RT-21 Console Firmware

RT-21 Console is a download firmware load for any RT-21 that converts that unit into a control console for another RT-21 controller. Essentially, the RT-21 Console implements a "computer terminal" in an RT-21 unit that sends and receives RT-21 commands over an RS-232 link. Both the rotor connected RT-21, and the RT-21 Console can control the attached rotator, and view headings. The RT-21 Console may also have a different OFFSET value if desired.

The connection between the two units uses the standard RT-21 (DCU-1 like) protocol at 4800 8N1. If via a direct connect, a crossover cable is used:

2 – 3
3 – 2
5 – 5

You can use any method of serial over IP to make this connection and thereby create a Remote Console that operates over the Internet, or your local network too. Standalone Terminal Servers, or free software like VSPE can be utilized for this application.

The Console will operate the remote RT-21 using the point and shoot, or the CW and CCW buttons. The controlled RT-21 must be running version 1.06.2 or higher in order for the CW and CCW buttons to work remotely. The heading is updated constantly so that if the remoted RT-21 turns the rotator, the Console unit will see the change too. (or the change +/- the OFFSET in the Console unit.

Use RT-21 Console 1.x for units prior to v3 (s/n <2000)
Use RT-21 Console 3.x for v3 units (s/n >= 2000)

Using the download firmware procedure in the manual, download the appropriate version. then perform a 3 button reset of the controller. In order to convert back to normal RT-21, just download the standard RT-21 firmware and again, perform a reset prior to setup for a specific rotator.

Enjoy,

Jeff