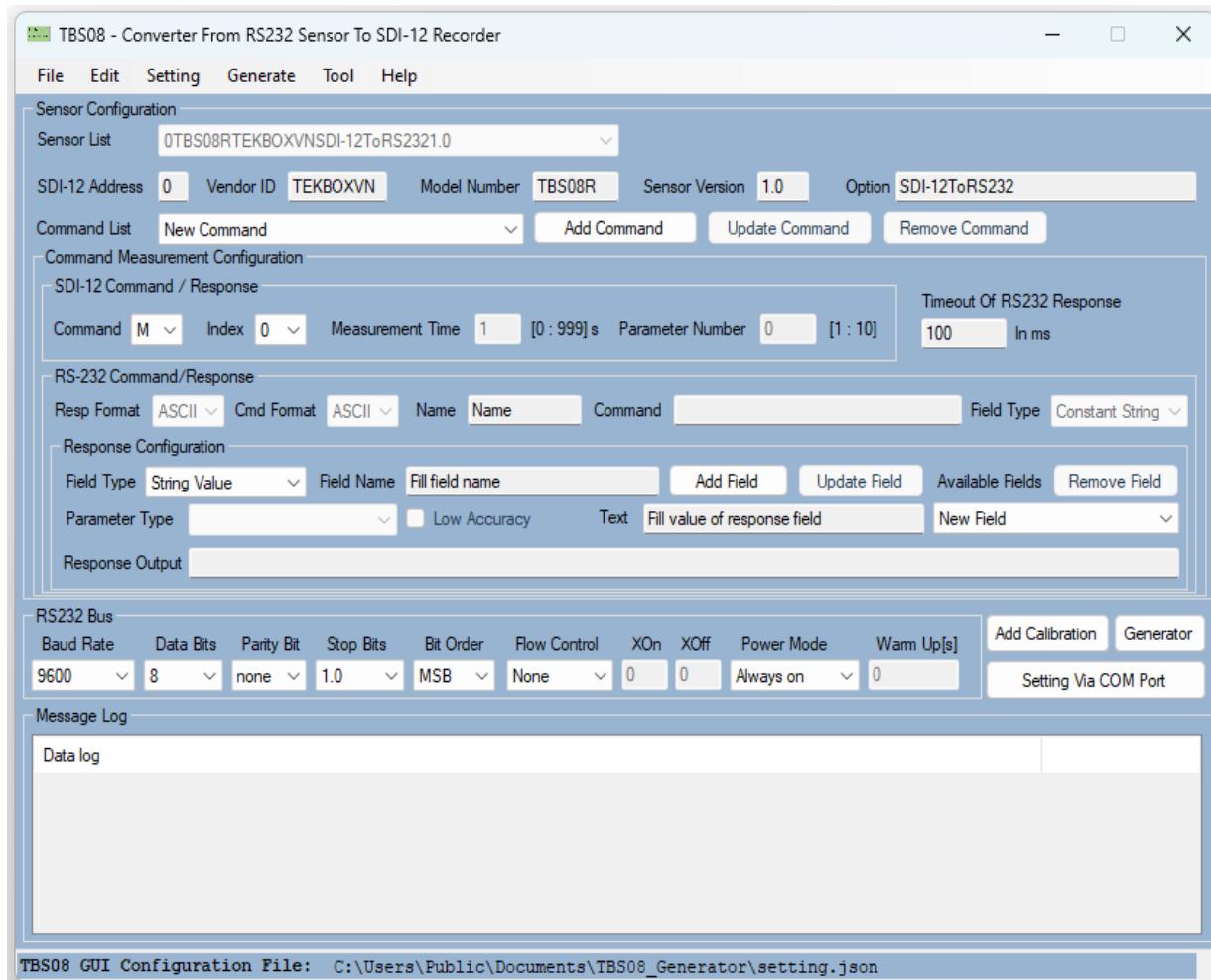


SDI-12 Configuration commands generator



TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

1 Introduction

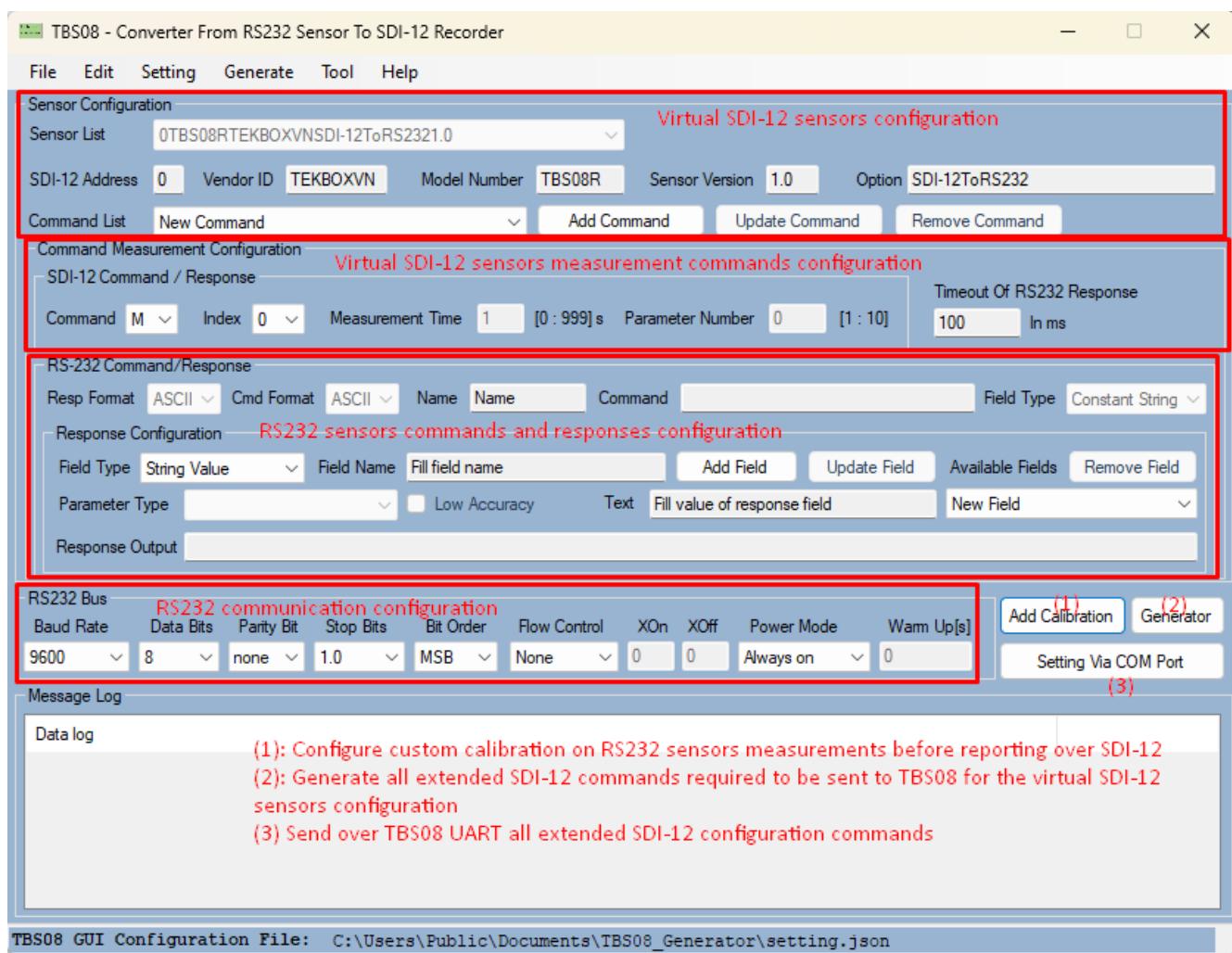
TBS08 requires extensive use of external SDI-12 commands to proceed with the SDI-12 to RS232 conversion configuration.

In order to ease this process, TBS08 generator tool can be used to generate all required extended commands by setting the desired configuration in the GUI.

These extended SDI-12 commands will have then to be sent from the SDI-12 data recorder to TBS08 or they can be directly sent from the GUI to TBS08 through its UART COM port.

2 Configuration flow

The tool main interface is divided into 4 configuration sections:



TBS08

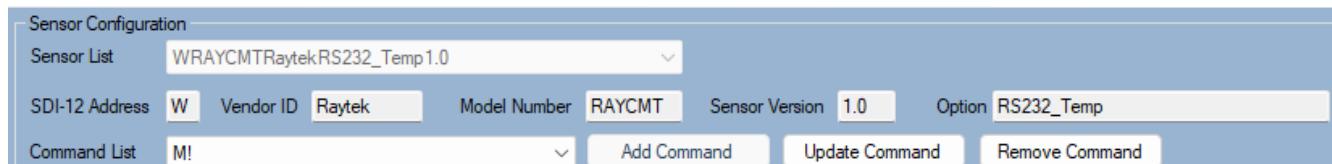
SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

The configuration must be done in the following order:

- *Virtual SDI-12 Sensor Configuration:*
 - Creation of a virtual SDI-12 sensor and address that will allow taking measurements from the connected RS232 sensor over SDI-12.
 - Add/Update/Remove SDI-12 commands to/from virtual SDI-12 sensors
 - Customize virtual SDI-12 sensor identification
- *Command Configuration:*
 - Map SDI-12 commands to RS232 commands and define how to parse RS232 sensors measurement responses.
- *Add Calibration:*
 - This step is optional
 - It allows applying various kind of calibration methods to RS232 sensors measurements that are returned over SDI-12.
- *RS232 bus:*
 - Configured RS232 communication parameters
 - Select TBS08 power mode and warm-up time

3 RS232 sensor mapping to virtual SDI-12 sensor

3.1 Virtual SDI-12 sensor definition



This allows defining the fields related to the virtual SDI-12 sensor response to SDI-12 identification command `!!`. Any change to these parameters automatically updates the sensor identification in *Sensor List*.

3.2 Assign SDI-12 command

Once a virtual SDI-12 sensor has been created, SDI-12 commands need to be assigned.

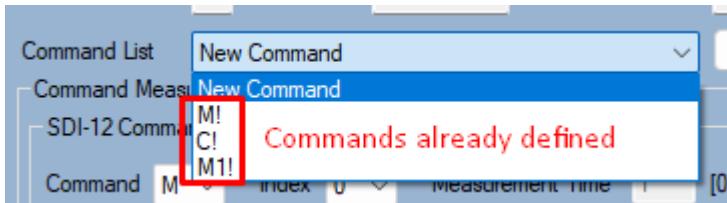
Choose *New Command* from *Command List* menu:



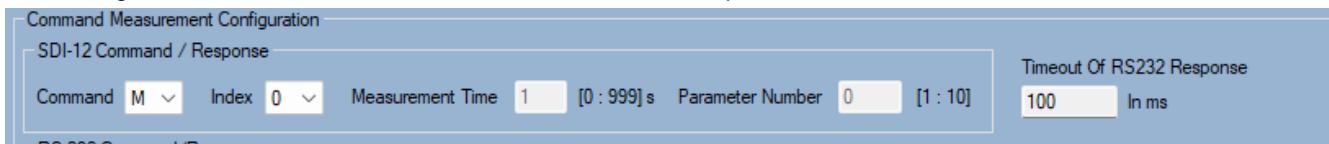
TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

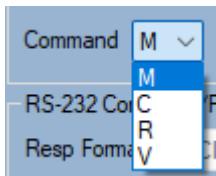
This shall be done to add any new SDI-12 command:



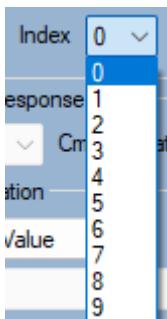
The configuration of the SDI-12 command is done in the sub-panel:



Select the desired SDI-12 command to configure:



Then choose the applicable index:

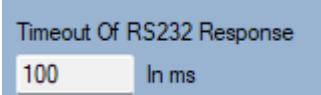


Both SDI-12 measurement time and number of returned measurements will be automatically calculated and updated by the tool at the end of the configuration phase:



It shall be noted that the measurement time is made of three variables:

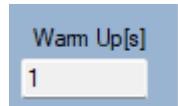
- RS232 response timeout, it can be configured here:



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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

- Warm up time, it can be configured here:

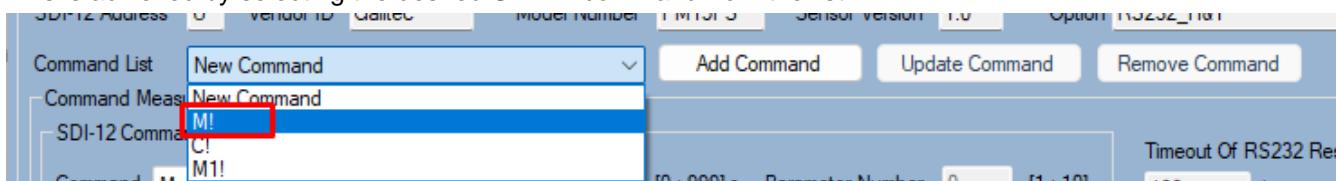


- Additional 1s to compensate for TBS08 internal processing.

Once the SDI-12 command has been selected, the next step consists in defining the matching RS232 command and response. Only then will it be possible to add the created command.

3.3 Updating or removing an existing SDI-12 command

This is achieved by selecting the desired SDI-12 command from the list



and then either clicking on *Update Command* or *Remove Command*

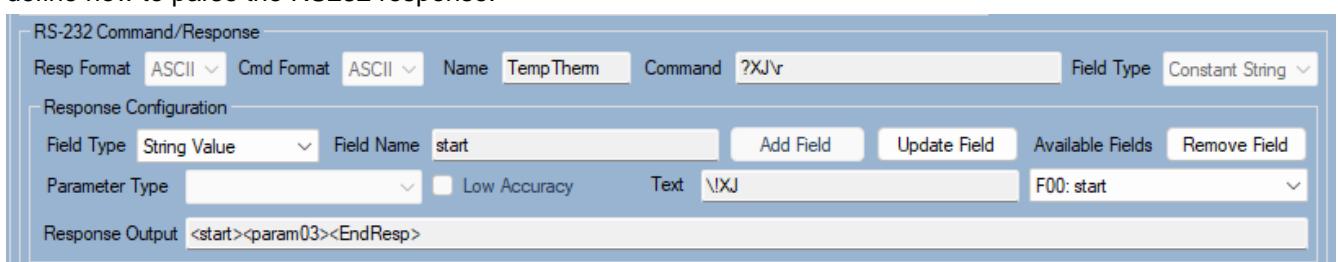


3.4 Configuring RS232 command

Once an SDI-12 command has been defined for the virtual SDI-12 sensor, it is needed then to configure the matching RS232 command.

Following example is based on Raytek CML RS232 infrared temperature sensor.

The RS232 sensor configuration panel is made of 2 parts, one to input the RS232 command and the other to define how to parse the RS232 response:



NOTE:

To avoid any misconfiguration with SDI-12 commands, the following special characters need to be input as follows:

TBS08

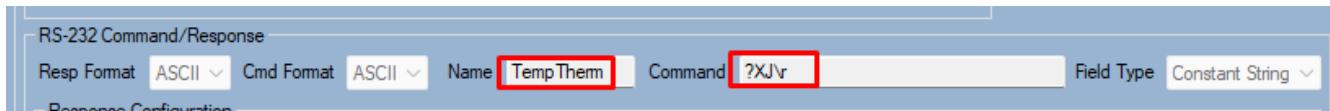
SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

- ! => input as \! to avoid any conflict with SDI-12 command end character (!)
- Carriage return => input as \r
- Line feed => input as \n

3.4.1 Define RS232 command

Only 2 fields need to be defined: one for the command's description (aka *Name*) and one for the RS232 command itself (aka *Command*)

For instance, Raytek RS232 command to read the temperature is defined as:



Note that the mandatory carriage return character (as instructed in Raytek CM user manual) is encoded as \r.

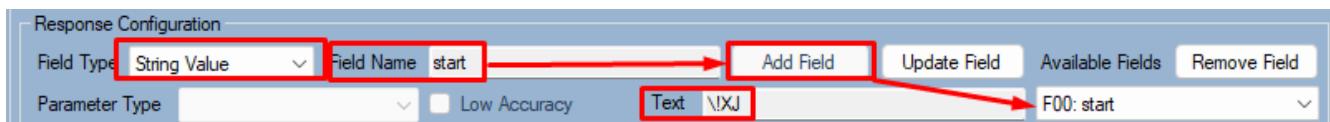
3.4.2 Define RS232 response

The next step consists in describing how the RS232 sensor's response must be parsed.

Raytek response to above command is made of 3 fields:

- A header
 - => represented as an ASCII string
- The temperature value
 - => represented as a float
- End characters
 - => represented as an ASCII string

Header:



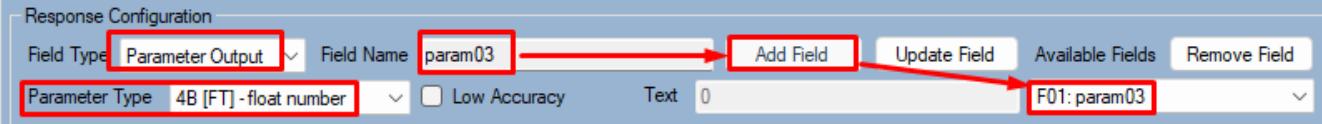
The *Field Type* shall be selected as *String Value*, then input the field's description and the string corresponding to this header (\!XJ – Note: ! is one of the 3 special characters mentioned above and shall be entered as \!).

Finally add the field, it will create field tag F00.

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

Temperature:



The *Field Type* shall be selected as *Parameter Output* and the *Parameter Type* set to *float number*. Finally add the field, it will create field tag F01.

Termination characters:

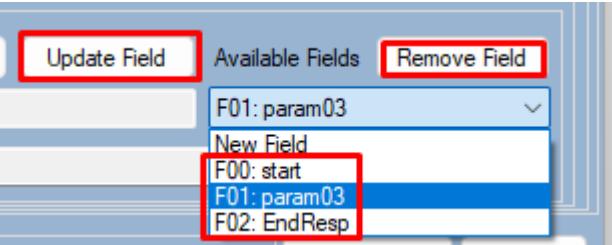


Raytek sensor adds CR/EOL as termination characters therefore they will be input as *\r\n* string. The *Field Type* shall be selected as *String Value*, then input the field's description and the string corresponding to this termination (*\r\n*). Finally add the field, it will create field tag F02.

The sensor's response will therefore be parsed as:



All field can be selected from this drop-down list and updated/removed if needed:



If a field needs to be updated, change the desired parameters and then:



Update Field Update the field
 Update Command Update the command

TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

3.4.3 Parameter output format

TBS08 supports the following parameters format:

Parameter Type	4B [FT] - float number
Response Output	1B [SC] - sign char 1B [UC] - unsigned char 2B [SS] - sign short 2B [US] - unsigned short 4B [SI] - sign integer 4B [UI] - unsigned integer
RS232 Bus	8
Sample Rate	4B [FT] - float number
Message Log	8B [IL] - long Number 8B [UL] - unsigned long 8B [DB] - double number
Serial Log	1B [H1] - Hexdecimal 1B 2B [H2] - Hexdecimal 2B
Generate external commands	4B [H4] - Hexdecimal 4B 8B [H8] - Hexdecimal 8B
RS232 external commands	

Due to the limitations of SDI-12 protocol regarding the maximum number of digits that can be used to return measurements (7 digits + sign + optional decimal point), there is an accuracy loss while using float numbers and double/long numbers can't be correctly reported.

In this case, TBS08 uses a special encoding to allow reporting these values over SDI-12: to leverage this option it is required to switch from *Low Accuracy* to *High Accuracy* mode:



Therefore, TBS08 allows defining 2 different accuracy modes for the returned measurement values:

- Low accuracy mode: the measurement value is represented as a float coded over 7 digits with decimal point as per SDI-12 standard (so the measurement value will be rounded if exceeded 7 digits).
- High accuracy mode: the MODBUS sensor measurement value is converted to hexadecimal floating point (4 bytes – B3 B2 B1 B0) and each 2 bytes pair (B3B2 and B1B0) is reported as an SDI-12 measurement. In this case, after having been collected by the SDI-12 data logger the measurement value must be reconstructed by the backend application.

Below example shows how the RS232 sensor measurement value +45236.36818 is reported over SDI-12 in both accuracy modes.

Low accuracy mode	
RS232 sensor measurement (decimal float value)	+45236.36718
aD0! Response	a+45236.37 Value rounded to be represented over 7 digits as per SDI-12 standard
High accuracy mode	
RS232 sensor measurement (decimal float format)	+45236.36718

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RS232 sensor measurement (hexadecimal floating-point format)	0x4730B45E			
	Byte3	Byte2	Byte1	Byte0
	47	30	B4	5E
	Hexadecimal: 4730 Decimal: 18224		Hexadecimal: B45E Decimal: 46174	
aD0! Response	a+18224+46174			

The user shall therefore be cautious when selecting the accuracy mode, keeping in mind that the low accuracy mode is only suitable for values ranging from -9999999/+9999999 to comply with SDI-12 standard.

Would larger numbers be required or having decimal numbers whose total number of digits is more than 7 then the high accuracy mode shall be selected.

The principle is the same regarding long and double numbers which are encoded over 64 bits instead of 32 bits for float numbers. Their hexadecimal representation is then split over 4 measurement values (8 bytes: B7B6 | B5B4 | B3B2 | B1B0) over SDI-12 instead of 2 for float numbers.

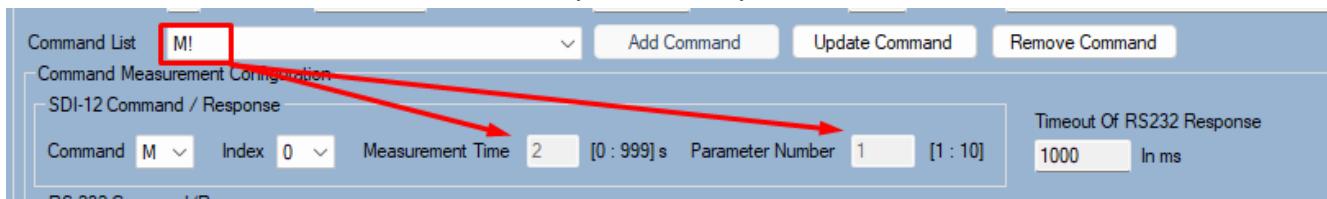
It is then up to the SDI-12 data logger or the backend service to reconstruct the right decimal values.

3.5 Creation of the virtual SDI-12 sensor mapped to RS232 command

Once the RS232 sensor command and response fields have been defined, the virtual SDI-12 sensor can be finally created by clicking on *Add Command*:



The created SDI-12 command becomes available in the Command List and both SDI-12 measurement time and number of measurement values are automatically calculated by the tool:



With this example, a virtual SDI-12 sensor has been created so the SDI-12 data recorder can send SDI-12 command 0M! and then retrieve the RS232 sensor measurement value (the measured temperature) after 2s through TBS08.

Subsequent SDI-12 commands can be defined likewise depending on the need.

3.6 About SDI-12 measurement commands with CRC

The SDI-12 standard defines commands additional measurement commands with CRC:

- MC!, MC1!, ... MC9!
- CC!, CC1!, ... CC9!

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

- RC0!, RC1!, ... RC9!

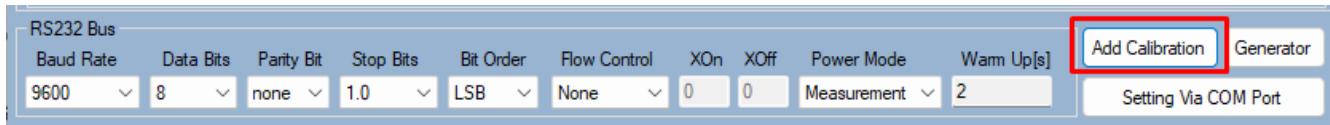
TBS08 supports these measurement commands with CRC although they don't appear in the available SDI-12 command list.

As long as M, C or R commands have been configured with the GUI, TBS08 will automatically handle any measurement command with CRC (MC, CC, RC) sent by the SDI-12 data logger.

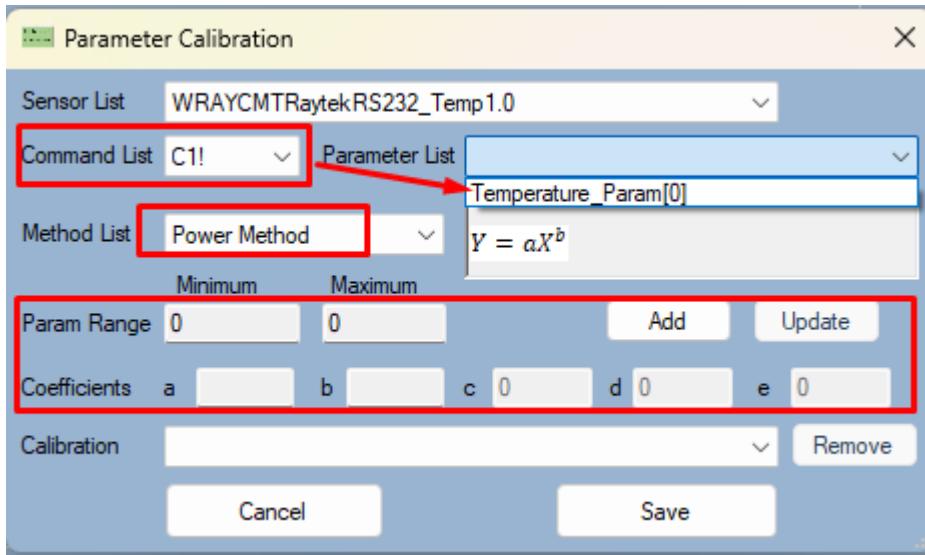
So, there's no need for further configuration for commands with CRC.

4 Calibration

If required, TBS08 can be configured to apply calibration over RS232 sensor measurement values before reporting them over SDI-12. Click on the calibration button:



This will open a configuration window:



- Select the SDI-12 command
- Select the measurement value which requires calibration
- Select the method to be applied (Power, Linear, Percentage, Polynomial, Logarithmic, Exponential)
- Enter required coefficients
- Add and Save

Any calibration can be updated if needed, in that case click on *Update* and *Save* after setting the new parameters.

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

NOTE:

A maximum number of 5 calibration methods can be programmed to TBS08 (so if there are 10 measurement values, only up to 5 can be calibrated).

5 RS232 communication

5.1 RS232 bus

The RS232 communication parameters can be customized to tune the baud rate, the parity and the number of data and stop bits:

RS232 Bus							
Baud Rate	Data Bits	Parity Bit	Stop Bits	Bit Order	Flow Control	XOn	XOff
9600	8	none	1.0	LSB	None	0	0

5.2 Power modes

RS232 sensor power source is configured via this combo box:

Power Mode	Warm Up[s]
Measurement	1
Always on	
Measurement	
External	

- *Always On*
 - In this mode, TBS08 constantly powers connected RS232 sensor
- *Measurement*
 - In this mode, TBS08 powers connected RS232 sensor only while taking measurements and after applying the configured *Warm Up Time*
- *External*
 - RS232 sensor is externally supplied so TBS08 does not deliver any power to the connected sensor.

6 Generate TBS08 extended SDI-12 configuration commands

6.1 TBS08 configuration commands

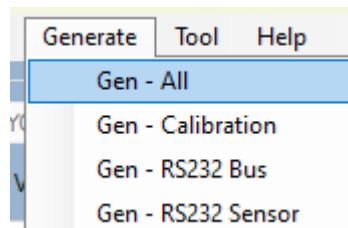
List of extended commands to perform a global configuration of TBS08 can then be generated by clicking on:

Generator

TBS08

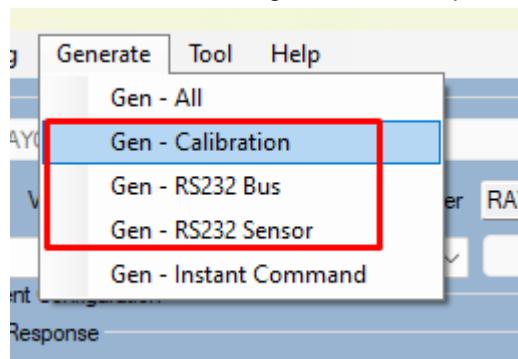
SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

Or selecting:

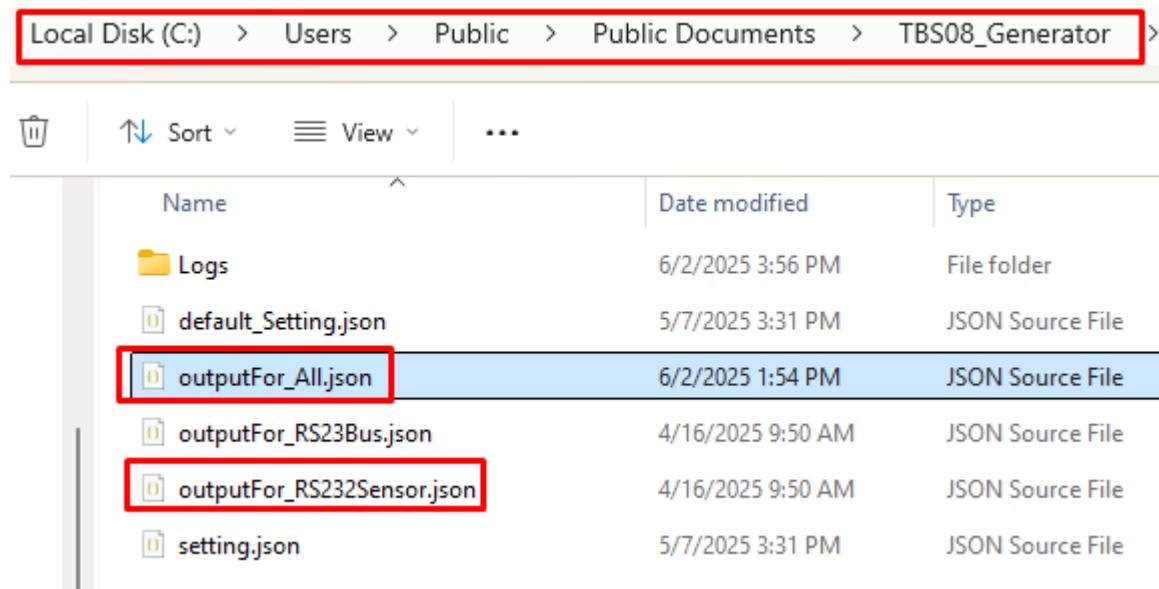


This generates all extended SDI-12 configuration commands.

Extended commands generation for specific feature can be selected from the list:



The list of generated commands is saved into a file *outputFor_<name>.json* where *<name>* is *All*, *Calibration*, *RS232Bus* or *RS232Sensor*.



TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

6.2 Sending extended configuration commands to TBS08 from an SDI-12 data recorder

All SDI-12 extended commands that shall be sent to TBS08 are found in *outputFor_All.json* file. All of them must be sent one by one from the SDI-12 data recorder:

```
① outputFor_All.json x
C:\> Users > Public > Documents > TBS08_Generator > ① outputFor_All.json > ...

1  [  ]
2  [  ]
3  " | No | ----- External Commands ----- | ----- Descriptions ----- "
4  " | 01 | XSTPM! | stop | Enter TBS08 Configuration Mode
5  " | 02 | XSRFB,9600,1,0,1,0,0,0,0 | set | Rsn Bus, baudrate, data bit, parity bit, stop bit, flow control
6  " | 03 | XSRPB,1,2! | set | Rsn Power Bus, Power mode, Warm Up Time
7  " | 04 | XCVR! | clear | Reset sensor's configuration
8  " | 05 | XAVRS,W,Raytek,RAYCMT,1,0,RS232_Temp! | add | RS232 sensor, sdi-12 address, vendor ID, Model ID, Sensor Version, Option Field
9  " | 06 | XSVSA,W,0,0! | set | Parameter Format, swap parameters, parameters accuracy
10 " | 07 | XAVSC,W,M,0,0,0,1000! | add | virtual SDI-12 Command, SDI-12 CMD name, Index of CMD
```

NOTE:

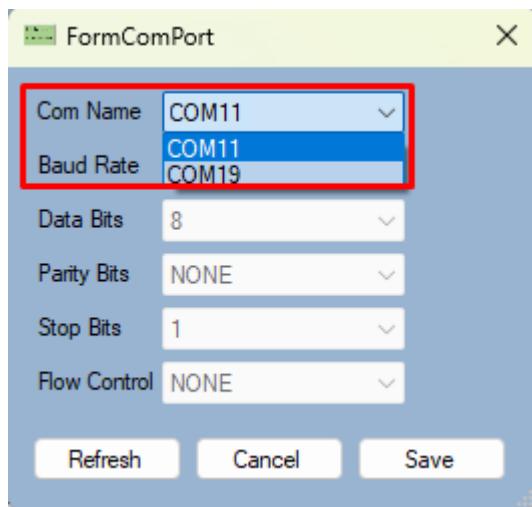
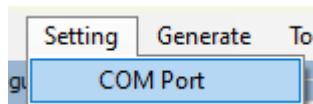
- TBS08 SDI-12 address shall be appended to these commands (and not the address of the virtual SDI-12 sensor !)
- The delay between each extended command should be at least 1s

6.3 Sending extended configuration commands through TBS08 UART

It is also possible to configure TBS08 without any SDI-12 data logger.

Above configuration commands can be sent directly from the GUI to TBS08 through its UART port.

Set the PC serial USB COM port to be used:

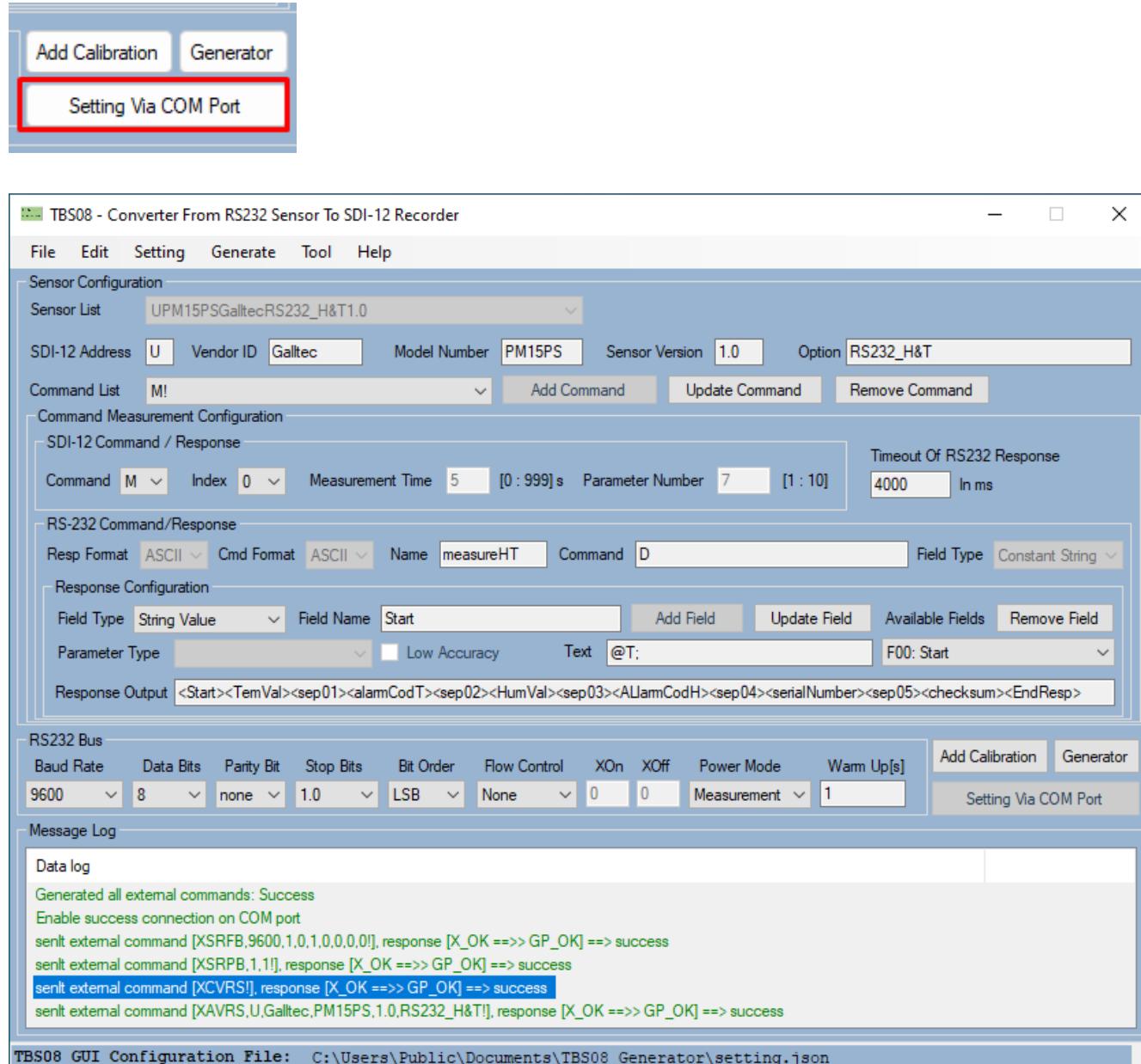


Other UART parameters can't be modified as they're matching with TBS08 UART configuration.

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

Once the right COM port has been set, TBS08 can then be configured by clicking:



TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

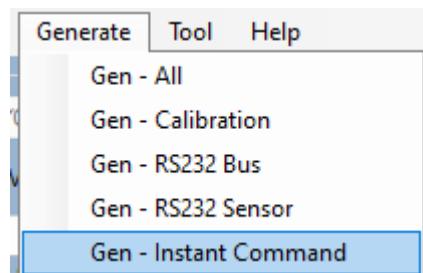
7 Other features

7.1 Direct access to RS232 sensor from an SDI-12 data logger

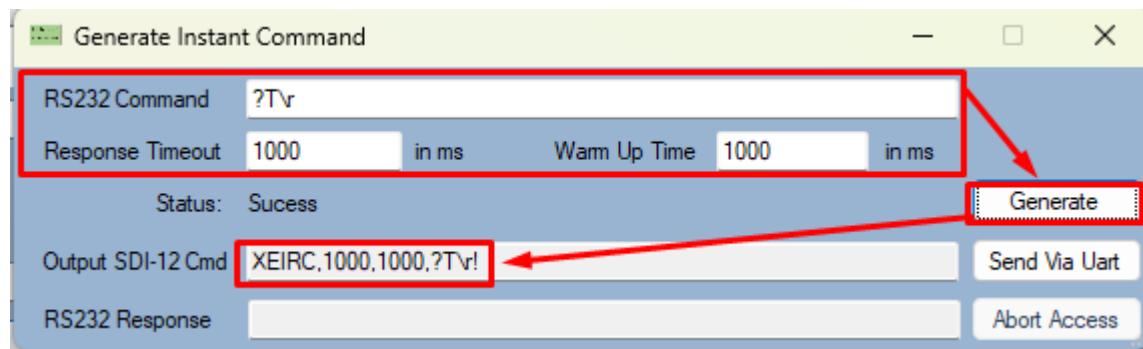
For testing purpose, it can be handy to directly access to the RS232 sensor without having to map virtual SDI-12 commands and define the RS232 command/response format.

Therefore, TBS08 provides a tool to build a specific extended SDI-12 command that embeds the RS232 command to be directly sent to RS232 sensor, either from an SDI-12 data recorder or directly from the GUI over TBS08 UART port.

Click on *Gen - Instant Command* to launch the generator for direct RS232 access:



Send RS232 command through TBS08 with an SDI-12 extended command from an SDI-12 data recorder



Proceed with the following steps:

- Input the desired RS232 command and set both RS232 response timeout and warm-up time
- Click on *Generate*
- The extended SDI-12 command is generated in *Output SDI-12 Cmd* box
- Send that command from a SDI-12 data recorder
- Wait for (*Response Timeout* + *Warm-up Time*) rounded to the upper second boundary
- Retrieve the RS232 sensor's response with **XGIRR!**

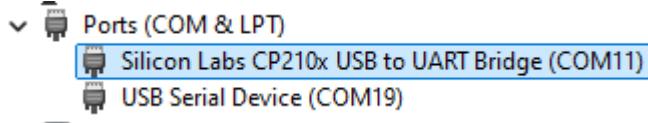
TBS08

SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

Send RS232 command directly from TBS08 GUI to the RS232 sensor over UART port

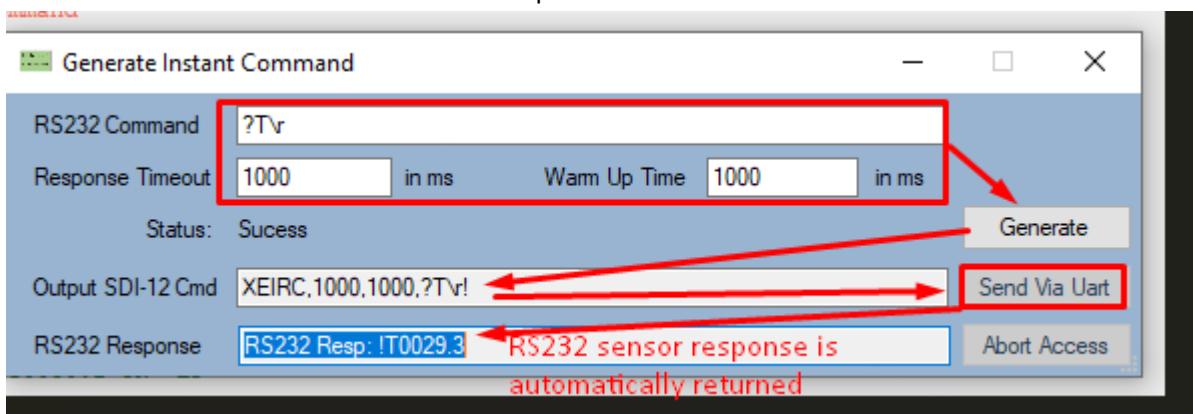
In this case, TBS08 must be connected to a PC via its UART port (CON1 – refer to TBS08 user manual) using a USB serial converter.

The mounted virtual COM port (using a USB serial converter) appears in Windows Device Manager



and shall be [correctly set in the GUI](#).

Then the process is similar to previous case except that by clicking *Send Via Uart*, the GUI will automatically send the RS232 to TBS08 which will return the response from the RS232 sensor:



Proceed with the following steps:

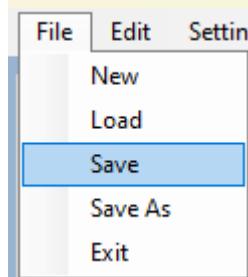
- Input the desired RS232 command and set both RS232 response timeout and warm-up time
- Click on *Generate*
- The extended SDI-12 command is generated in *Output SDI-12 Cmd* box
- Click on *Send Via Uart*
- The connected RS232 sensor's response will be automatically displayed in *RS232 Response* box after that (*Response Timeout* + *Warm-up time* + 1s) have elapsed
 - Would the sensor not be responding or have a very large response time, it's possible to abort the measurement by clicking on *Abort Access*.

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SDI-12 Configuration commands generator

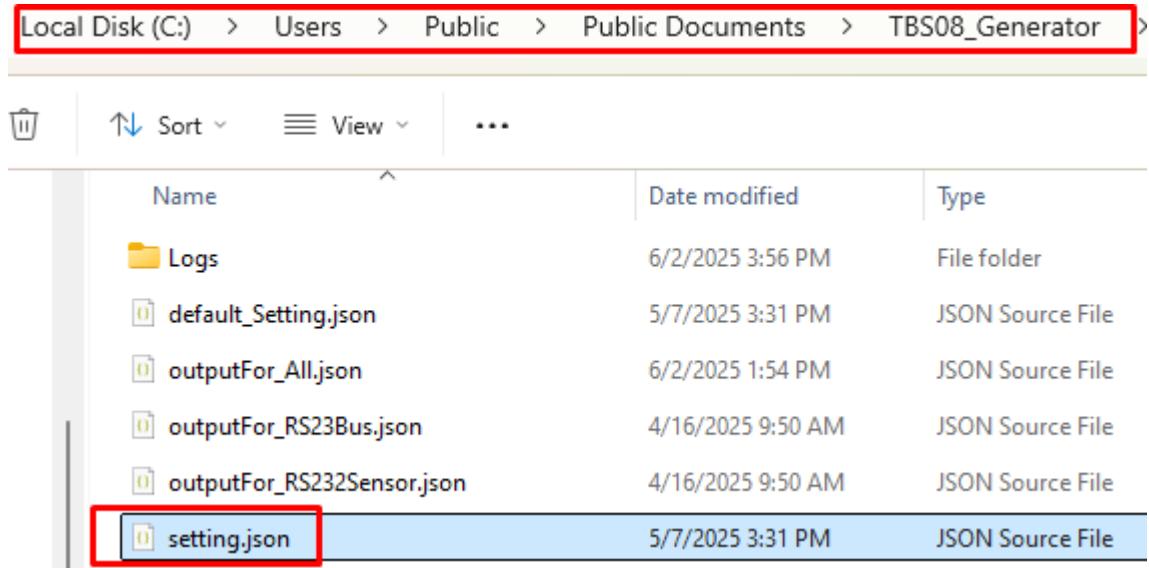
7.2 Saving/restoring GUI settings

While using the GUI to configure the extended commands, it's possible to save and restore the configuration:



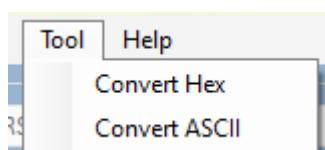
This is useful to keep templates that can be later on customized.

By default, the configuration is saved to:



7.3 ASCII-hexadecimal data converter

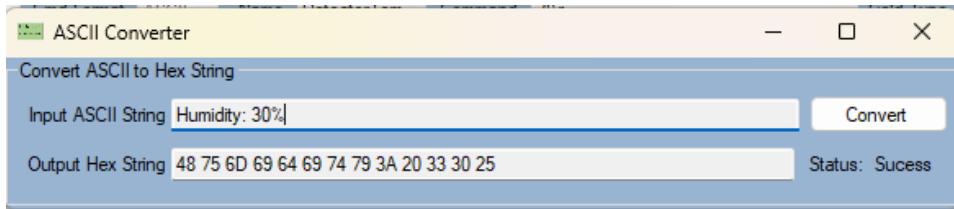
An ASCII-hexadecimal converter is embedded within the GUI to ease the decoding of hexadecimal strings to ASCII and vice versa:



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Simply enter the desired ASCII or hexadecimal string and click on *Convert*:



8 History

Version	Date	Author	Changes
V1.0	05.06.2025	Philippe Hervieu	Creation of the document