



## Third Party Software Application Note

**Title: Guide to using iFix from**



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## Introduction

Intellution's iFIX is the world's leading industrial automation software solution, providing process visualization, data acquisition and supervisory control of your plant floor operations. iFIX gives you the power and security to precisely monitor and control every aspect of your manufacturing process, as well as your equipment and resources, resulting in faster response to production issues, less waste, improved quality, faster time-to-market with new products, and increased profitability.

In this application note, we will be using SeaCOM, asynchronous serial communication software.

Commands and syntax will be printed in *bold italics*.

## Hardware Installation:

No special hardware installation is required. A Sealevel Systems Inc., 7101 was used in this example with its default configuration.

First, insert the Sealevel Systems Inc. CD into the drive and follow the installation instructions for the SeaCOM software. After the software installation is complete, shut down the PC and insert the 7101 as per the manual. After restarting the PC and entering Windows, run the Port Manager program from Start -> Programs -> SeaCOM -> Port Manager and note the COM port assigned to the 7101.

## Software Installation:

Install iFIX normally according to the installation manual, there are no special requirements.

## Application Example:

iFIX is heavily based on Microsoft Visual Basic, it is highly recommended that a good reference guide for Visual Basic is kept handy. iFIX has an excellent online VB guide available from the "Help" menu.

Asynchronous Serial communication capabilities are built into Visual Basic by using the Open, Close, Get, and Put statements.

Within the iFIX project workspace, create 4 buttons. Label them “Open”, “Close”, “Put”, and “Get”. Right Click on “Open”, and click “Edit Code”. This will enter the Visual Basic development environment.

In the section for “Open” enter: ***Open “COM5:9600,n,8,1” For Random As #1*** In this example COM5 is the 7101, replace COM5 with the appropriate COM port that needs to be used.

In the section for “Close” enter: ***Close #1***

In the section for “Put” enter: ***Put #1,,mydata***

Note: “mydata” is a string variable with approximately 10 random characters.

In the section for “Get” enter: ***Get #1,CommandButton4.Text,15***

If the 7101 (or other serial port) has a loopback plugged in, and the iFIX runtime environment is entered, clicking “Open”, “Put”, “Get” and “Close” will place the data in the “mydata” string into the Caption area for the “Get” button (CommandButton4.Text).

## Summary:

This example has shown how simple it is to use asynchronous serial interfaces with iFIX. With the powerful IDE of iFIX and the ease of use of Visual Basic, HMI/MMI, and SCADA applications can be easily generated in a short time for use over serial lines.