

instromet Ltd



Met4Net™ Version 1.7.1

Quick Start Guide

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Welcome to Met4Net™. This section briefly explains how Met4Net™ is used.

- There are 5 main parts which make up Met4Net™. These being the **Server**, **Real Time display**, **Internet Access**, **Messaging** and **Speak**. The server is designed to run constantly on a PC running windows. This can either be a stand alone PC or a workstation on a network. Currently the server application, METServer is not a windows “Service” so it must be run under the context of a logged in user.
- The server PC is connected to the Met4Net™ Datalogger or electronic weather station “AutoStation” unit supplied by Instromet Ltd, which in turn has the weather sensing equipment connected to it. The information from the Met4Net™ Datalogger is sampled every ½ second by METServer. This is then processed and submitted to an area in memory and disk where other applications can access it, such as **METActive** and **METMonitor**. The data is also sampled every 15 minutes and a record is saved in the main database. This database can be accessed using **METQuery**
- METServer monitors events set by a user. These events can be set at 15 minute intervals using **METAdmin**. Each event can be configured to take a picture, produce MET data in the form of JPEGs (including a Map with a compass superimposed on it) , send messages, generate graphs, create trend tables/CSV files, a file which can be used by UI-View (APRS), run a third party external application and finally, cause the system to dialup the internet and copy the information to your FTP Server. Please visit <http://www.ui-view.org/> for more information on the UI-View software package.
- The presentation of information uploaded to the Internet can be configured using the “Theme” tab. This allows custom, graphical, text & graphical or text only. Depending on your upload performance and style you can choose 1 of 4 themes. The text only theme allows the user to fully configure all colours used to present the information while the “custom” theme allows you to depart from the fixed frame themes supplied and allows you to integrate data into your existing html files including a picture sized to your requirement if you have a webcam connected. The “custom” theme can be selected on its own or used in addition if one of the remaining 3 themes are selected.
- Applications called METActive and METMonitor display data in real-time on the desktop. METActive includes a map with a compass superimposed on it. There is also a network version of these applications. These can be installed on another PC on the network and made to access the main METServer information and display the data on another PC.

- Another application called METSpeak will build a sentence of the current weather and play it through the audio card on the PC. This can then be connected to a mobile phone using METAdaptor. The mobile phone must have auto answer capabilities. If you ring the mobile it will answer with a weather message. This is played over and over again and updated every 15 minutes.
- Another facility is messaging. This sends an email to users with the subject content being the current weather. The user can then set their mailing options for their account to alert them using SMS text messaging. The result is a weather message being displayed on a mobile phone.
- METLogger uses logging facilities provided by the Met4Net™ Datalogger hardware. This can be set to log at various intervals and downloaded at a later date either manually or automatically. A third party application can also be set to run and can have passed to it the filename downloaded from the logger.
- The system is very open and it is possible with programming skills to connect to an “ActiveX EXE” called METShare.EXE which is updated by METServer. It is also possible to extract data from the Database which stores data continuously from the Met4Net™ Datalogger, see section 23 for more details.

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For the successful installation of Met4Net™, your computer must meet the following minimum system requirements:

- Windows® XP
- Microsoft Internet Explorer® 5 or higher
- Pentium-class PC (1 GHz or higher recommended)
- 256 megabytes (MB) of RAM (512 MB recommended)
- 10 MB of free disk space
- Super VGA monitor (with screen resolution set to at least 800 x 600, small font setting)

The type of graphics card you have in your PC will affect the quality of the images produced and uploaded to your web page. If the quality is not up to standard, try

altering the number of colours in **control panel | display**. If you cannot get a good result then consider purchasing a better graphics card for your PC.

3 Installation Procedure

Before we get on and install let's take a quick look at the contents of the memory stick and understand what each folder contains as shown in Table 3.1 below:

3.1 Memory stick contents

Folder	Contents
\MET4NET\	The installation for Met4Net™ which is run on the PC connected to the Met4Net™ Datalogger hardware
\Network\	The installation for Network METActive and METMonitor, which are used on a networked PC.
\Other\	The files in here are used to update registry settings when working with METActive or METMonitor over a network. There is also an application called MET4UPG.EXE used to transfer data from previous versions of Met4Net™ to Version 1.7. 1
\AcroRead\	The runtime for Acrobat Reader Version 5 or higher. This is required to view the user manual which is provided in PDF format.
\Samples\	Sample VB projects for developers.
\Documents\	Documents which can be read with Acrobat Reader.

Table 3.1

There are also two files in the root of the memory stick called "readme.txt" and "release notes.txt". Please read these by double clicking on them before you begin the installation.

3.2 Installing Met4Net™

Insert the memory stick into your USB port and locate <drive>:\MET4NET\Setup.exe and launch it by double clicking. Depending on the configuration of your PC the installation procedure may vary. For those of you who are technically minded the set-up will install MDAC 2.5 SP 2 (includes DCOM95) if it is not present. This requires Internet Explorer 5 or greater.

Follow the instructions on screen paying particular attention to the license agreement. On a lower specification PC there maybe no visible signs of activity. Please be patient and wait for the Met4Net™ installation to continue.

Please note when you come to install METActive or METMonitor on a networked PC there is a separate installation procedure. This is covered later in the manual. You **do not** need to install a separate copy of METActive or METMonitor on the PC you have installed Met4Net™ on, as the main installation includes METActive and METMonitor.

Once the installation has completed there will be six items in “**Programs|MET4NET**”, these being **METActive** , **METMonitor**, **METQuery**, **METAdmin** , **METLogger** and **User Manual**.

To view the User Manual using the menu option above. You need to install the Acrobat reader application. To do this run **SETUP.EXE** from the **\AcroRead** folder on the memory stick.