


13.3 Modbus Slave

WCC Lite can act as one (or several) of slave devices in a communication line. This can be used to transmit data to SCADA systems or other RTU devices. It can reply to a messages from Modbus Master with matching device and register addresses.

Configuring datapoints

To use Modbus Slave in WCC Lite, it has to be configured via an Excel configuration. This configuration contains two Excel sheets where parameters have to be filled in - Devices and Signals

 If TCP/IP is used as a trasmission medium, only devices with IPs predefined in host column are allowed to connect. All other connections are rejected

Modbus Slave parameters for Devices tab

Parameter	Type	Description	Required		Default Value (when not specified)	Range	
			TCP	RTU/A SCII		Min	Max
name	string	User-friendly name for a device	Yes	Yes			
description	string	Description of a device	No	No			
device_alias	string	Alphanumeric string to identify a device	Yes	Yes	unknown		
enable	boolean	Enabling/disabling of a device	No	No	1	0	1
protocol	string	Protocol to be used	Yes	Yes		Modbus serial Slave, Modbus TCP Slave	
host	string	Space separated host IP addresses of master device	Yes	-			
port	integer	TCP port to listen for incoming connections	Yes	-			
bind_address	string	IP address of network adapter used to connect to slave device (Default: "0.0.0.0")	No	No	0.0.0.0		
keep_alive_timeout	integer	Minimum time a connection can be idle without being closed in milliseconds	No	No	60		
mode	string	Choosing between RTU ("rtu"), ASCII ("ascii") and TCP("tcp") modes. ASCII is the same as RTU, but with ASCII symbols.	No	No	TCP (for TCP) RTU (for Serial)	rtu, ascii, tcp	
device	string	Communication port ("PORT1"/"PORT2")	-	Yes		PORT1	PORT2
baudrate	integer	Communication speed, baud/s	-	Yes	9600	300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, 9600, 19200, 38400, 57600, 115200	
databits	integer	Data bit count for communication	-	Yes	8	6	9
stopbits	integer	Stop bit count for communication	-	Yes	1	1	2
parity	string	Communication parity option	-	Yes	none	none, even, odd	

flowcontrol	string	Communication device's flow control option.	-	No	none	none
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Modbus Slave parameters for Signals tab

Parameter	Type	Description	Required		Default Value (when not specified)	Range	
			TCP	RTU/A SCII		Min	Max
signal_name	string	User-friendly signal name	Yes	Yes			
device_alias	string	Alphanumeric string to identify a device	Yes	Yes			
signal_alias	string	Unique alphanumeric name of the signal to be Yes used	Yes	Yes			
enable	boolean	Enabling/disabling an individual signal	No	No	1	0	1
number_type	string	Type of a number (FLOAT, DOUBLE, DIGITAL, etc.). This defines the size that will be read.	Yes	Yes			
log	integer	Size of this signal's log in the Event log.	No	No	0		
slave_id	integer	Address of a slave device	Yes	Yes			
function	integer	Function number	Yes	Yes			
register_addresses	integer	Register address	Yes	Yes			


Device status signals

Modbus slave has an additional signal which can be configured to show communication status. It is used to indicate if the master device has disconnected from slave (WCC Lite). To configure such signal for Modbus protocol, `job_todo` and `tag_job_todo` fields with string values are required. For Modbus slave required parameters for status signal will be: **signal_name**, **device_alias**, **signal_alias**, **number_type**, **slave_id**, **function**, **register_address**, **job_todo** and **tag_job_todo**. `job_todo` value must be `device_status` and for `tag_job_todo` there are 4 variations: `communication_status`, `device_running`, `device_error`, `unknown_error`. Each signal has 4 possible values and are based on the same logic. If signal returns value of 0, it means unknown error has appeared, 1 – device or protocol connection is on and working properly, 2 – device is off or protocol is disconnected, 3 – error or service is down.

Mapping values to registers

Internally stored values aren't organised in a register-like order, therefore mapping should be done by the user. This mapping includes setting an address of the device WCC Lite is simulating as well as function number, register number and how much 16-bit registers are used to store a value. These values should be set in `common_address`, `function`, `info_address` and `size` columns respectively in the Excel configuration.

To find out how many register should be used for storing a values, how values can have their values swapped, a user should consult a section `number_type`.

 If a Modbus master device requests a data from a register that is mapped but doesn't yet have initial value, **ILLEGAL DATA ADDRESS** error code will be returned. The same error code is returned if a requested size of value is bigger than defined or if register is not configured at all.

Debugging a Modbus Slave application

If configuration for Modbus Slave is set up, handler for protocol will start automatically. If configuration is missing or contains errors, protocol will not start. It is done intentionally to decrease unnecessary memory usage.

Modbus Slave command line debugging options

```
modbus-slave
```

```
-h [ -help ] Display help information
-V [ -version ] Show version
-d<debug level> Set debugging level
-c [ -config ] Config path
-r [ -raw ] Show raw telegram data
-f [ -frame ] Show frame data
-s [ -serial ] Show serial port data
-tcp Show tcp packets
-ascii Show ASCII messages
-rtu Show RTU messages
-e [ -redis ] Show redis debug information
-R [ -readyfile ] Ready notification file
```



If Modbus Slave does not work properly (e.g. no communication between devices, data is corrupted, etc.), a user can launch a debug session from command line interface and find out why link is not functioning properly.



To launch a debugging session, a user should stop `modbus-slave` process and run `modbus-slave` command with respective flags as shown above.

🔄Revision #11

★Created 20 December 2022 11:56:21 by Gabriele

✎Updated 31 August 2023 13:41:39 by Gabriele