

## 2800 Series User Profiles – Different Ways to Maintain Communication

All recent versions of Windows (XP, Vista and Windows 7) restrict access to the computer when low usage is detected to preserve the hardware components. Windows calls this Power Management.

### Intermittent User

This is the person who desires to maintain history.dat (the Data file) for analysis purposes, but isn't interested in keeping their computer on all the time. The display will show you current sensor readings at all times, but it can only store 1,750 data elements. The duration covered by that limit depends on the Recording Interval selected in the Extras|Options|Recording Interval set. You can estimate your duration by dividing 1,750 by the number of recordings requested per day (e.g. the default of 2 hours is 12 "saves" per day so  $1,750 / 12 = 145.83$  days). Let's imagine a simple example where the PC is in the study which is the room right next to the kitchen, where you desire the display to face the patio doors on a wall shelf to read the outside sensors. You would:

1. Schedule yourself a regular time to upload the collected data to the PC (e.g. last day of month).
2. Carry the display to the desk so it is in direct 5 feet line of sight with the USB-stick.
3. With the software open, select Extras|Resynchronize on the menu.
4. Press the DOWN key on the display until it beeps, then press the Synchronize button on the PC. You may need to do this 2 or 3 times if an error message comes up.
5. After the data displays on the Current Weather tab, you will need to wait for all data to copy from the display to the PC. You can check your progress on the Data tab in the software.

If you do not maintain a regular upload cycle, you risk loss of data. The 1,751<sup>st</sup> piece of data will overwrite the 1<sup>st</sup> data record (in other words, new data overwrites the oldest data). There is no recovery for this loss.

You do not need any adjustments in your Windows settings to maintain this usage pattern.

### Frequent User

This is the person who uses their computer most days, and likes to view the active data when on the PC. Since you need the display in direct line of sight to resynchronize, you probably have located it near the desk. You do not need any adjustments to your Windows settings, and would follow the same steps as the Intermittent User above, but your wait to copy will be short since there is less data stored on the display.

You do not need any adjustments in your Windows settings to maintain this usage pattern.

## Serious Weather Watcher

This is the user who needs to maintain “always on” access to the data, perhaps for upload to a meteorological posting on a web site. The file that contains the upload information is **currdat.lst**. If you have the Heavy Weather Pro WS 2800 download dated 02/03/2010, the menu item **Extras|Show Current Weather Data File** shows you the path to currdat.lst.

Presuming you enact these power management settings, the following are the upload frequencies that might be expected (Note: exact results may vary depending on any over-ride built into your computer):

- If the HeavyWeather Pro application is closed, the system will settle on uploads to currdat.lst every 30 minutes.
- If the HeavyWeather Pro application is open in the background, the system will settle into uploads to currdat.lst about every minute.
- If the HeavyWeather Pro application remains open in the foreground, the system will maintain as best as possible, the normal 4 second update process. Whether or not the data actually changes at this rate, however, is dependent on the sensors’ ability to provide new information. In general, the thermo-hygro collects and sends data about every 13 seconds so your fastest real rate possible for updated data would round down to 4 times per minute.

**Warning:** The “always on” condition ages your computer hardware faster and exposes it to more risk of disruption from electric events. La Crosse Technology is providing Power Management information for your convenience, but is not responsible for any equipment damage if you choose to maintain this condition. **This usage is not appropriate for notebook computers.** You may want to consider dedicating an older PC to this task, to separate risk from your other data. All PC equipment should be protected by at minimum a good quality surge suppressor. Please consult a qualified PC technician if you need assistance with preventive precautions.

Additionally, we do not recommend attempting power management on a “netbook”. These smaller mobile PCs are designed to aggressively conserve battery life, which makes them by nature incompatible with attempts to configure a 2800 series unit in an “always on” manner.

**Windows XP:** Go to **Start|Control Panel|Power Options**. This opens the “Power Options Properties” window. In the “Power Schemes” tab, under the “Settings for Home/Office Desk power”, change the following settings to “Never”: 1. Turn off hard disks, 2. System standby, 3. System hibernates. Select “Apply” and click “OK” to close the window. Note: If desired, you can name this Power scheme in the top box, using “Save As” to preserve it with a name you will remember.

Windows Vista: Go to **Start | Control Panel | System and Maintenance | Power Options**. In the “Preferred Plans” section, select High Performance. Notice the warning that this plan will increase performance at the price of energy savings. Next select “Change Plan Settings”. Verify the following:

1. The value for “Put the computer to sleep” should read “Never”.
2. Under “Change Advanced power settings”, open the USB settings area. The “USB selective suspend setting should read “Disabled”. Select “Apply” and “OK” to close. You can then close the Power Options window.

Windows 7: Go to **Start | Control Panel | System and Security | Power Options**. In the “Preferred Plans” section, select High Performance. Notice the warning that this plan will increase performance at the price of energy savings. Next select “Change Plan Settings”. Verify the following:

1. The value for “Put the computer to sleep” should read “Never”.
2. In “Change Advanced Power Settings”, under USB Settings, the value for USB Selective Suspend should read “Disabled”.
3. Select “Save changes” (if edited entry) and “Cancel” to close. You can then close the Power Options window.