# AERONET Cimel Connect

The AERONET cimel connect program provides a more efficient option for users to download from the Cimel sun/sky radiometer, transfer and process these data automatically to the AERONET server, and synchronize the Cimel control box clock with the AERONET server.

Minimum Requirements:
- Windows PC
- Computer with a com port
- Cimel ASTPwin program <u>must</u> be turned off.
- "Link to PC" <u>must</u> be set to YES in the Cimel Control box parameters (that is, press PW, increment to 11, press PAR, change to "Link PC", and set to "YES")

Desired Requirements:
- Computer connected to the Internet (the Internet connection can be intermittent)

Instructions:
1. Verify the minimum requirements above have been met..
2. Download the cimel_connect.exe software from the AERONET web site: http://aeronet.gsfc.nasa.gov/new_web/cimel_connect.exe
3. Place the file anywhere in the computer. (Desktop, My Documents, or you can make special folder just for it).
4. Connect the cimel to serial port com1. Then double-click the cimel_connect.exe file.
   Note:  If it is not possible to connect to com1, see ** instructions for com ports with a number greater than 1.

That is all.  The program will make a folder "dir_com1" and place all files in that folder. The program will also try to upload the data to "aeronet"  if the Internet is available from the computer.  The program will also adjust the clock of the Cimel control box using "AERONET" time.

Please send all questions/problems in the software setup to Ilya.Slutsker@nasa.gov and David.Giles@nasa.gov.

**Instructions com ports greater than 1
- The cimel_connect program can be opened multiple times; just double-click on cimel_connect.exe and each time it will check for the next com port.  Once you have the program listening to the desired com port, then you can close the other windows for com1, 2, and 3, etc.
- Alternatively, you can use the Command Prompt (Start->Run->cmd) and change directory to the location of cimel_connect.exe and type the following command: **cimel_connect.exe comX**
  where X is the com port number the program will use to acquire Cimel data

**Questions/Answers:**

Q. Does the computer really need to be connected to Internet?
A. The computer does not have to be connected to Internet. If it is connected, the data will be automatically uploaded for processing. If it is not, the data will stay on the directory dir_com1, and you will need to manually submit them. If you can connect the computer to Internet, the program will attempt submitting the data itself.

Q. How often are data collected from the Cimel control box?
A. The Cimel must operate in auto mode and LINK TO PC should be enabled and the data will normally be collected every 15 minutes (or less). Each time data is collected by the Cimel, it will attempt to connect to PC and "cimel_connect.exe" will receive the data. The program will create files with extension .K7 making files for each hour and one daily file. All of the files will remain in the dir_comX folder. If the file is successfully submitted, the extension will change to .K8 or the file will be deleted.

Q. What is the procedure of operation, collection and transmission of data?
A. If Cimel is an auto mode, "LINK TO PC" parameter is enabled, and Serial port COM1 connected to Cimel and cimel_connect is running, the rest should be done automatically.

Q. Can I collect data from Cimel one time per week?
A. Yes, you can. Mail us all the files with extension .K7 you find on directory dir_com1. The easiest way is to connect computer to Internet, then restart cimel_connect. Upon restart it will discover Internet connection and the program will try to upload all the .K7 files on the directory dir_comX.

Q. Do I need to use the Task Manager?
A. No.  You should not use the Task Manager.
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