

# Logic Development Platform

## Questions and Answers



**Q:** What makes the Logic Development Platform (LDP) different from an ordinary laptop?

**A:** The LDP gives users the best of both worlds: You get a Windows PC capable of running modern programs such as web browsers and office software, plus you have instant access to virtualized hardware that allow both older DOS and newer Windows programs to be run in their own sandboxed environments.

This is made possible by our Preconfigured VHD installations of popular PLC programming software that are ready for use with the LDP. Thanks to these VHDs, you can now use your DOS, Windows, or even UNIX programming software right from your Windows desktop without closing other applications.

The real advantage of the LDP is that we have already done all of the installation, configuration, and testing required to make our VHD installations function seamlessly with the LDP hardware. This way you can power on the LDP and begin using the software you purchased without the headache of configuring virtual machines, installing programs, and troubleshooting compatibility issues.

**Q:** I already have DOS-based software such as GE Fanuc LogicMaster. Why can't I just run it from within Windows as a console application?

**A:** Most DOS-based programming software cannot be used to communicate with a PLC when it is run as a console application under Windows 98 and later. This is because the method of serial communication used by these programs requires direct hardware access to a computer's COM port, something that Windows does not allow. The VHD installations used with the LDP overcome this limitation through hardware virtualization.

**Q:** Does the LDP have an RS-232 serial port that will work with DOS software?

**A:** Yes. The LDP's serial port is provided via the included USB-to-Serial converter, and additional USB-to-Serial or Ethernet-to-Serial converters can be added as long as these devices are supported by Windows. Even though DOS does not offer support for USB devices, the VHD installations we have created for the LDP allow DOS to access Windows software COM ports as if they were actual hardware ports.

**Q:** Can I transfer files back and forth between the Windows environment of the LDP and the software on the VHD installations?

**A:** Yes. The LDP is equipped with a virtual floppy drive that can be accessed by both the operating system on the LDP and the operating systems on our VHDs. This makes it easy to transfer small files back and forth between DOS-based programming software. For Windows-based VHDs, the guest operating system has access to the LDP's physical hard drive through a network share so it is also possible to transfer very large files.

**Q:** Is the LDP suitable for use in an industrial environment?

**A:** While the base model of the LDP is just as robust as an ordinary business laptop, sometimes a higher level of durability is needed. That is why we offer the LDP with an option of a Solid-State Drive (SSD). A conventional hard disk drive with a spindle and platter design is one of the most vulnerable pieces of equipment in a laptop; an unexpected fall or jarring shock can ruin the disk and cause precious data to be permanently lost. An SSD eliminates this risk because data is stored in a Flash RAM array with no moving parts. Although caution should always be observed when working with computers, our SSD-equipped LDPs have been known to survive drops of several feet onto cement while suffering only minor cosmetic damage.

**Q:** Does the LDP support wireless communications?

**A:** Yes. The LDP has wireless connectivity through both 802.11n WIFI and Bluetooth interfaces. Optional hardware is available to equip certain legacy PLCs, such as GE Fanuc Series One, Series Six, and 90-30/90-70, with Bluetooth capability for wireless programming and monitoring over short distances (6-15 feet, line-of-sight).