

Automation Network X-Change

AN-X-AB Hardware Module



The AN-X-AB module acts as a bridge between Ethernet and an Allen-Bradley remote I/O or Data Highway Plus network. By downloading different firmware to the hardware module, you can use it for different purposes. Firmware modules are available for:

- remote I/O scanner
- remote I/O adapter
- Data Highway Plus
- capturing network frames on remote I/O or Data Highway Plus

Remote I/O scanner

With the remote I/O scanner firmware, the AN-X-AB module:

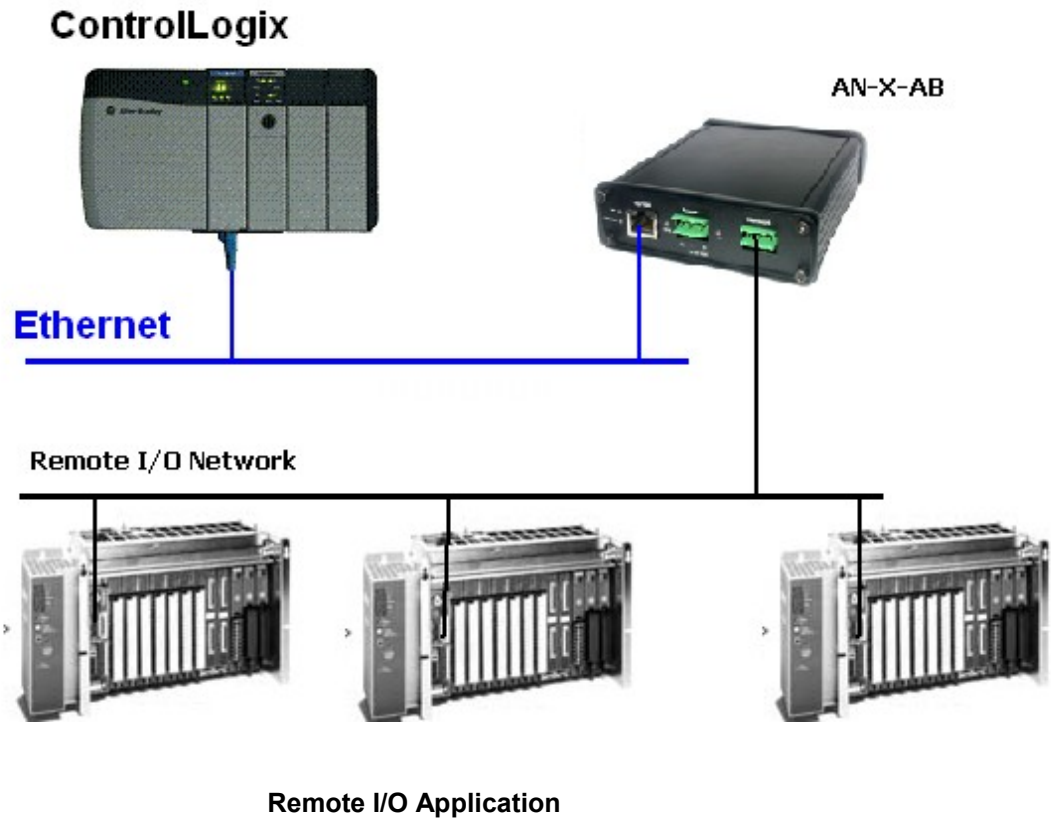
- supports all remote I/O baud rates: 57.6, 115.2, 230.4 kbaud
- supports rack numbers from 0 to 76 octal
- supports all combinations of partial racks
- supports up to 32 physical adapters
- supports block transfers at all possible locations
- block transfers can be updated automatically by the AN-X-AB or can be controlled by the ControlLogix processor

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- updates all I/O via scheduled connections



Remote I/O Adapter

With the remote I/O adapter firmware, the AN-X-AB module:

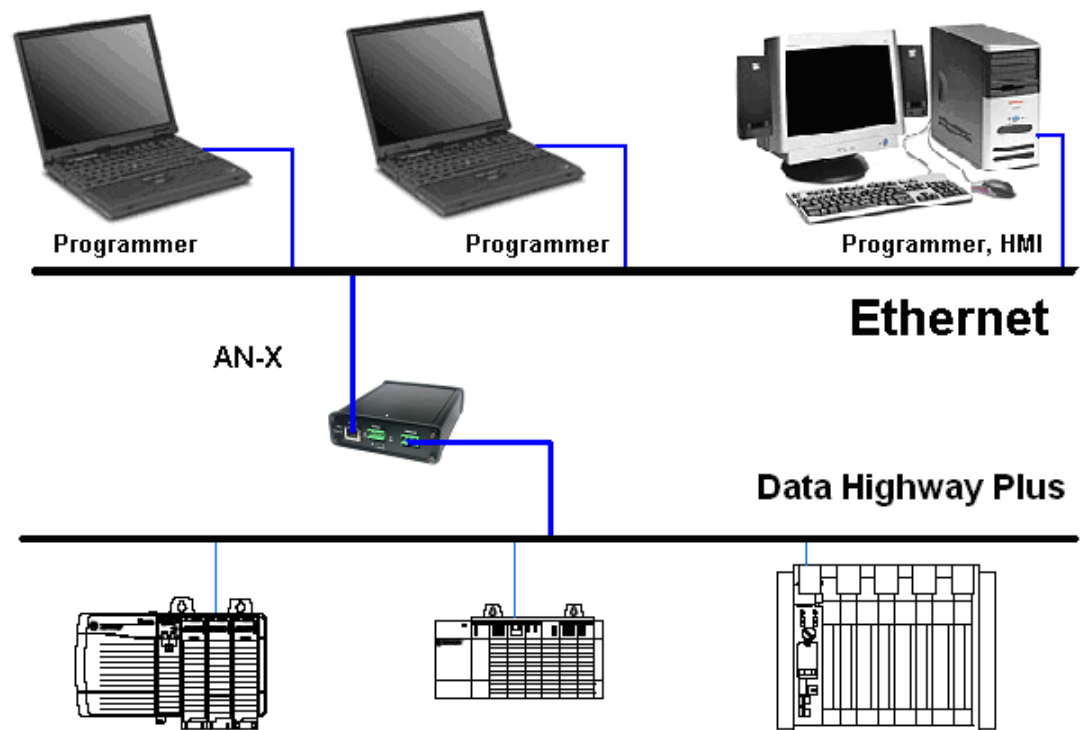
- emulates one or more racks
- supports all remote I/O baud rates: 57.6, 115.2, 230.4 kbaud
- supports rack numbers from 0 to 76 octal
- supports all combinations of partial racks
- supports block transfers at all possible locations
- monitors I/O on the same remote I/O network
- updates all I/O via scheduled connections

Data Highway Plus

With the Data Highway Plus firmware, the AN-X-AB module:

- can be used as any valid Data Highway Plus station number, 0 to 77 octal
- supports all Data Highway Plus baud rates, 57.6, 115.2 and 230.4 Kbaud

- can be used with PLC programming software to communicate with Allen-Bradley controllers such as PLC-5 and ControlLogix over Data Highway Plus (requires RSLinx)
- supports HMIs that can communicate with Ethernet/IP to rapidly exchange data with Allen-Bradley controllers



Data Highway Plus Application

Capture/Monitor Firmware

With the monitor firmware, the AN-X-AB module:

lets you capture, store and analyze network data on an Allen-Bradley Data Highway Plus or remote I/O network. Use it to examine the behavior of all stations, verify network data and timing, locate network errors and troubleshoot problems with the network and with the process.

The module does not occupy a station on the network or affect existing network traffic in any way.

The module:

- captures and stores ALL network frames, with timestamps to microsecond precision
- uses post-capture filtering to select frames of interest for further analysis

This approach ensures that everything leading up to an event of interest is preserved. The alternative approach, pre-filtering and saving only certain messages, might cause you to lose key information.

There are two operating modes:

- continuous, captures all frames until stopped
- ring-buffer, preserves frames from a user-specified number of minutes before stopped. At the end of each minute, a new file is created and the file older than the keep time is deleted.

Typical capture file size is 2.5 megabytes/minute, 150 megabytes/hour, 3.6 gigabytes/day (depends on baud rate and network traffic).

Web Access

AN-X acts as a web server. Any web browser can connect to AN-X-AB.

You use a web browser to configure the Ethernet and network properties, to monitor AN-X logs, and archive AN-X data.

Specifications

- Power requirements: 12 - 24 VDC, 4 watts typical
- Dimensions: 107 mm X 126 mm x 34 mm (4.18" x 4.97" x 1.33"), not including connectors
- Desktop use or DIN mountable

AN-X-AB is referenced in the Rockwell Automation Encompass Americas program.

The AN-X Product Family

Automation Network X-change (AN-X) is a product family designed by Quest Technical Solutions as a flexible platform for connecting to and monitoring automation networks.

QTS is continually adding support for other networks. Contact us for information on the availability of an AN-X module for your network.

About QTS

Quest Technical Solutions is a provider of industrial communication hardware and software. Quest employees have many years combined experience in developing industrial communications solutions.

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