

AutoRead AMR

Advanced Meter Reading Technology for Utilities

Description

The AutoRead software package from Sensus is a comprehensive software program offering utilities flexibility for managing their meter reading processes.

AutoRead provides a number of useful functions for the utility. It increases operating efficiency, provides a variety of management reports and summaries, and reduces the time required for sending reading data to

the billing software. The AutoRead flexible menu-driven system includes a wide selection of user specification options and configurations. These features make AutoRead software highly adaptable to meet each utility's specific requirements.

All features are available on all AutoRead software packages except where noted.



Features

COMPLETE AMR SOFTWARE INTEGRATION

The modular design of AutoRead software lets the utility integrate Sensus FlexNet, TouchRead, and RadioRead meter reading systems into one specially designed software package. AutoRead flexibility enables the utility to operate a single meter reading system in conjunction with any of the other Sensus AMR systems. The utility can begin with one system and migrate to another by simply adding modules to its existing AutoRead software program. The migration path provides the opportunity for increased operational efficiency and minimizes training needs while eliminating the need for costly software replacement.

FLEXIBILITY

AutoRead is completely adaptable to the particular features of any utility operation and can be interfaced with other PC-based automated billing and accounting systems or existing mainframe billing and accounting systems by passing ASCII II files back and forth.

NEW ROUTE INFORMATION UPLOAD

AutoRead prepares route information for the selected Sensus meter system. For systems incorporating hand-held meter reading devices (Walk-By), new or inexperienced meter readers are guided through an entire route by following information in the on-screen route program. Meter readers can be alerted to abnormally high or low readings and misreads, such as incorrect manual entry of reading data into the handheld device, or to hazards along the route. AutoRead can be used to design utility field surveys that instruct meter readers to respond to route survey questions. When used with the Sensus FlexNet or RadioRead vehicle unit (Drive-By), AutoRead formats the routes so the Vehicle Transceiver Unit (VXU) or Vehicle Gateway Base Station (VGB) can communicate efficiently with the radio equipped meters.

METER READING DOWNLOAD

AutoRead eliminates the step of manually transferring meter reading data into the computer. This is accomplished by electronically transferring the data recorded by any of the Sensus meter reading systems into the AutoRead program. AutoRead then processes the meter readings, preparing them for transfer to the computer's billing files. AutoRead can be used with a utility's existing computerized billing system, or as part of a new stand alone system.

BACKUP AND RESTORAL

AutoRead enables the user to back up (store) meter readings downloaded each day from any of the meter reading systems. The backup procedure simply transfers the data stored on the hard disk of the PC to almost any backup computer media.

Management Reporting

AutoRead is a valuable management tool for increasing meter reader capabilities. These features enable the utility to generate a variety of helpful management reports. AutoRead reports provide a documented overview of meter reading activities, manpower efficiency, and service problems.

AutoRead receives the time of day from the PC during the transfer

process and uses this information as its time clock. This allows AutoRead to produce both specific and statistical reports on time elapsed between reads, as well as the date and time that each reading was made. This information allows more flexibility in comparing meter reading efficiency, establishing or reorganizing routes, and assigning meter readers to routes matched to their performance levels.

Additional management reports include master route, non read exceptions, and multiple read exceptions, questions, route notes, and marked locations along the routes, and others. AutoRead also allows the utility to specify how each report should be categorized. Report information can be organized by account number, meter ID number, sequentially (in the order the meters were read) or other options.

AutoRead Package

AutoRead is available for Microsoft® Windows Operating Systems.¹

A copyrighted version of the AutoRead package is available on CD-ROM for approved Windows Operating Systems. Instructions are included for installation, setup, adding or revising route information, generating utility management reports, operating procedures and more.

In addition, a complete Sensus system support program is available. It includes a toll free 900 telephone technical support service, yearly software upgrades and more.

For additional information, contact your Sensus representative or authorized Sensus AMR system distributor.

¹ See the Operating Systems section of the Requirements document. (sensus.com/web/user/support/software-and-firmware-updates)