip, and crimp the other end of the wire). Measure out the length of wire required to reach the positive terminal of the PDP.

1. Cut, strip, and crimp the terminal to the 2nd end of the red 6AWG wire.
2. Using the 7/16" box end, secure the wire to the "AUX" side of the 120A main breaker.
3. Using the 5mm, secure the other end to the PDP positive terminal.

Insulate PDP connections



Requires: 1/16" Allen, Electrical tape

1. Using electrical tape, insulate the two connections to the 120A breaker. Also insulate any part of the PDP terminals which will be exposed when the cover is replaced. One method for insulating the main breaker connections is to wrap the stud and nut first, then use the tape wrapped around the terminal and wire to secure the tape.
2. Using the 1/16" Allen wrench, replace the PDP terminal cover

Wago connectors

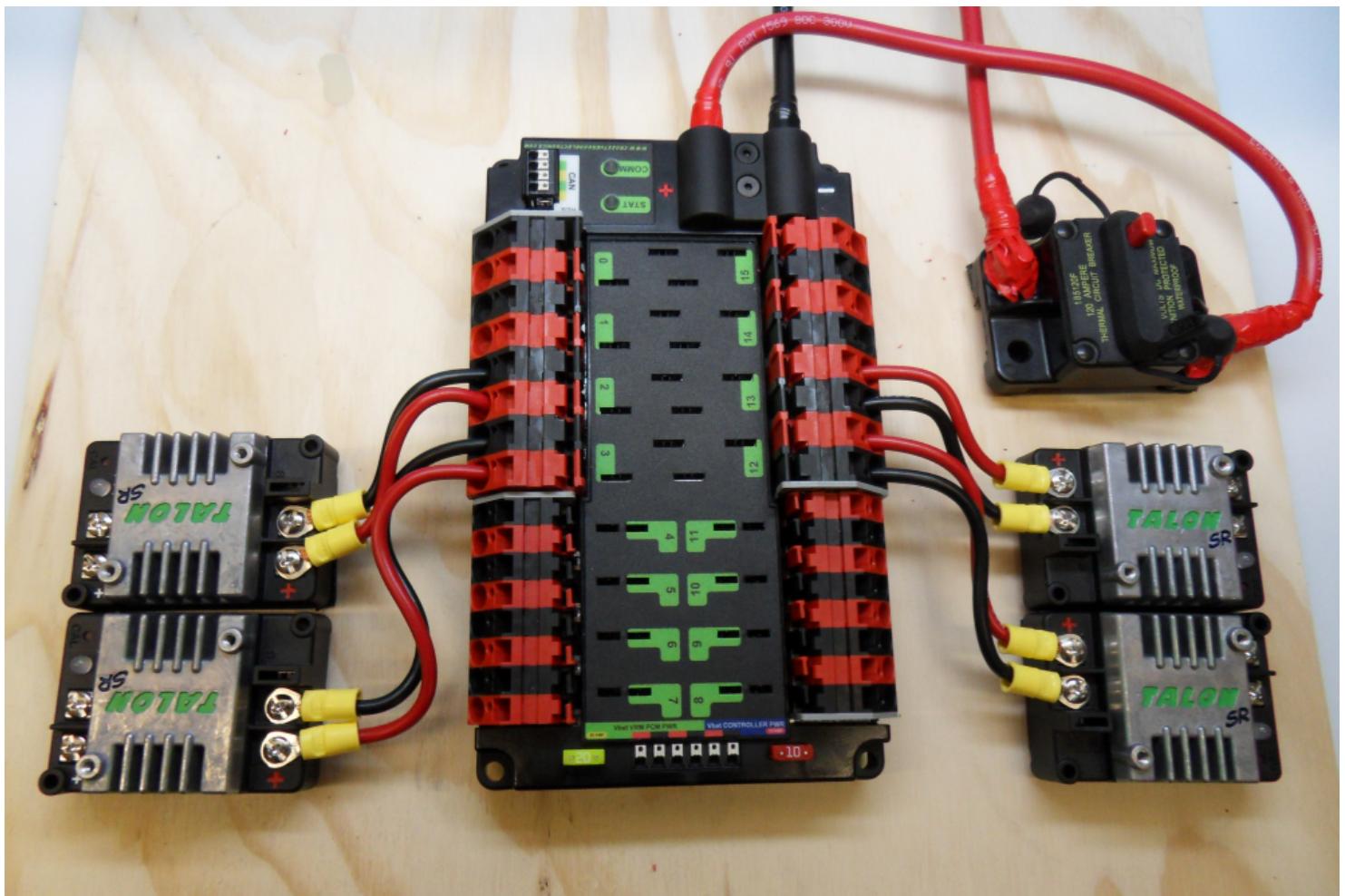
Put Wago video embed here.

The next step will involve using the Wago connectors on the PDP. To use the Wago connectors, insert a small flat blade screwdriver into the rectangular hole at a shallow angle then angle the screwdriver upwards as you continue to press in to actuate the lever, opening the terminal. Two sizes of Wago connector are found on the PDP:

- Small Wago connector: Accepts 10AWG-24AWG, strip 11-12mm (~7/16")
- Large Wago connector: Accepts 6AWG-12AWG, strip 12-13mm(~1/2")

To maximize pullout force and minimize connection resistance wires should not be tinned (and ideally not twisted) before inserting into the Wago connector.

Motor Controller Power

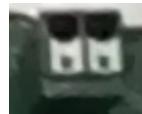


Requires: Wire Stripper, Wire Crimper, Small Flat Screwdriver, Phillips Head Screwdriver, 10AWG red and black wire, 8x yellow ring terminals

For each of the 4 Talon SR motor controllers:

1. Strip the ends of the 10AWG red and black wire and crimp a yellow ring terminal on each
2. Using the Phillips head screwdriver, remove the Talon SR power input screws (side with the red +) and secure the wires to the Talon.
3. Measure the wire needed to reach the Wago connector pair to be used (large 40A terminal pairs). Make sure to consider the wire that will be stripped and inserted into the connector.
4. Cut and strip the wire, then insert into the Wago terminals

Weidmuller Connectors



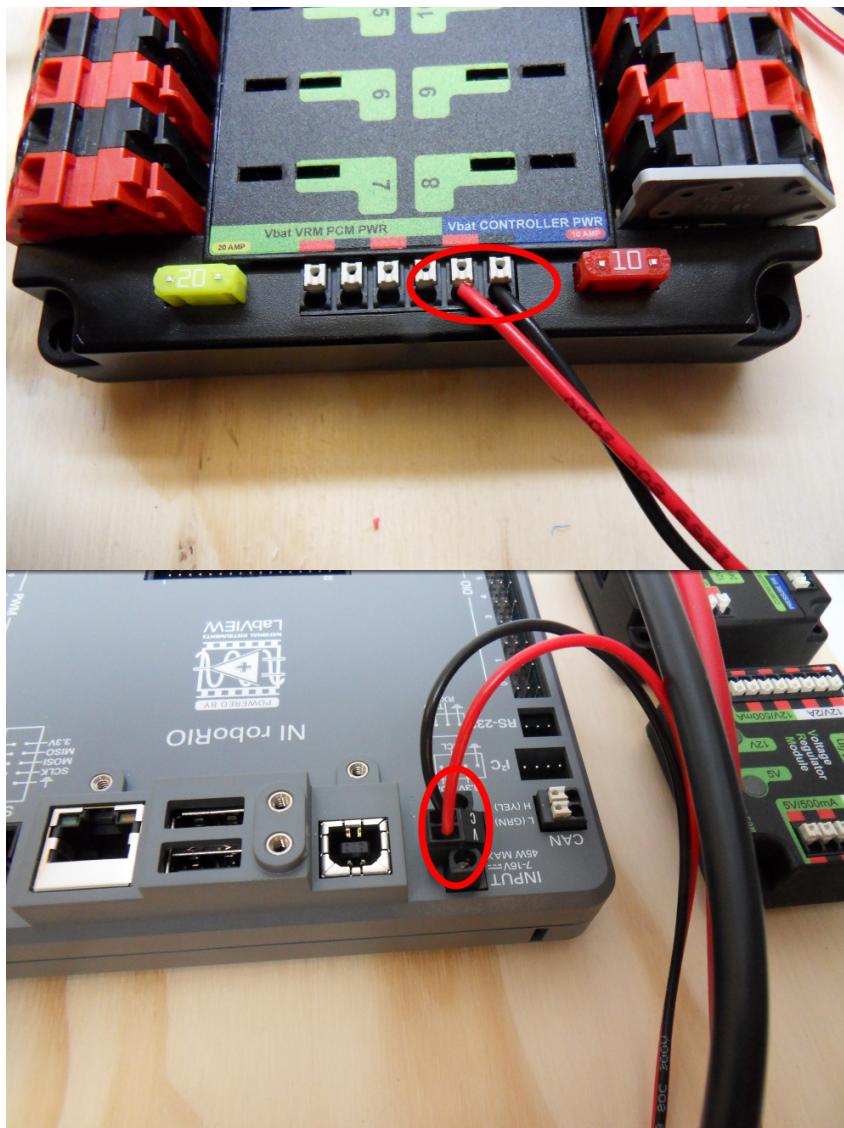
A number of the CAN and power connectors in the system use a Weidmuller LSF series wire-to-board connector. There are a few things to keep in mind when using this connector for best results:

- Wire should be 16AWG to 24AWG (consult rules to verify required gauge for power wiring)
- Wire ends should be stripped approximately 5/16"
- To insert or remove the wire, press down on the corresponding "button" to open the terminal

After making the connection check to be sure that it is clean and secure:

- Verify that there are no "whiskers" outside the connector that may cause a short circuit
- Tug on the wire to verify that it is seated fully. If the wire comes out and is the correct gauge it needs to be inserted further and/or stripped back further.

roboRIO Power

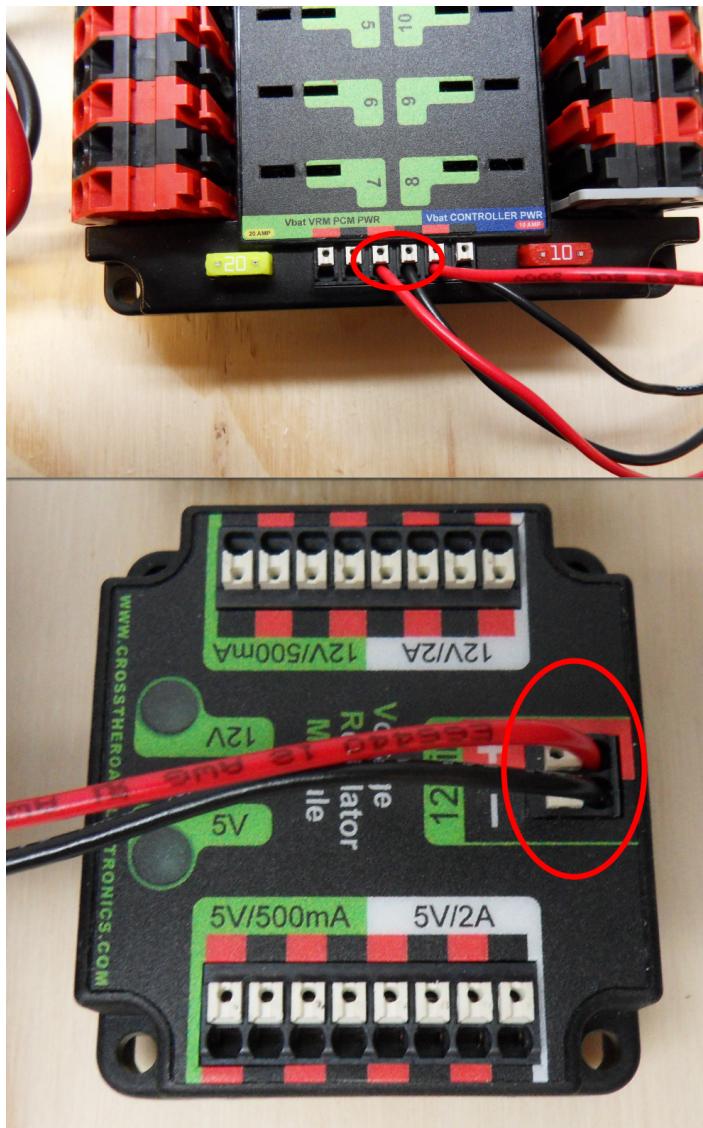


Requires: Wire stripper, very small flat screwdriver, 18AWG Red and Black

1. Strip ~5/16" on both the red and black 18AWG wire and connect to the "Vbat Controller PWR" terminals on the PDB
2. Measure the required length to reach the power input on the roboRIO. Take care to leave enough length to route the wires around any other components such as the battery and to allow for any strain relief or cable management.
3. Cut and strip the wire.

- Using a very small flat screwdriver connect the wires to the power input connector of the roboRIO (red to V, black to C)

Voltage Regulator Module Power

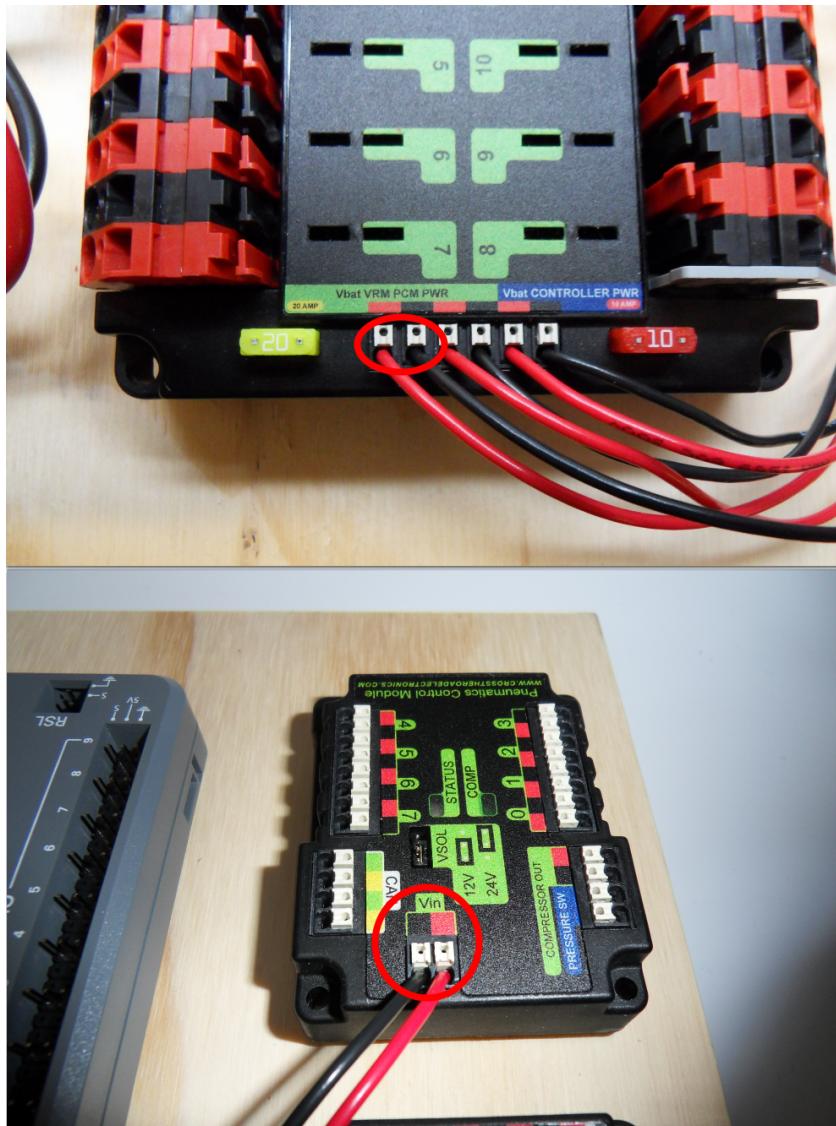


Requires: Wire stripper, small flat screwdriver (optional), 18AWG red and black wire

- Strip ~5/16" on the end of the red and black 18AWG wire.
- Connect the wire to one of the two terminal pairs labeled "Vbat VRM PCM PWR" on the PDP.

3. Measure the length required to reach the "12Vin" terminals on the VRM. Take care to leave enough length to route the wires around any other components such as the battery and to allow for any strain relief or cable management.
4. Cut and strip ~5/16" from the end of the wire.
5. Connect the wire to the VRM 12Vin terminals.

Pneumatics Control Module Power (Optional)



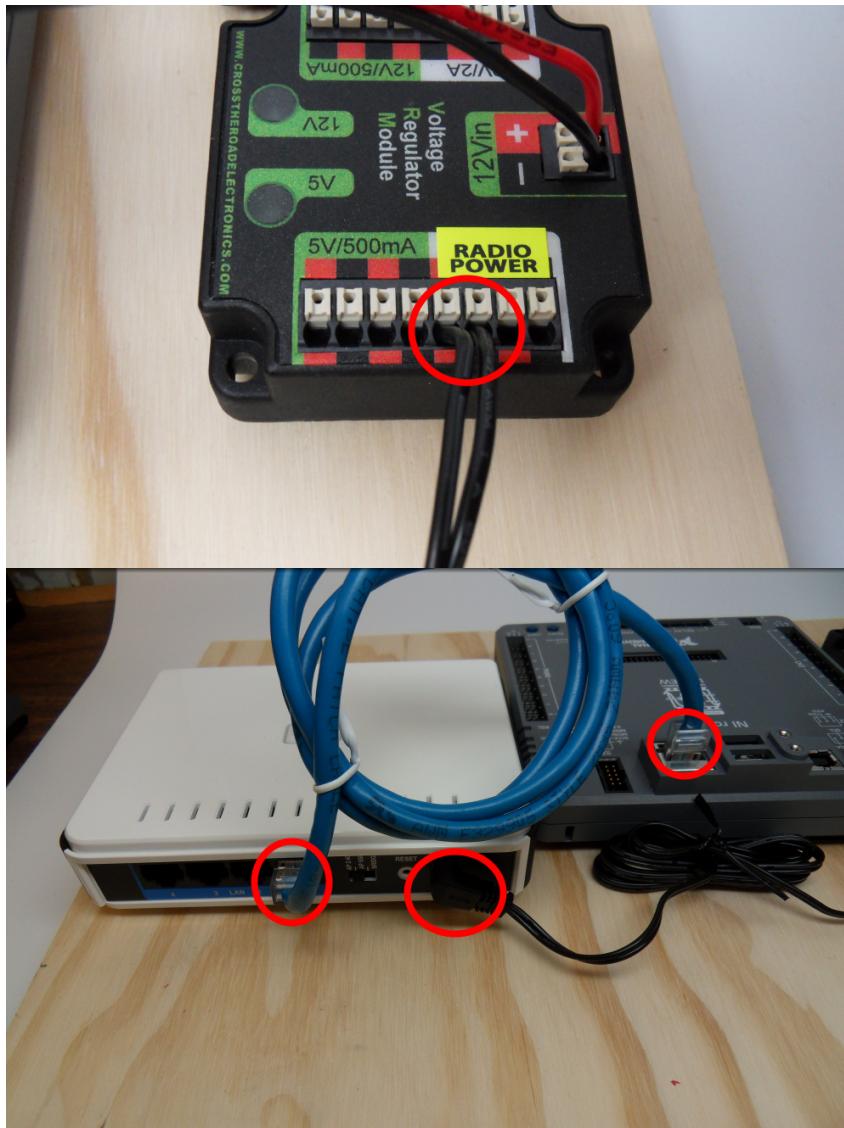
Requires: Wire stripper, small flat screwdriver (optional), 18AWG red and black wire

Note: The PCM is an optional component used for controlling pneumatics on the robot.



1. Strip ~5/16" on the end of the red and black 18AWG wire.
2. Connect the wire to one of the two terminal pairs labeled "Vbat VRM PCM PWR" on the PDP.
3. Measure the length required to reach the "Vin" terminals on the VRM. Take care to leave enough length to route the wires around any other components such as the battery and to allow for any strain relief or cable management.
4. Cut and strip ~5/16" from the end of the wire.
5. Connect the wire to the VRM 12Vin terminals.

Radio Power and Ethernet



Requires: Wire stripper, small flat screwdriver (optional), DAP1522 power supply, DAP 1522 Ethernet cable

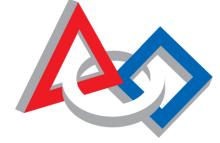
1. Cut off the "Wall wart" of the DAP1522 power supply (the end that plugs into the AC wall outlet). It is recommended to leave a small pigtail on the wall-wart if you wish to retain it for future use. Leave the radio side of the wire as long as possible in case you decide to relocate your radio later.
2. Strip ~5/16" off of each wire on the power cord.



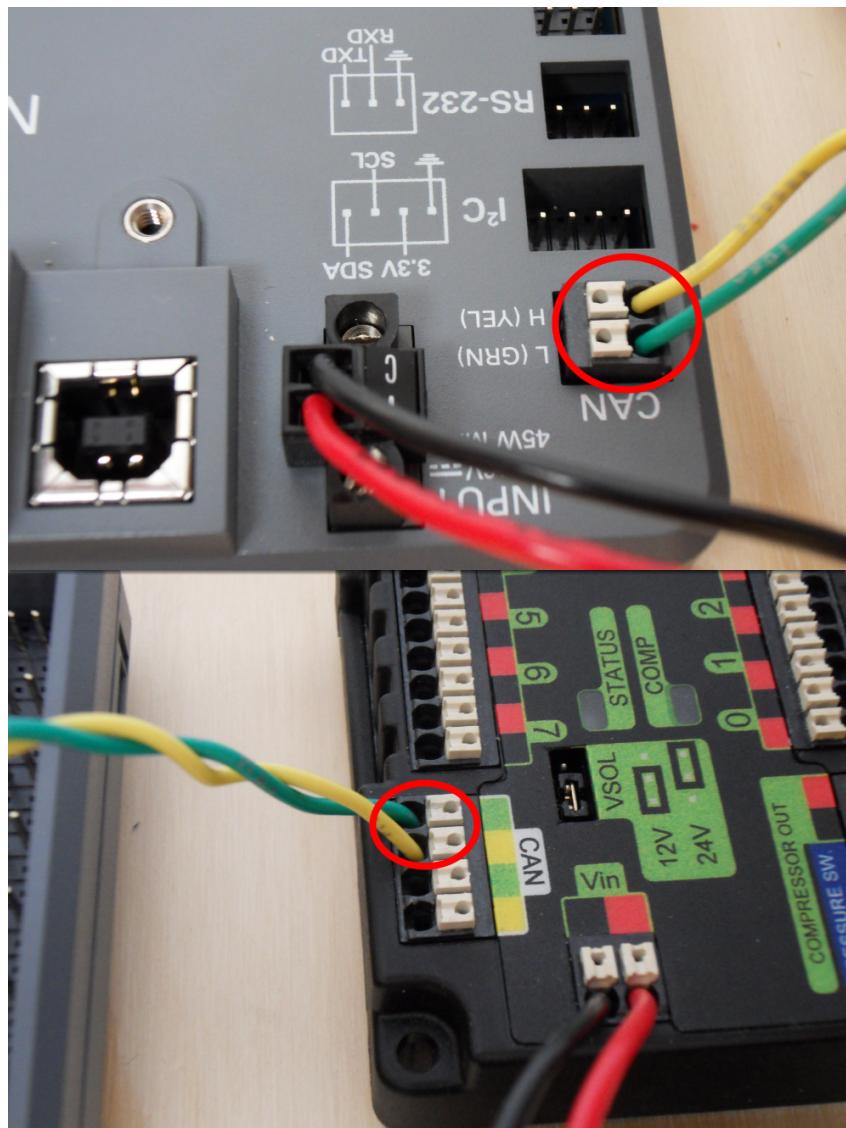
FIRST®Robotics Competition

3. Locate the wire with the white stripes on it (one wire has white stripes, the other has writing) and attach it to either of the two red terminals on the "Radio Power" supply of the VRM.
4. Connect the other wire (with writing on it) to the black terminal immediately to the right of the red terminal used above.
5. Plug the barrel connector into the back of the DAP1522
6. Plug the Ethernet cable into any of the four ports on the back of the DAP 1522 and into the roboRIO.

Note: If you wish to verify the polarity of the radio power connection using a DMM or Continuity tester, the connector is center pin positive. This means that the wire connecting to the red terminal should be connected to the center of the connector, the wire connecting to the black terminal should be connected to the outside of the connector.



RoboRIO to PCM CAN



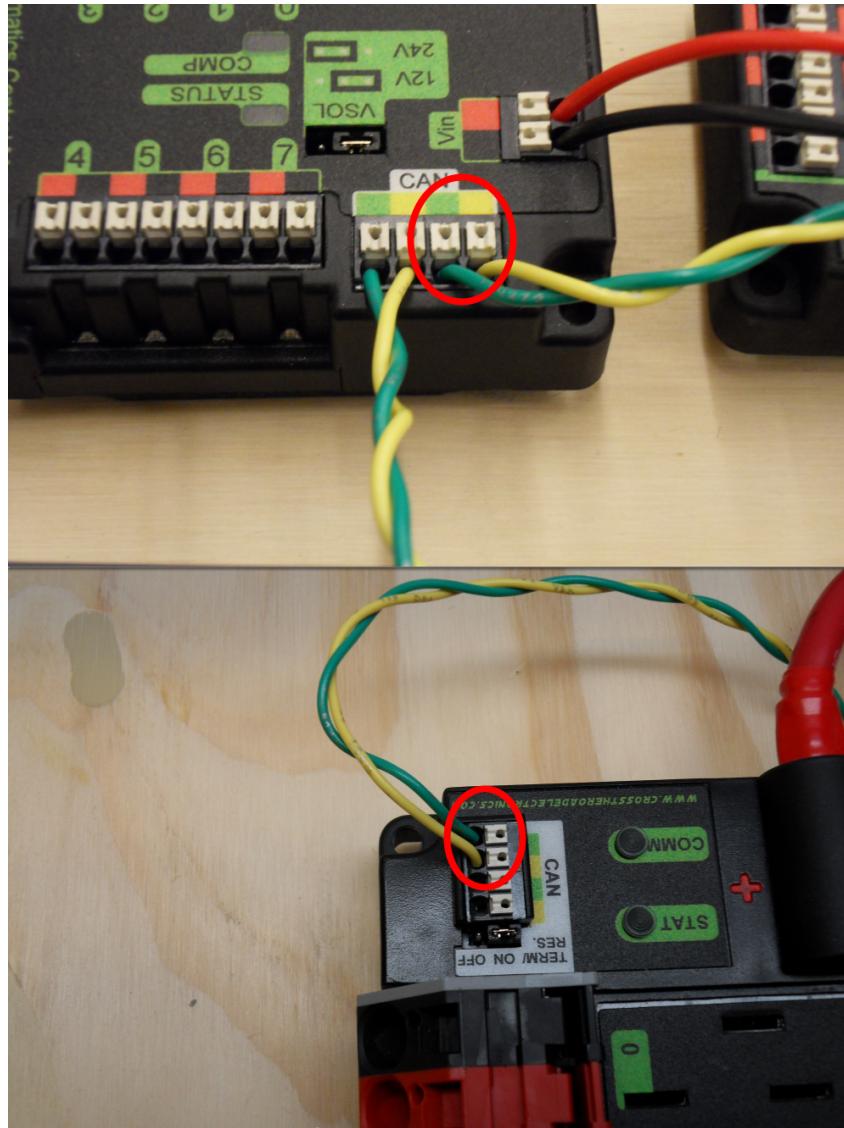
Requires: Wire stripper, small flat screwdriver (optional), yellow/green twisted CAN cable

Note: The PCM is an optional component used for controlling pneumatics on the robot. If you are not using the PCM, wire the CAN connection directly from the roboRIO (shown in this step) to the PDP (show in the next step).

1. Strip ~5/16" off of each of the CAN wires.

2. Insert the wires into the appropriate CAN terminals on the roboRIO (Yellow->YEL, Green->GRN).
3. Measure the length required to reach the CAN terminals of the PCM (either of the two available pairs). Cut and strip ~5/16" off this end of the wires.
4. Insert the wires into the appropriate color coded CAN terminals on the PCM. You may use either of the Yellow/Green terminal pairs on the PCM, there is no defined in or out.

PCM to PDP CAN



Requires: Wire stripper, small flat screwdriver (optional), yellow/green twisted CAN cable



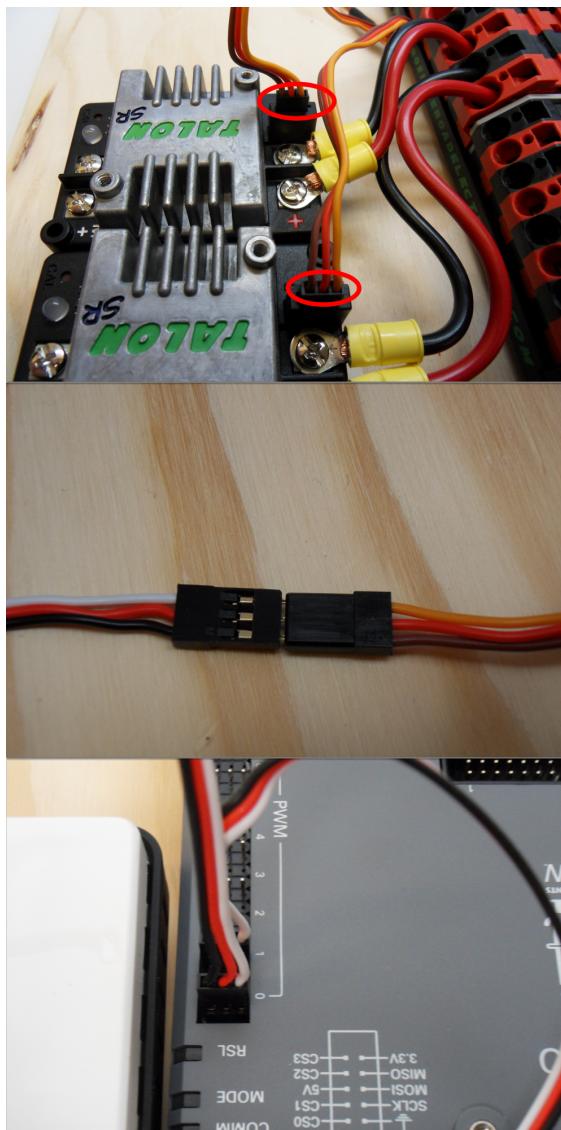
FIRST®Robotics Competition

Note: The PCM is an optional component used for controlling pneumatics on the robot. If you are not using the PCM, wire the CAN connection directly from the roboRIO (shown in the above step) to the PDP (show in this step).

1. Strip ~5/16" off of each of the CAN wires.
2. Insert the wires into the appropriate CAN terminals on the PCM.
3. Measure the length required to reach the CAN terminals of the PDP (either of the two available pairs). Cut and strip ~5/16" off this end of the wires.
4. Insert the wires into the appropriate color coded CAN terminals on the PDP. You may use either of the Yellow/Green terminal pairs on the PCM, there is no defined in or out.

Note: The PDP ships with the CAN bus terminating resistor jumper in the "ON" position. It is recommended to leave the jumper in this position and place any additional CAN nodes between the roboRIO and the PDP (leaving the PDP as the end of the bus). If you wish to place the PDP in the middle of the bus (utilizing both pairs of PDP CAN terminals) move the jumper to the "OFF" position and place your own 120 ohm terminating resistor at the end of your CAN bus chain.

PWM Cables



Requires: 2x PWM Y-cable, 2x PWM cable

For each pair of Talon SRs:

1. Connect 1 PWM Y-cable to the two Talons. The brown wire on the Y-cable should face the inside of the Talon (towards the B mark on the device)
2. Connect the PWM cable to the Y-cable. The brown wire on the Y-cable corresponds to the black wire on the regular PWM cable.



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

3. Connect the PWM cable to one of the PWM ports on the roboRIO. The black wire should be towards the outside of the roboRIO. It is recommended to connect the left side to PWM 0 and the right side to PWM 1 for the most straightforward programming experience, but any channel will work as long as you note which side goes to which channel and adjust the code accordingly.

Robot Signal Light



Requires: Wire stripper, 2 pin cable, Robot Signal Light, 18AWG red wire, very small flat screwdriver

1. Cut one end off of the 2 pin cable and strip both wires
2. Insert the black wire into the center, "N" terminal and tighten the terminal.



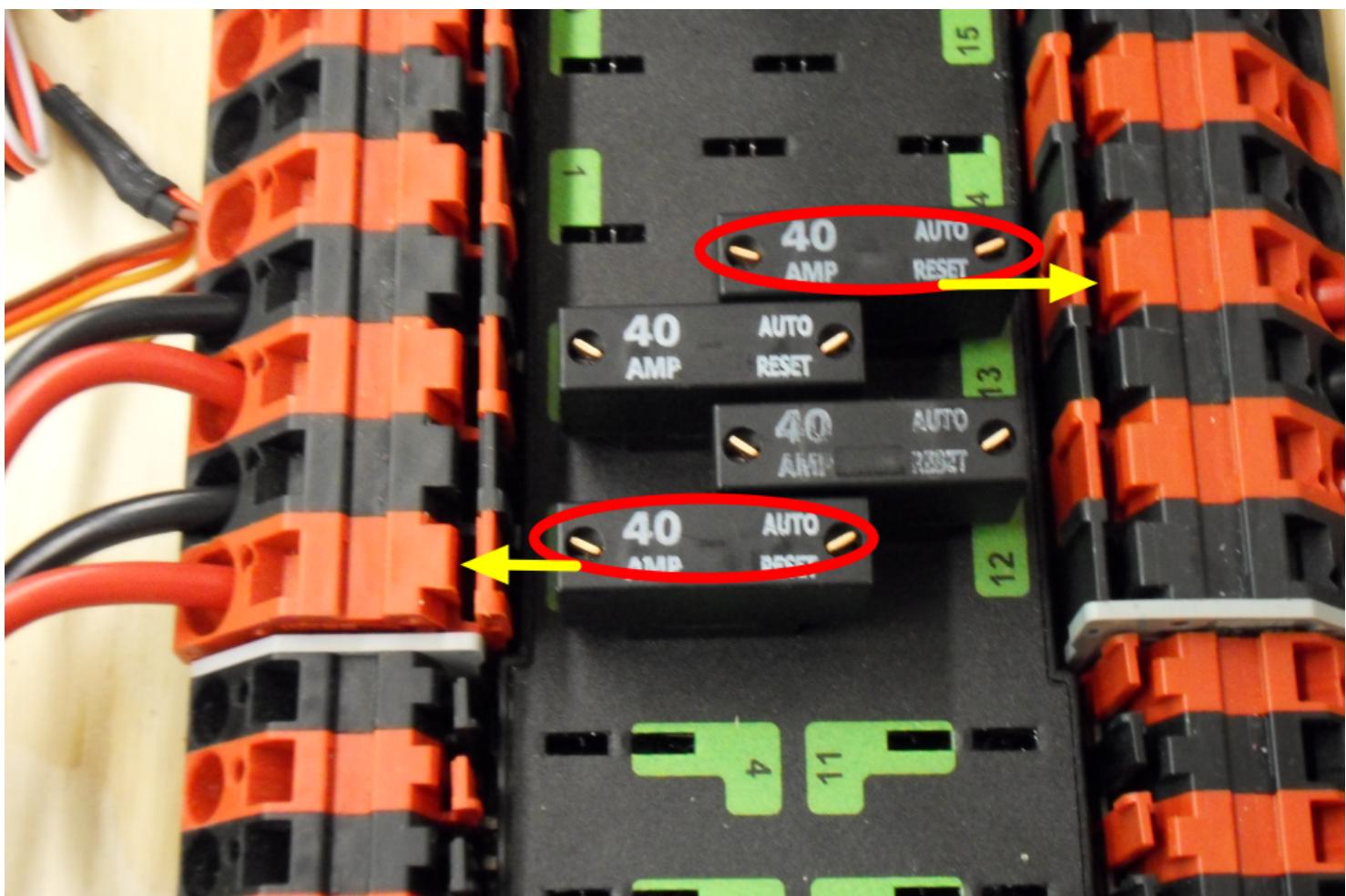
FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

3. Strip the 18AWG red wire and insert into the "La" terminal and tighten the terminal.
4. Cut and strip the other end of the 18AWG wire to insert into the "Lb" terminal
5. Insert the red wire from the two pin cable into the "Lb" terminal with the 18AWG red wire and tighten the terminal.
6. Connect the two-pin connector to the RSL port on the roboRIO. The black wire should be closest to the outside of the roboRIO.

You may wish to temporarily secure the RSL to the control board using zip ties or Dual Lock (it is recommended to move the RSL to a more visible location as the robot is being constructed)

Circuit Breakers



Requires: 4x 40A circuit breakers

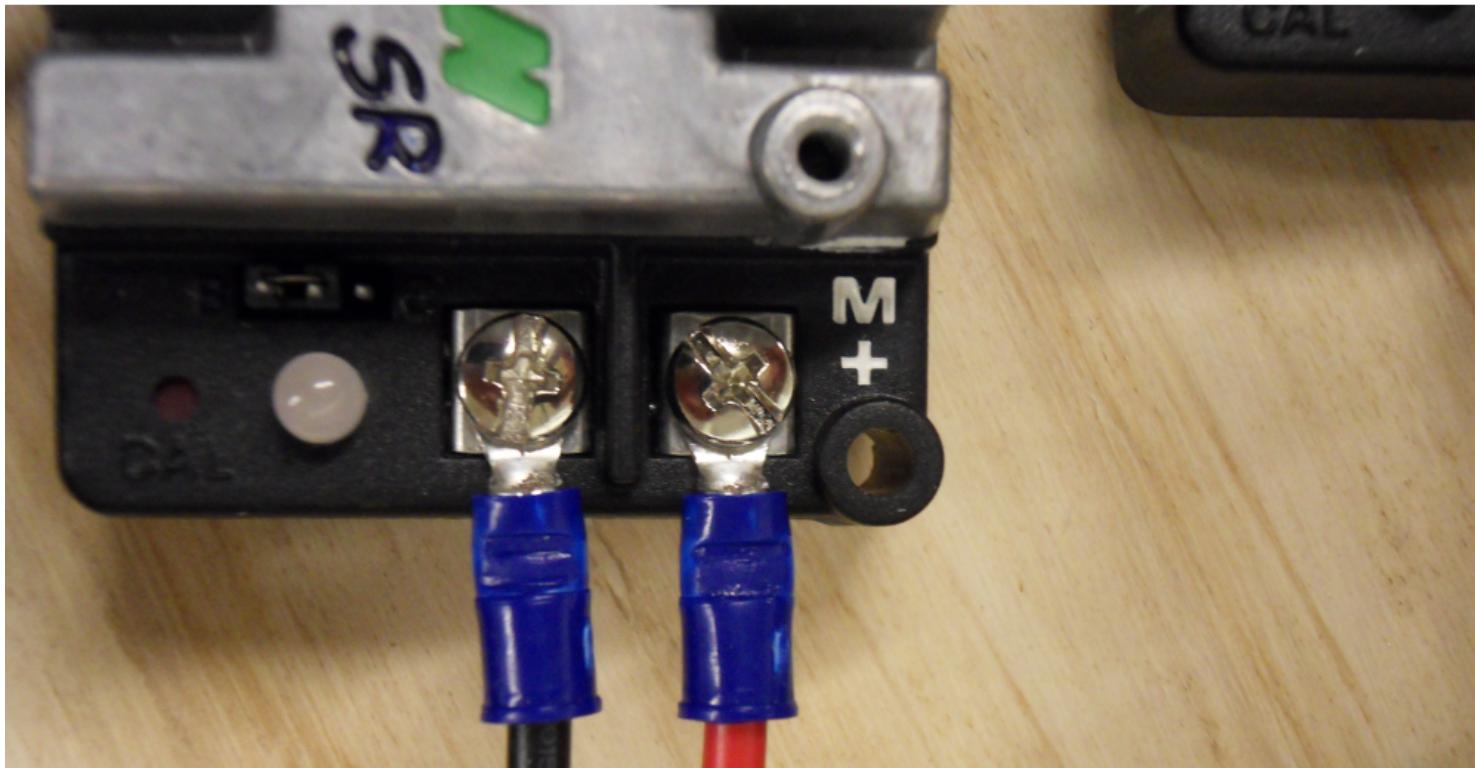


FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Insert 40-amp Circuit Breakers into the positions on the PDP corresponding with the Wago connectors the Talons are connected to. Note that, for all breakers, the breaker corresponds with the nearest positive (red) terminal (see graphic above). All negative terminals on the board are directly connected internally.

Motor Power

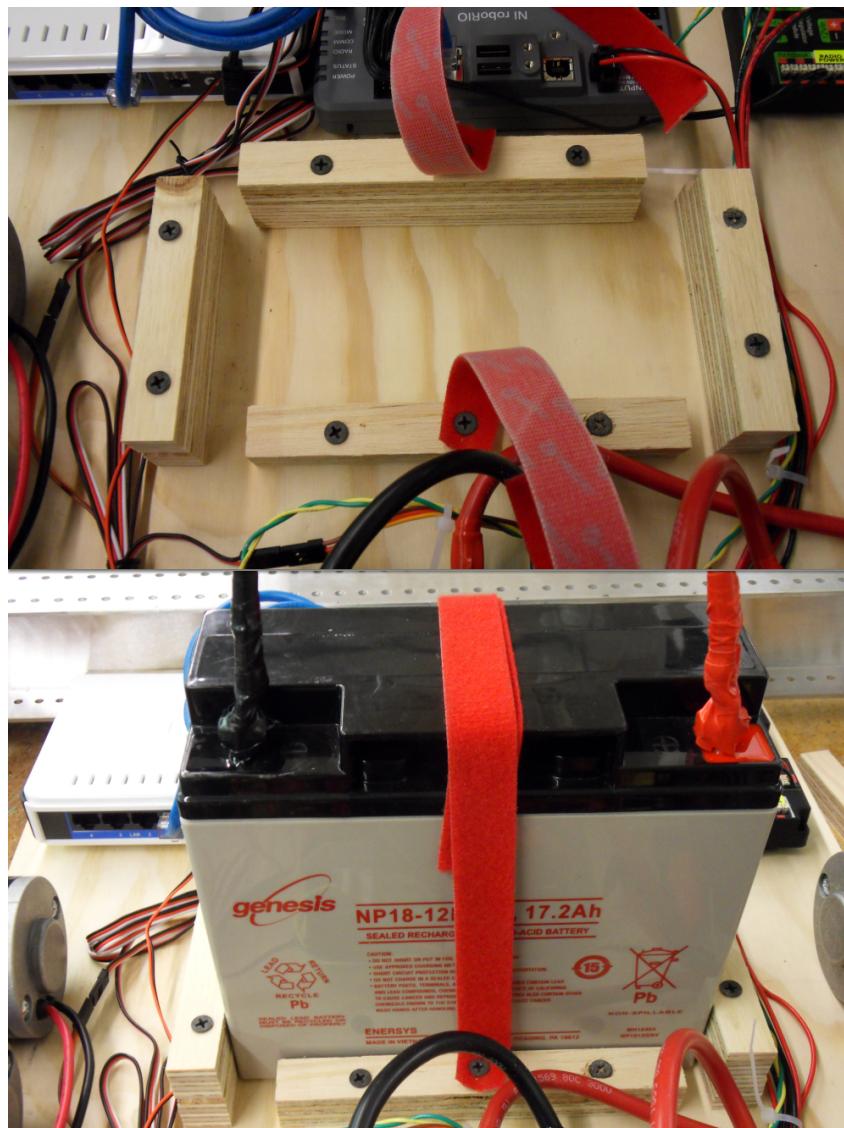


Requires: Wire stripper, wire crimper, phillips head screwdriver, 8x blue ring crimp terminals

For each CIM motor:

1. Strip the ends of the red and black wires and crimp on a blue ring crimp terminal on each
2. Select a Talon to control that motor and connect the terminals to the Talon outputs (it is recommended to put the red wire on the M+ output)

Battery Box



Requires: Plywood Scraps, plywood cutting tool (e.g. saw), wood screws, velcro wrap

Construct a battery box. the design shown uses scraps of plywood left over from cutting out the electronics board. Use the velcro wrap to make a pair of straps which will overlap to secure the battery

STOP



STOP!!

Before plugging in the battery, make sure all connections have been made with the proper polarity. Ideally have someone that did not wire the robot check to make sure all connections are correct.

- Start with the battery and verify that the red wire is connected to the positive terminal
- Check that the red wire passes through the main breaker and to the + terminal of the PDP and that the black wire travels directly to the - terminal.
- For each motor controller, verify that the red wire goes from the red PDP terminal to the Talon input labeled with the red + (not the white M+!!!!)
- For each device on the end of the PDP, verify that the red wire connects to the red terminal on the PDP and the red terminal on the component.



- Verify that the wire with the white stripe on the radio power supply is connected to the red terminal of the Radio supply on the VRM

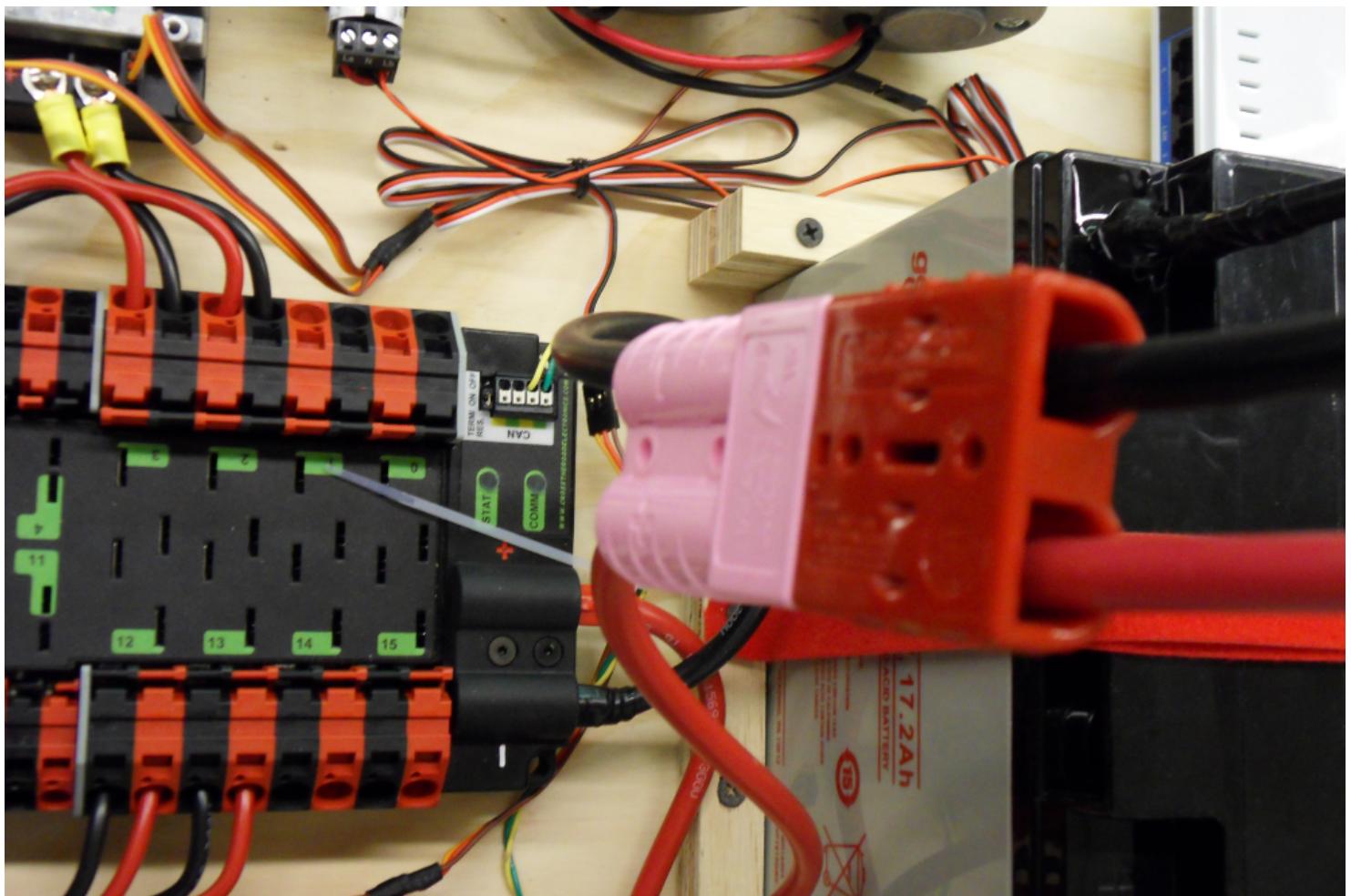
It is also recommended to put the robot on blocks so the wheels are off the ground before proceeding. This will prevent any unexpected movement from becoming dangerous.

Manage Wires

Requires: Zip ties

Now may be a good time to add a few zip ties to manage some of the wires before proceeding. This will help keep the robot wiring neat.

Connect Battery



Connect the battery to the robot side of the Andersen connector. Power on the robot by moving the lever on the top of the 120A main breaker into the ridge on the top of the housing.

Wiring CAN Jaguars in the 2015 System

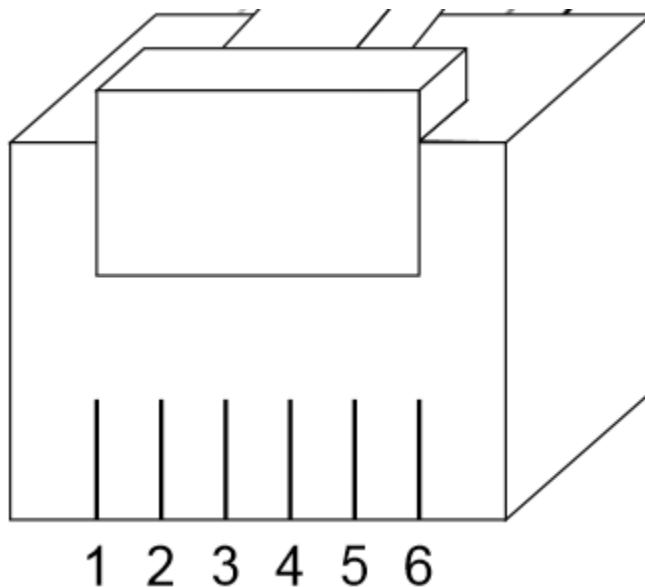
This article describes how to connect Jaguar speed controllers to the CAN bus of the 2015 FRC Control System

2015 FRC Control System CAN wiring



The 2015 FRC Control System uses simple twisted pair wiring for the CAN connections with Weidmuller wire-to-board connectors on the components allowing you to wire to them directly. The wiring is labeled with CAN High (CANH) as Yellow and CAN Low (CANL) as Green.

Jaguar CAN Wiring



The Jaguar uses an RJ-45 connector for the CAN connection. The center two pins of the connector are used for the CAN wiring. If crimping to a 6P6C connector, pin 3 is CANH and pin 4 is CANL. If using a 6P4C connector, pin 2 is CANH and pin 3 is CANL. If connecting to a standard telephone cable with standard wire colors, Red will be CANH and Green will be CANL.

Wiring Jaguars into 2015 FRC Control System



The recommended method of wiring the 2015 FRC Control System CAN Bus is to utilize the built-in termination of the roboRIO on one end of the bus and the selectable termination (set to On) of the Power Distribution Panel on the other end of the bus. To do this with CAN Jaguars you will need to create two adapter cables from the twisted pair wiring to the RJ-45 connector of the Jaguar. Use the descriptions of the color schemes and pinouts above to connect CANH from your twisted pair to CANH of the RJ45 and CANL to CANL. After the first Jaguar you can add additional Jaguars to the bus using a straight-pinned (sometime called a reverse-cable because the tabs will face opposite directions) 6P4C or 6P6C telephone cable as described in the [Jaguar Getting Started Guide](#). After the last Jaguar in the chain you will use another adapter cable to wire from the Jaguar to the PDP.

Alternate termination

If you do not wish to use the built-in termination on the PDP you may set the PDP termination to Off. You will the need to terminate the end of the bus with your own 120 ohm termination resistor. This can be crimped directly into the RJ connector and plugged into the last Jag on the bus or (recommended) connected to stub wires which are crimped into the connector (the stub wires crimp into the contacts more securely and provide better insulation than crimping the resistor directly).

RS-232 Adapter

Though the 2015 Control System has a native CAN interface, an RS-232 to RJ-45 adapter is still necessary for updating Jaguar firmware from a PC using BDC-Comm (more details on this process in the next article). Details on making this adapter can be found in the [Jaguar Getting Started Guide](#).

Updating CAN Jaguar Firmware

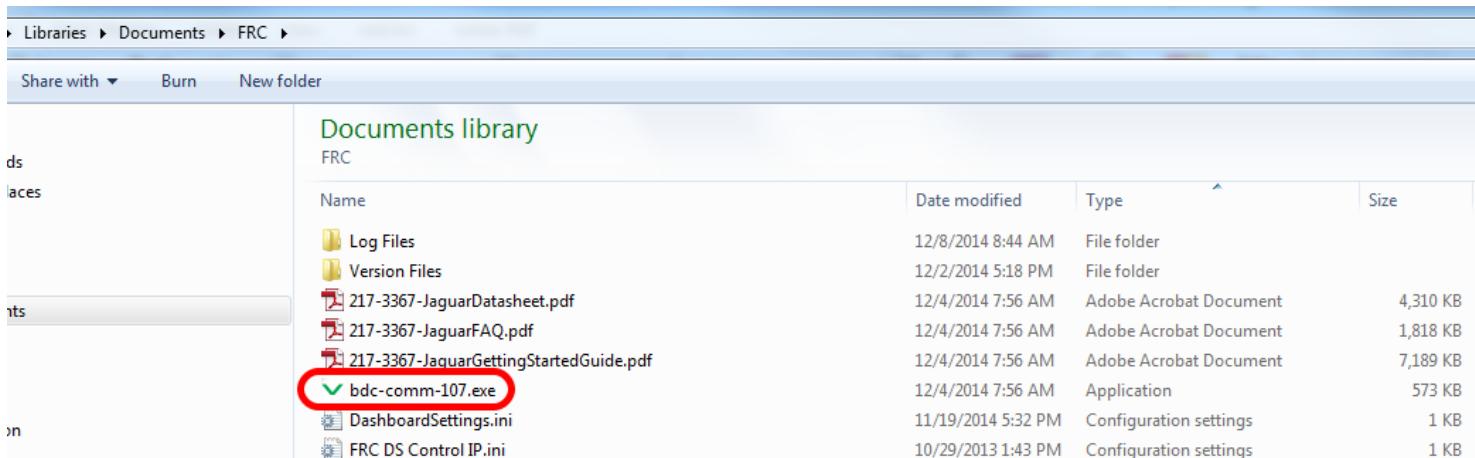
To use CAN Jaguars with the 2015 Control system, teams will have to update them to the latest version of the firmware. The recommended method to do so is by using the serial interface and the BDC-Comm software tool.

Cable and configuration

Using BDC-Comm requires a serial port (or USB->Serial adapter) on a Windows PC. You will also need a DB-9 to RJ-11 adapter cable. Instructions for building this cable if necessary can be found on page 24 and 25 of the [Jaguar Getting Started Guide](#).

For updating firmware it is recommended to have the minimum number of devices on the bus. For Black Jaguars this means that you should connect the DB-9 to RJ-11 cable directly to the left RJ-11 port (when looking at the Jaguar with the fan housing at the back) on the Jaguar being updated and nothing should be connected to the right port. For Grey Jaguars, you will need to have one Black Jaguar serve as the RS232 to CAN bridge; connect the DB-9 to RJ-11 cable to the left port of a Black Jaguar and a RJ-11 to RJ-11 "reverse" cable between the right port of the Black Jaguar and either port of the Grey Jaguar (for details on this cable, see the CAN cable section on Page 23 of the [Jaguar Getting Started Guide](#).)

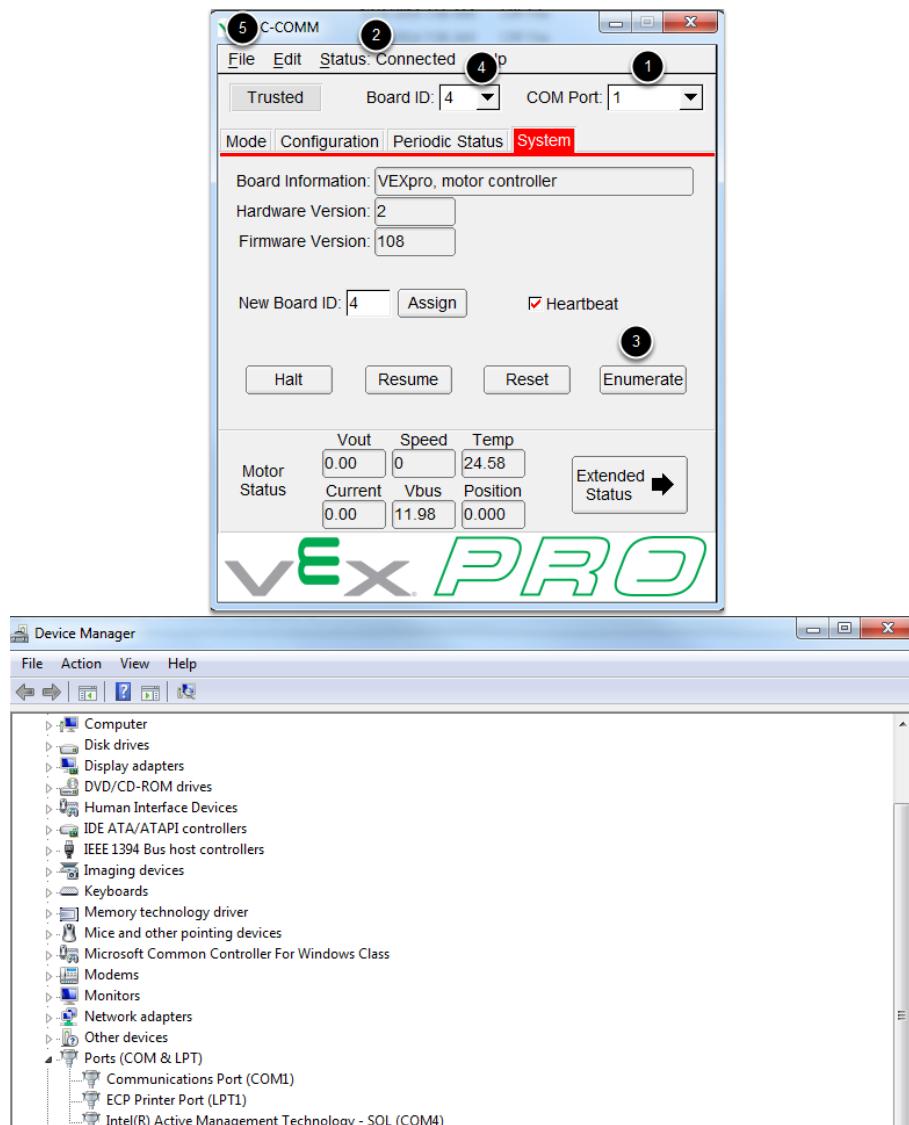
Running BDC-Comm



Name	Date modified	Type	Size
Log Files	12/8/2014 8:44 AM	File folder	
Version Files	12/2/2014 5:18 PM	File folder	
217-3367-JaguarDatasheet.pdf	12/4/2014 7:56 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	4,310 KB
217-3367-JaguarFAQ.pdf	12/4/2014 7:56 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	1,818 KB
217-3367-JaguarGettingStartedGuide.pdf	12/4/2014 7:56 AM	Adobe Acrobat Document	7,189 KB
bdc-comm-107.exe	12/4/2014 7:56 AM	Application	573 KB
DashboardSettings.ini	11/19/2014 5:32 PM	Configuration settings	1 KB
FRC DS Control IP.ini	10/29/2013 1:43 PM	Configuration settings	1 KB

Navigate to **C:\Users\Public\Documents\FRC** and double click on the BDC-Comm executable.

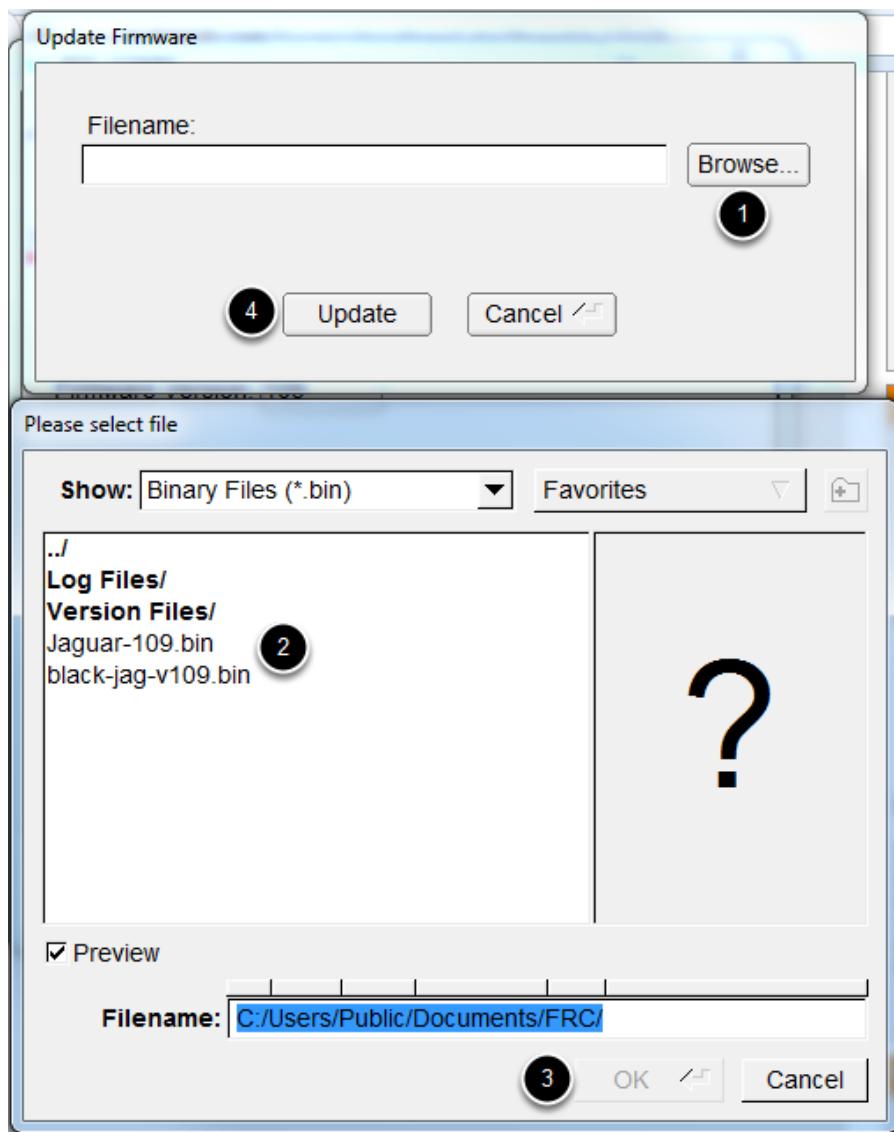
Using BDC-Comm



1. Select the correct COM port to match the serial connection you are using. If you're unsure, you can open Control-Panel->Device Manager and expand the "Ports (COM&LPT)" listing to view descriptions of all of the ports. In the second image above, you can see that COM1 is the regular serial port and COM4 is an internal port for some Intel technology that's part of the computer.
2. Verify that this menu title reads "Status: Connected". If not, click on the menu and select the Connect button
3. Click Enumerate

4. Verify that a Board ID shows up in this box. If you are updating a Grey Jag (so you have 2 Jags on the bus), select the Board ID for the Jag you want to update.
5. Select File->Update Firmware

Selecting Firmware



1. Click the browse button
2. Select the correct firmware to upload (Jaguar for Grey Jaguars, black-jag for Black Jaguars)
3. Click OK
4. Click Update



FIRST®Robotics Competition

A progress bar should appear indicating the status of the update process. When the update completes, the progress bar dialog will disappear and the Firmware Version field on the BDC-Comm page should update to reflect the new firmware.

Troubleshooting

The section lists troubleshooting steps for some common issues encountered when attempting to update Jaguar firmware.

Unable to Connect to Serial Port

If BDC-Comm is unable to connect to the serial port it may be because the port is already in use by another program, cannot be accessed by the user running the program or it may indicate an issue with the driver for the port or adapter.

1. Restart the computer, then re-open BDC-Comm and try again.
2. Close as many programs as possible, restart BDC-Comm and try again.
3. Re-open BDC-Comm by right clicking on it and selecting Run as Administrator and try again.
4. Follow any vendor instructions to re-install the drivers for your USB to Serial converter and try again.

Board ID does not appear

If the lights on the Jaguar are behaving normally but the device will not enumerate (Board ID does not appear in the box), check that all cables are correctly made and properly secured. Check if you can contact another Jaguar using the same cables and computer, if another Jaguar works properly you need to verify that the spring contacts of the Jaguar CAN port are not bent or pressed in. Carefully pulling these contacts outwards may result in better connection, causing the Jaguar to function properly again.

Jaguar LED off

If the Jaguar is properly powered and the Jaguar LED does not light at all, there are two possible causes:

1. The Jaguar has been damaged to the point it does not properly power on.
2. The Jaguar firmware has been erased or corrupted and the Jaguar is stuck in the bootloader.



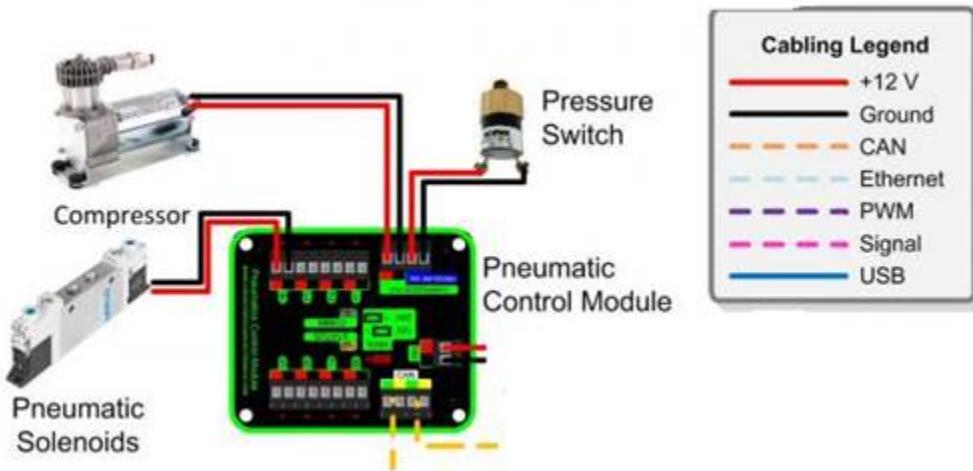
FIRST® Robotics Competition

Jaguars in the second scenario can be revived by using the Recover Device menu option from inside BDC-comm

Wiring pneumatics in the 2015 System

Wiring pneumatics has been made very simple in the 2015 Control System. A single Pneumatics Control Module is all that will be needed for many pneumatics applications, with additional PCMs supporting more complex designs including more than 8 solenoid channels or a mix of 12V and 24V solenoids.

Wiring Overview

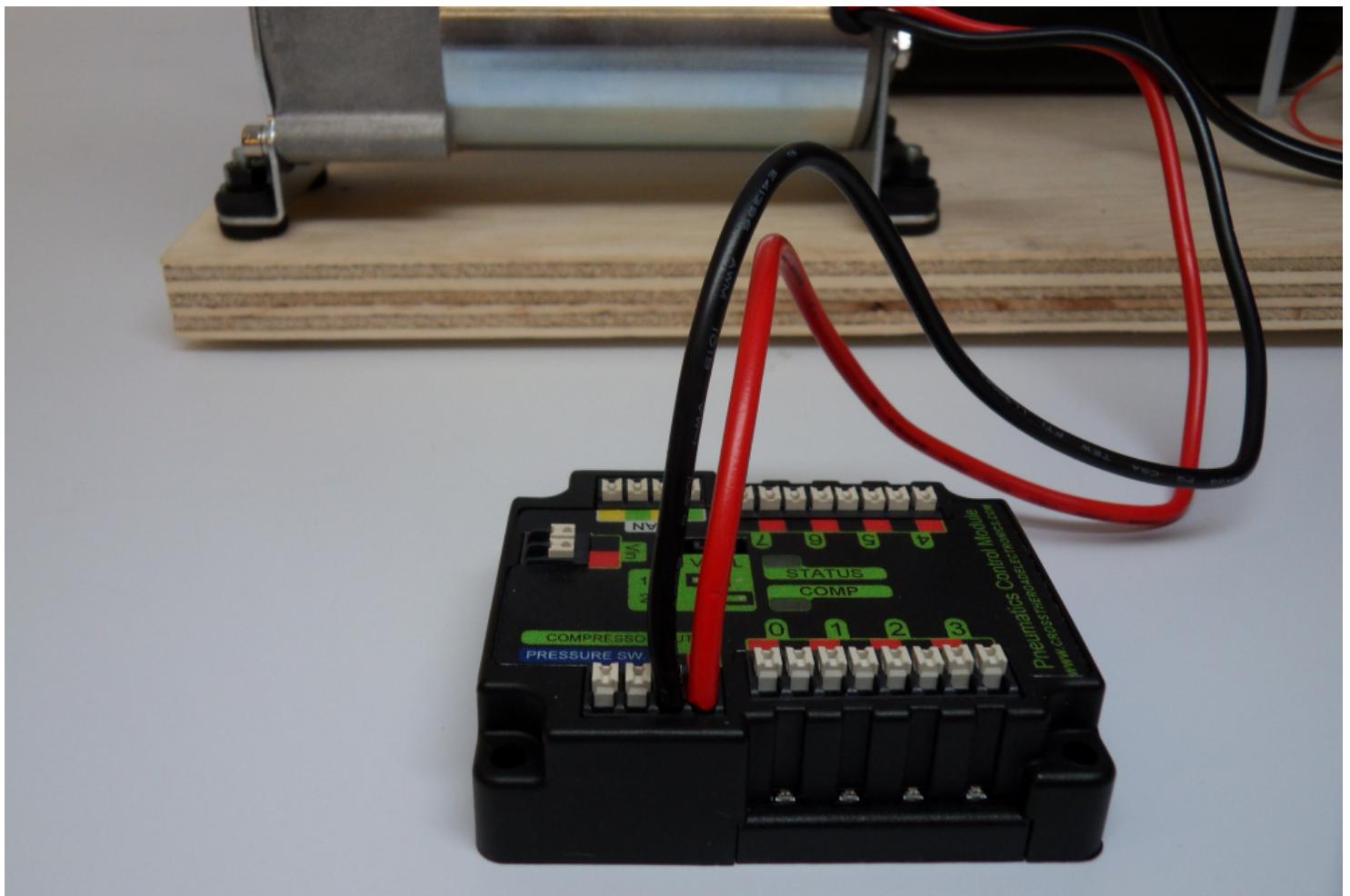


A single PCM will support many pneumatics applications, providing an output for the compressor, input for the pressure switch and outputs for up to 8 solenoid channels (12V or 24V selectable). The module is connected to the roboRIO over the CAN bus and powered via 12V from the PDP.

PCM Power and Control Wiring

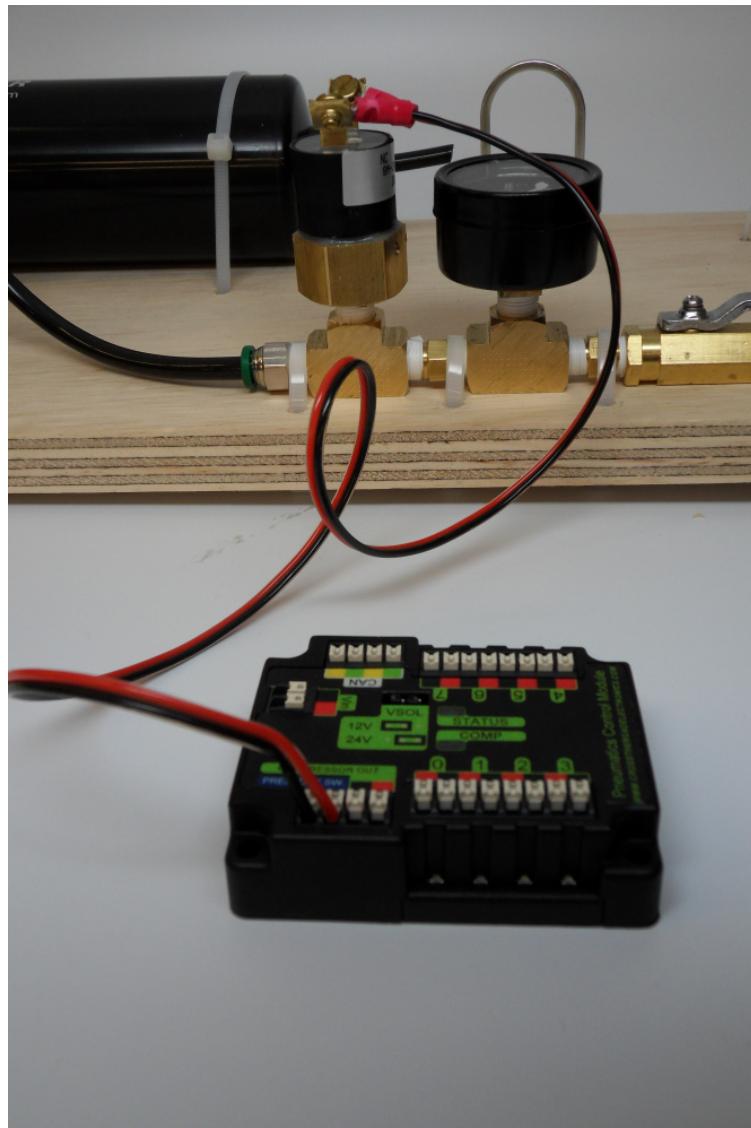
The first PCM on your robot can be wired from the PDP VRM/PCM connectors on the end of the PDP. The PCM is connected to the roboRIO via CAN and can be placed anywhere in the middle of the CAN chain (or on the end with a custom terminator). For more details on wiring a single PCM see [Wiring the 2015 FRC Control System](#). Additional PCMs can be wired to a standard Wago connector on the side of the PDP and protected with a 20A or smaller circuit breaker. Additional PCMs should also be placed anywhere in the middle of the CAN chain.

The Compressor



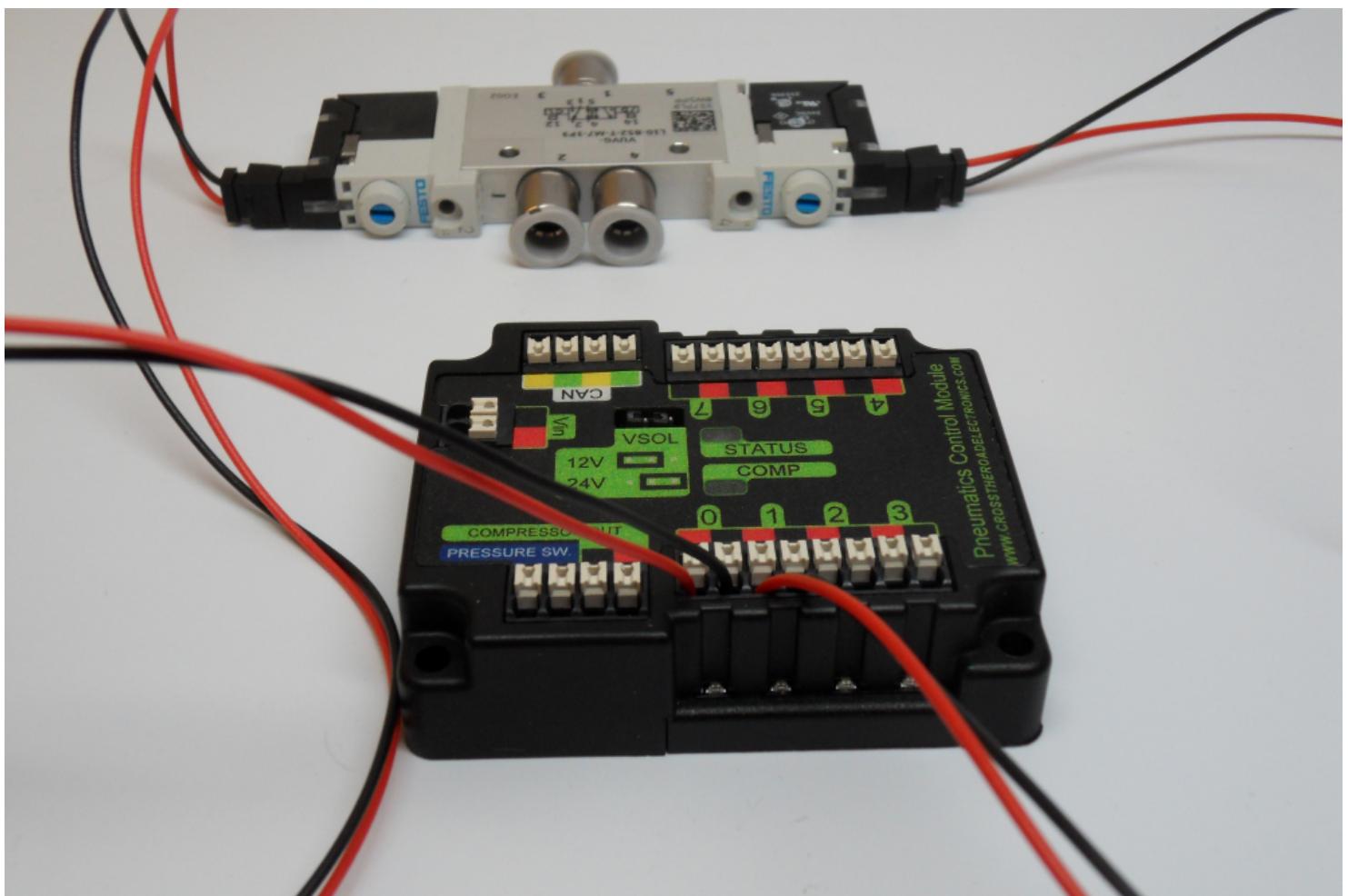
The compressor can be wired directly to the Compressor Out connectors on the PCM. If additional length is required, make sure to use 16AWG wire for the extension.

The Pressure Switch

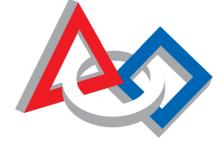


The pressure switch should be connected directly to the pressure switch input terminals on the PCM. There is no polarity on the input terminals or on the pressure switch itself, either terminal on the PCM can be connected to either terminal on the switch. Ring or spade terminals are recommended for the connection to the switch screws (note that the screws are slightly larger than #6, but can be threaded through a ring terminal with a hole for a #6 screw such as the terminals shown in the image).

Solenoids



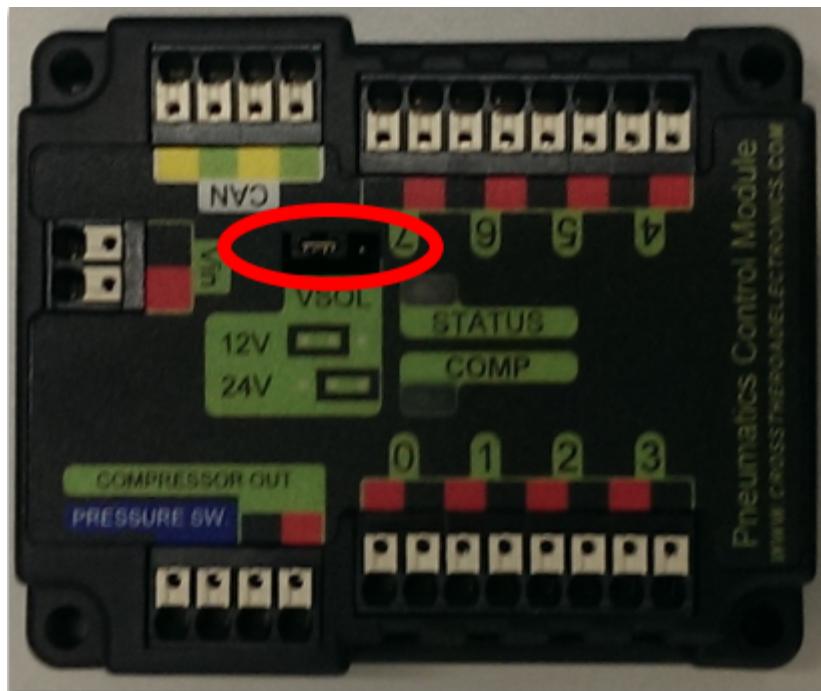
Each solenoid channel should be wired directly to a numbered pair of terminals on the PCM. A single acting solenoid will use one numbered terminal pair. A double acting solenoid will use two pairs (as shown in the image above). If your solenoid does not come with color coded wiring, check the datasheet to make sure to wire with the proper polarity.



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Solenoid Voltage Jumper

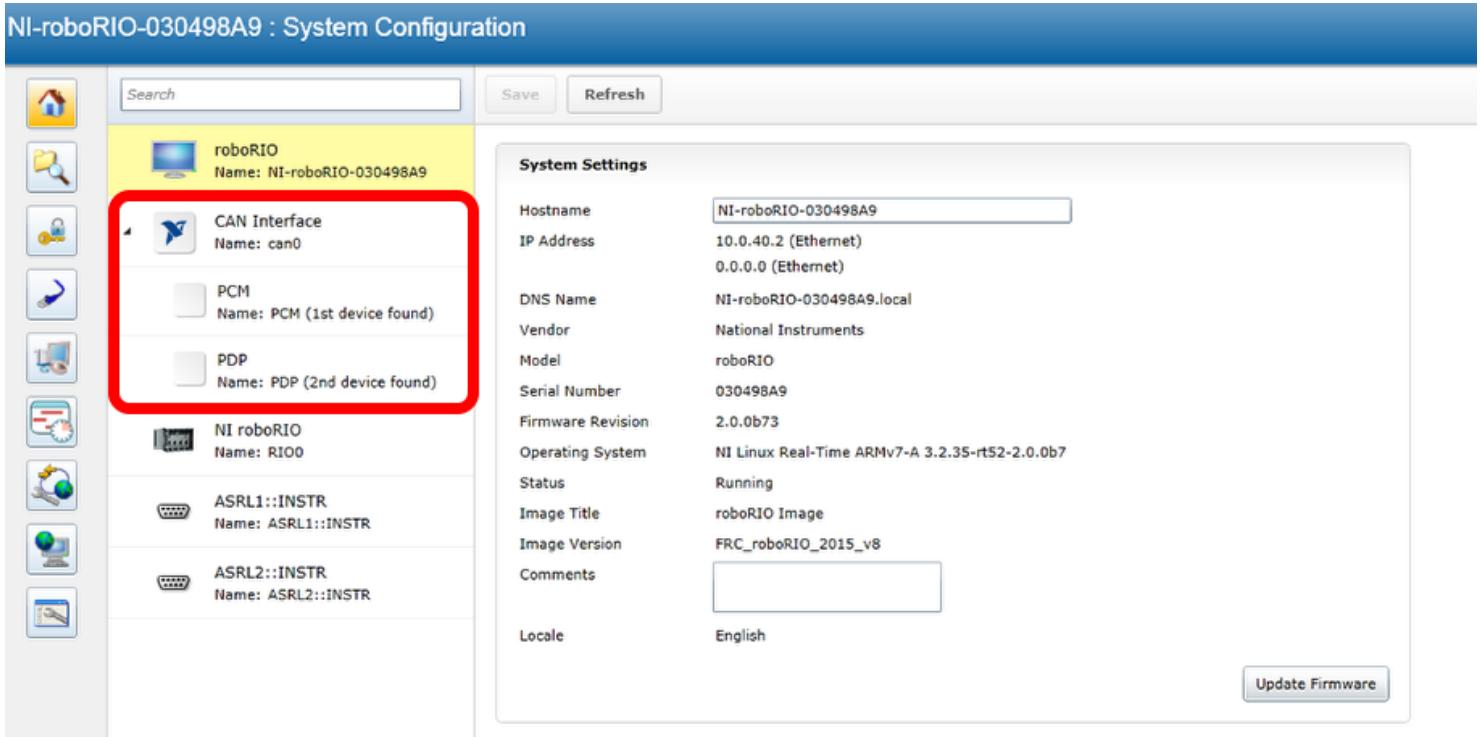


The PCM is capable of powering either 12V or 24V solenoids, but all solenoids connected to a single PCM must be the same voltage. The PCM ships with the jumper in the 12V position as shown in the image. To use 24V solenoids move the jumper from the left two pins (as shown in the image) to the right two pins. The overlay on the PCM also indicates which position corresponds to which voltage. You may need to use a tool such as a small screwdriver, small pair of pliers, or a pair of tweezers to remove the jumper.

Updating and Configuring Pneumatics Control Module and Power Distribution Panel

This document describes the process of updating the firmware on the Cross the Road Electronics CAN devices as of roboRIO Rev C with image v8. Some of these steps will be removed as the software continues to mature.

Accessing CAN Node Settings



The screenshot shows the NI WebDash interface for system configuration. On the left, there's a sidebar with various icons. The main area has a title bar "NI-roboRIO-030498A9 : System Configuration". Below the title bar, there are "Save" and "Refresh" buttons. The left pane lists several nodes:

- roboRIO**: Name: NI-roboRIO-030498A9
 - CAN Interface**: Name: can0
 - PCM**: Name: PCM (1st device found)
 - PDP**: Name: PDP (2nd device found)
- NI roboRIO**: Name: RIO0
- ASRL1::INSTR**: Name: ASRL1::INSTR
- ASRL2::INSTR**: Name: ASRL2::INSTR

The "CAN Interface", "PCM", and "PDP" entries are highlighted with a red box. The right pane displays "System Settings" for the roboRIO node, including:

Hostname	NI-roboRIO-030498A9
IP Address	10.0.40.2 (Ethernet) 0.0.0.0 (Ethernet)
DNS Name	NI-roboRIO-030498A9.local
Vendor	National Instruments
Model	roboRIO
Serial Number	030498A9
Firmware Revision	2.0.0b73
Operating System	NI Linux Real-Time ARMv7-A 3.2.35-rt52-2.0.0b73
Status	Running
Image Title	roboRIO Image
Image Version	FRC_roboRIO_2015_v8
Comments	(empty)
Locale	English

At the bottom right of the right pane is a "Update Firmware" button.

Open the WebDash by using a browser to navigate to the roboRIO's address (172.22.11.2 for USB, or "roboRIO-####.local where #### is your team number, with no leading zeroes, for either interface). You should see a page that looks like the image above, with the CAN devices listed out below the CAN Interface.

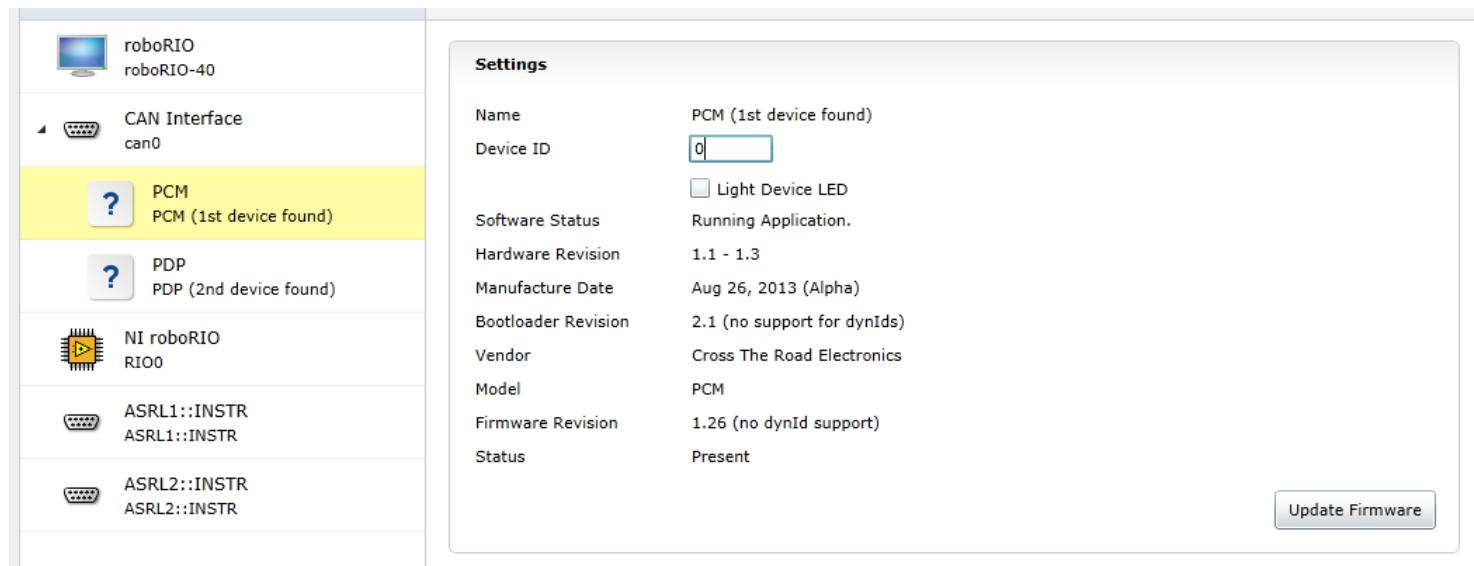
Note: The discovery order (e.g. "1st device found") is needed to separate devices of the same type but has no actual significance. You may see the PDP or a Jaguar or Talon SRX discovered first on your CAN network, even if the PCM is the first node in your CAN chain.

Troubleshooting

If you do not see any nodes below the CAN Interface entry try the following:

- Check the CAN cabling. If the LEDs on the PCM and PDP are red then they are not seeing CAN. Note that just because the LEDs on the devices are green does not mean the CAN cabling to the roboRIO are correct, they will turn green if the two other devices can see each other on the CAN network.
- Try refreshing the page. The device polling is done once every five seconds and the webpage itself doesn't always react to the Refresh button so if in doubt force a refresh by using the browser's refresh button or closing and re-opening the page.
- Make sure the CAN Interface is expanded. Double clicking the CAN Interface entry (or clicking the triangle to the left of the entry if present) will collapse the tree, repeating will expand it.
- Try restarting the browser. Occasionally the Silverlight plugin may crash or lock up resulting in the CAN devices silently not refreshing.

Settings



The screenshot shows the Control System Hardware Settings page. On the left, a tree view lists nodes under a CAN Interface entry. The CAN Interface entry has three children: robORIO (robORIO-40), PDP (PDP (2nd device found)), and PCM (PCM (1st device found)). The PCM node is highlighted with a yellow background. On the right, a detailed settings panel is displayed for the selected PCM node. The panel includes fields for Name (PCM (1st device found)), Device ID (0), Light Device LED (unchecked), Software Status (Running Application.), Hardware Revision (1.1 - 1.3), Manufacture Date (Aug 26, 2013 (Alpha)), Bootloader Revision (2.1 (no support for dynIds)), Vendor (Cross The Road Electronics), Model (PCM), Firmware Revision (1.26 (no dynId support)), and Status (Present). A 'Update Firmware' button is located at the bottom right of the panel.

Settings	
Name	PCM (1st device found)
Device ID	0
Light Device LED	<input type="checkbox"/>
Software Status	Running Application.
Hardware Revision	1.1 - 1.3
Manufacture Date	Aug 26, 2013 (Alpha)
Bootloader Revision	2.1 (no support for dynIds)
Vendor	Cross The Road Electronics
Model	PCM
Firmware Revision	1.26 (no dynId support)
Status	Present

To access the Settings page of one of the CAN nodes, select the node by clicking on its entry in the list. The settings for that node will then be displayed in the right pane.

Setting CAN IDs

Settings	
Name	PCM (1st device found)
Device ID	<input type="text" value="0"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Light Device LED
Software Status	Running Application.
Hardware Revision	1.1 - 1.3
Manufacture Date	Aug 26, 2013 (Alpha)
Bootloader Revision	2.1 (no support for dynIds)
Vendor	Cross The Road Electronics
Model	PCM
Firmware Revision	1.26 (no dynId support)
Status	Present
<input type="button" value="Update Firmware"/>	

Each device comes with the CAN ID set to a default value of 0. If using only a single device of that type it is recommended to leave the ID at the default value to allow for the use of default Opens/Constructors. If using multiples of a particular device type (I.E. 2 PCMs or 4 Talon SRXs) you will need to change the node ID of all but one device. To change the node ID:

- Highlight>Select the Device ID and replace it with your desired ID.
- Press "Save". The "Save" button will depress and the "Refresh" button will appear.
- The PDP, PCM and Talon SRX require no additional action to save the new ID. For CAN Jaguars, a notice will appear instructing you to push the user button within 5 seconds. After doing so, click Refresh and verify that the new Device ID has been set.



FIRST® Robotics Competition

ID Ranges

⚠ There was a problem saving the settings for this device.
Device ID must be in the range 0 - 63

Settings

Name	PCM (1st device found)
Device ID	<input type="text" value="94"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Light Device LED	

The valid ID ranges for each type of device are:

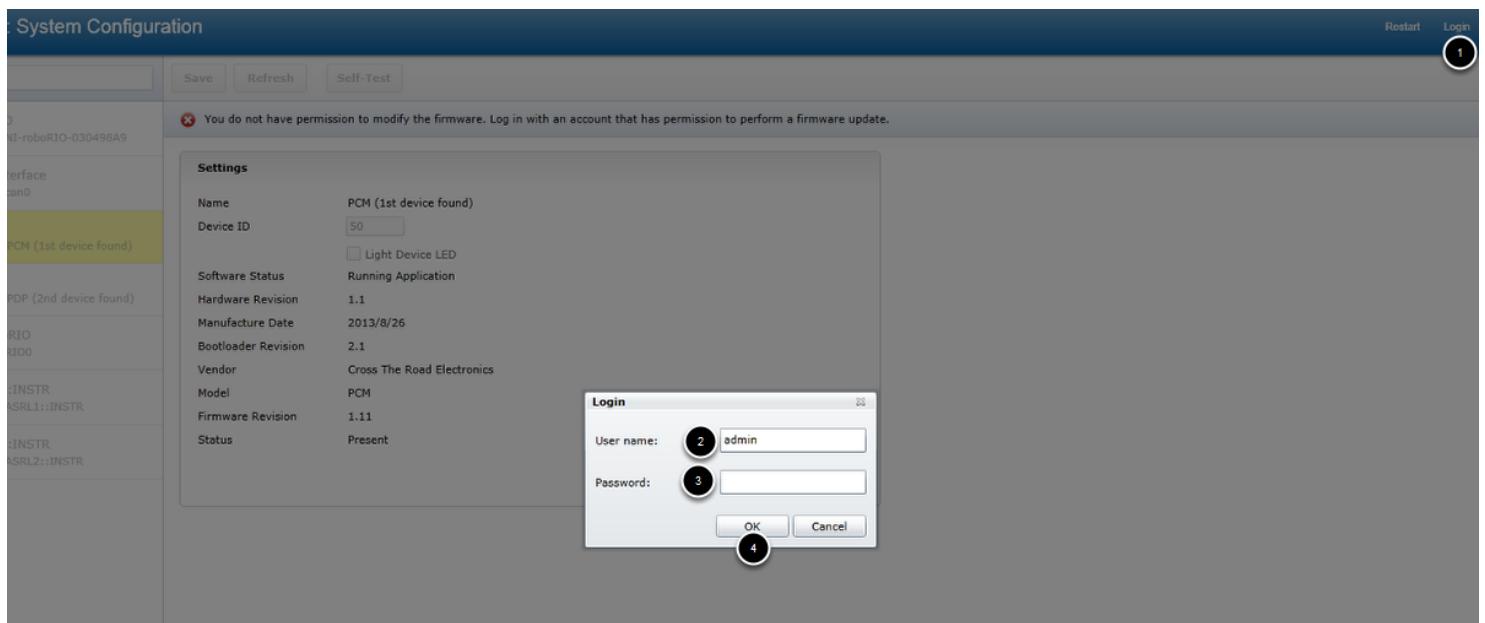
- Pneumatics Control Module (PCM) ID - 0 to 62 (inclusive)
- Power Distribution Panel (PDP) ID - 0 to 62 (inclusive)
- Jaguar ID- 1 to 63 (inclusive)
- Talon SRX ID- 0 to 62 (inclusive)

Since the ID ranges for different products don't overlap there is no issue with two or more CAN nodes of different types having the same Device ID (e.g. a PDP with ID=0, a PCM with ID=0, and a Talon SRX with ID=0 on the same bus). Using multiple devices of the same type, such as multiple PCMs or multiple Jaguars with the same node ID will result in a conflict. The web plugin supports a strategy that will allow for recovery of this condition for all devices other than Jaguars, but the devices are not properly usable from within a robot program while in this state. To recover Jaguars which have been set to the same ID you will have to remove all but one of the devices from the bus, then set the devices to non-conflicting IDs.

If you select an invalid ID you will get an immediate prompt like the one shown above.

Changing the PDP ID while using C++\Java WPILib is not recommended as there is no way to change the desired node ID in the library. PCM node IDs may be set as desired and addressed using the appropriate Open or Constructor of the Solenoid or Double Solenoid class.

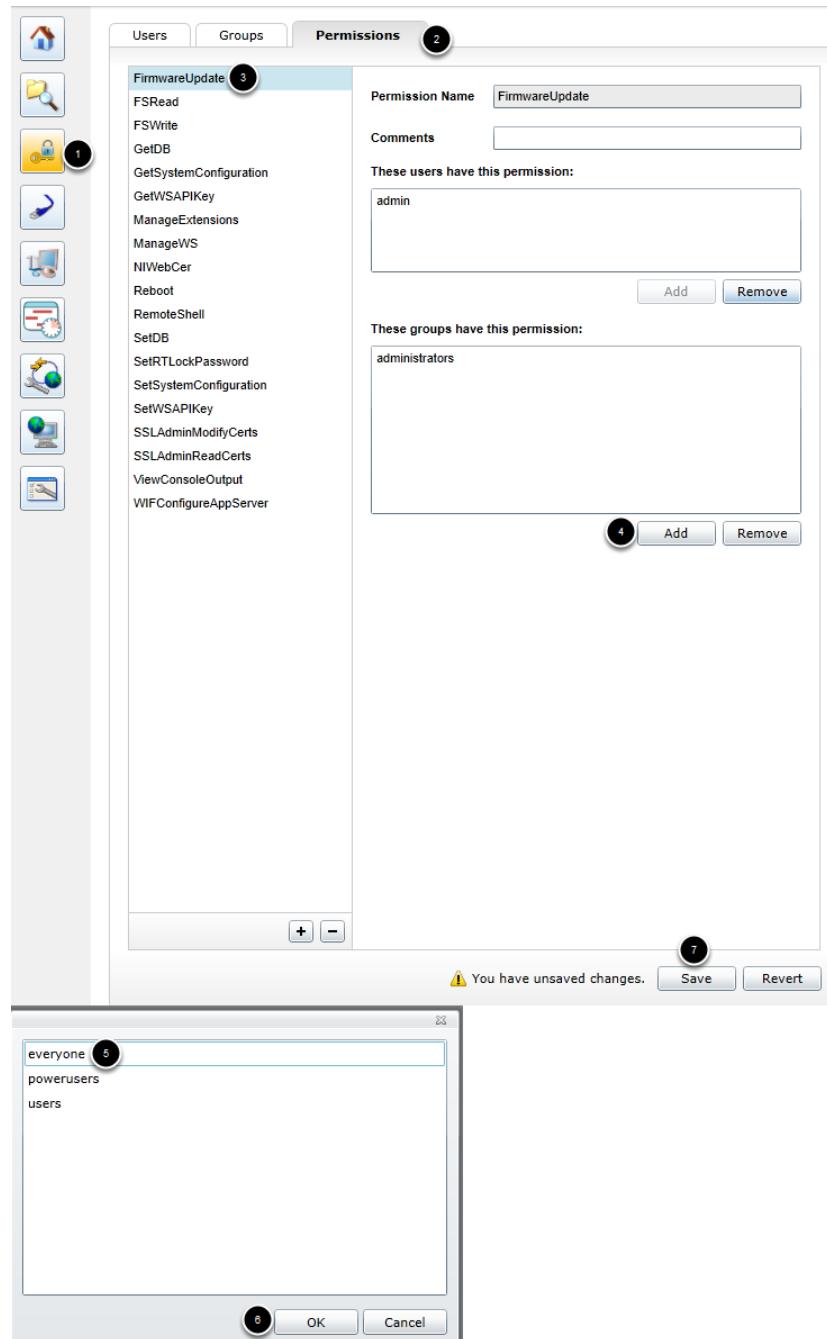
Updating CAN Node Firmware



This page can also be used to update the device firmware. To load new firmware you must be logged in:

1. Click "Login" at the top right of the page.
2. Enter the User Name "admin"
3. Leave the Password field blank.
4. Click Ok.

Updating Permissions



If you would like to skip the Login step in the future you can set up Permissions to allow firmware updates:



1. Click the Lock Icon in the far left pane.
2. Click the Permissions tab.
3. Select Firmware Update from the list.
4. Click Add below the second large box.
5. Select "everyone"
6. Click Ok.
7. Click Save.

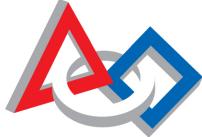
Update Firmware

Settings

Name	PCM (1st device found)
Device ID	<input type="text" value="0"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Light Device LED	
Software Status	Running Application.
Hardware Revision	1.1 - 1.3
Manufacture Date	Aug 26, 2013 (Alpha)
Bootloader Revision	2.1 (no support for dynIds)
Vendor	Cross The Road Electronics
Model	PCM
Firmware Revision	1.26 (no dynId support)
Status	Present



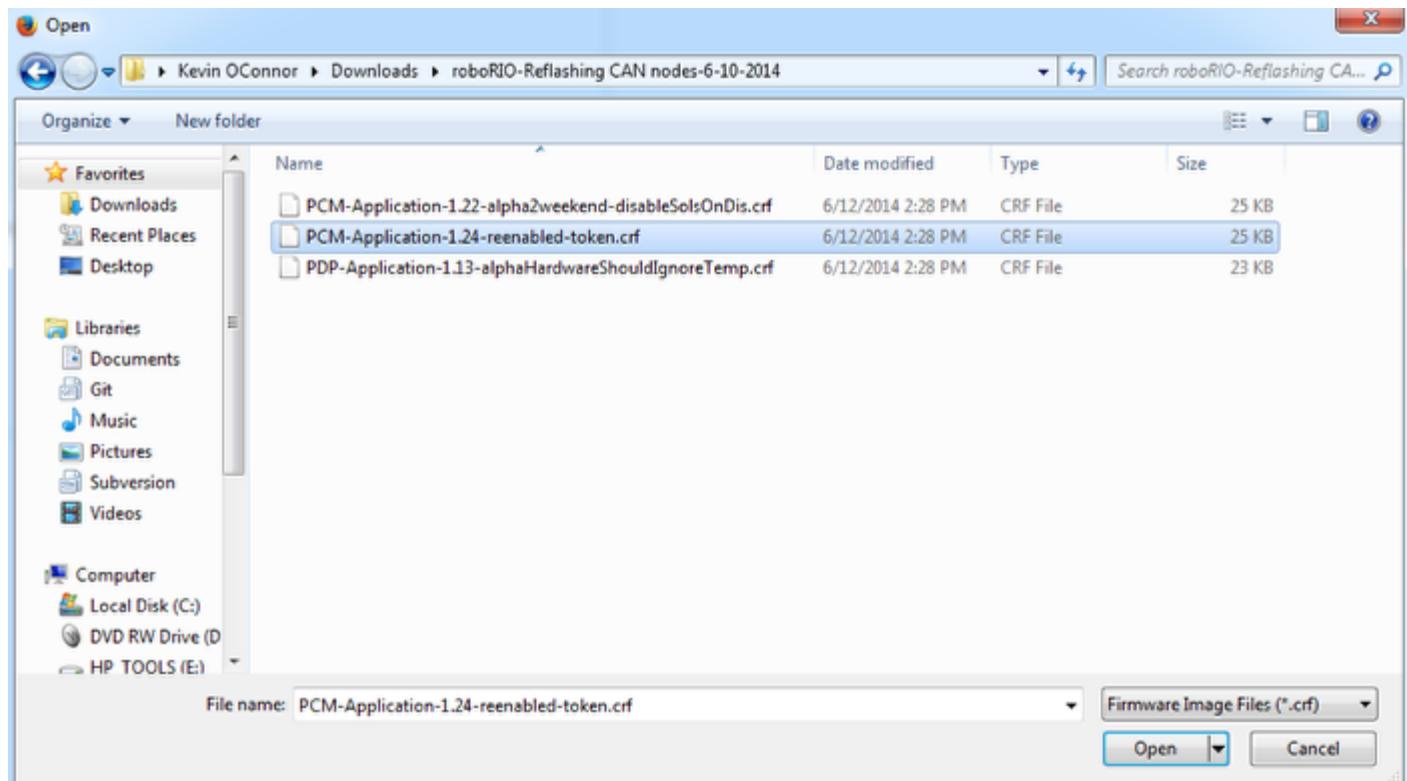
The firmware on a CAN Node is updated from the Setting's page for that node. To update the firmware of a CAN Node, press the Update Firmware button.



FRC

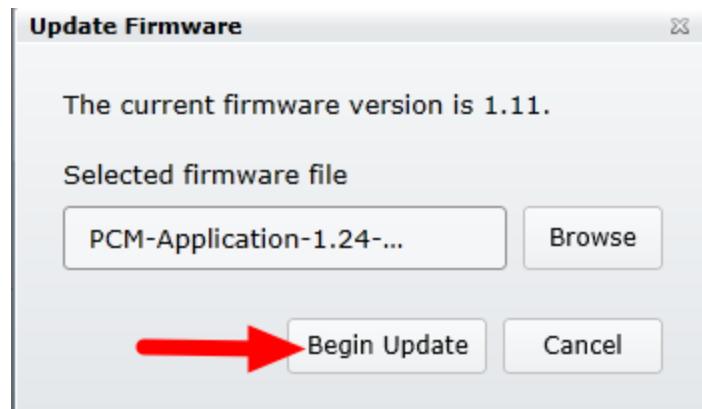
FIRST® Robotics Competition

Select New Firmware



CTRE Devices use a file format call CRF (Cross The Road Firmware). Using the dialog, browse to the correct location on your computer and select the new firmware file, then click Open. Firmware for CTRE devices can be found in the **C:\Users\Public\Documents\FRC** folder.

Confirmation



On the dialog that appears, click Begin Update.



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Update Complete

<input type="button" value="Save"/>	<input type="button" value="Refresh"/>	<input type="button" value="Self-Test"/>
<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px;">✓ The firmware update completed successfully.</div>		
Settings		
Name	PCM (1st device found)	
Device ID	<input type="text" value="0"/>	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Light Device LED	
Software Status	Running Application	
Hardware Revision	1.1	
Manufacture Date	2013/8/26	
Bootloader Revision	2.1	
Vendor	Cross The Road Electronics	
Model	PCM	
Firmware Revision	1.24	
Status	Present	

If the update completes successfully, you should see a confirmation message near the top of the page and the Firmware Revision should update to match the new file.



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Troubleshooting

There was a problem updating the firmware for this device.
PCM (1st device found) : CTRE_DI_CouldNotErase

Settings	
Name	PCM (1st device found)
Device ID	0
<input type="checkbox"/> Light Device LED	
Software Status	Bootloader, LED is blinking green/orange.
Hardware Revision	1.1
Manufacture Date	2013/8/26
Bootloader Revision	2.1
Vendor	Cross The Road Electronics
Model	PCM
Firmware Revision	255.255
Status	Present

Update Firmware

Since ten seconds is plenty of time for power/CAN to be disconnected, an error code will be reported if a reflash is interrupted or fails. Additionally the Software Status will report “Bootloader” and Firmware Revision will be 255.255 (blank). If a CAN Device has no firmware, it’s bootloader will take over and blink green/yellow on the device’s corresponding LED. It will also keep it’s device ID, so the RIO can still be used to set device ID and reflash the application firmware (crf). This means you can reflash again using the same web interface (there is no need for a recovery button).



Self-Test

The self test completed successfully.

PCM IS NOT ENABLED! If robot is enabled maybe the ID is wrong?
Close-Looping is ON, but PCM is DISABLED.
Compressor Is Off
Pressure is full.

(Fault)	(Now)	(Sticky)
Compressor Current	0	0
Comp Short Circuit	0	0
Solenoid Fuse	0	0
Solen 1	0	
Solen 2	0	
Solen 3	0	
Solen 4	0	
Solen 5	0	
Solen 6	0	
Solen 7	0	
Solen 8	0	

Solen 1 is OFF
Solen 2 is OFF
Solen 3 is OFF
Solen 4 is OFF
Solen 5 is OFF
Solen 6 is OFF
Solen 7 is OFF
Solen 8 is OFF

Battery (V): 12.39
Solenoid (V): 12.23
Compressor (A): 0.00

Double click "Self-Test" to clear sticky faults (this will disable compressor momentarily).

BuildTime: Jun 3 2014 20:46:03
Press "Refresh" to close this window.

Pressing Self Test will display data captured from CAN Bus at time of press. This can include fault states, sensor inputs, output states, measured battery voltage,etc...

At the bottom of the section, the build time is displayed for checking what firmware revision is installed. The image above is an example of pressing "SelfTest" with PCM. Be sure to check if PCM is ENABLED or DISABLED. If PCM is DISABLED then either the robot is disabled or team code is talking to the wrong PCM device ID (or not talking to the PCM at all).

Sticky Faults

 The self test completed successfully.

PCM is enabled.
 Compressor is close-looped on sensor
 Compressor Is Off
 Pressure is full.

(Fault)	(Now)	(Sticky)
Compressor Current	0	0
Comp Short Circuit	0	1 Most likely the compressor output was shorted
Solenoid Fuse	0	0
Solen 1	0	
Solen 2	0	
Solen 3	0	
Solen 4	0	
Solen 5	0	
Solen 6	0	
Solen 7	0	
Solen 8	0	

Solen 1 is OFF
 Solen 2 is OFF
 Solen 3 is OFF
 Solen 4 is OFF
 Solen 5 is OFF
 Solen 6 is OFF
 Solen 7 is OFF
 Solen 8 is OFF

Battery (V): 12.39
 Solenoid (V): 12.22
 Compressor (A): 0.00

Double click "Self-Test" to clear sticky faults (this will disable compressor momentarily).

BuildTime: Jun 3 2014 20:46:03
 Press "Refresh" to close this window.

After enabling the robot and repressing “SelfTest” we see the PCM is enabled but an intermittent short on the compressor output reveals itself in a sticky fault.

Sticky faults persist across power cycles. They also cause orange blinks on the device LED. The PCM will orange blink to signal a sticky fault only when the robot is disabled. The PDP will orange blink



FRC

FIRST®Robotics Competition

anytime it sees a sticky fault (since PDPs are not output devices they don't care if robot is enabled or not).

Clearing Sticky Faults

The self test completed successfully.

PCM IS NOT ENABLED! If robot is enabled maybe the ID is wrong?
Close-Looping is ON, but PCM is DISABLED.
Compressor Is Off
Pressure is full.

(Fault)	(Now)	(Sticky)
Compressor Current	0	0
Comp Short Circuit	0	0
Solenoid Fuse	0	0
Solen 1	0	
Solen 2	0	
Solen 3	0	
Solen 4	0	
Solen 5	0	
Solen 6	0	
Solen 7	0	
Solen 8	0	

Solen 1 is OFF
Solen 2 is OFF
Solen 3 is OFF
Solen 4 is OFF
Solen 5 is OFF
Solen 6 is OFF
Solen 7 is OFF
Solen 8 is OFF

Battery (V): 12.39
Solenoid (V): 12.22
Compressor (A): 0.00

Faults cleared!

Double click "Self-Test" to clear sticky faults (this will disable compressor)

To clear Sticky Faults, double click Self Test in a rapid fashion. If the faults don't clear you may need to triple click, or rapidly click until you see the "Faults cleared!" text appear.



FIRST®Robotics Competition

PDP Self-Test

The self test completed successfully.

- Channel 1 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 2 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 3 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 4 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 5 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 6 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 7 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 8 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 9 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 10 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 11 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 12 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 13 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 14 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 15 (A): < 1.73
- Channel 16 (A): < 1.73

Battery(V) : 13.52
Temp(C) : 98.09
FaultHardwareStatus : 0
Current FAULTS : 00000000000000000000
FaultTemp : 0
FaultVbat : 0
Current FAULTS : 0000000000000000 (sticky)
StickyFaultTemp : 0
StickyFaultVbat : 0

Double click "Self-Test" to clear sticky faults.

BuildTime: Jun 3 2014 20:46:03
Press "Refresh" to close this window.

Here's an example for PDP. Notice here this PDP sees a temperature of 98.09C (don't worry this board does not have the temp sensor populated). With this firmware, no temp fault is recorded because this hardware revision does not have the temp sensor populated.

Status Light Quick Reference

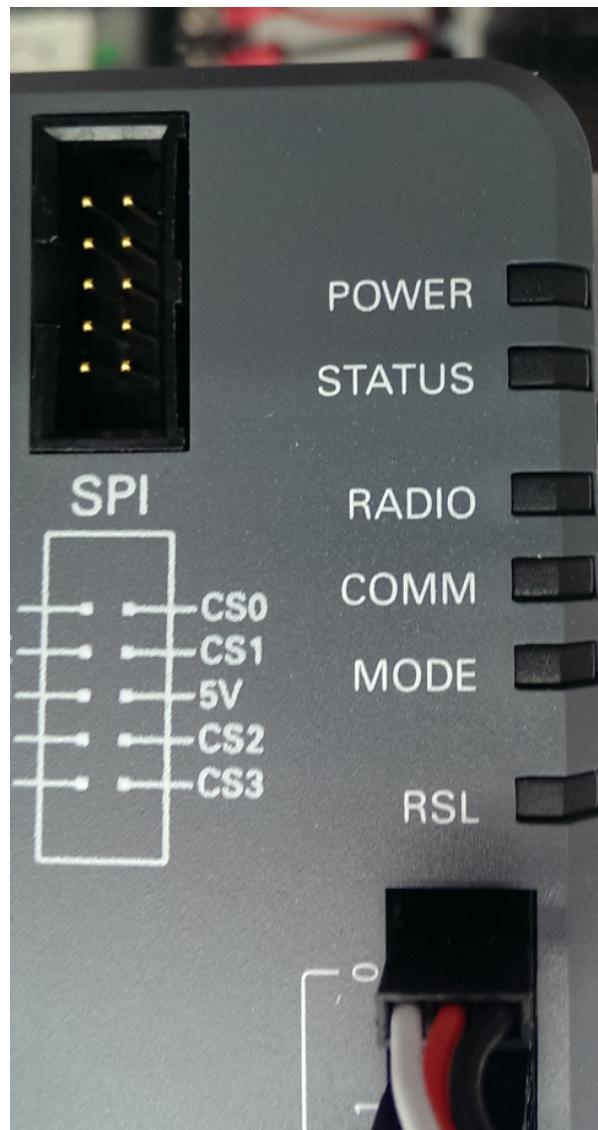
Many of the components of the FRC Control System have indicator lights that can be used to quickly diagnose problems with your robot. This guide shows each of the hardware components and describes the meaning of the indicators. Photos and information from Innovation FIRST and Cross the Road Electronics.

Robot Signal Light (RSL)



- Solid ON - Robot On and Disabled
- Blinking - Robot On and Enabled
- Off - Robot Off, roboRIO not powered or RSL not wired properly.

RoboRIO



Power

- Green - Power is good
- Amber - Brownout protection tripped, outputs disabled
- Red - Power fault, check user rails for short circuit

Status



FIRST®Robotics Competition

- On while the controller is booting, then should turn off
- 2 blinks - Software error, reimagine roboRIO
- 3 blinks - Safe Mode, restart roboRIO, reimagine if not resolved
- 4 blinks - Software crashed twice without rebooting, reboot roboRIO, reimagine if not resolved
- Constant flash or stays solid on - Unrecoverable error

Radio

Not currently implemented

Comm

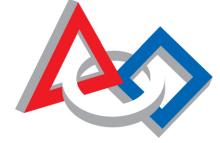
- Off - No Communication
- Red Solid - Communication with DS, but no user code
- Red Blinking - E-stop
- Green Solid - Good communication with DS

Mode

- Off - Outputs disabled (robot in Disabled, brown-out, etc.)
- Amber/Orange - Autonomous Enabled
- Green - Teleop Enabled
- Red - Test Enabled

RSL

See above



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Power Distribution Panel



LED Fault Table

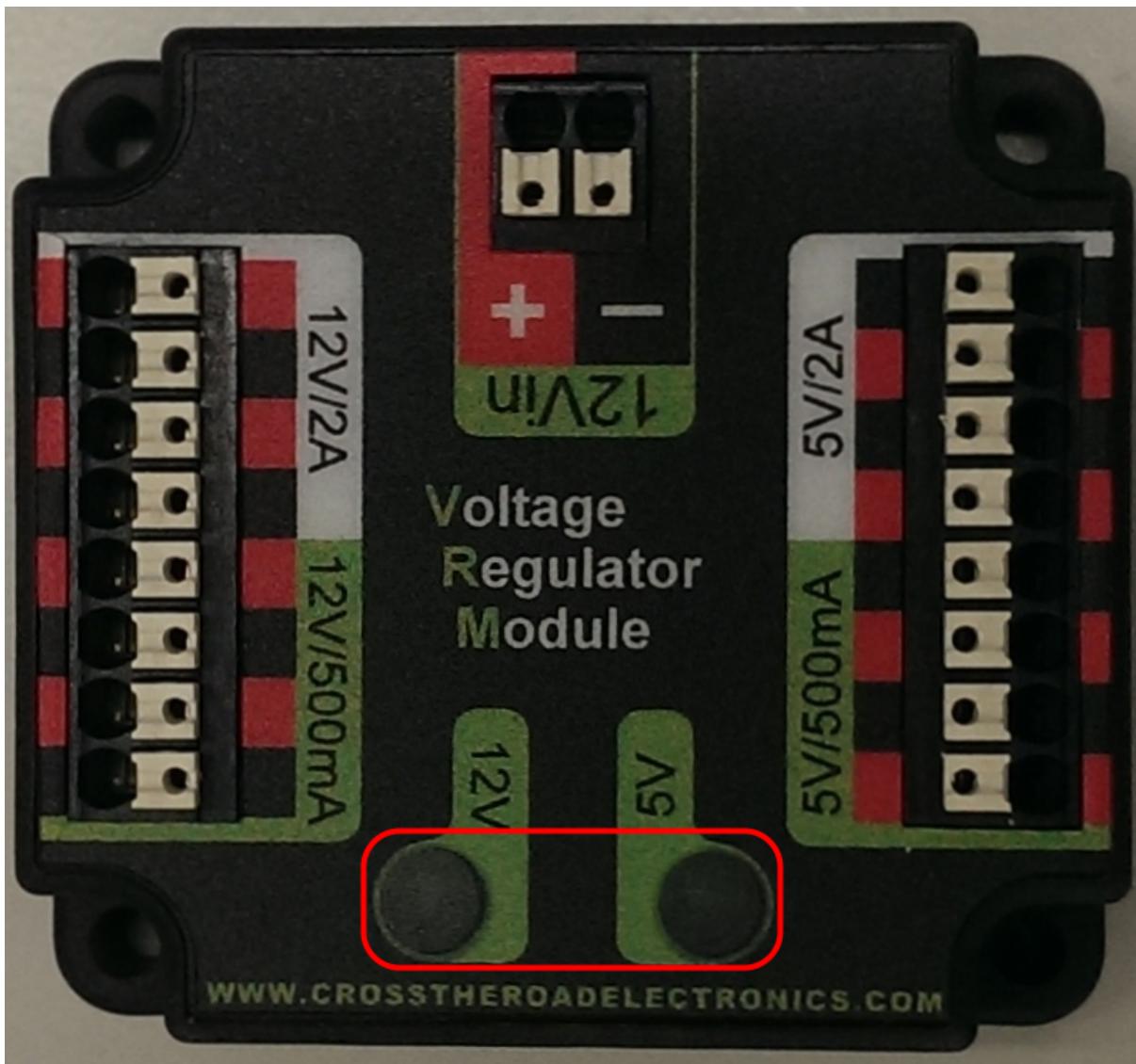
LED	Strobe	Slow	Long
Green	No Fault - Robot Enabled	No Fault - Robot Disabled	NA
Orange	NA	Sticky Fault	NA
Red	NA	No CAN Comm	NA

*If PCM LED contains more than one color, see LED Special States Table

LED Special States Table

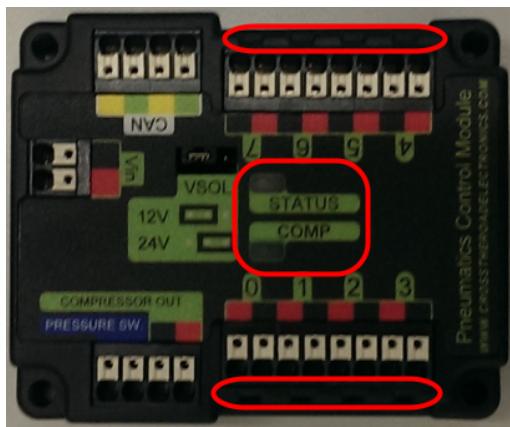
LED Colors	Problem
Red/ Orange	Damaged Hardware
Green/ Orange	In Bootloader
No LED	No Power / Incorrect Polarity

Voltage Regulator Module



The status LEDs on the VRM indicate the state of the two power supplies. If the supply is functioning properly the LED should be lit bright green. If the LED is not lit or is dim, the output may be shorted or drawing too much current.

Pneumatics Control Module



LED Fault Table

LED	Strobe	Slow	Long
Green	No Fault - Robot Enabled	No Fault - Robot Disabled	NA
Orange	NA	Sticky Fault	NA
Red	NA	No CAN Comm OR Solenoid Fault (Blinks Solenoid Index)	Compressor Fault

*If PCM LED contains more than one color, see LED Special States Table

LED Special States Table

LED Colors	Problem
Red/ Orange	Damaged Hardware
Green/ Orange	In Bootloader
No LED	No Power / Incorrect Polarity

Solenoid Channel LEDs - These LEDs are lit red if the Solenoid channel is enabled and not lit if it is disabled.

Comp - This is the Compressor LED. This LED is green when the compressor output is active (compressor is currently on) and off when the compressor output is not active.

Status - The status LED indicates device status as indicated by the two tables above. For more information on resolving PCM faults see the PCM User Manual. Note that the No CAN Comm fault will



not occur only if the device cannot see communicate with any other device, if the PCM and PDP can communicate with each other, but not the roboRIO you will NOT see a No Can Comm fault.

Jaguar speed controllers



LED State	Module Status
Normal Operating Conditions	
Solid Yellow	Neutral (speed set to 0)
Fast Flashing Green	Forward
Fast Flashing Red	Reverse
Solid Green	Full-speed forward
Solid Red	Full-speed reverse
Fault Conditions	
Slow Flashing Yellow	Loss of servo or Network link
Fast Flashing Yellow	Invalid CAN ID
Slow Flashing Red	Voltage, Temperature, or Limit Switch fault condition
Slow Flashing Red and Yellow	Current fault condition

LED State	Module Status
Calibration Conditions	
Fast Flashing Red and Green	Calibration mode active
Fast Flashing Red and Yellow	Calibration mode failure
Slow Flashing Green and Yellow	Calibration mode success
Slow Flashing Red and Green	Calibration mode reset to factory default settings success
Other Conditions	
Slow Flashing Green	Waiting in CAN Assignment mode

Talon speed controllers



The LED is used to indicate the direction and percentage of throttle and state of calibration. The LED may be one of three colors; red, orange or green. A solid green LED indicates positive output voltage equal to the input voltage of the Talon. A solid Red LED indicates an output voltage that is equal to the input voltage multiplied by -1(input voltage = 12 volts, output equals -12 volts). The LED will blink it's corresponding color for any throttle less than 100% (red indicates negative polarity, green indicates positive). The rate at which the led blinks is proportional to the percent throttle. The faster the LED blinks the closer the output is to 100% in either polarity.

The LED will blink orange any time the Talon is in the disabled state. This will happen if the PWM input signal is lost, or in FRC, when the robot is disabled. If the Talon is in the enabled state and the throttle is within the 4% dead band, the LED will remain solid orange.

Flashing Red/Green indicate ready for calibration. Several green flashes indicates successful calibration, and red several times indicates unsuccessful calibration.

Victor speed controllers



LED Indicator Status:

Green - full forward

Orange - neutral / brake

Red - full reverse

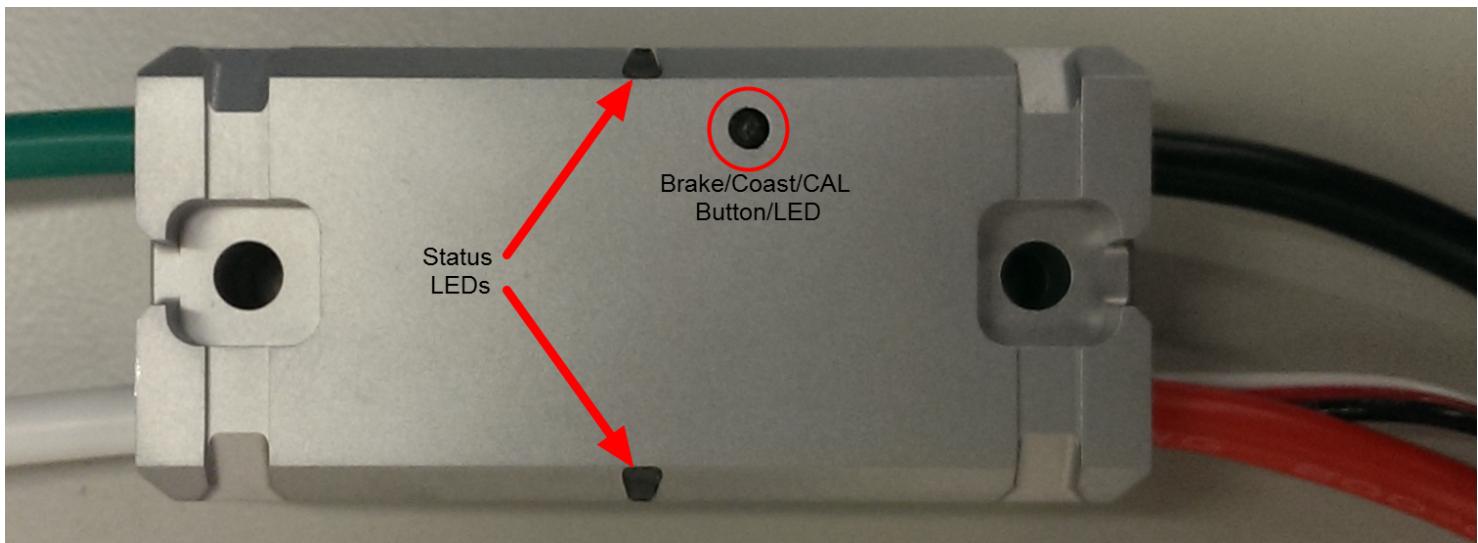
Flashing orange - no PWM signal

Flashing red/green - calibration mode

Flashing green - successful calibration

Flashing red - unsuccessful calibration

Victor-SP speed controllers



Brake/Coast/Cal Button/LED - Red if the controller is in brake mode, off if the controller is in coast mode

Status

The Status LEDs are used to indicate the direction and percentage of throttle and state of calibration. The LEDs may be one of three colors; red, orange or green. Solid green LEDs indicate positive output voltage equal to the input voltage of the Victor-SP. Solid Red LEDs indicate an output voltage that is equal to the input voltage multiplied by -1 (input voltage = 12 volts, output equals -12 volts). The LEDs will blink in the corresponding color for any throttle less than 100% (red indicates negative polarity, green indicates positive). The rate at which the LEDs blink is proportional to the percent throttle. The faster the LEDs blink the closer the output is to 100% in either polarity.

The LEDs will blink orange any time the Victor-SP is in the disabled state. This will happen if the PWM input signal is lost, or in FRC, when the robot is disabled. If the Victor-SP is in the enabled state and the throttle is within the 4% dead band, the LED will remain solid orange.

Flashing Red/Green indicate ready for calibration. Several green flashes indicate successful calibration, and red several times indicates unsuccessful calibration.

Talon-SRX speed controllers

Blink Codes During Calibration	
Status LEDs Blink Code	Talon SRX State
Flashing Red/Green	Calibration Mode
Blinking Green	Successful Calibration
Blinking Red	Failed Calibration

Blink Codes During Normal Operation		
LEDs	Colors	Talon SRX State
Both	Blinking Green	Forward throttle is applied. Blink rate is proportional to Duty Cycle
Both	Blinking Red	Reverse throttle is applied. Blink rate is proportional to Duty Cycle
None	None	No Power is being applied to Talon SRX
LEDs Alternate ¹	Off/Orange	CAN bus detected, robot disabled
LEDs Alternate ¹	Off/Slow Red	CAN bus/PWM is not detected
LEDs Alternate ¹	Off/Fast Red	Fault Detected
LEDs Alternate ¹	Red/Orange	Damaged Hardware
LEDs Strobe “towards” (M+) ²	Off/Red	Forward Limit Switch or Forward Soft Limit
LEDs Strobe “towards” (M-) ²	Off/Red	Reverse Limit Switch or Reverse Soft Limit
LED1 Only “closest” to M+/V+	Green/Orange	In Boot-loader

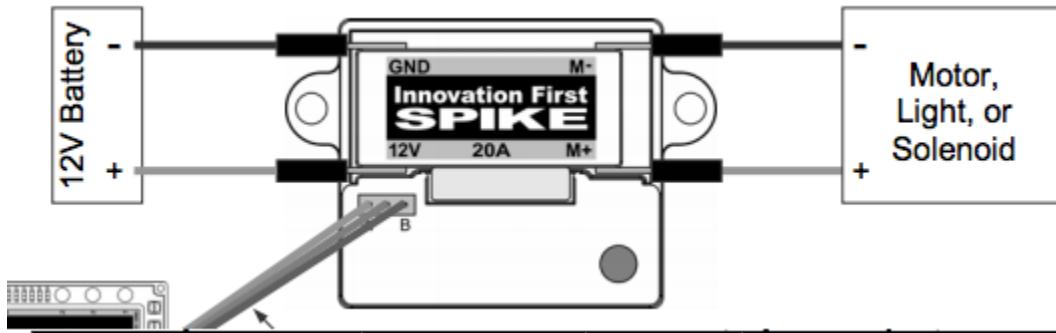
B/C CAL Blink Codes	
B/C CAL Button Color	Talon SRX State
Solid Red	Brake Mode
Off	Coast Mode



FRC

FIRST®Robotics Competition

Spike relay configured as a motor, light, or solenoid switch

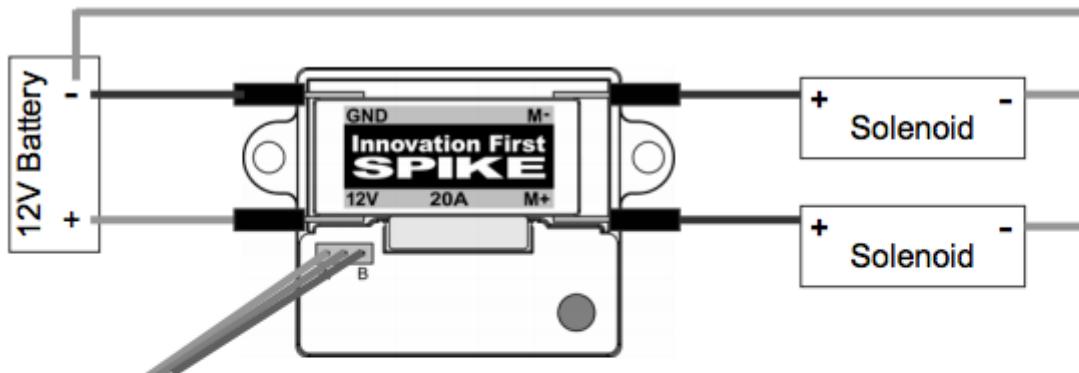


INPUTS		OUTPUTS		Indicator	Motor Function
Fwd(Wht)	Rev(Red)	M+	M-		
0	0	GND	GND	Orange	OFF / Brake Condition (default)
1	0	+12v	GND	Green	Motor rotates in one direction
0	1	GND	+12v	Red	Motor rotates in opposite direction
1	1	+12v	+12v	Off	OFF / Brake Condition

Notes:

1. 'Brake' refers to the dynamic stopping of the motor due to the shorting of the motor inputs. This condition is not optional when going to an off state.
2. The INPUT Fwd and Rev are defined as follows: 0 (Off) and 1 (On).

Spike relay configured as for one or two solenoids



INPUT		OUTPUTS				
Fwd(Wh)	Rev(Red)	M+	M-	Indicator	Solenoid Function	
0	0	GND	GND	Orange	Both Solenoids OFF (default)	
1	0	+12v	GND	Green	Solenoid connected to M+ is ON	
0	1	GND	+12v	Red	Solenoid connected to M- is ON	
1	1	+12v	+12v	Off	Both Solenoids ON	

Note:

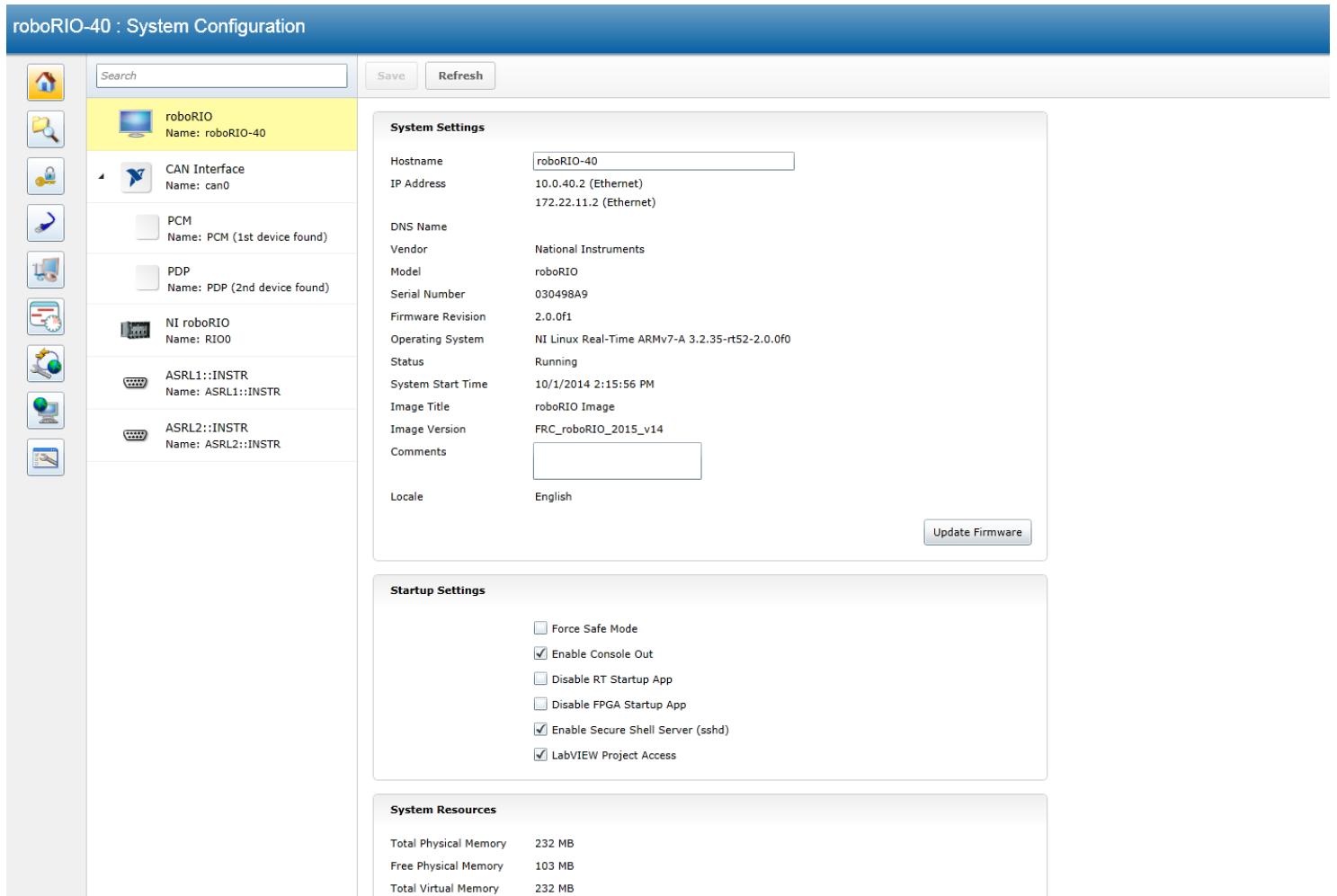
1. The INPUT Fwd and Rev are defined as follows: 0 (Off) and 1 (On).

RoboRIO

RoboRIO Webdashboard

The roboRIO web dashboard is a webpage built into the roboRIO that can be used for checking status and updating settings of the roboRIO.

Opening the WebDash



To open the myRIO web dashboard, open a web browser and enter the address of the roboRIO into the address bar (172.22.11.2 for USB, or "roboRIO-####.local" where #### is your team number, with no leading zeroes, for either interface). See this document for more details about mDNS and roboRIO networking: [RoboRIO Networking](#)



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Home Tab

The home tab of the web dashboard has 5 main sections:

1. Navigation Bar - This section allows you to navigate to different sections of the web dashboard. The different pages accessible through this navigation bar are discussed below.
2. Device listing - This section lists out the roboRIO devices. The primary use of this section is for selecting and configuring CAN devices as shown on this page: [Updating and Configuring Pneumatics Control Module and Power Distribution Panel](#)
3. System Settings - This section contains information about the System Settings. The Hostname field should not be modified manually use the roboRIO Imaging tool to set the Hostname based on your team number. This section contains information such as the device IP, firmware version and image version.



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

4. Startup Settings - This section contains Startup settings for the roboRIO. These are described in the sub-step below
5. System Resources - This section provides a snapshot of system resources such as memory and CPU load.

Startup Settings

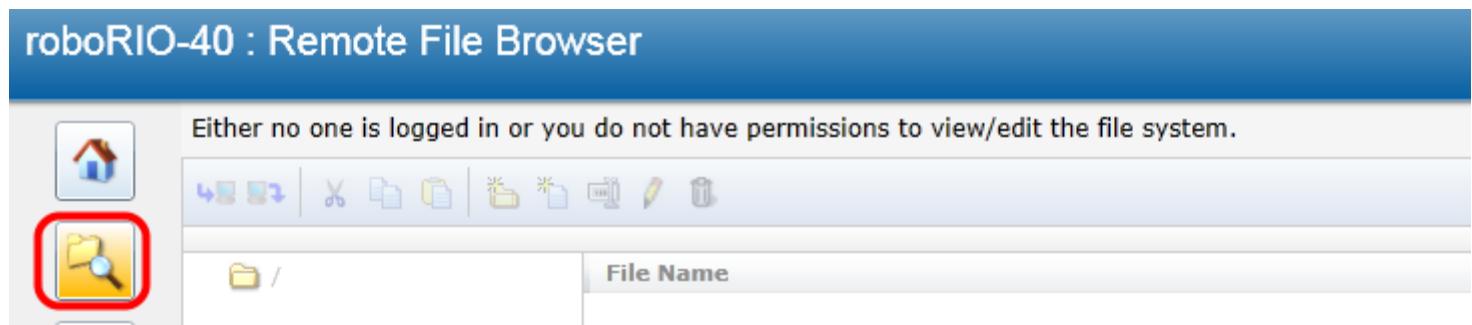
Startup Settings

Force Safe Mode
 Enable Console Out
 Disable RT Startup App
 Disable FPGA Startup App
 Enable Secure Shell Server (sshd)
 LabVIEW Project Access

- Force Safe Mode - Forces the controller into Safe Mode. This can be used with troubleshooting imaging issues, but it is recommended to use the Reset button on the roboRIO to put the device into Safe Mode instead (with power already applied, hold the rest button for 5 seconds). **Default is unchecked.**
- Enable Console Out - This enables the on-board RS232 port to be used as a Console output. It is recommended to leave this enabled unless you are using this port to talk to a serial device (note that this port uses RS232 levels and should not be connected to many microcontrollers which use TTL levels). **Default is checked.**
- Disable RT Startup App - Checking this box disables code from running at startup. This may be used for troubleshooting if you find the roboRIO is unresponsive to new program download. **Default is unchecked**
- Disable FPGA Startup App - **This box should not be checked.**
- Enable Secure Shell Server (sshd) - **It is recommended to leave this box checked.** This setting enables SSH which is a way to remotely access a console on the roboRIO. Unchecking this box will prevent C++ and Java teams from loading code onto the roboRIO using the Eclipse plugins.
- LabVIEW Project Access - **It is recommended to leave this box checked.** This setting allows LabVIEW projects to access the roboRIO.

Remote File Browser

roboRIO-40 : Remote File Browser



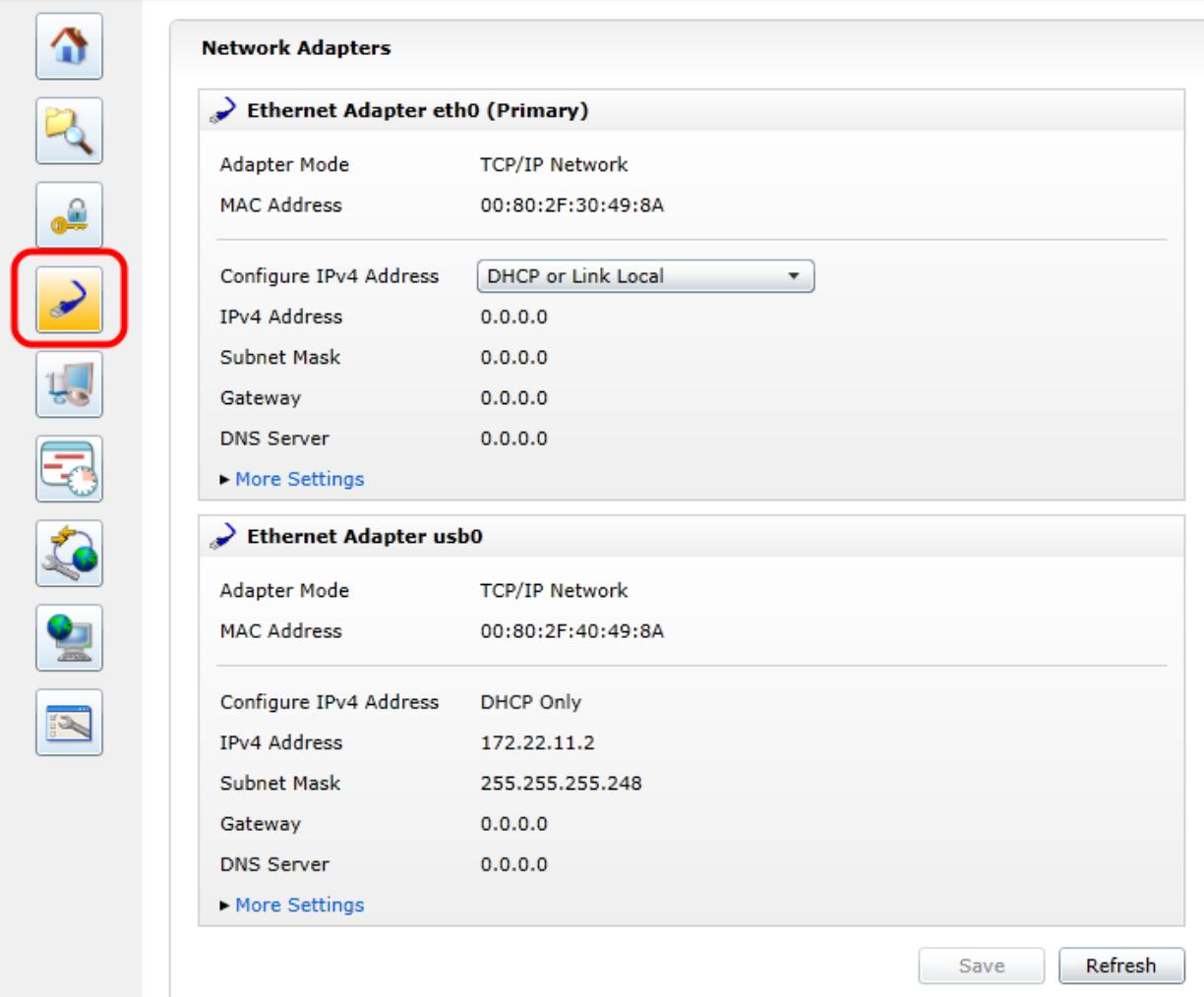
Either no one is logged in or you do not have permissions to view/edit the file system.

File Name

Using the Remote File Browser requires setting a password for the admin account, which is not recommended (it will break C++ and Java program download/execution). Use FTP instead.

Network Configuration

roboRIO-40 : Network Configuration



Network Adapters	
Ethernet Adapter eth0 (Primary)	
Adapter Mode	TCP/IP Network
MAC Address	00:80:2F:30:49:8A
Configure IPv4 Address	DHCP or Link Local
IPv4 Address	0.0.0.0
Subnet Mask	0.0.0.0
Gateway	0.0.0.0
DNS Server	0.0.0.0
► More Settings	
Ethernet Adapter usb0	
Adapter Mode	TCP/IP Network
MAC Address	00:80:2F:40:49:8A
Configure IPv4 Address	DHCP Only
IPv4 Address	172.22.11.2
Subnet Mask	255.255.255.248
Gateway	0.0.0.0
DNS Server	0.0.0.0
► More Settings	

[Save](#) [Refresh](#)

This page shows the configuration of the roboRIO's network adapters. **It is not recommended to change any settings on this page.** For more information on roboRIO networking see this article: [RoboRIO Networking](#)

Software Management

roboRIO-40 : Software Management



The screenshot shows the 'Currently Installed Software' section of the roboRIO-40 Software Management interface. On the left, there is a vertical sidebar with five icons: a house (Home), a folder with a magnifying glass (Search), a lock (Security), a gear (Configuration), and a computer monitor with a gear (Hardware Configuration). The icon for 'Hardware Configuration Web Support' is circled in red. The main panel lists the following software packages:

Software Package	Description
FRC 1.0.0	No abstract provided.
HTTP Client with SSL Support 14.0.0	
LabVIEW Real-Time 14.0.0	
Legacy FTP Server (deprecated) 1.3.0	
NI System Configuration 14.0.0	
NI System Configuration Remote Support 14.0.0	
NI Vision RT 14.0.0	
NI Web-based Configuration and Monitoring 14.0.	
Hardware Configuration Web Support 14.0.0	

This tab shows the NI software installed on the roboRIO. **It is not recommended to make any changes on this page.**



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Time Configuration

Date and Time
Configure the date and time settings for your target

Current time
9:12:55 PM

Time Zone
(UTC) Coordinated Universal Time

Automatically adjust clock for Daylight Saving Time

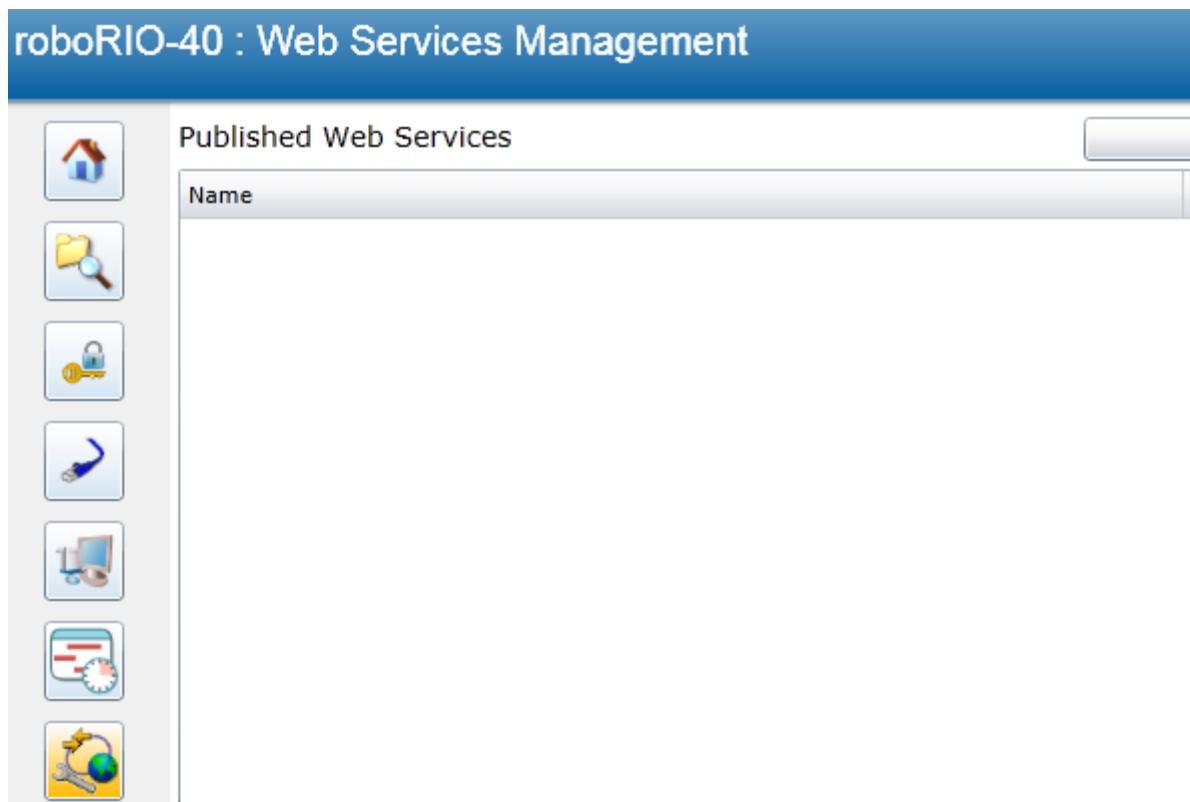
Save **Refresh**

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8

The roboRIO has no battery backup so time configuration is lost each time the device boots. **It is not recommended to make any changes on this page.**

Web Services Management

roboRIO-40 : Web Services Management



The screenshot shows a software interface titled "roboRIO-40 : Web Services Management". On the left is a vertical toolbar with seven icons: a house (Home), a folder with a magnifying glass (Search), a lock (Security), a wrench (Tools), a monitor with a gear (System), a calendar with a clock (Scheduler), and a globe with a wrench (Network). The main window has a title bar "Published Web Services" and a search bar with the placeholder "Name". The main area is currently empty.

This section shows the Web Services running on the roboRIO. **It is not recommended to make any changes on this page.**

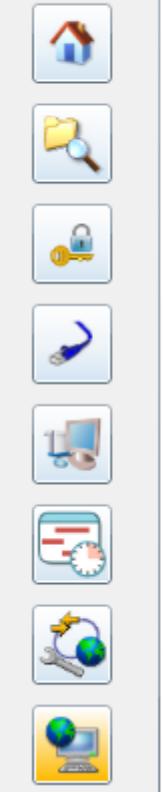
Web Server Configuration

roboRIO-40 : Web Server Configuration

Web Servers SSL Certificate Management Web Services API Key

System Web Server

HTTP Enabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Apply
HTTP Port	80	
SSL (HTTPS) Enabled	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
SSL (HTTPS) Port	443	
Certificate File	NI-roboRIO-030498BB	▼



-  Home
-  Search
-  Security
-  Tools
-  Dashboard
-  Schedule
-  Network
-  System

This page shows the configuration of the roboRIO webserver. **It is not recommended to make any changes on this page.**

Installed Configuration Tools

roboRIO-40 : Installed Configuration Tools			
	Control Name	Is Enabled?	Description
	Remote File Browser	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use this page to manage files on the remote device.
	System Configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View and configure connected hardware.
	Security Configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use this page to set security permissions for users to monitor and configure the system.
	Network Configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Configure the settings for each network adapter on your system.
	Software Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	View and manage the software installed on this target.
	Time Configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Configure the current time of your RT target or setup a time synchronization protocol.
	Web Server Configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use this page to configure the System and Application Web Servers.
	Web Services Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Use this page to manage installed web services.

This page shows the configuration tools installed and enabled on the roboRIO. **It is not recommended to make any changes on this page.**

RoboRIO FTP

The roboRIO has both SFTP and anonymous FTP enabled. This article describes how to use each to access the roboRIO file system.

SFTP

SFTP is the recommended way to access the roboRIO file system. Because you will be using the same account that your program will run under, files copied over should always have permissions compatible with your code.

Software

There are a number of freely available programs for SFTP. This article will discuss using [FileZilla](#). You can either download and install FileZilla before proceeding or extrapolate the directions below to your SFTP client of choice.

Connecting to the roboRIO



To connect to your roboRIO:

1. Enter the mDNS name (roboRIO-TEAM.local) in the "Host" box
2. Enter "lvuser" in the Username box (this is the account your program runs under)
3. Leave the Password box blank
4. Enter "22" in the port box (the SFTP default port)
5. Click Quickconnect



FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Browsing the roboRIO filesystem

The screenshot shows the FileZilla interface with two panes. The left pane, titled 'Local site', shows the file structure of the user's local computer. The right pane, titled 'Remote site', shows the file structure of the roboRIO at the path '/home/lvuser'. The top status bar indicates the connection is to 'sftp://lvuser@roboRIO-40.local - FileZilla'.

Local site:

- C:\ Computer
- D:\
- E:\ (HP_TOOLS)
- M:\ (\first-fs02\koconnor\$)
- N:\ (\first-fs03\Intranet)
- O:\ (\first-fs01\Procedures)

Remote site: /home/lvuser

Filename	Filesize	Filetype	Last modified	Permissions	Owner/Gro...
..		File folder	11/8/2014 2:20...	lrwxrwxrwx	admin ni
FRC_UserProgram.log		File folder	11/8/2014 2:47...	drwxrwxr-x	lvuser ni
natinst		File folder	11/8/2014 2:49...	lrwxrwxrwx	admin ni
README_File.Paths.txt		File folder	11/8/2014 2:49...	lrwxrwxrwx	admin ni
.bash_history	26	BASH HIS...	11/21/2014 9:2...	-rw-----	lvuser ni
.bashrc	410	BASH File	6/10/2014 2:05...	-rwxr-xr-x	lvuser ni
.profile	152	PROFILE File	6/10/2014 2:05...	-rwxr-xr-x	lvuser ni
FRCUserProgram	5,018,529	File	11/21/2014 3:3...	-rwxr-xr-x	admin ni
FRCUserProgram.jar	796,605	Executable...	11/21/2014 4:3...	-rwxr--r--	admin ni
robotCommand	63	File	11/21/2014 3:3...	-rwxr--r--	admin ni
robotDebugCommand	185	File	11/21/2014 4:3...	-rw-r--r--	admin ni

After connecting to the roboRIO, Filezilla will open to the '\home\lvuser' directory. The right pane is the remote system (the roboRIO), the left pane is the local system (your computer). The top section of each pane shows you the hierarchy to the current directory you are browsing, the bottom pane shows contents of the directory. To transfer files, simply click and drag from one side to the other. To create directories on the roboRIO, right click and select "Create Directory".

FTP

The screenshot shows a Windows Explorer window with the address bar set to 'ftp://roborio-40.local/'. The left sidebar shows 'Favorites', 'Downloads', 'Recent Places', and 'Desktop'. The main pane displays the directory structure of the roboRIO, including 'bin', 'boot', and 'c'.

The roboRIO also has anonymous FTP enabled. It is recommended to use SFTP as described above, but depending on what you need FTP may work in a pinch with no additional software required. To FTP to the roboRIO, open a Windows Explorer window (on Windows 7, you can click Start->My Computer). In the address bar, type <ftp://roboRIO-TEAM.local> and press enter. You can now browse the roboRIO file system just like you would browse files on your computer.

RoboRIO User Accounts and SSH

Note: This document contains advanced topics not required for typical FRC programming

The roboRIO image contains a number of accounts, this article will highlight the two used for FRC and provide some detail about their purpose. It will also describe how to connect to the roboRIO over SSH.

RoboRIO User Accounts

The roboRIO image contains a number of user accounts, but there are two of primary interest for FRC.

Admin

The "admin" account has root access to the system and can be used to manipulate OS files or settings. Teams should take caution when using this account as it allows for the modification of settings and files that may corrupt the operating system of the roboRIO. The credentials for this account are:

Username: admin

Password:

Note: The password is intentionally blank.

Lvuser

The "lvuser" account is the account used to run user code for all three languages. The credentials for this account should not be changed. Teams may wish to use this account (via ssh or sftp) when working with the roboRIO to ensure that any files or settings changes are being made on the same account as their code will run under.

SSH

SSH (Secure SHell) is a protocol used for secure data communication. When broadly referred to regarding a Linux system (such as the one running on the roboRIO) it generally refers to accessing the command line console using the SSH protocol. This can be used to execute commands on the remote



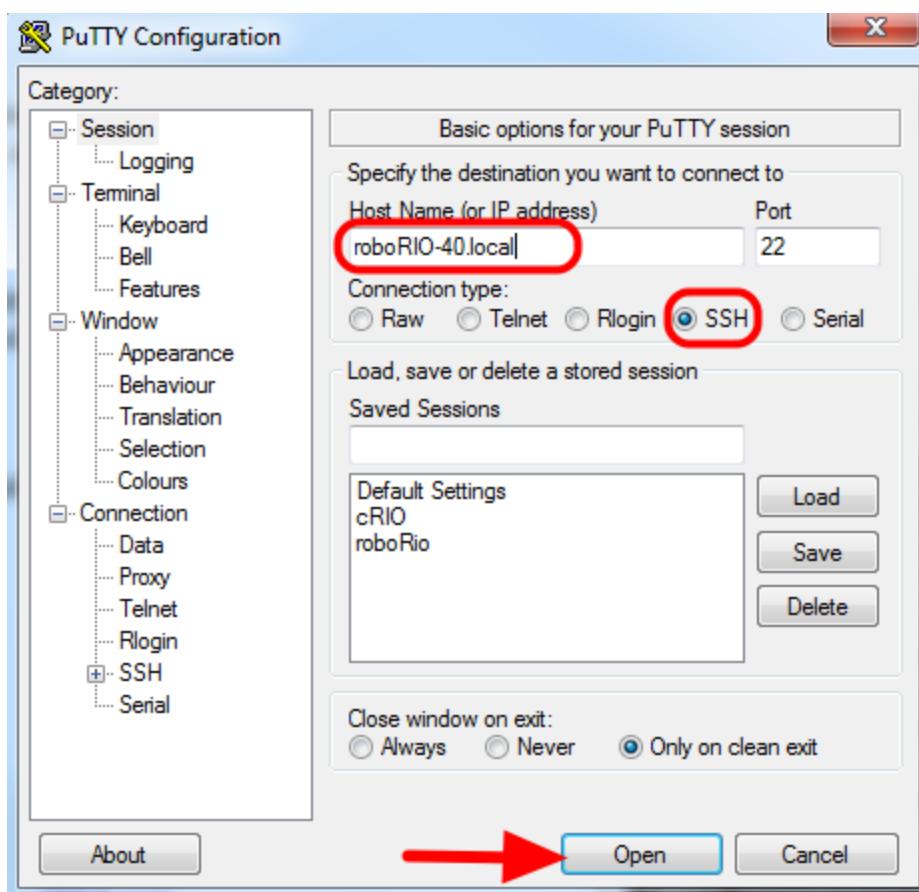
FRC

FIRST®Robotics Competition

system. A free client which can be used for SSH is PuTTY:

<http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/download.html>

Open Putty



Open Putty (clicking OK at any security prompt). Then set the following settings:

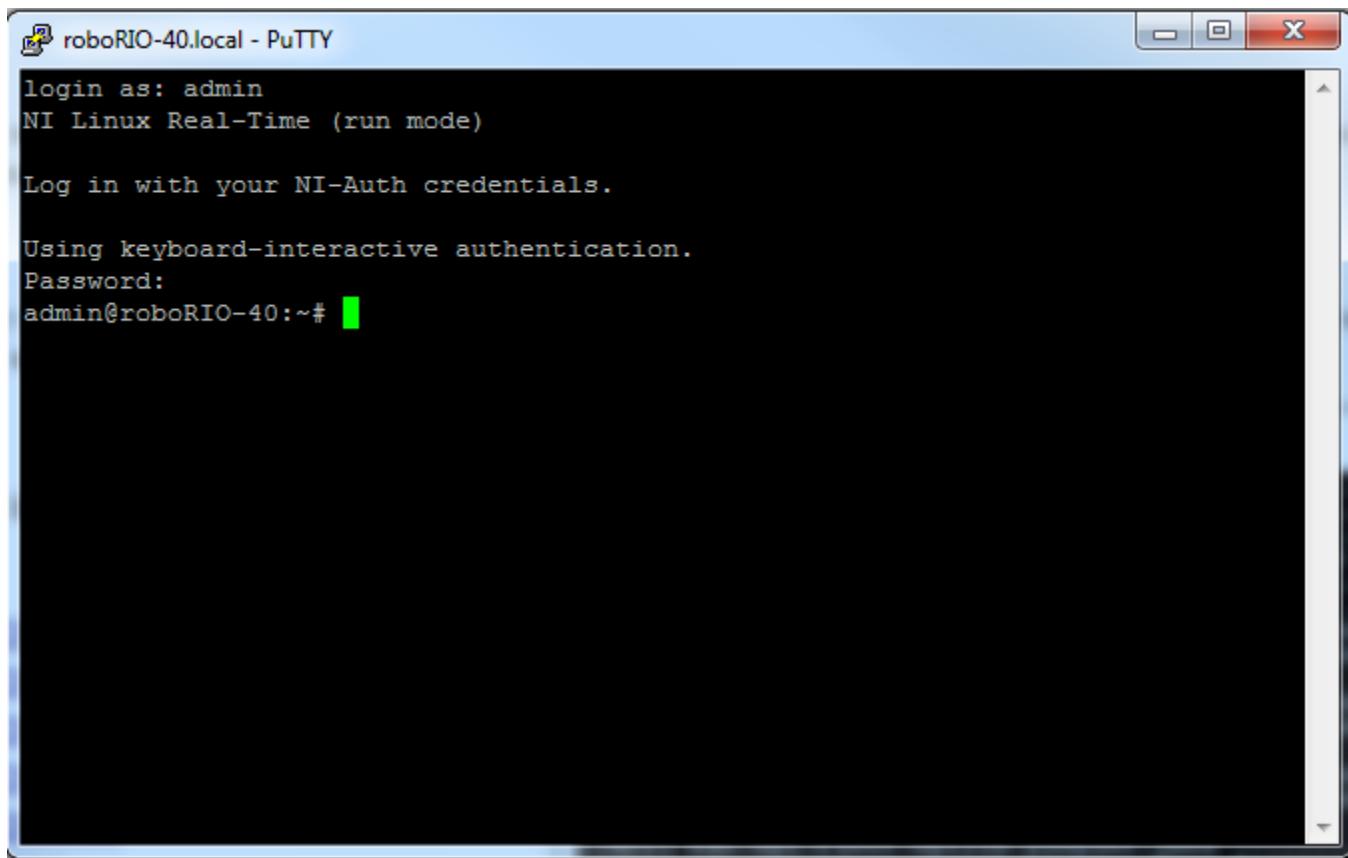
1. Host Name: roboRIO-TEAM.local (where TEAM is your team number)
2. Connection Type: SSH

Other settings can be left at defaults. Click Open to open the connection. If you see a prompt about SSH keys, click OK.adm



FIRST®Robotics Competition

Log in

A screenshot of a PuTTY terminal window titled "roboRIO-40.local - PuTTY". The window shows a Linux Real-Time (run mode) login screen. The text in the window reads:

```
login as: admin
NI Linux Real-Time (run mode)

Log in with your NI-Auth credentials.

Using keyboard-interactive authentication.
Password:
admin@roboRIO-40:~#
```

The cursor is visible at the end of the password line.

When you see the prompt, enter the desired username (see above for description) then press enter. At the password prompt press enter (password for both accounts is blank).

RoboRIO Brownout and Understanding Current Draw

In order to help maintain battery voltage to preserve itself and other control system components such as the radio during high current draw events, the roboRIO contains a staged brownout protection scheme. This article describes this scheme, provides information about proactively planning for system current draw, and describes how to use the new functionality of the PDP as well as the DS Log File Viewer to understand brownout events if they do happen on your robot.

roboRIO Brownout Protection

The roboRIO uses a staged brownout protection scheme to attempt to preserve the input voltage to itself and other control system components in order to prevent device resets in the event of large current draws pulling the battery voltage dangerously low.

Stage 1 - Output Disable

Voltage Trigger - 6.8V

When the voltage drops below 6.8V, the controller will enter the brownout protection state. The following indicators will show that this condition has occurred:

- Power LED on the roboRIO will turn Amber
- Background of the voltage display on the Driver Station will turn red
- Mode display on the Driver Station will change to Voltage Brownout
- The CAN\Power tab of the DS will increment the 12V fault counter by 1.
- The DS will record a brownout event in the DS log.

The controller will take the following steps to attempt to preserve the battery voltage:

- PWM outputs will be disabled. For PWM outputs which have set their neutral value (all speed controllers in WPILib) a single neutral pulse will be sent before the output is disabled.
- 6V User Rail disabled (this is the rail that powers servos on the PWM header bank)
- GPIO configured as outputs go to High-Z
- Relay Outputs are disabled (driven low)
- CAN-based motor controllers are sent an explicit disable command



FIRST®Robotics Competition

The controller will remain in this state until the voltage rises to greater than 7.5V or drops below the trigger for the next stage of the brownout

Stage 2 - User Voltage Rail Disable

Voltage Trigger - 6.3V

When the voltage drops below 6.3V, the User Voltage Rails are disabled. This includes the 5V pins (or 3.3V if the jumper has been set) in the DIO connector bank, the 5V pins in the Analog bank, the 3.3V pins in the SPI and I2C bank and the 5V and 3.3V pins in the MXP bank.

The controller will remain in this state until the voltage rises above 6.3V (return to Stage 2) or drops below the trigger for the next stage of the brownout

Stage 3 - Device Blackout

Voltage Trigger - 4.5V

Below 4.5V the device may blackout. The exact voltage may be lower than this and depends on the load on the device.

The controller will remain in this state until the voltage rises above 4.65V when the device will begin the normal boot sequence.

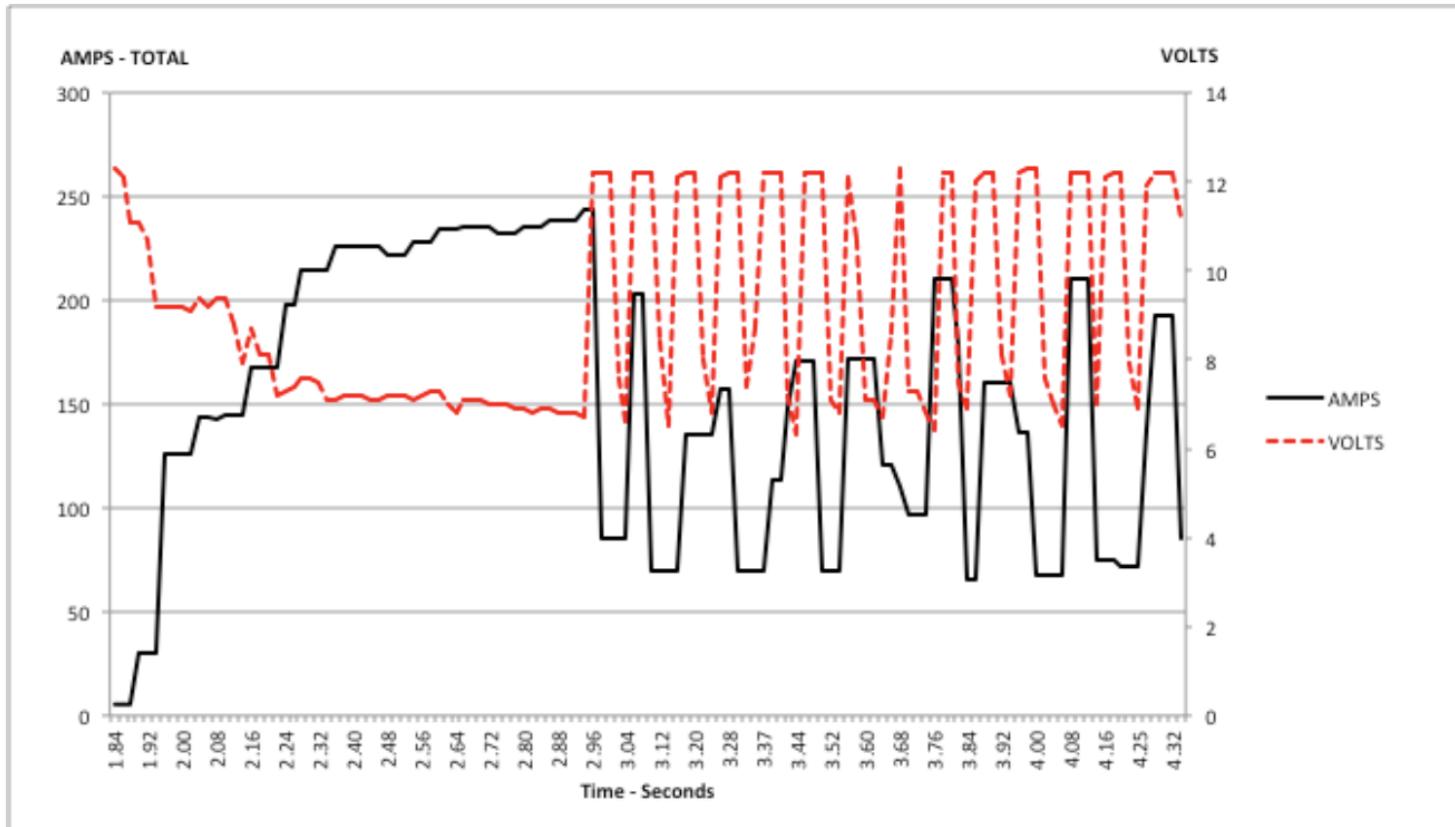


FRC

FIRST® Robotics Competition

Avoiding Brownout - Proactive Current Draw planning

PLOT 1 – AMPS and VOLTS v. Time – 2.5 Second Window



The key to avoiding a brownout condition is to proactively plan for the current draw of your robot. The best way to do this is to create some form of power budget. This can be a complex document that attempts to quantify both estimated current draw and time in an effort to most completely understand power usage and therefore battery state at the end of a match, or it can be a simple inventory of current usage. To do this:

1. Establish the max "sustained" current draw (with sustained being loosely defined here as not momentary). This is probably the most difficult part of creating the power budget. The exact current draw a battery can sustain while maintaining a voltage of 7+ volts is dependent on a variety of factors such as battery health and state of charge. As shown in the [NP18-12 data sheet](#), the terminal voltage chart gets very steep as state of charge decreases, especially as current draw increases. This datasheet shows that at 3CA continuous load (54A) a brand new battery can be continuously run for over 6 minutes while maintaining a terminal voltage of over 7V. As shown in the image above (used with permission from [Team 234's Drive System Testing document](#)), even with a fresh battery, drawing 240A for more than a second or two is likely to



FIRST® Robotics Competition

cause an issue. This gives us some bounds on setting our sustained current draw. For the purposes of this exercise, we'll set our limit at 180A.

2. List out the different functions of your robot such as drivetrain, manipulator, main game mechanism, etc.
3. Start assigning your available current to these functions. You will likely find that you run out pretty quickly. Many teams gear their drivetrain to have enough torque to slip their wheels at 40-50A of current draw per motor. If we have 4 motors on the drivetrain, that eats up most, or even exceeds, our power budget! This means that we may need to put together a few scenarios and understand what functions can (and need to be) be used at the same time. In many cases, this will mean that you really need to limit the current draw of the other functions if/while your robot is maxing out the drivetrain (such as trying to push something). Benchmarking the "driving" current requirements of a drivetrain for some of these alternative scenarios is a little more complex, as it depends on many factors such as number of motors, robot weight, gearing, and efficiency. Current numbers for other functions can be done by calculating the power required to complete the function and estimating efficiency (if the mechanism has not been designed) or by determining the torque load on the motor and using the torque-current curve to determine the current draw of the motors.
4. If you have determined mutually exclusive functions in your analysis, consider enforcing the exclusion in software. You may also use the current monitoring of the PDP (covered in more detail below) in your robot program to provide output limits or exclusions dynamically (such as don't run a mechanism motor when the drivetrain current is over X or only let the motor run up to half output when the drivetrain current is over Y).

Measuring Current Draw using the PDP

The FRC Driver Station works in conjunction with the roboRIO and PDP to extract logged data from the PDP and log it on your DS PC. A viewer for this data is still under development.

In the meantime, teams can use their robot code and manual logging, a LabVIEW front panel or the SmartDashboard to visualize current draw on their robot as mechanisms are developed. In LabVIEW, you can read the current on a PDP channel using the PDP Channel Current VI found on the Power palette. For C++ and Java teams, use the PowerDistributionPanel class as described in the [Power Distribution Panel](#) article. Plotting this information over time (easiest with a LV Front Panel or with the [SmartDashboard by using a Graph indicator](#)) can provide information to compare against and update your power budget or can locate mechanisms which do not seem to be performing as expected (due to incorrect load calculation, incorrect efficiency assumptions, or mechanism issues such as binding).

Identifying Brownouts



The easiest way to identify a brownout is by clicking on the [CAN\Power tab](#) of the DS and checking the 12V fault count. Alternately, you can review the Driver Station Log after the fact using the Driver Station Log Viewer. The log will identify brownouts with a bright orange line, such as in the image above (note that these brownouts were induced with a benchtop supply and may not reflect the duration and behavior of brownouts on a typical FRC robot).