



## **Cyberlogic Knowledge Base**

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### **KB2009-04: USING ETHERNET/SERIAL CONVERTERS WITH MBX SOFTWARE**

Many Modicon and third-party products use the Modbus protocol to communicate over serial links. You may want to use an Ethernet/Serial converter to communicate between these devices and an MBX OPC Server or other software using the Ethernet MBX Driver. However, many of these types of converters will not support this type of operation.

#### **Applies To:**

Systems that use the Ethernet MBX Driver to communicate through an Ethernet/serial converter to a Modbus-compliant device. This device may be a Modicon controller or a third-party product.

#### **Symptoms:**

The MBX OPC Server or other software will not communicate with the target device. The software provided with third-party devices may or may not communicate over the same link.

#### **Cause:**

Simple Ethernet/serial converters may not be aware of the Modbus protocol that is embedded in the Ethernet MBX messages. They then simply pass them through, without the proper message formatting. This makes it impossible for the receiving device or system to interpret them correctly.

#### **Resolution:**

You must use an Ethernet/serial converter that understands and properly handles the Modbus protocol. One example is the Powerlogic EGX series from Square-D.

#### **Technical Support:**

If you have any questions about this article, please contact Cyberlogic's Technical Support group by emailing [techsupport@cyberlogic.com](mailto:techsupport@cyberlogic.com) or by calling 248-631-2288.