Upgrading your Sicon-8 to main firmware version 1.42, or higher

Upgrading your Sicon-8 is actually a pretty easy job and it only takes a couple of minutes, but it must be done properly for your Sicon-8 to function right after the upgrade. Carefully following the proceedure below will insure that your upgrade goes smoothly and that all of your configuration data is preserved and restored to the Sicon-8 after the upgrade. If you are planning to upgrade your unit, please carefully read and understand this entire document before proceeding with any upgrades. Once you are familiar with the instructions, we suggest printing this document and using it as a checklist while you proceed with the upgrade process.

Using your existing Sicontroller software, you should save your site file. We also suggest that you export your site file as a backup, using the "export" function. The difference between a site file and an export file is that the site file contains your access codes and the exported files don't. The original site files can be accidentally overwritten if you download from your Sicon-8 and then save or exit the Sicontroller software. The exported files are not overwritten unless specifically told to do so by you. You can also use the "save sitefile as" function to save your site file under a new name.

You should also download your event schedule form your Sicon-8 and save it as well. Even if you don't use the event scheduler for station duties, the scheduler has a Web server reset function programmed into it and also has a log meters function. These are on events 80 and 81 and should be saved.

If you don't have any valid site files, you can always download the current setup information, *from* your Sicon-8 hardware, to your software and save that data, then later upload it after the upgrade.

Once you have saved your setup, close the Sicontroller software and install the latest software version.

Next, use the new Sicontroller software's "Upgrade Firmware" function, found in the "Site" menu to update your Sicon-8's firmware to the latest version, which is v1.46.

After upgrading, Your Sicon-8 will be reset to factory defaults and <u>your stored configuration data will be destroyed</u>. You can now upload your configuration data back to your Sicon-8.

Resetting your Sicon-8 to Defaults:

Your Sicon-8 should automatically return itself to factory defaults after an upgrade, however, it can also be manually returned to factory default settings at power up by holding the remote/local button in for 15 seconds as power is first applied. Resetting the Sicon-8 will either erase or disable most user-defined programming that was in the Sicon-8. All hardware access codes are reset to null except the super-admin password that is reset to 6736 for dial-up & 12345678 for data. **Your Sicontroller software will not connect to the hardware** until you, temporarily, change your super administrator access code, in the software's configuration menu to 12345678. Once connected, you can reprogram your own access code and re-upload it, then all codes to the Sicon-8 hardware. Stored words or sounds are not erased when the Sicon-8 is reset. They are overwritten only when re-recorded and therefore, cannot be restored to factory defaults. They can only be re-recorded or re-uploaded, if desired.

Uploading Your Configuration Data After a Reset:

Items that will need to be restored or reprogrammed after the upgrade are:

1. Access Codes (both telephone and serial will require reprogramming)
2. Configuration data
3. Meter calibrations may have to be redone
4. Event Schedules must be re-uploaded.

5. The internal clock should maintain its time, but should be checked.

Note: Event schedules, if any are used, must be re-uploaded after the upgrade. Events are saved/exported using the event scheduler and are not part of the normal configuration saves. The event scheduler is used to reboot the Web server periodically. We have found that refreshing the Web server once or twice a day helps it stay connected to some networks. We strongly suggest that you continue to reboot the Web server, periodically, using the event scheduler. A sample schedule fle can be downloaded from the CircuitWerkes Website at:
http://www.broadcastboxes.com/software/Sicontroller/Sicon-8_Events_Export_File_Simple.txt.

Note that resetting the Sicon-8 to default will not require reprogramming any custom vocabulary, but in addition to re-uploading the configuration data to your Sicon-8, you will need to recalibrate your Sicon-8 because calibrations are not automatically restored during an upload. The calibration information should already be loaded into each channel's calibrate form. All you will need to do is check the value and upload the value to the Sicon-8 hardware when satisfied that the numbers are correct

Uploading new factory configuration data.

The latest version of the firmware stored factory default configuration data differently than previous versions of the Sicon-8 firmware. This only becomes important when the Sicon-8 is reset to a factory default state and if no user configuration is then immediately uploaded to it.   In that case, all of the data is blank and the Sicon-8 will not function properly.

To reprogram your defaults, perform the following procedure:

Save your existing site file and then create a brand new workspace file. This file will contain all of the typical default settings for any Sicon-8. You will need to know your Sicon-8's access code since the new site file will be blank. You will need to enter your access code in order to connect to the Sicon-8. If your Sicon-8 was just upgraded, the default super-admin access code will be 12345678. You will have to use that code to log into you unit. Thereafter you can change the code to whatever you desire.

Connect to your Sicon-8.

Open the configuration menu.

Hold the CTRL and Shift keys while clicking on the "Upload" button. This will drop down the upload menu which will have an option to "Upload Factory Defaults" at the bottom of it.   Select this option and a new set of factory defaults will be stored on your Sicon-8.   This option is not available when using the upload button by itself.

Load your old site file back into the software. You do not need to save the temporary site file or workspace that you have been using to setup the defaults. When you have loaded your old site file, you should see your meter labels and custom changes reflected once again in the software. These can now be uploaded to your Sicon-8 if you have not already done so in a previous step.