

Alpha Keys™ software



Easily upgrade an A3 ALPHA® and ALPHA Plus® meter without returning it to the factory.

Alpha Keys is a combination of hardware and software that can perform either meter type upgrades (for example, upgrade a demand only meter [A3D] to a time of use meter [A3T]) or function upgrades (for example, add load profile).

The Metercat™ installation CD includes Alpha Keys software. When the CD is inserted, an option to "Install Alpha Keys" is displayed on the Metercat AutoRun dialog.

Features

Alpha Keys software. Windows-based software that performs the meter upgrade

Hard Key III. A physical device that attaches to any USB (universal serial bus) port of a computer and acts as a storage container for the Soft Keys. The Hard Key can be detached from one computer and moved to another as long as the computer has a USB port and both Metercat and Alpha Keys software installed.

Soft Keys. Software counters stored in the Hard Key that allow specific upgrades to occur. One Soft Key permits one upgrade of one meter; the Soft Keys counters are decremented accordingly as upgrades are performed.

Alpha Keys allows you to easily transfer Soft Keys from one Hard Key to another to better manage your Soft Key inventory.

Additionally, you can purchase Soft Keys to replenish your existing Hard Key. Elster will email you a key replenishment file that you can import into the Alpha Keys software to increment the appropriate Soft Keys.

Alpha Keys logs all actions performed with the software to a file which can be easily viewed and printed.

Current meter type	Upgraded to
A1D+	A1T+, A1K+, A1R+
A1T+	A1K+, A1R+
A1K+	A1R+
A1R+	A1K+
A3D	A3T, A3K, A3R
A3T	A3K, A3R
A3K	A3R
A3R	A3K

Technology to empower utilities

In addition, the following options can be added to the meter using Alpha Keys:

Meter function upgrades	Can be added to
Power quality monitoring (PQM)	A1D+, A1T+, A1K+, A1R+, A3D, A3T, A3Q, A3K, A3R
Load profiling (LP)	A1T+, A1K+, A1R+, A3T, A3Q, A3K, A3R
Instrumentation profiling (IP)	A3TL, A3QL, A3KL, A3RL
Transformer and line loss compensation (LC)	A3Q, A3R
Advanced 4-quadrant metering (Adv 4Q)	A3Q, A3K, A3R

System requirements

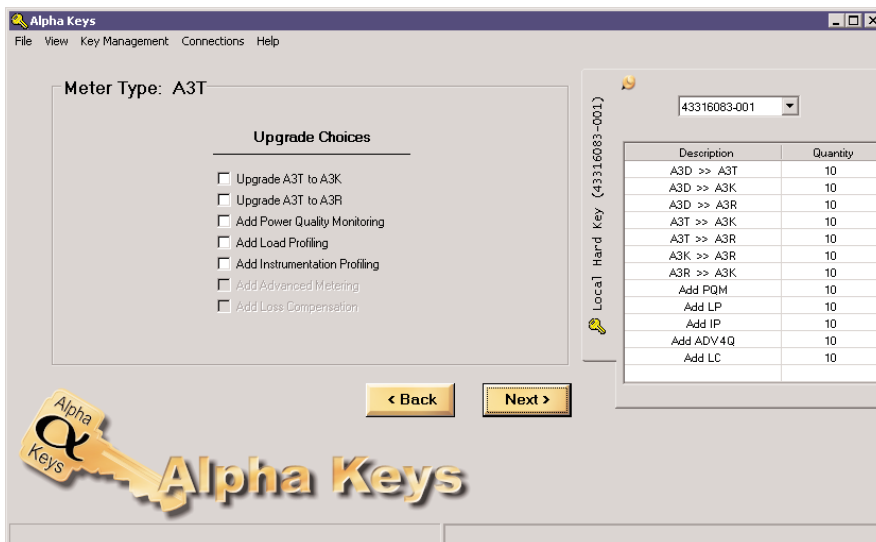
- Intel Pentium, Celeron family; AMD K6, Athlon, Duron family; or other compatible processor recommended with appropriate keyboard and pointing device
- 32 MB of RAM (64 MB recommended)
- At least 10 MB of hard disk space
- CD drive (or network access to the installation CD)
- SVGA monitor (minimum resolution of 800 x 600 pixels)
- Windows 2000/XP/Vista
- USB port

Other requirements

- Metercat 1.95 or later installed
- Microsoft .NET Framework 2.0 or later (automatically installed with Alpha Keys)
- MDAC 2.71 or later (included on the CD ROM)
- Internet Explorer 5.01 or higher
- Optical probe
- Alpha Keys USB Hard Key III with Soft Keys for meter upgrades

About Elster Group

A world leader in advanced metering infrastructure, integrated metering, and utilization solutions to the gas, electricity and water industries, Elster's systems and solutions reflect over 170 years of knowledge and experience in measuring precious resources and energy. Elster provides solutions and advanced technologies to help utilities more easily, efficiently and reliably obtain and use advanced metering intelligence to improve customer service, enhance operational efficiency, and increase customer benefits. Elster's AMI solutions enable utilities to cost-effectively deliver, manage, and conserve the life-essential resources of gas, electricity, and water. Elster has over 7500 staff and operations in 38 countries in North and South America, Europe, and Asia.



Sample Alpha Keys window

Elster
208 S Rogers Lane
Raleigh, NC 27610-2144
United States

T +1 800 338 5251 (US toll free)
T +1 905 634 4895 (Canada)
F +1 919 250 4801

support@us.elster.com
www.elster.com

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