

1. Hello everyone, this video explain how to setup an instrument via Ethernet. Using an EMCenter as the example instrument, the walkthrough will explain how to configure the IP address, create a new NI MAX VISA resource, and then how to communicate with the instrument in a TILE! profile.

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- 2. How to Configure the Ethernet IP address for an instrument
 - a. The following example shows how to configure the IP address for an EMCenter to communicate with the computer.
 - b. Go to **Control Panel -> Network and Sharing Center -> Change** adapter settings.
 - c. Use the Ethernet cord to connect the EMCenter to the computer, and the new Ethernet connection should appear.
 - d. Right click on the Ethernet connection that appears and select *Properties*, then Double-click *Internet Protocol Version 4*.





- e. Set the *IP address* to be similar to the IP address on the EMCenter Config page, but the last numbers must be different or the connection will not work.
- f. For example if the EMCenter IP address is 192.168.9.253, then the computer's Ethernet IP address should reflect that and could be set to 198.168.9.200.
- g. Set the **Subnet mask** to be the same as on the EMCenter (255.255.252.0).
- h. Select the Validate settings upon exit checkbox and click OK.

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i. Open the *Command Prompt* and *ping* the Ethernet IP address to check the connection.

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3. Create new NI MAX VISA resource for TILE

- a. In order to use a network-enabled (LAN) instrument in TILE, the easiest way to access it is to first configure it as a Network Device in NI MAX. Follow these basic instructions to configure the device and refer to NI documentation or your instrument's documentation for the specific requirements of the device.
- b. **NOTE**: Images in this example are taken from NI MAX version 18.5 and TILE version 7.4.3.2. Other versions may appear slightly different, but the general process should be similar.
- c. Run NI MAX (Start Menu->All Programs->National Instruments->NI MAX)



d. Select **Devices and Interfaces**, then press the **Create New...** button in the right pane (or right-click on Devices and Interfaces and select Create New...):



e. Select VISA TCP/IP Resource as the type of item to add:

K Create New	?	×
Choose the type of item you want to add.	VINATI	IONAL RUMENTS
□ Image: Constraint of the second secon		

f. Choose LAN resource:



- g. If the device supports the VXI-11 (LXI) protocol, you can auto-detect the instrument if it is active on the local network.
- If the device is NOT VXI-11 compliant, is not active on the network and/or does not auto-detect on the system, then you will need to use one of the "Manual Entry" options.
- i. **NOTE**: Refer to your instrument documentation and NI-MAX help for more details on manual configuration of a network device. This may be as

simple as knowing the IP address and/or socket of the instrument you are trying to connect to. Details of network configuration can be complex and are beyond the

- j. Details of network configuration can be complex and are beyond the scope of this section. Make sure your network-enabled instrument is configured properly and accessible to the computer you are attempting to communicate with via MAX and TILE.
- k. Once your device is properly configured in MAX it will be listed in the Network Devices list, along with the VISA string you will use to communicate with it in TILE:

TCPIP0::192.168.9.253::inst0::INSTR "EMCenter	008" - Measurement & Automa	tion Explorer —	\Box \times
<u>File E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u> elp			
My System Market and Interfaces	🔚 Save 🛛 🔁 Refresh 🛛 🗖 Open VIS	SA Test Panel	🖓 Show Help
✓ ▲ Network Devices			
La TCPIP0::192.168.9.253::inst0::INSTR "EMCen	Settings		
> m IVI Drivers			_
> 🔛 Remote Systems	Name	EMCenter008	
	Hostname	192.168.9.253	
	IPv4 Address	192.168.9.253	
	Status	Present	
	LAN Device Name	inst0	
	VISA Resource Name	TCPIP0::192.168.9.253::inst0::IN	STR

- I. OPTIONAL, you can create a VISA Alias name for this device that will make it easier to refer to in TILE, such as "EMCenter008".
- m. Make sure to press the Save button after creating a VISA Alias name or making any changes to your device.

008" - Measurement & Au	itomation Explorer	- 0	×
🗟 Save 🎜 Refresh 🗖 C	pen VISA Test Panel	si 🍾	how Help
Settings			
Name	EMCenter008		
Hostname	192.168.9.253		
IPv4 Address			
Status	Present		
LAN Device Name	inst0		
VISA Resource Nam	TCPIP0::192.168.9.2	253::inst0::INSTR	

n. To test your connection select "**Open Visa Test Panel**" above your instrument on the settings page, in the Test Panel, select "**Input/Output**" and **Query** the instrument.

≺ Configuration ← Input/Output 🛠 Advanced	শ্ব ?
Basic I/O *IDN?\n *IDN?\n Bytes to Read 1024 Write Query Read Read Status Byte Clear View mixed ASCII/hexadecimal 1: Write Operation (*IDN?\n) Return Count: 6 bytes 2: Read Operation Return Count: 37 bytes ETS\sLindgren\sEMCenter\sversion\s3.5.12\n	Return Data Read Operation No Error



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a. Add a new instrument in the Instrument View and name it.

Instrument:	EMCen	ter008				
Instrument	Driver	Driver Info	Address	VISA		
S I En	N erial Nu Last Cal nable Err	lame: EMCo mber: Unkn Date: Unkn or Query Mo	own own ode	Enable	Event L	ogging
These settings are useful for debugging but may slow down performance.						

b. On the Address tab and change the **Address** Communication type to **VISA**:

Instrument:EMCenter008	3
Instrument Driver Drive	r Info Address VISA
Communication:	VISA ~
	Serial VISA
	IVI DAQ Device
	CAN Simulation Passive



c. On the VISA tab, change the "VISA Resource Name or Alias" to the network device you just configured in NI MAX ... "*EMCenter008*".

Instrument:EMCenter008
Instrument Driver Driver Info Address VISA
List VISA aliases in dropdown
VISA <u>r</u> esource name or Alias:
EMCenter008
Terminate Read on EOS
<u>E</u> OS Byte 10 <u>T</u> imeout (ms) 10000
☐ <u>O</u> n error: close session, display Retry/Cancel dialog ☐ Before Write, <u>F</u> lush buffer for queries
OK Cancel <u>A</u> pply

- i. Option 1: Click the drop-down arrow and view a list of all available NI VISA configured instruments on the system.
- ii. Option 2: Copy/paste a VISA resource name from directly into this box. For example, "*TCPIP0::192.168.9.253::inst0::INSTR*".
- d. Once the VISA resource name has been populated, validate the VISA connection to the instrument by pressing the **Validate** button. A popup message will appear indicating **success** or **failure**.
 - i. **NOTE**: If an error occurs, it is a good idea to return to MAX to validate the proper configuration of the device. If MAX cannot successfully communicate to the device, then TILE will not be able to either.

Instrument:EMCenter008	Instrument:EMCenter008
Instrument Driver Info Address VISA Instrument Driver Info Address VISA List VISA aliases in dropdown Validate VISA resource name or TILE7 EMCenter008 Successfully opened a VISA session to: EOS Byte 10 On error: close sess Before Write, Flusht OK Cancel	Instrument Driver Driver Info Address VISA Instrument Driver Driver Info Address VISA List VISA aliases in dropdown Validate VISA resource name TILE7 EMCenter008 Could not open a VISA session to: EOS Byte 10 On error: close se Before Write, Flus
	OK Cancel Apply

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- e. **NOTE**: Unlike with GPIB/Serial instruments, TILE will attempt to open VISA sessions (and communicate) to all VISA-configured instruments in a profile immediately upon loading the profile.
 - i. This means that any VISA-configured instruments listed in a profile that are not accessible when the profile is opened will generate warning prompts similar to the one shown above.
 - ii. However, this does not prevent the profile from opening. If the instruments become active after the profile is opened, then they will be accessible by the profile at that time.
- 5. Once the VISA device has been successfully configured, you should be able to communicate to it with any Action or utility in TILE as if it were a standard GPIB or Serial device.
 - a. A useful tool to verify basic device communication is the **Instrument Interactive Control utility**, accessible via the toolbar button showing the hand and wand icon.



b. Sending the *IDN? command to most instruments will return an ID string and verify basic device communication is functional:

Instrument Interactive Control	
Instrument: EMCenter008 ~	nit/ID Query
Instrument Command *IDN?	~
Termination No Driver Session History Clear S	∖n ✓ Session History
→ *IDN? <- ETS Lindgren EMCenter version 3.5.12	^
-> *IDN? <- ETS Lindgren EMCenter version 3.5.12	Read
	Read Bytes to Read:

 Finally, it should be pointed out that TILE can access network-enabled VISA devices without first configuring them in NI MAX. It is only necessary to know the correct VISA resource name that will communicate with the device, and entering that resource name in the TILE VISA resource name input on the instrument's Address tab.

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- 7. There are numerous benefits of using a VISA configuration utility such as MAX, however:
 - a. Instruments are configured and verified independently of TILE.
 - b. Auto-detect feature of MAX may be able to detect and configure available instruments automatically.
 - c. VISA resource names are produced in MAX using only network-specific information such as IP address and socket number. The specific VISA syntax is generated by the utility.
 - d. VISA resource names and aliases created in MAX become automatically available in the TILE VISA resource name dropdown list. Devices that have not been "pre-configured" in MAX will not appear in the dropdown list.
- 8. Thank you for watching this video.