

User Manual

NPS series User Manual

V1.00



CATALOGUE

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1. Overview

1.1 Software Installation

Vircom can be used to configure parameters such as device IP and create virtual serial ports. If the virtual serial port function is not required, you can download the no-installation version. Download address:

https://www.womaster.eu/download_161_200.htm

Figure 1 Vircom version

Software name	Specifications
Vircom Device Management Tool (non-installed version)	The non-installed version does not include the virtual serial port function.
Vircom-Device Management Tool (Installation version)	The installed version contains Vircom_x64.msi and Vircom_x86.msi. 64-bit operating systems install x64, 16-bit operating systems install x86 versions.

Follow the default prompts during installation. After installation, vircom will be started every time the computer starts, which is used to create a virtual serial port.

1.2 Parameter Configuration

After Vircom is installed and equipment hardware connection is completed, vircom software is run as shown in the figure, and then click "Equipment management" as shown in the figure. Vircom can be used to search and configure equipment parameters in different network segments, which is very convenient, as long as the equipment and the computer running Vircom are in the same switch.

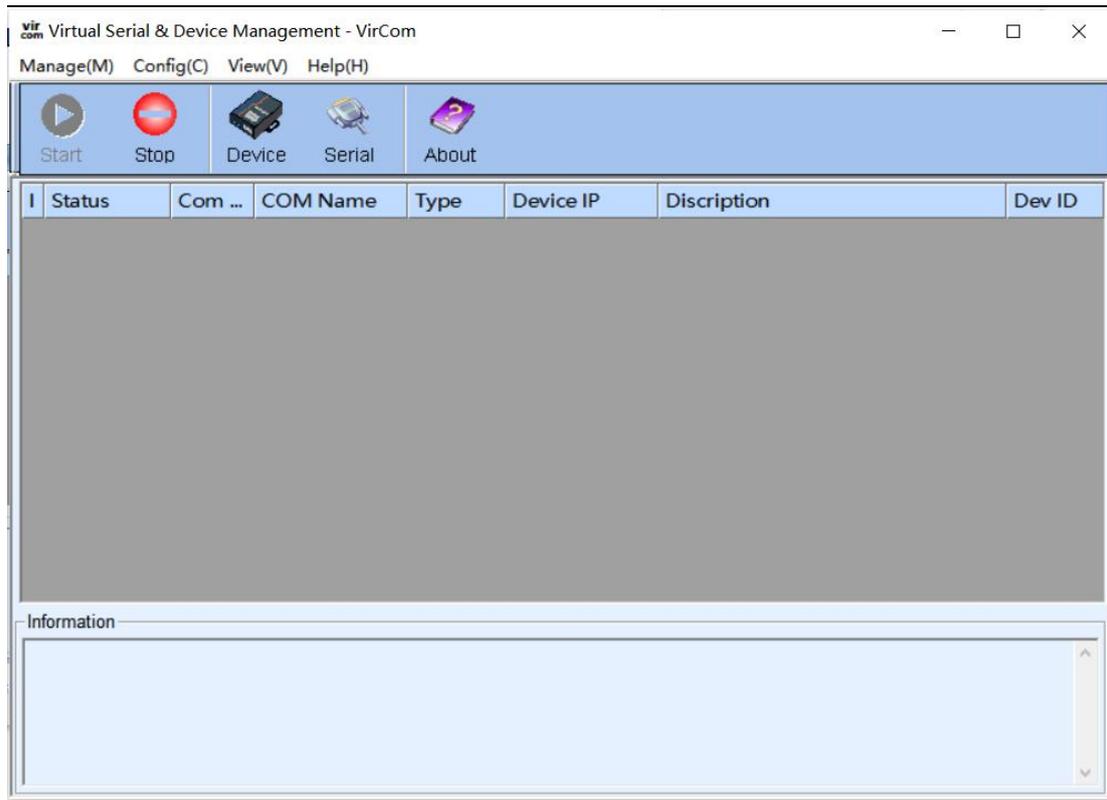


Figure 6 Vircom main interface

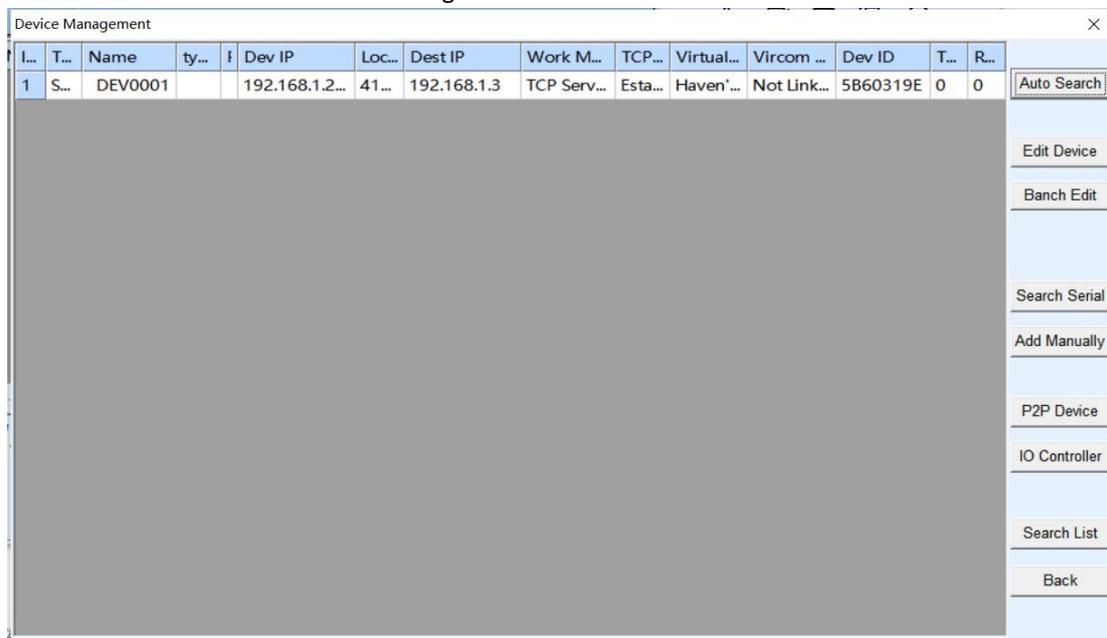


Figure 7 List of devices

View all online devices in the device list. Click "Edit Device" to configure parameters.

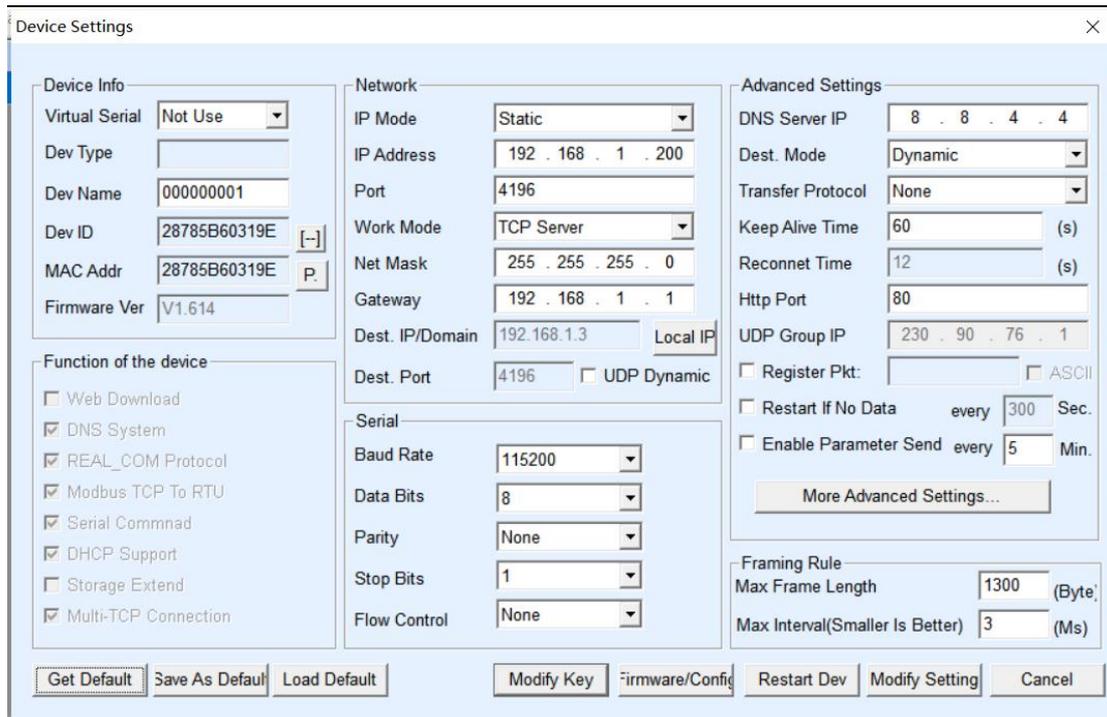


Figure 8 Device parameters

In this interface, the user can set the parameters of the device, and then click "Modify Settings", then the parameters are set to the flash of the device, power failure is not lost. At the same time, the device automatically restarts.

The main parameters are: baud rate, data bit, check bit in serial port Settings; IP address, subnet mask, gateway in network Settings; Sometimes according to the computer software, you also need to configure the working mode of the serial port server.

The meanings of other parameters are as follows:

Table 4 Parameter meanings

Parameter name	value range	Contents
virtual serial port	none, created virtual serial port	You can bind the current device to an existing virtual serial port. Add a COM port in Serial Port Management on the home screen.
Device model		Only the model of the core module is displayed
Device name	random	You can give the device an easy-to-read name, up

		to 9 bytes, support Chinese names.
Device ID		factory unique ID, cannot be modified.
Firmware version		Firmware version of the core module
Functions supported by the device		See Table 3 for features supported by the device
IP mode	static、DHCP	Users can choose between static or DHCP (dynamic IP acquisition)
IP address		IP address of the serial port server
Interface	0~65535	<p>Listening port of the serial port Server in TCP Server or UDP mode. If you use port 0 as the client, you are advised to set port 0 to improve the connection speed. If port 0 is used, the system randomly assigns a local port. The difference between this and non-zero port is: (1) When the local port is 0, a new TCP connection is established with the PC when the module restarts, and the old TCP connection may not be closed, and the device may have multiple fake connections. Generally, the host computer wants to close the old connection when the module restarts; Specifying a non-zero port closes the old connection. (2) If the local port is 0, the TCP connection takes a shorter time to re-establish.</p> <p>When the serial port server is in TCP client mode, it also acts as the TCP server to listen for incoming connections on the port. In this case, the local port number used by the TCP client to connect to the server is Port +1000.</p>
Working mode	TCP server mode, TCP	When set to TCP server, the serial server waits for

	client mode, UDP mode, UDP multicast mode	the computer to connect. If TCP client is configured, the serial port server initiates a connection to the network server specified by the destination IP address.
Subnet mask	For eg.: 255.255.255.0	The subnet mask must be the same as that of the local LAN.
Gateway	For eg.: 192.168.1.1	It must be the same as the local LAN gateway
Destination IP address or domain name		In TCP client or UDP mode, data is sent to the computer indicated by the destination IP or domain name.
Destination port		In TCP client or UDP mode, data is sent to the destination port of the destination IP address.
Baud rate	300、600、1200、2400、4800、7200、9600、14400、19200、28800、38400、57600、76800、115200、230400、460800、921.6K	Serial port baud rate
Digit bits	5、6、7、8、9	
Check bits	None, Even, Odd, tag, space	
Stop bits	1、2	
Flow control	No flow control, hard flow control CTS/RTS, hard flow control DTR/DCR, soft flow control XON/XOFF	Only available for RS232 serial port
DNS server		If the destination IP address is described by a domain name, enter the IP address of the DNS server. If the IP address mode is DHCP, you do not

		need to specify the DNS server. The DNS server automatically obtains the IP address from the DHCP server.
Destination mode	Static , dynamic	TCP client mode: In static destination mode, the device automatically restarts after five consecutive failed attempts to connect to the server.
Transfer protocol	NONE 、 Modbus TCP<->RTU、 Real_COM、 TELNET	NONE indicates that data is transmitted transparently from the serial port to the network. Modbus TCP<->RTU will convert Modbus TCP protocol directly into RTU protocol, which is convenient to cooperate with Modbus TCP protocol; RealCOM is designed to be compatible with the older version of the REAL_COM protocol. It is a virtual serial port protocol. However, it is not necessary to select the RealCom protocol when using the virtual serial port. The TELNET protocol allows the network to log in to our device through TELNET to communicate with the serial port
Keepalive timing time	0~255	Heartbeat interval. (1) If the value ranges from 1 to 255 and the device is in TCP client working mode, the device automatically sends TCP heartbeat packets at Keepalive intervals. This ensures the TCP validity of the link. If the value is set to 0, there is no TCP heartbeat. (2) If the value is set to 0 to 254, and the conversion protocol is REAL_COM, the device will send data with length 1 and content 0 at keepalive intervals to implement the heartbeat mechanism in the Realcom protocol. If the value is set to 255, there is no realcom heartbeat. (3) When the value is set to 0 to 254, if the device works on the TCP client, the device will

		send device parameters to the destination computer at keepalive intervals. If the value is set to 255, no parameter is sent, enabling remote device management.
Disconnected reconnection time	0~255	In TCP client mode, when the connection fails, the TCP connection is re-initiated to the computer at disconnection Reconnection time intervals. The value ranges from 0 to 254 seconds. If the value is set to 255, the reconnection is never performed. Note that the first TCP connection (such as hardware power-on, device restart through vircom software, and no data light) is generally carried out immediately, and only after the first connection fails will it wait for the "disconnection reconnection time" to try again, so the "disconnection reconnection time" will not affect the normal connection establishment time between the network and the server.
Web access port	1~65535	Default is 80
Multicast address		Under UDP multicast
Enable registration package		When a TCP connection is established, the registration packet is sent to the computer. The realcom protocol must be selected after the registration package is enabled. TCP server and TCP client modes are supported.
Digit packet length	1~1400	One of the serial port framing rules. Serial port server After receiving data of this length, the serial port sends the received data to the network as one frame.

Packet interval	0~255	Serial frame rule 2. When the data received by the serial port server stops for a period longer than the specified period, the received data is sent to the network as a frame.
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1.3 TCP Communication Test

After device parameters are configured, you can use the serial port tool or TCP debugging tool to test the TCP connection.

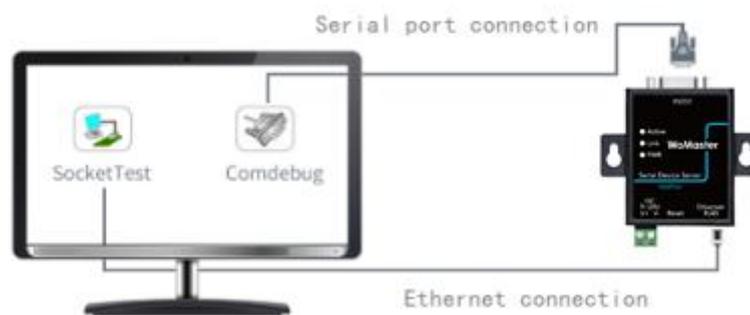


Figure 9 Schematic diagram of TCP communication

Assuming the PC COM port and serial port serial port server connection, then open the ComDebug (https://www.womaster.eu/download_161_200.htm) serial debugging assistant, and open the corresponding COM figure 10; Open TCP&UDP debugging assistant SocketTest (https://www.womaster.eu/download_161_200.htm), and as a way of TCP client, fill in the destination IP for a serial port server IP (currently 192.168.1.200), The destination port is 4196, then click the "Open" button on the graph. On the Ttest of SocketTest, input "socket send" and click send, the data is transferred to RS232/RS485 interface through the network port of the serial server, and then sent to ComDebug, which is then displayed in ComDebug. On the other hand, input "Comdebug send" in ComDebug and click "send" to send to socket test.

Serial port Indicates the transparent data forwarding function of serial port to network port and network port to serial port on the server.

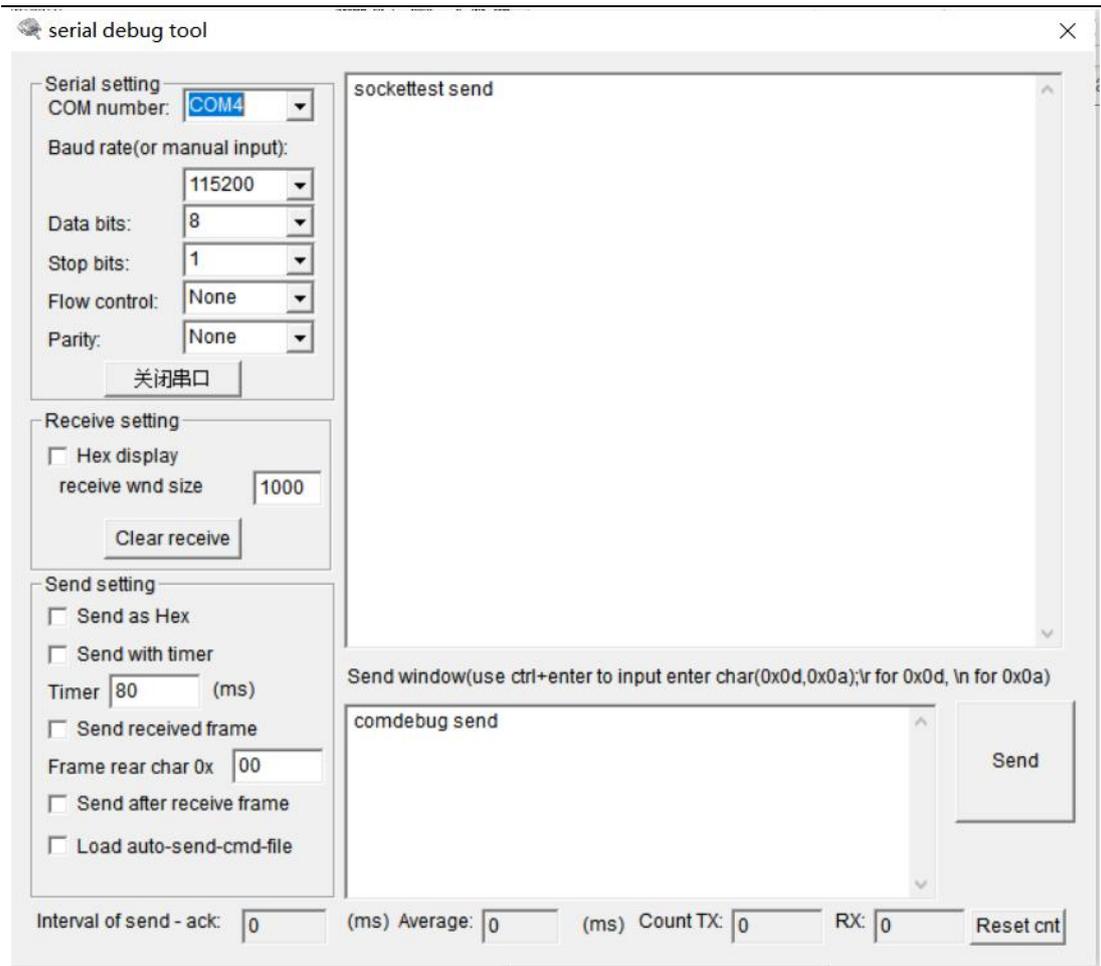


Figure 10 comdebug sending and receiving interface

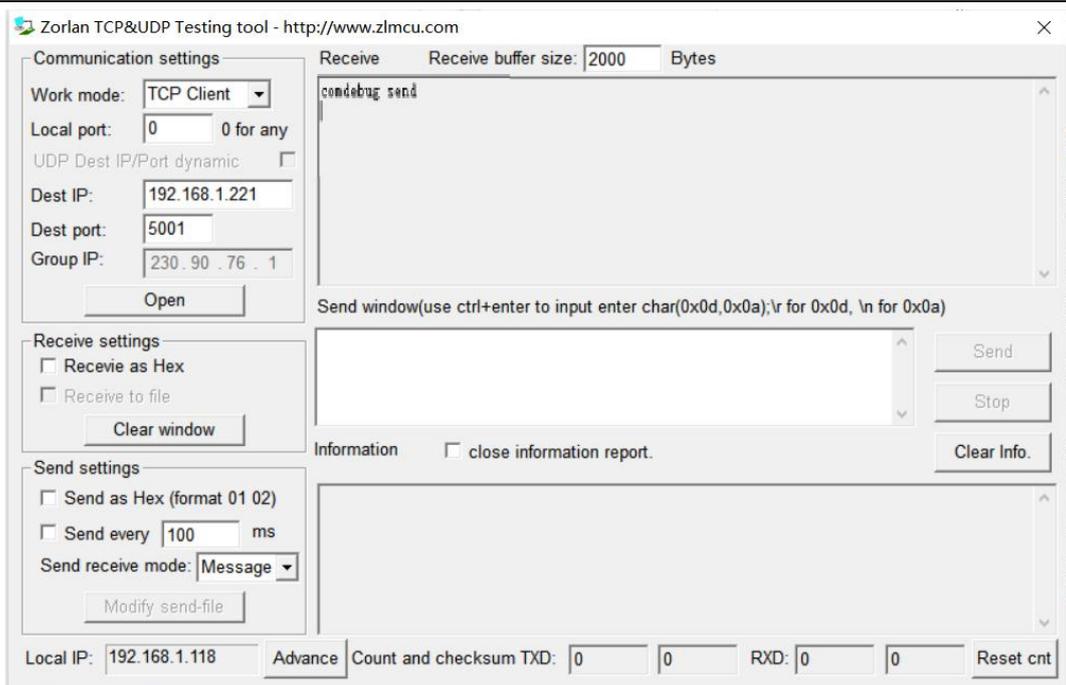


Figure 11 sockettest receiving and sending interface

1.4 Virtual Serial Port Testing

The Ttest shown in the figure is conducted by direct communication with the serial server through TCP. In order to enable users to communicate with the serial server even with the developed serial software, a virtual serial port needs to be added between the user program and the serial server. As shown in Figure 12, Vircom and the user program run on a computer. Vircom virtualizes a COM port and makes this COM port correspond to this serial port server. When the user program opens COM communication, it can be sent to the user serial port device through the Vircom serial port server. Here's how to do it:



Figure 12 Functions of the virtual serial port

Click "Serial port management" in the main interface of Vircom, then click "Add", select to add COM5, where COM5 is the COM port that does not exist in the computer.

Figure 13 Add virtual serial port

Then go to Device Management and double-click the device that you want to bind to COM5. Select COM5 from the Virtual Serial Port list in the upper left corner. Then click "Modify Settings". And return to Vircom's main interface. You can see that COM5 has connected to the device whose IP address is 192.168.1.200. COM5 can be used instead of SocketTest to communicate at this time.

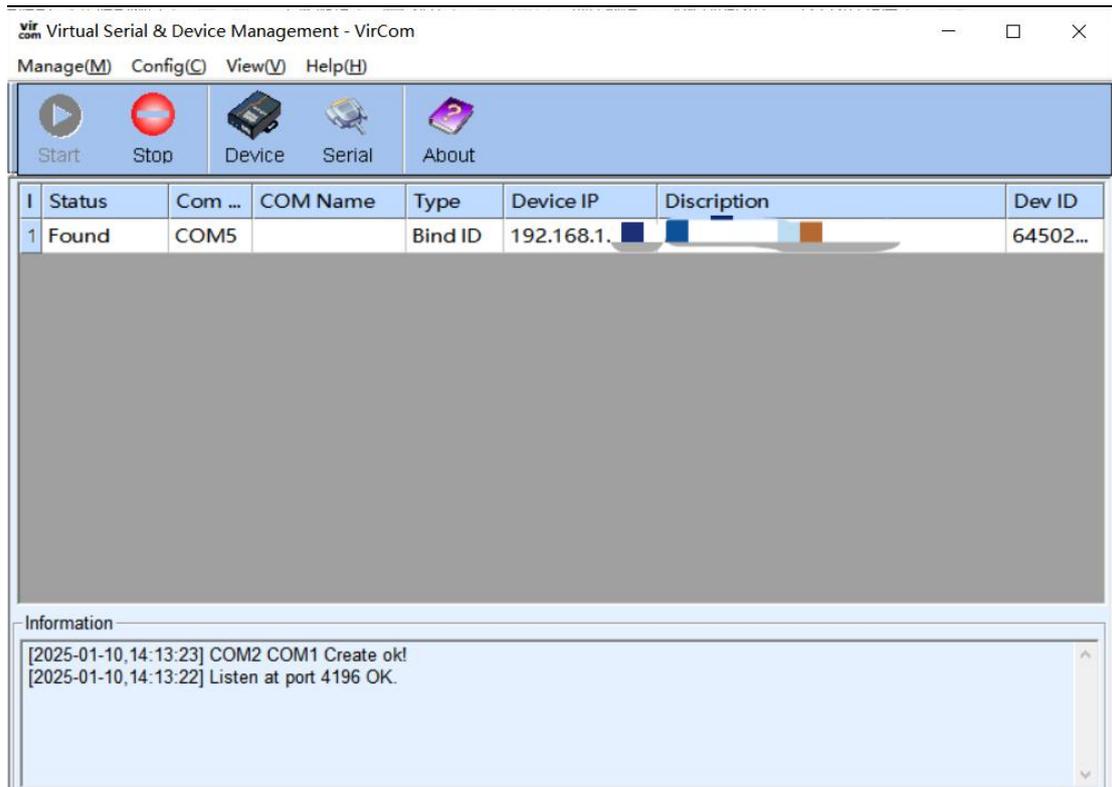


Figure 14 virtual serial port is connected

Open Comdebug to simulate the user's serial port program, open COM5(the above virtual serial port), and open a Comdebug to simulate a serial device, open COM4(hardware serial port). The data link sent by COM5 is as follows: COM5 → Vircom → serial port Server network port → Serial port Server serial port → COM4. Conversely, COM4 to COM5 can also transmit data: COM4 → serial port server serial port → Serial port server network port → Vircom → COM5. Figure 15 shows the two parties sending and receiving data.

If the COM4 is replaced by the user serial port device, the COM5 can realize the communication with the user device.

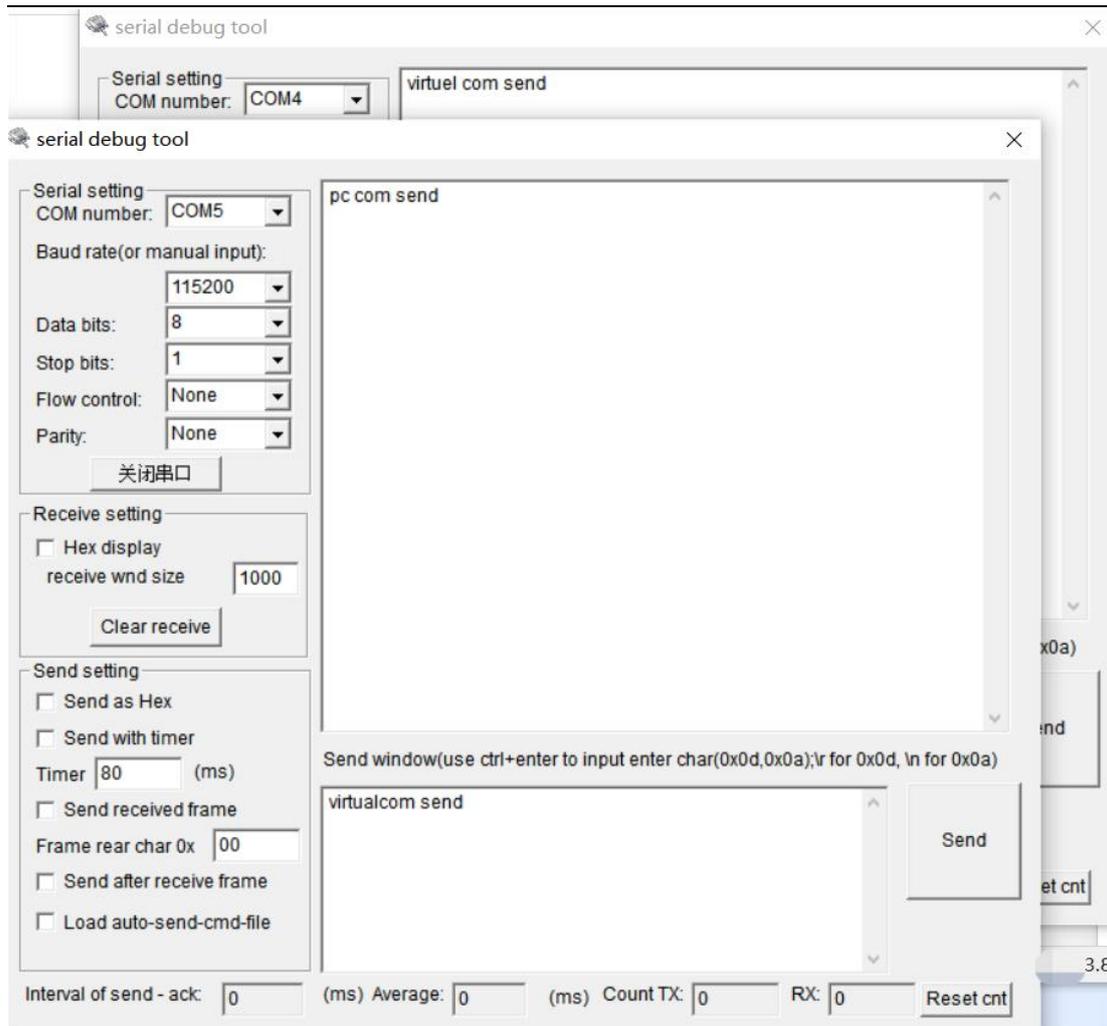


Figure 15 Communication through the virtual serial port

1.5 Modbus TCP Test

By default, serial port and network port data are transmitted transparently. If you need to convert Modbus TCP to RTU, you need to select "Modbus TCP \leftrightarrow RTU" as the conversion protocol in the device setup dialog box, as shown in Figure 16. In this case, the device port automatically changes to 502, and the Modbus TCP tool connects to port 502 of the serial port server IP address. The Modbus TCP command is converted to RTU command and output from the serial port. For example, if the port of the serial port server receives the Modbus TCP command 00 00 00 00 00 06 01 03 00 00 00 00 00 0a, the serial port outputs the command 01 03 00 00 00 00 00 a c5 cd. Note: The serial port may send more than one 01 03 00 00 00 00 0a c5 cd

command, this is because the default Modbus is stored mode, will automatically rotate the query command. I'll explain how to switch to non-storage mode later.

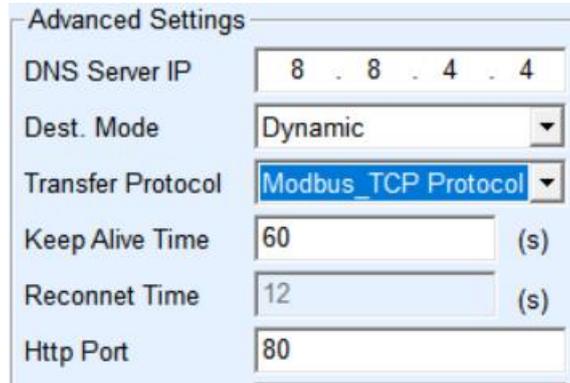


Figure 16 Enable Modbus TCP function

If the Modbus TCP software of the user is used as the Slave station, it is necessary to change the working mode to the client on the basis of selecting the conversion protocol, change the destination IP address to the IP address of the computer where the Modbus TCP software is located, and the destination port is 502, as shown in Figure 17.

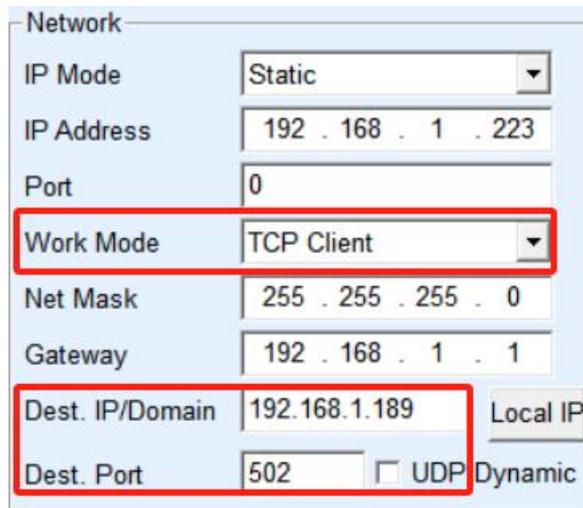


Figure 17 Modbus TCP as client side

1.6 Configuration Using the Web UI

Vircom can search and configure device parameters in different network segments. Web configuration requires first to ensure that the computer and the

serial server are in the same IP segment, and the IP address of the serial server needs to be known in advance. But Web configuration can be done on any computer without Vircom.

1. In the address box of your browser, enter the IP address of PORT1 of the serial port server, for example, `http://192.168.1.200`.

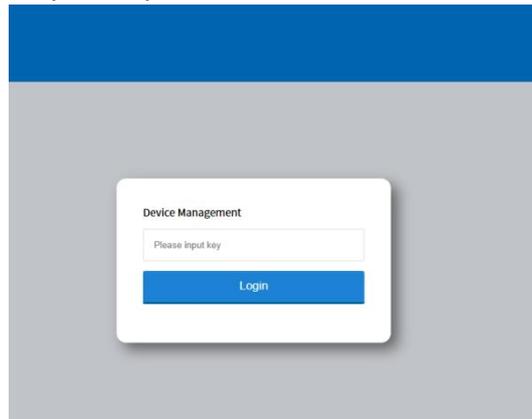


Figure 18WEB

2. Enter a Password in Password: default 123456. Click the login button to sign in.

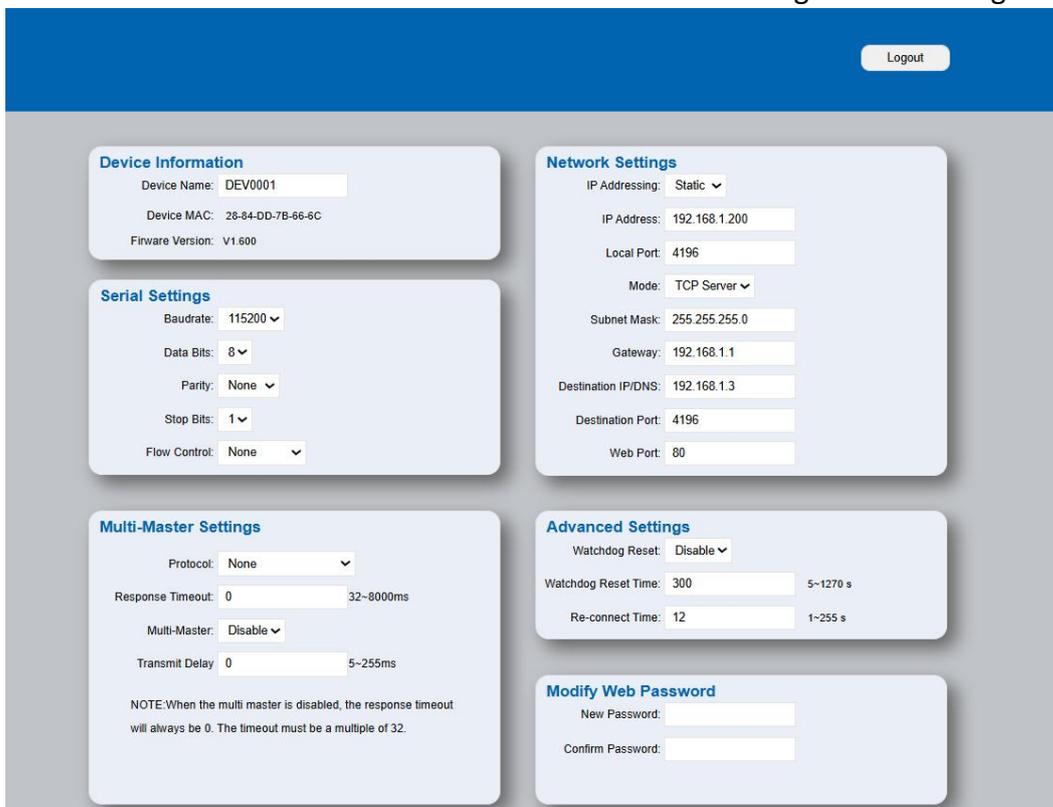


Figure 19 Web configuration page

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3. You can modify serial port server parameters in the displayed web page.
 4. Click the "Submit Modification" button after modifying the parameters.

2. Working mode and conversion protocol

In different applications can choose different serial server working mode, conversion protocol, so as to be more stable and reliable use, the following details.

The use of serial port server is basically divided into two types: with virtual serial port and non-virtual serial port, as shown in Figure 9 TCP communication diagram and Figure 12 function of virtual serial port respectively. The user software that needs to be connected with the virtual serial port is a serial port (COM port), that is, the user software and the user device are serial ports. Non-virtual serial port mode The user software is directly TCP/IP communication but the user device is still serial port.

In the non-virtual serial port mode, the "conversion protocol part" is divided into transparent transmission, Modbus TCP to RTU and Realcom protocol three modes. If the user software uses the Modbus TCP protocol and the lower computer uses Modbus RTU, select Modbus TCP to RTU. The Realcom protocol is used only when the multi-serial server serves as the TCP client to connect to a server and the virtual serial port is used on the server.

Usage is summarized as follows:

Table 6 Network configuration modes

No.	Virtual serial port usage	device working mode	Transfer protocol	Specifications
1	Use	TCP server	none	It is suitable for the occasion when the user software opens COM port to collect data actively.
2	Use	TCP client	none	If the TCP server is selected, the device may fail to reconnect

				after disconnection.
3	None	TCP server	Modbus TCP to RTU	The user software is Modbus TCP and the user device is Modbus RTU. And the Modbus TCP master station.
4	None	TCP client side	Modbus TCP to RTU	The user software is Modbus TCP and the user device is Modbus RTU. And Modbus RTU is the master station.
5	Use	TCP client side	Realcom protocol	When the multi-serial port server serves as the TCP client and the virtual serial port is used, the Realcom protocol is recommended.
6	None	TCP server	Telnet protocol	This mode applies to monitoring device serial ports when connecting to the serial port server over Telnet.
7	None	TCP client side	None	It is suitable for connecting a cloud with a large number of devices. In general, the cloud is a server with a public IP address on the Internet.
8	None	TCP server	None	Applicable to devices and computers on the same local network, local monitoring, no need to cross the Internet communication.

2.1. Virtual Serial Port Mode

If the user software uses the COM port to communicate, it must use the virtual serial port mode. Including some PLC software, configuration software, instrument software and so on.

Then see if the monitoring computers and devices are on the local network:

a) If the computer is a server with a public IP address leased on the Internet, the device must use TCP client mode to connect the device to the server. In this case, you can select 2 and 5 in Table 6. If multiple serial servers are used, you must select 5.

b) All in the local network (can ping each other), it depends on whether the host computer actively queries or the device actively sends data. If the device acts as the TCP client to send packets, mode 2 must be used. Otherwise, mode 1 can be used.

2.2. Direct TCP/IP communication mode

If the Modbus TCP protocol is not required and the virtual serial port is not required, the user software may directly communicate with the network port of the serial port server for TCP/IP communication, and the serial port server converts TCP/IP data to serial port data and sends it to the serial port device.

Generally, the user of this kind of usage develops the host computer network communication software by himself, which integrates the analysis of the serial communication protocol of the device. This method is more flexible and efficient than virtual serial port. Correspond to ⑥ and ⑦ in Table 6.

The section "4.6TCP Communication Tests" mainly describes how to communicate when the serial server acts as a TCP server. Here we will talk about how TCP clients, UDP mode, and multi-TCP connections communicate with computer software. The Ttest computer software is based on SocketTest (software that mimics user TCP/IP communication) as an example.

For two network terminals (in this case, the network debugging tool and the serial server) to communicate, their parameter configurations must be paired.

2.2.1. TCP client mode

There are two working modes in TCP mode: TCP server and TCP client. No matter which mode is used, one side must be the server and the other side is the client, and then the client can access the server.

When the serial server is the client, there must be three relationships, as shown in Figure 20. (1) Working mode: The working mode of the serial port server is the server mode of the network tool corresponding to the client. (2)IP address: The destination IP address of the serial port server must be the IP address of the computer where the network tool is located. (3) Port: The destination port of the serial port server must be the local port of the network tool. After this setting, the serial port server can automatically connect to the network tool and send and receive data after the connection is established.

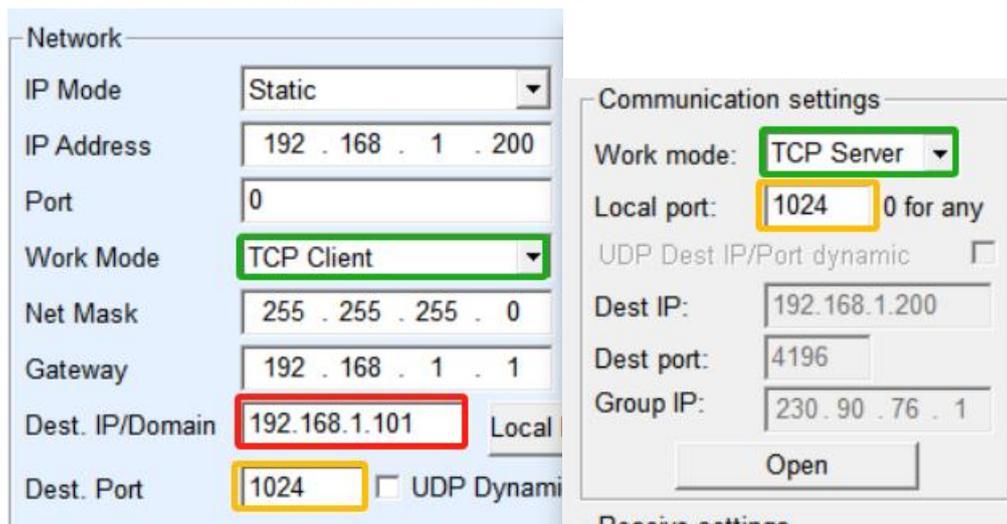


Figure 20 Serial server as client

2.2.2. The client connects to multiple servers

When the NPS series device as the TCP client, seven destination IP addresses can be connected at the same time. Data sent from the serial port is sent to all seven destination IP addresses at the same time. If there are not that many servers, the rest of the destination IP is vacant. Its use is as follows:

Figure 21 First destination IP address and port number

IP Address or DNS name	Port	Type
192.168.1.100	1024	Client Dest.
192.168.1.101	1025	Client Dest.
192.168.1.102	1026	
192.168.1.103	1027	
192.168.1.104	1028	
192.168.1.105	1029	

Figure 22 left 2~7 IP and terminals

The first IP address is set in the device setup screen shown in Figure 21, where the first IP address can be a domain name. Remaining 2 to 7 destination IP addresses On the device Settings screen, click More Advanced Options to open more advanced options.

All seven destination IP addresses can be automatically connected after being set. If the destination IP addresses fail to be connected, they are reconnected repeatedly after the Disconnection time.

2.2.3. TCP server mode

When the serial server acts as the server, there are also three mappings, as shown in Figure 23, which are not explained here. After this setting, click the open

button of the network tool to establish a TCP connection with the serial port server. After the connection is established, you can send and receive data.

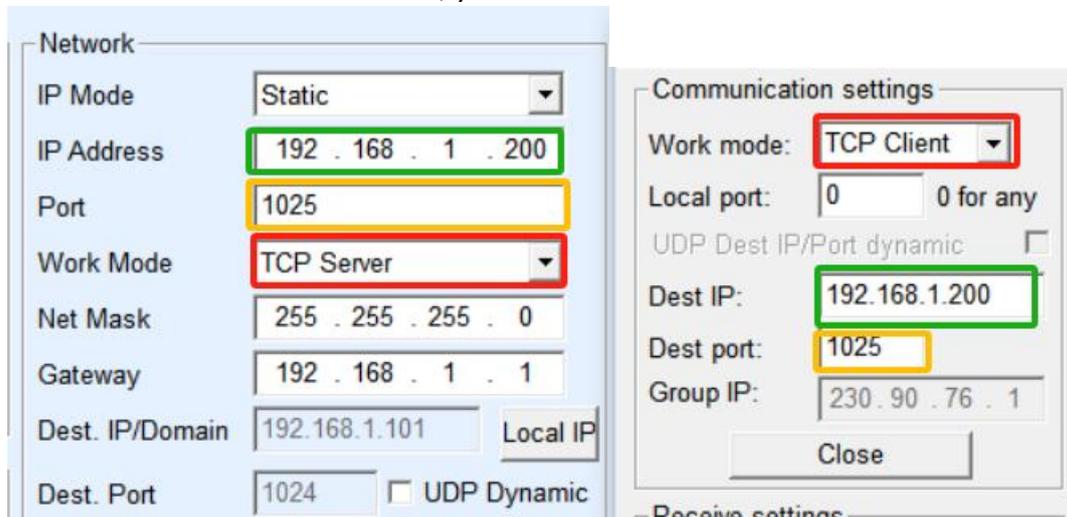


Figure 23 Serial server as server

When the serial port server serves as the server, it can accept 30 TCP connections at the same time. The data received by the serial port is forwarded to all established TCP connections. If you want to send data only to the TCP that recently received network packets, you need to enable the multi-host function. For details, see 7.4 Multi-Host Function.

2.2.4. Act as both client and server

Serial port server supports the device in the TCP client mode can also accept TCP connections, that is, also has the TCP server function.

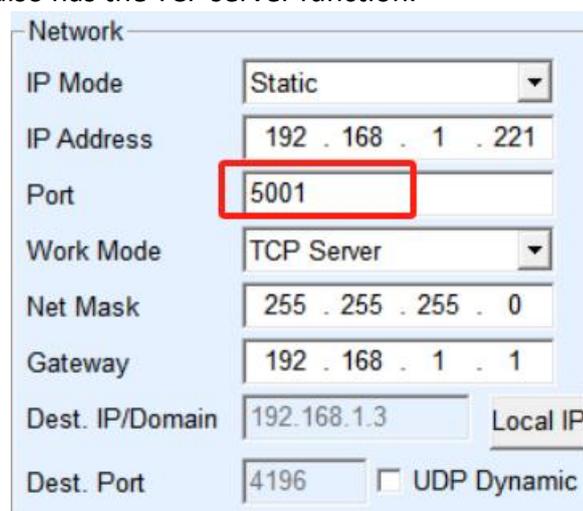


Figure 24 is both a client and a server

By default, when Vircom is configured, if the working mode is changed to "TCP client" mode, the port (that is, the local port) will automatically become 0 (0 means that an idle port is randomly selected). In order to support the TCP server mode, the computer software must know the local port of the device, so a value needs to be specified here. As shown in Figure 24, the computer software can now connect to port 5001 of 192.168.1.200 for communication. In addition, the device acts as a client and connects to port 1024 of 192.168.1.189. Note that because the local port 1024 is occupied by the server, the local port used by the client is "port +1", that is, the software on 192.168.1.189 sees that the incoming port of the device is $1024+1=1025$.

2.2.5. UDP Mode

In UDP mode, parameter configuration is shown in Figure 25. The left side is the configuration of serial server in Vircom, and the right side is the setting of network debugging tool SocketDlgTest. First, both must be in UDP working mode. In addition, the destination IP address and port of the network tool must point to the local IP address and port of the serial port server. The destination IP address of the serial port server must be the IP address of the computer where the network tool is installed, and the destination port of the serial port server must be the local port of the network debugging tool. These network parameters must be configured to ensure two-way UDP data communication.

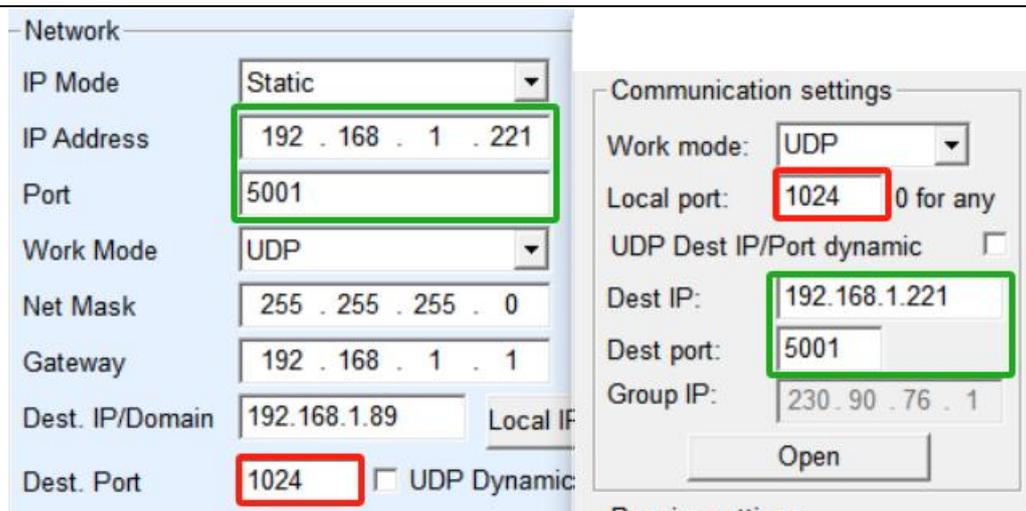


Figure 25 UDP mode parameter configuration

2.3. Device pairs

If the host computer is not a Socket program (SocketDlgTest) or a virtual serial port, but two devices are connected through network ports, the configuration method is similar. First, the user needs to connect two devices and computers to the same LAN. Vircom runs on this computer, the purpose of connecting the computer is only for configuration, and the computer does not need to be connected after configuration.

Click on Vircom's device management to find these two devices, as shown in Figure 26. Then click "Device Edit" to configure the device. Device pairs can be classified into TCP pairs and UDP pairs. In TCP interconnection mode, the parameters of the two devices are shown in Figure 20. The parameters shown by the arrows must correspond to each other, just as they correspond to the PC connection. After the TCP connection is successful, you can return to the Device Management dialog box to check the connection status, as shown in Figure 26. If the status of both devices is Connected, the TCP link between the two devices has been established.

Figure 26 Configuration of TCP device pairing parameters

I...	T...	Name	ty...	f	Dev IP	Loc...	Dest IP	Work M...	TCP Con...	Virtual...	Vircom ...	Dev ID	T...	
1	S...	DEV0001			192.168.1.2...	41...	192.168.1.3	TCP Client	Establish...	Haven'...	Not Link...	5B603199	0	Auto Search
2	S...	DEV0001			192.168.1.2...	41...	192.168.1.3	TCP Serv...	Establish...	Haven'...	Not Link...	5B60319E	0	

Figure 27 Successful connection check of TCP devices

For UDP couplings, the configuration parameters are shown in Figure 28. The parameters corresponding to the arrows must be one-to-one. UDP pair connection Data is automatically sent to the specified device if the parameters are correctly configured without checking the connection status.

Figure 28 Configuration of UDP device pairing parameters

Finally, you need to remind that if the device is in pair, in addition to the network port parameters according to the above Settings, you must also set the

correct serial port parameters. The baud rate of the serial port server must be consistent with that of the user's device. After this configuration, user devices can send data to each other through the serial ports of the two serial servers.

3. Device commissioning

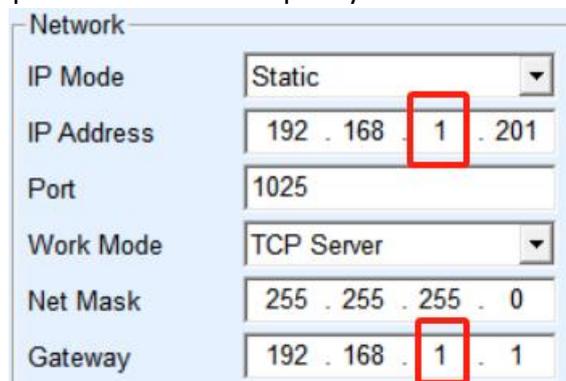
3.1. Physical network connection

The serial port server can be connected to the switch or the computer network port using a crossover cable or a direct network cable.

After the connection is established, check whether the Link indicator is green. Otherwise, check whether the network cable is properly connected.

3.2. Network TCP connection

If the device dynamically obtains IP addresses, do not directly connect to the network port of the computer. Because there is no DHCP server to use (generally DHCP servers are routers in the LAN). Therefore, specify the IP address for direct connection. The computer also needs to specify a fixed IP address.



Network	
IP Mode	Static
IP Address	192 . 168 . 1 . 201
Port	1025
Work Mode	TCP Server
Net Mask	255 . 255 . 255 . 0
Gateway	192 . 168 . 1 . 1

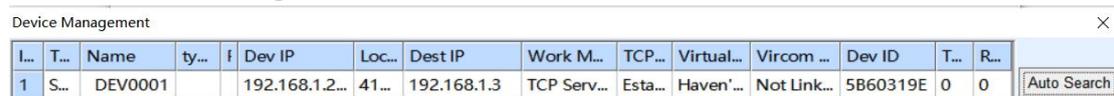
Figure 29 configure into the same network segment

Whether connected directly or through a switch, when configured with static IP, the device and the computer need to be on the same network segment (unless communicating across gateways), as shown in Figure 29.

Since Vircom supports cross-network segment search and configuration, the IP addresses that can be searched but cannot be communicated are generally not well configured. In this case, Vircom can be used to configure devices on the same

network segment.

After the configuration is complete, perform the steps in 4.6 TCP Communication Test or 4.7 Virtual Serial Port Test. You can see that the Link indicator turns blue when a TCP connection is established. The blue Link light can also be seen through Vircom. For example, in the device management list, if the TCP connection is listed as "established", the Link light is blue, as shown in Figure 30, which can facilitate remote diagnosis.



I...	T...	Name	ty...	f	Dev IP	Loc...	Dest IP	Work M...	TCP...	Virtual...	Vircom ...	Dev ID	T...	R...	Auto Search
1	S...	DEV0001			192.168.1.2...	41...	192.168.1.3	TCP Serv...	Estab...	Haven'...	Not Link...	5B60319E	0	0	

Figure 30 Connection status and data sending and receiving status

3.3. Data sending and receiving

When the Link indicator turns blue, data can be sent and received between the software and the serial port server. If the software sends data, the Active light turns green for at least one second. Data is also output from the serial port of the serial port server, but whether the output data is correct depends on whether the correct serial port parameters (baud rate, data bit, stop bit, check bit) are configured.

The serial port device responds to correct command delivery. Once a response is received (the serial port sends data to the network port), the Active color turns blue. Otherwise, check whether the serial port parameters or the serial cable are connected properly.

In order to facilitate remote debugging, Vircom also supports remote viewing of data sent and received. As shown in Figure 30, TXD is the amount of data sent by serial port server. When refreshing the device list, if the value changes, it indicates that data has been sent, and the Active light will turn green. If you see the value of RXD changing, it indicates that the serial device has returned data, and Active is blue.

3.4. Vircom Remote monitoring data

In the case of using virtual serial port, Vircom supports real-time capture of data sent and received by virtual serial port. Convenient for users to debug the system, the use method is as follows:

Assume that the communication of the virtual serial port has been established

according to the method of 3.4.7 Virtual Serial Port test. Now you need to monitor the data through the virtual serial port. Open Vircom's menu/Configuration/Software configuration/Open vircom configuration dialog box.

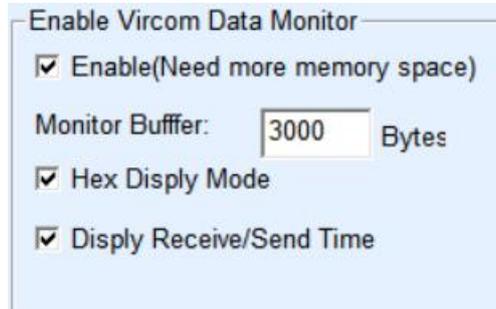


Figure 31 Enable Virocm monitoring

Check the three options of enable monitoring, hexadecimal monitoring mode, and display data sending and receiving time, as shown in Figure 31. Then click OK. Assuming that data has been sent and received before, now select a virtual serial port that you want to monitor in the main interface, and then select Menu/View/Monitor, as shown in Figure 32.

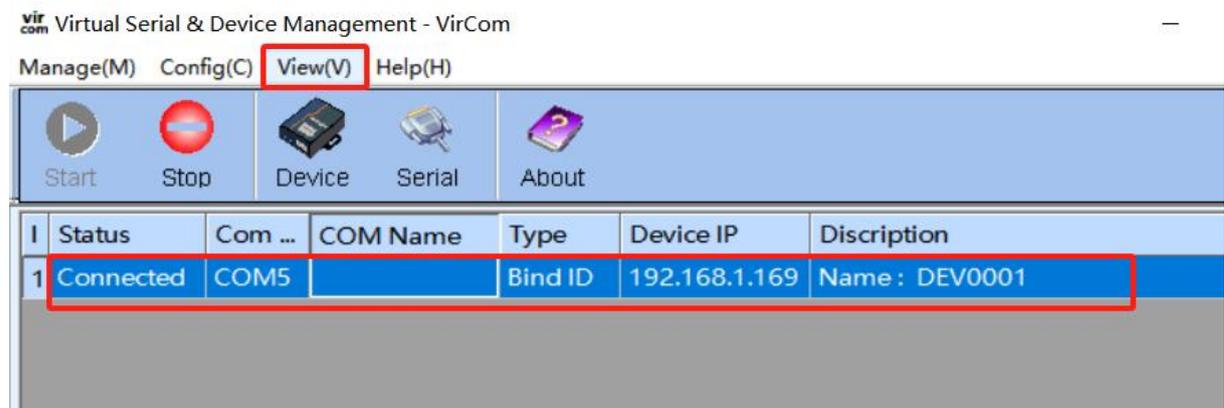


Figure 32 Open Virocm monitoring

From the open dialog box, you can see the instructions sent by the host computer and the instructions returned by the device, as shown in Figure 33. This function can facilitate the field communication debugging.

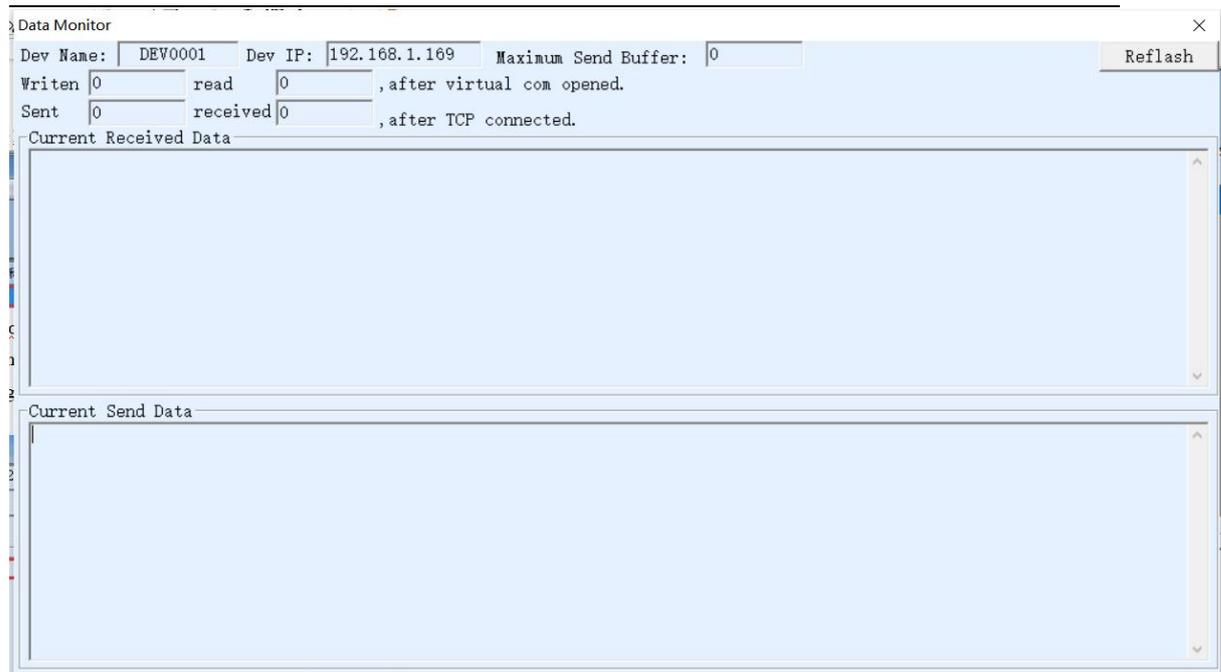


Figure 33 Monitoring and receiving data

4. Modbus Advanced functions

Serial port server with Modbus gateway function itself does not have station address and register, it is a communication bridge, it will generate Modbus RTU specification according to the user software to Modbus gateway in the Modbus TCP instruction, function code, register number, register number, and output from the serial port. Think of it as a protocol "translator."

4.1. Enable the Modbus gateway

First of all, the serial port server should support Modbus gateway, that is, the function of "Modbus TCP to RTU" in the function supported by the device in Table 3 of the device setup dialog box should be checked.

By default, the serial port server is in common transparent mode. If you want to switch to Modbus gateway mode, select Modbus TCP \leftrightarrow RTU in Conversion Protocol. The device automatically changes Port to 502 (port of the Modbus server). The Modbus gateway is enabled.

When the serial port RTU device serves as the slave station, the Modbus TCP

software on the upper computer connects to port 502 of the Modbus gateway, and the Modbus gateway needs to work in TCP server mode. If serial port RTU is used as the primary station, the Modbus gateway works on the TCP client, and the destination IP address is the IP address of the computer on which the Modbus TCP software is installed. The destination port is usually 502.

4.2. Storage Modbus Gateway

Regist-saving Modbus gateway can save the contents of read registers inside the gateway, so the Modbus TCP query speed can be greatly improved, and the performance is better when supporting multi-host access.

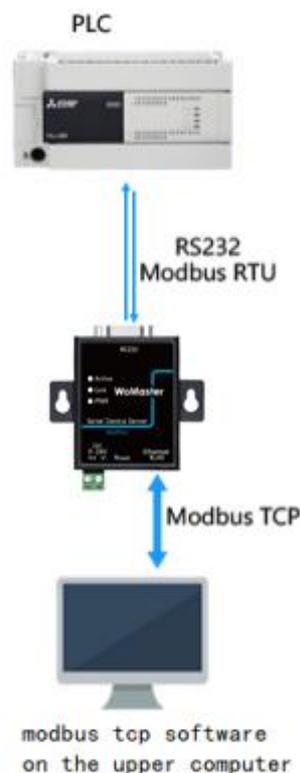


Figure 34 Storage Modbus gateway working mode

As shown in Figure 34, the Modbus TCP command is first converted into the corresponding command of Modbus RTU, and then the device responds to the Modbus RTU command to the Modbus gateway, and then the Modbus gateway is converted into Modbus TCP and sent to the monitoring host computer.

We know that Modbus TCP is a network communication, the transmission speed is very fast, generally within 3ms can answer, while Modbus RTU is RS232, generally only 9600bps speed, generally send and return an instruction at least 30ms. In this way, the query response time of the common non-storage Modbus gateway is relatively long. In addition, if there are a lot of upper computers to query data at the same time, then the serial port will be congested. If the network is like a highway and the serial port is like a single-log bridge, then the original way is to pass the traffic of the highway on the single-log bridge.

The register-saving Modbus gateway solves the above problems. It can temporarily save the register data obtained by the query in the Modbus gateway, so that when the Modbus TCP query comes, the Modbus gateway can immediately return the command, and really bring the fast characteristics of Modbus TCP into play. On the other hand, the device can actively send instructions from the serial port to automatically update the data content of the currently saved register and save a copy of the latest register value.

In addition, the device is a fully automatic configuration free Modbus gateway, the user does not need to configure the required register address, function code, slave station address, etc. the device automatically identifies and dynamically adds these registers according to the Modbus TCP command sent by the network port.

The device can show good response speed when monitored by multiple computers, no matter what baud rate the serial port is, it can generally give the host response data within 3ms. And it shows a good speed of real-time update of serial data.

The register-saving Modbus gateway is the real Modbus TCP to Modbus RTU, which really plays the advantages of fast Modbus TCP and multi-host query at the same time.

Notice When the serial port server serves as the TCP client, it does not have the storage function and automatically switches to the non-storage mode.

The features of storage Modbus are listed below:

1. The first Modbus TCP query instruction is non-stored. Because you must wait for the RTU device to return the data slowly before you can return the register

contents to the network port.

2. If a specific command is no longer queried by the host computer on the network within 5 seconds, the command is automatically deleted and no longer sent from the serial port to the RTU device.
3. Currently, 10K Modbus cache can be stored, and about 500 instructions can be stored at the same time for ordinary single-register queries.
4. When multiple instructions are queried at the same time, they are sent in order of priority. The first instruction is sent and the first instruction is answered 232 anti-conflict time (refer to the multi-host part) the second instruction is sent..... . Do not return to the first command until the last command has been answered.

4.3. Disable the storage-type function

Although the memory Modbus has a fast response speed, some users do not want the RTU device to not want to receive a large number of query instructions, which affects the internal processing speed of the instrument. At this point, you can disable the storage function.

To disable the storage type, click the "More Advanced Options" button in the "Parameter Configuration" dialog box, remove one support and one enable as shown in Figure 35, and then click OK. Then go back to device Settings and click Modify Settings.

Notice When you configure the conversion protocol in Web mode, it is a non-storage Modbus gateway by default.

Modbus Multi-Host Support Settings

Modbus Gateway Type: Multi-host non-storage type

Modbus RTU or ASCII: Modbus RTU

Enable RS485 Multi-Host
Maximum wait time of RS485 query command
for 163 ms(0~8191)

Enable RS485 bus conflict detection
Send data only when RS485 bus is idle for 20 ms

Figure 35 new version vircom setting

4.4. Multi-host function

The "RS458 multi-host support" and "RS232 bus collision detection function" shown in Figure 35 are the multi-host functions. They are generally enabled and disabled simultaneously. After this function is enabled, the device whose protocol is converted to Modbus TCP has the function of a storage Modbus gateway; otherwise, it is a non-storage Modbus gateway. If the conversion protocol is none, the user-defined RS232 protocol can generally also have the function of a serial port device accessed by multiple hosts at the same time, which can not be achieved in a pure RS232 network, because multiple master stations will send conflicts on RS232 at the same time. The multi-host of Zolan serial server can "coordinate" RS232 to achieve the purpose of multi-host access.

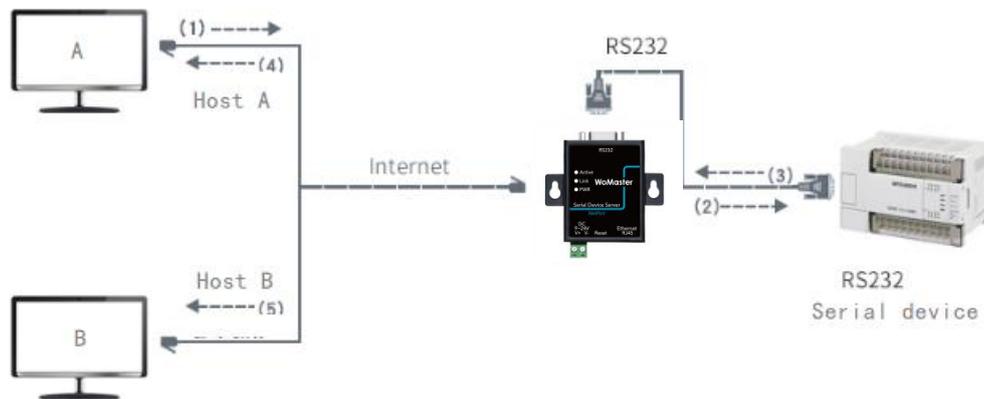


Figure 36 Multi-host function demonstration

As shown in Figure 36, in ordinary mode, when two hosts, host A and host B, are connected to the serial port server at the same time, host A sends (1) instruction, RS232 device receives (2) instruction, RS232 device returns (3) instruction, but the serial port server sends (4) to host A and (5) to host B at the same time. Because host B did not send the query, but it also received the reply instruction (5), host B may generate a communication exception error. In multi-host mode, there will be only instructions (4) and no instructions (5), because the serial server will automatically remember the host that needs to be returned, and only the command will be returned to the most recent communication host, host A queries will only reply to A, host B queries will reply to host B.

Another effect is that in normal mode, host A and host B send data at the same time, which will produce a combination of instructions on the RS232 bus, so that it can not be recognized normally; In the multi-host mode, the serial port server can schedule the sequence of A and B in using the bus, so as to effectively solve the conflict problem of multi-machine simultaneous access.

If the conversion protocol is set to None, the multi-host function is disabled by default. To enable the multi-host function, click More Advanced Options in the device configuration dialog box and select RS232 Multi-Host Support.

4.5. Multiple host parameters

“The meanings of RS485 Multi-host support and RS485 bus conflict detection are described as follows.



Figure 37 RS232 multi-host support

The response timeout period of an RS485 command is as follows: Indicates the maximum interval between sending the command and receiving the response from the serial port on the server. The value must be greater than the actual maximum interval. Because if it is determined to be a timeout, the next instruction will be sent.

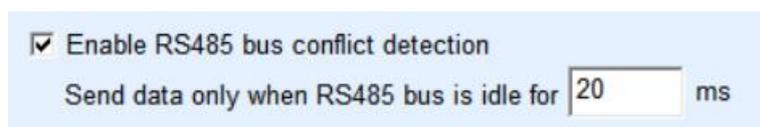


Figure 38 Free time of RS232 conflict prevention

RS485 bus collision time: indicates how many milliseconds the serial port server waits to send the second command after receiving the reply of the first command. This parameter actually defines the speed of instruction rotations. The recommended value is above 20ms. Generally, you do not need to change the value of Maximum Wait time 3 seconds.

When the user uses Vircom to select the conversion protocol as "after Modbus TCP to RTU", Vricom will automatically check the above two enable boxes (unless the

user manually enters the advanced option to remove), and the above two times will be automatically configured according to the baud rate. However, if the Modbus command is long or the protocol is converted to None, you need to manually set the two parameters.

The following describes the recommended values for setting the above parameters:

1. Figure 38 shows the RS485 bus collision prevention time. Generally, you can set it to twice the value of Packet Interval in the lower right corner of the parameter configuration page, but the value cannot be less than 20.
2. Figure 37 shows the "RS485 command response timeout time", which is generally determined by the length of the command to and from the reply. If the send command is N bytes and the reply is M bytes, the recommended value is "packet interval" x (N+M+5) +100.

4.6. Modbus for Multi-destination IP Addresses

As shown in Figure 36, if the serial port device (RTU device) acts as the primary station and the network port device (Modbus TCP device) acts as the secondary station, there are multiple network port secondary devices at the same time. In this case, you can use the serial port server as a client to connect to multiple network ports. For details, see 5.2.2 Connecting a Client to Multiple Servers.

In this case, the following functions need to be implemented: When the serial port RTU sends commands to multiple network port devices, the network port device identifies whether to send commands to itself through the Slave ID field, and only the network port device corresponding to the Slave ID responds. After the network port response is sent to the serial port server, it is converted into an RTU command and sent to the RTU device through the serial port.

At this time, it should be noted that the two check marks "RS485 bus collision prevention time" as shown in Figure 38 and "RS485 command response timeout time" as shown in Figure 37 need to be removed. Otherwise, the preceding forwarding function cannot be implemented.

Another application method is: Although the serial port server is connected to multiple network port devices as a Client, the RTU device is not the master station,

but the network port device sends first, and the RTU device replies (as the slave station). In this case, the two checkboxes of RS485 bus Conflict Prevention time and RS485 command response timeout time need to be selected, so that multiple hosts can access an RTU device at the same time.

5. Register the packet and heartbeat packet

Registration packets and heartbeat packets are a feature suitable for communication between devices and cloud software.

5.1. Register package

The definition of the registration package is that when the computer software and the serial port server module (hereinafter referred to as the module) establish a TCP connection, the module will first send a string of codes to the software, so that the software can know which module is communicating with itself. This string of codes is the registration package.

The registration package is very suitable for the monitoring of the Internet of things, because the cloud software generally runs on the public network server on the Internet, and the modules are scattered in various collection and monitoring points. How to make the cloud software identify the module is very important, and it is necessary to achieve Internet of Things communication.

Womaster serial server provides the following registration methods.

5.1.1. Send MAC addresses on the connection

Send MAC address on connection: When the module is connected to the cloud, it sends its mac address to the cloud. Since the MAC address is unique, the device can be uniquely identified. This method is simple and effective because it does not require registration package writing for each device. How to use: click "More Advanced Options" in the device Settings dialog box, find "Send MAC address when TCP is established" in the upper middle, tick in the front, and then return to the Settings interface, click "Modify Settings".

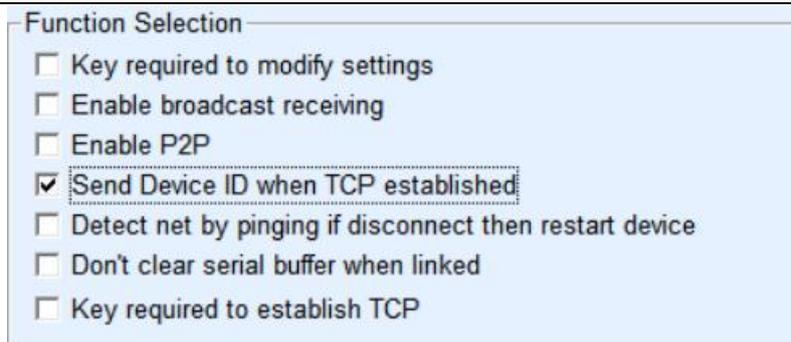


Figure 39 Send MAC address via connection

5.1.2. Realcom Agreement

Realcom protocol is a mature protocol containing registration packets and heartbeat packets. Users can use this protocol to realize registration packets and heartbeat packets. To enable the Realcom protocol, perform the following operations: In the Device Settings dialog box, set Conversion Protocol to REAL_COM protocol. Note that the part of enabling the registration package must be left blank.

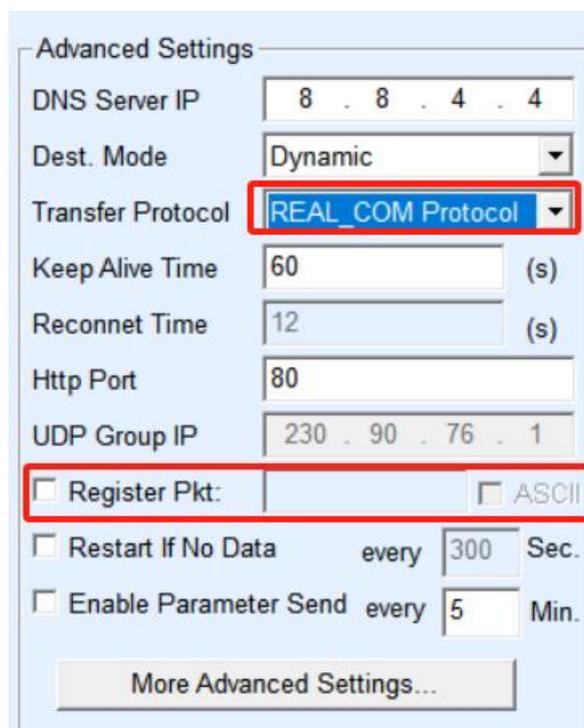


Figure 40 Enable realcom protocol

1. After a TCP connection is established between the device and the cloud, the

device automatically sends a hexadecimal registration packet FA 07 13 02 FA 02 MAC[5] MAC[4] MAC[3] MAC[2] MAC[1] MAC[0] FA FF. MAC[5] to MAC[0] indicates the MAC address of the device.

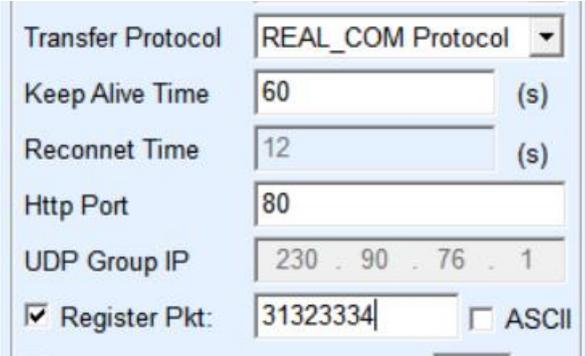
2. When the device sends data to the network, it automatically adds the three-byte prefix FA 01 01.

3. At a keepalive interval, the device sends a 1-byte heartbeat packet of 00 to the software.

The REAL_COM protocol can be used as the registration package of the device because the registration package contains the MAC address. However, due to its fixed format, only cloud software can design the REALCOM protocol to be compatible with this approach.

5.1.3. Customize the registration package

The custom registration package mode allows the user to fill in any registration package format. The method is as follows: On the device Settings screen, configure as follows:



The image shows a settings interface with the following fields:

Transfer Protocol	REAL_COM Protocol
Keep Alive Time	60 (s)
Reconnect Time	12 (s)
Http Port	80
UDP Group IP	230 . 90 . 76 . 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Register Pkt:	31323334 <input type="checkbox"/> ASCII

Figure 41 Set up register packet

The difference with the REAL_COM protocol is that the registration package is enabled and the registration package information such as 31, 32, 33, 34 is filled in. Note that this is in hexadecimal, which means that the actual data sent is the string 1234. If you want a string display, click the "ASCII" option next to it.

When the device is connected to the cloud software, it can automatically send the hexadecimal registration package of 31, 32, 33, and 34. This registration package method is more flexible, allowing the device to adapt to the existing cloud

registration package format; However, there is no wildcard such as MAC in the registration package, so you need to configure a different registration package for each device, which is complicated. The above two methods of sending MAC addresses and REALCOM are the same for each device, but the registration package is naturally different due to different MACs.

The maximum registered package length is 33 bytes. This mode supports registered packets and heartbeat packets in UDP mode.

5.1.4. Configuration files

The NPS series supports the serial port server to write a configuration file, so that users can fully customize the registration package, and can use MAC address wildcards, which can solve the problem of writing a custom registration package for each device, and there is no limit on the length of the registration package.

5.2. Heartbeat packets

The heartbeat packet is used to detect whether the communication link is down. The method of implementation is that every once in a while the device sends a heartbeat packet data to the server software, and the data will be discarded after the server receives it, and will not be regarded as valid communication data.

The heartbeat packet has two main functions: first, it can let the upper computer software know that the device is in the active state; Secondly, if the device fails to send the heartbeat, the device on the TCP client will automatically re-establish the TCP connection, so it is a means to restore network communication.

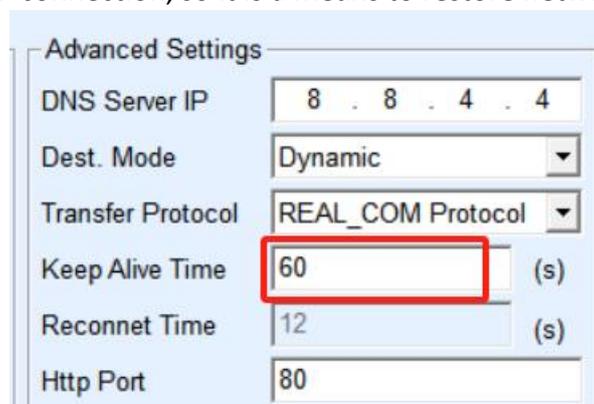


Figure 42 Keepalive timing time

As shown in Figure 42, the sending time of the heartbeat packet is set by the Keepalive Timing time.

5.2.1. Hidden heartbeat

Even if no heartbeat packets are set, the implicit heartbeat function is enabled on the device when the TCP client is deployed. Therefore, the implied heartbeat function means that the device sends data but the server does not receive the heartbeat data. Therefore, it can not play the first function of the heartbeat packet, that is, the function of the server to detect the activity of the device; However, because the device actually sends data, it can play the second function of the heartbeat packet, that is, the function of the device to detect whether the TCP connection is normal. Once the connection is detected, the TCP connection can be automatically re-established.

5.2.2. REALCOM Agreement

As described in 8.1.2 Realcom protocol, the REALCOM protocol can send a 1-byte data of 00 at every keepalive interval. This data is the heartbeat packet of the realcom protocol.

5.2.3. Customize the heartbeat packet

Fill in the registration package by following instructions in 8.1.3 Customizing the Registration Package. Then add heartbeat packets as follows: Click the "More Advanced Options" button in the device Settings, write the hexadecimal heartbeat packet in the second line of the multi-destination IP and port, and change the option on the right to "Parameter packet Destination".

Multi Dest-IP And Port		
IP Address or DNS name	Port	Type
313233	0	Param. Dest. ▼
616263	0	Param. Dest. ▼

Figure 43 Customize the registration package

The sum of the registered packet and heartbeat packet must be less than 33

bytes. The first line is actually the registration package.

6. Httpd Client communication function

This function is used to directly send the uploaded data from the serial server to the web-based server program, which can simplify the software development workload in the cloud.

When the IoT collection terminal interacts with the web server (httpd program), if the data can be submitted to the web server in the standardized format of HTTP GET and POST instructions, the web server can use the existing PHP/ASP language to process and store the data. This saves users the workload of developing web application interfaces.

To support this feature, a configuration file named httpd.txt needs to be downloaded from the serial server. Download can be achieved using the firmware upgrade feature of vircom.

The characteristics of the communication function of the httpd client include:

1. Device upload: Supports converting serial data directly into HTTP format through GET/POST, which can be recognized directly by the server.

2. Web server issuance: The web server can also send the required data to the serial server through GET/POST commands, and the valid data content can be output from the serial port of the serial server. When the serial server receives data, it can also give a specific response to the web server indicating that the data has been received.

3. Supports arbitrary conversion of input and output data between hexadecimal and strings, making it convenient for web servers to issue data in character format, while serial ports control serial devices using hexadecimal data output.

7. Transcoding Functions(NPS5151/NPS5130AI)

Serial port server transcoding function can achieve different device protocol into a unified protocol function.

Table 7 Transcoding Examples

Ethernet Port Instruction	Serial Port Instruction
01 02 03 04	a1 a2 a3 a4
11 12 13 14	b1 b2 b3 b4
21 22 23 24	c1 c2 c3 c4

As shown in table 5, when the network port receives 01 02 03 04 the serial port will output instructions of a1 a2 a3 a4. Similarly, when the serial port receives b1 b2 b3 b4, the network port actually sends 11 12 13 14. This enables the conversion of different protocols. This is just a simple example of a "transcode" function that can actually be converted to more complex protocols.

7.1 Enable the Transcoding

The configuration files converted by the command are written to the httpd.txt file and then downloaded to the serial port server. To do this, create a new httpd.txt document in the web page directory. If the user does not have a web directory, make a new webs directory and then make a separate httpd.txt file.

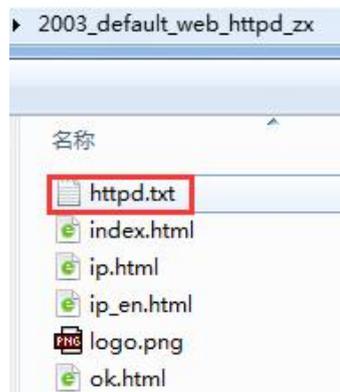


Figure 36 web catalogue

Now click the "upgrade firmware" button in "device configuration", and the web and firmware download page will pop up:

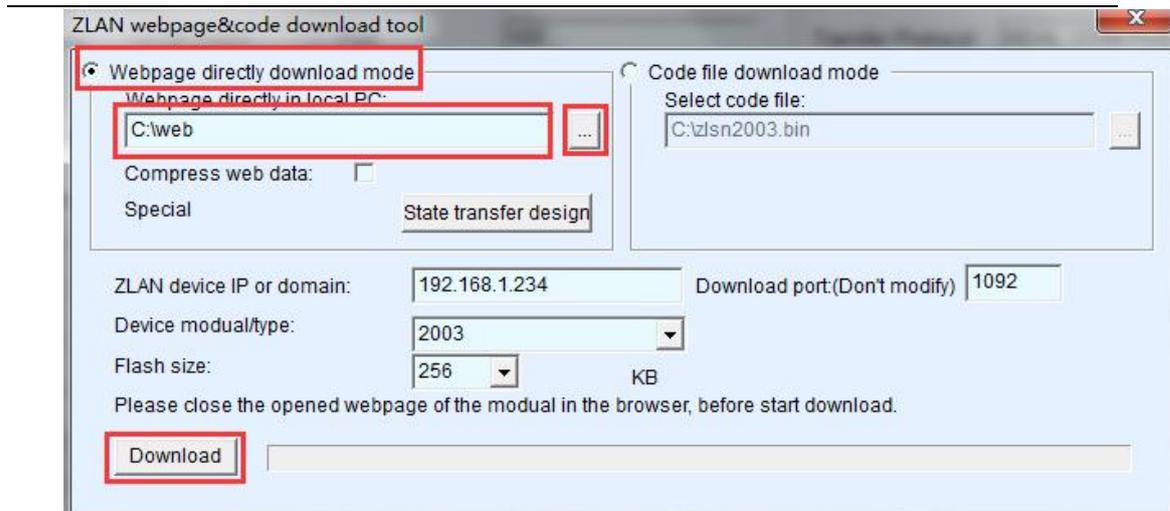


Figure 37 http.txt download

As shown above, select the web directory to download, then select the web directory you just created, and then click the "download" button to download httpd.txt into the device. Above IP, model, space size, port will be automatically filled in without configuration. Note: any time httpd.txt is updated, the device needs to be repowered.

7.2 Transcoding to achieve customization

If necessary, you can also write the configuration file httpd.txt by Womaster technology, Womaster can also provide the existing case configuration file httpd.txt.

7.3 Notice

- 1) When "httpd.txt" is not stored, the device will be used as a normal serial port server. Transcoding is disabled.
- 2) To delete "httpd.txt" you can simply change "httpd.txt" to "1.txt" and then download it again. Re-downloading the firmware of the device will also delete the "httpd.txt" file, and downloading the firmware progress bar will delete the "httpd.txt" file if it only moves 1 frame. Refer to the following sections for download firmware methods.
- 3) The device must be restarted after downloading the "httpd.txt" file.

4) When an “http.txt” editing error causes syntax parsing to fail, which can cause a device startup exception, set the “def” switch (reset switch) of the device to “On” and re-power it. This will start without “httpd.txt”. Please download the new “httpd.txt” or delete “httpd.txt” and then set “def” back to the “Off” position.

8. MQTT Gateway

Please refer to the document Advanced tutorial on MQTT and JSON to Modbus gateway usage.

9. JSON TURN Modbus RTU

Please refer to the document Advanced tutorial on MQTT and JSON to Modbus gateway usage.

10. NTP Time function

Please refer to the document Advanced tutorial on MQTT and JSON to Modbus gateway usage.

11. Modify network port parameters

Network port parameter modification is to realize the function of searching equipment and modifying equipment parameters like vircom software, that is, to manage equipment and modify parameters through the network port of serial server. Suitable for users who integrate search and configuration capabilities into their software.

Network port modification parameters are implemented through the UDP Management Port Protocol, for example:

1. The computer software sends UDP broadcast packets whose destination port is 1092 on the network. When the device receives the packet, it will return its information to the computer software to search for the device.

-
2. The computer software sends the UDP parameter modification command to port 1092 of the device to modify the device parameters.

12. Device management library

This feature is intended for users who need to integrate device management functions into their own software.

The "UDP management port protocol" has been integrated in the device management function library DevManage. This is a DLL windows platform development library, can be called by VC, VB, Delphi and other development tools.

Provide detailed API interface documentation and VC call Demo cases. It can realize device search, parameter modification, P2P function call and so on.

13. Modify serial port parameters

Users can read and set parameters by sending commands to the serial port server's serial port. This is suitable for users who need to control and configure products at the chip or module level through serial port. The parameters that can be set include: IP address, baud rate, device name, working mode, etc. After the new parameters are set, the serial port server can be restarted through serial port commands.

The serial commands have the following features:

1. Serial port commands use a 10-byte data preamble, so there is no need to distinguish between communication data and commands by pulling down or pulling up additional configuration pins, nor is there a need to switch between command mode and communication mode, making usage more flexible and convenient.
2. The command set includes various command formats such as saving parameters, not saving parameters, and restarting the device.
3. It can implement a variety of applications, such as reading the MAC address of the serial port server, or modifying the operating mode of the serial port server. For example, when switching from TCP server to TCP client mode, it can actively

connect to the server; when switching from TCP client to TCP server mode, it can disconnect from the server connection.

14. Remote device management

Remote device management refers to the ability to maintain and manage devices through Vircom software, including restarting devices, modifying parameters, and updating firmware. This feature is suitable for users who manage devices through Vircom.

For Vircom software, as long as the device can be found in the device list, remote management can be performed. Remote management of devices can be divided into the following situations:

1. Automatic search: Under the same switch, regardless of whether they are on the same network segment, the way Vircom searches for devices on a computer is: Vircom sends a broadcast query (all devices receive the query and reply with their parameters to the Vircom tool. This method searches for all devices at once.)



Figure 44 automatic search

2. Manually add: There are two situations:

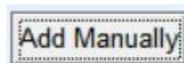


Figure 45 manually added

- a) Large routers divide the network: In some large networks, broadcast packets are divided by routers, so broadcast packets cannot reach the device end, but pinging the device IP is always through. At this point, manual addition is generally needed to solve the problem. The method of manual addition is to click "Manual Addition" in the "Device Management" dialog box to add the first and last IP for individual queries of the device.
- b) Public network server queries internal network devices: Serial servers are in the internal network and operate in TCP server mode, while vircom is on a

server with a public IP. At this point, a UDP port mapping of 1092 needs to be set up on the router of the network where the device is located, mapping to the IP of the device, and then vircom manually adds this device, with the IP being the public IP of the device end.

c)

3. TCP Client: When the device acts as a TCP client, it will initiate a TCP connection to the destination IP (116.15.2.3) on port 4196. Once the connection is established, it will automatically send its parameter system to the destination's UDP port (not the TCP port) every keep-alive time interval, allowing vircom to detect the device on this computer (116.15.2.3). If the destination port is not 4196, you will need to modify vircom's default parameter receiving port by changing the menu/config/software configuration/default listening port. After starting vircom, if a TCP port conflict message appears, ignore it and continue with the execution.

Work Mode	TCP Client
Net Mask	255 . 255 . 255 . 0
Gateway	192 . 168 . 1 . 1
Dest. IP/Domain	116.15.2.3 Local IP
Dest. Port	4196 <input type="checkbox"/> UDP Dynamic

Figure 46 Client

4. Scheduled transmission parameters: Even when in TCP server mode, the serial server can select the "Scheduled Transmission Parameters" feature to send parameters every 5 minutes to the destination IP (here, 116.15.2.3) on the destination port. The vircom on this server's port can receive parameters and manage these devices.

Work Mode	TCP Server	Keep Alive Time	60 (s)
Net Mask	255 . 255 . 255 . 0	Reconnet Time	12 (s)
Gateway	192 . 168 . 1 . 1	Http Port	80
Dest. IP/Domain	116.15.2.3 Local IP	UDP Group IP	230 . 90 . 76 . 1
Dest. Port	1024 <input type="checkbox"/> UDP Dynamic	<input type="checkbox"/> Register Pkt:	<input type="checkbox"/> ASCII
Serial		<input type="checkbox"/> Restart If No Data	every 300 Sec.
Baud Rate	115200	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enable Parameter Send	every 5 Min.

Figure 47 Timing transmission parameters

To facilitate the identification of devices, if remote management is required, please name the device something easy to remember.

15. Firmware upgrade method

NPS series device can upgrade individual programs, but not each other. You can use this method to upgrade the firmware of devices found in the device list by automatic search, manual add, or P2P search.

- 1 Get firmware files from Zolan, such as 1.452(2007).bin.
- 2 In the Vircom tool, first search the device that needs to be upgraded, and then enter the device parameter editing dialog box. First click "Restart Device" once.



Figure 49 Upgrade button

After the device restarts, use the same method to search for the device and enter the dialog box again. Click the "Firmware and Configuration" button in the lower right corner of the dialog box.



Figure 49 Upgrade button

- 3 Select the "Program File Download" option, as shown in Figure 50. In the

program file, select the firmware file. The IP address of the serial port server is automatically filled in, and the module type/model is automatically selected. Then click Download.

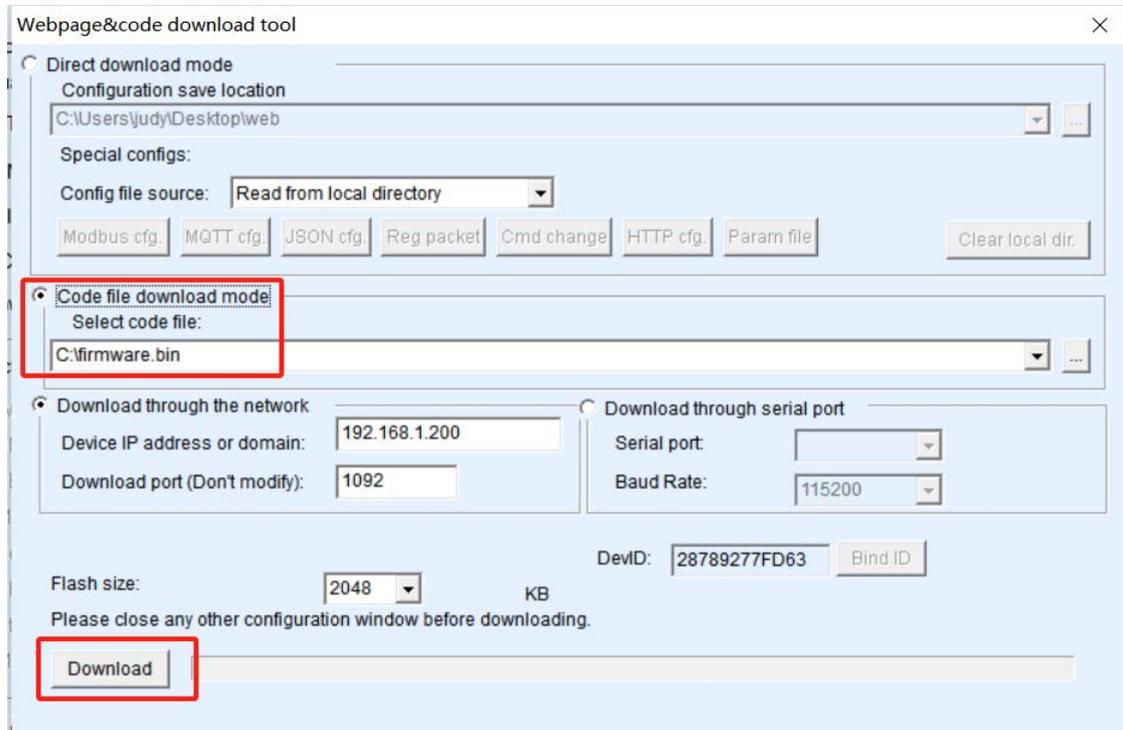


Figure 50 SN2007 firmware upgrade method

- 4 At this time, the download progress bar starts to move, and the download time is about 30 seconds. During the download process, you will see the ACT light of the device blink, and at the end of the download, you will see the LINK light blink several times. Then the program pops up "transmission completed LINK light flashing device do not power off" prompt box. Note: This is only the completion of transmission, write to the flash process takes about 3 seconds, at this time the LINK light will blink, during this period please do not power off.
- 5 After downloading the general program will automatically restart, generally do not need to power off. If the running indicator is blinking, stop the LINK indicator blinking for more than 30 seconds and power it on again.
- 6 Web Configuration interface update: After the firmware upgrade, the configuration page inside the module also needs to be updated. Otherwise, the configuration cannot be configured through the Web, but the communication

will not be affected. It is also possible not to download web pages without web configuration. The method of downloading Web is: as shown in Figure 51, change the download mode of "program file" to "Web directory download". In addition, select the root directory of the local web page as the directory of the web file to be downloaded (this directory can be obtained from Zolan), and click Download to download all files in the local web page directory to the internal file system of the device.

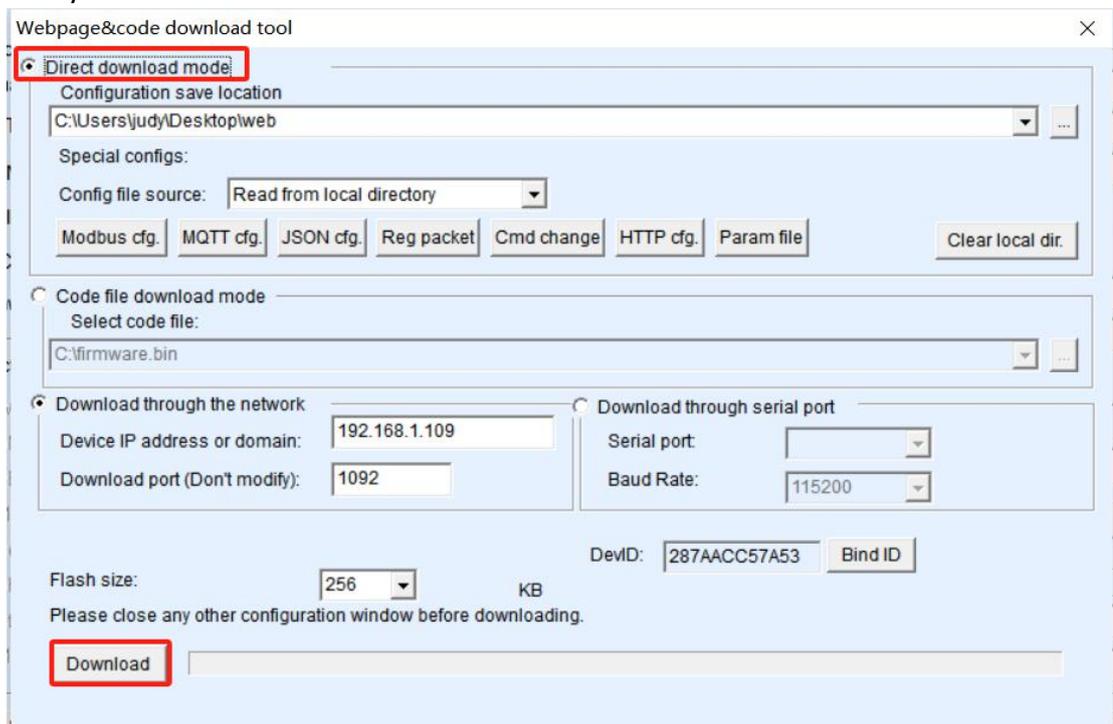


Figure 51 web upgrade method

7 Look out:

7.1 If the message "Download failure" is displayed, the device will not be damaged. You can download the device again. In addition, when the LINK light blinks at the end of the download, do not power off, otherwise the device will be damaged.

Check the firmware version through Vircom to know whether the new firmware has been downloaded successfully.