

Technote 13 – Firewalls and Data Transfer:

The AcquiSuite and AcquiLite upload data using a standard HTTP web browser transaction to a database enabled webserver. From the perspective of a firewall, this transaction looks identical to any web browser activity to an offsite website.

Webserver uploads:

From a more technical perspective, the AcquiSuite will open a TCP connection to the remote website/database server on port 80 as an outbound connection. Data transferred over the TCP connection is a standard HTTP/POST transaction. The target website address and URL are user configurable on the AcquiSuite.

To prevent the system from attempting to upload data to a webserver, you can disable the data upload feature. To do this, use the AcquiSuite web page configuration. Select the "Log File Data" section from the left side menu. Pick "Setup/upload" option. In the right side panel, locate the field "Target address to upload data". Remove the URL from this field. i.e. the target address field should be blank.

In addition, the AcquiSuite may use an HTTP proxy server. To enable this, set the HTTP server and port features in the networking setup configuration page of the AcquiSuite or AcquiLite.

Time server: The default time server feature default is "time.obvius.com". This may cause the system to attempt a non-webbrowser connection through the firewall. To prevent this, change the time server setting to a local NTP or Rdate server, or disable the feature by making the field blank. To do this, use the AcquiSuite web page configuration. Select the "System" section from the left side menu. Pick the "Date and time" option. On the right side panel, locate the field "Time Server". Change the address of the time server to a local server or leave the field blank. NTP uses UDP port 123. Rdate uses TCP port 37. For systems behind a firewall, it is usually easiest to configure the system to use a local NTP time server and not route this traffic through the firewall.

DNS server: The default DNS server we ship these units with is "198.107.56.37". Change this to a local DNS server. To do this, use the AcquiSuite web page configuration. Select the "Networking" section from the left side menu. Pick the "Setup" option. On the right side panel, locate the field "DNS Server". Change the address of the DNS server to a local server.

Firmware updates: In the AcquiSuite web page configuration. Select the "System" section from the left side menu. Pick the "Firmware Version" option. In the right side panel, the current firmware version number will be listed. At the bottom of the page, a button titled "Check for upgrades" will be present. Clicking on this will cause the AcquiSuite to connect to the buildingmanageronline.com website (port 80). The firmware will be downloaded using a standard HTTP browser based transaction, the same way as log data is uploaded to an offsite webserver. To prevent this, don't click the "check for upgrades" button.

