

How to Optimize your Schneider PROFIBUS Network with PROFIBUS Tester 4

The easy Approach for Beginners and Professionals

Peter Jüngling / 14.11.2012

Table of Contents



1.	Introduction	3
2.	Scope of delivery	6
3.	Installation	9
4.	Strategy for analyzing networks with PROFIBUS Tester 4	14
5.	Stand-Alone Mode	18
6.	The PROFIBUS Diagnostic Suite (software)	23
7.	Topology Scan	41
8.	Typical Network Issues in a PROFIBUS Network	46
9.	Best-Practice for a stable PROFIBUS network	59



1. Introduction

Introduction



The intention of this document is to provide an easy approach to all who need to optimize or debug a PROFIBUS network made of Schneider Automation components.

- Softing Industrial Automation GmbH is specialized in diagnosis tools for PROFIBUS and PROFINET.
- PROFIBUS Tester 4 of Softing is a modern and easy-to-use "All-in-One" tool to detect most typical problems in Profibus networks (as listed in the next slide)
- PROFIBUS Tester 4 is listed in the CAPP programme of Schneider Automation
- PROFIBUS Tester 4 supports you to
 - reduce network downtime
 - increase network reliability
 - reduce maintenance costs of your Profibus networks



PROFIBUS Tester 4
was elected into the List of TOP10-products
of the AUTOMATION AWARD
of German SPS-MAGAZIN



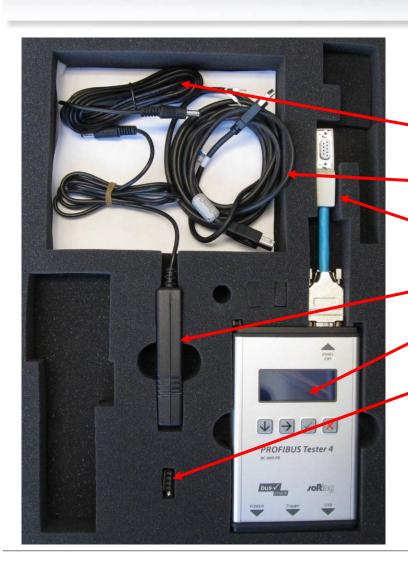
Here is a list of issues commonly found in PROFIBUS networks			
Missing, unpowered, or surplus busterminations	Bus cable too long		
Dead-end branches	Wrong cable types		
Damaged or defective bus drivers (RS 485 components)	Aging/corroding connectors and cables causing excessive transmission resistance		
Cable-routing in environments subject to strong interference	EMC impacts		
Network and node configuration errors, Data rate too high	Wrong GSD Files, and more		



2. Scope of Delivery

Standard





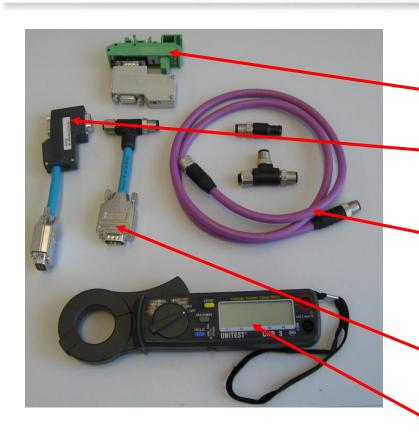
PROFIBUS TESTER 4:

What's in the box:

- ► Power cable for external 24 V power supply
- ▶ USB cable to connect PB-T4 with PC
- ▶ DSUB standard connection BC-600-PB-CB-DSUB2
- ► Power supply 240 V AC
- ► PROFIBUS Tester 4
- ► Connector for oscilloscope trigger output
- ▶ not shown on the photo:
 - CD-ROM with PROFIBUS Diagnostic Suite software
 - Manuals

Options





Optional Equipment:

- DSUB service connector interface for connecting the tester to the network
- ► Low impact connector cable for sensitive and safety critical networks
- M12 service connector interface with cable,
 T-junction and termination
- M12 Connector cable
- Current leakage clamp meter LSZ-CHB3
- ▶ BC-MOST PB: external accu



3. Installation

System Requirements



- ▶ Supported operating systems: Windows XP, VISTA (32 Bit) and Win 7 (32+64 Bit).
- Before installing the PROFIBUS Diagnostics Suite, please ensure that your PC or notebook meets the following minimum hardware requirements:
 - RAM:
 - ≥ 500 MB for Windows XP
 - ≥ 1 GB for Windows VISTA
 - Screen resolution ≥ 1024x768 pixels (XGA)
 - USB interface 2.0
 - For recording at baud rates up to 1.5 Mbit/s: CPU speed ≥ 1 GHz
 - For recording at baud rates over 1.5 Mbit/s: CPU speed ≥ 2 GHz
- ► The above system requirements are only general guidelines. If more than the typical programs
- and services are loaded during Windows system startup or if they are very CPU intensive, the
- requirements given above might not be sufficient

How to install the Software



► Installation of PB-Diag-Suite from the Supplied CD-ROM

Install PB-DIAG Suite software prior to connecting PROFIBUS Tester 4 to PC!

Setup should normally start automatically when you insert the CD-ROM supplied with your test tool. If it doesn't, the "start.exe" file provided on the CDROM needs to be run manually. A dialog box appears where you can choose a language for the installation by selecting the corresponding national flag.

The CD-ROM also includes the ".NET-Framework" and the Microsoft Installer, which will be installed on Windows XP systems, if required, before installation of the PB-DIAG-Suite starts.

You can also install Acrobat Reader manually from the CD-ROM if you do not already have it. Acrobat Reader is required to display user manuals and test reports being exported to pdf-format.

(For further details please refer page 8 of manual)

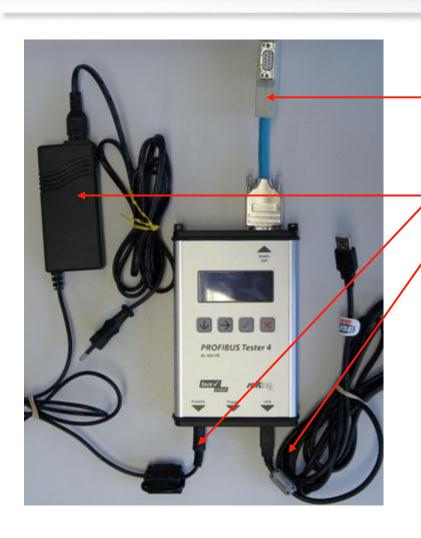
Installation of latest Update from Softing's Web Site

Please install the software from your CD-ROM first before downloading and installing any updates.

Download the update of latest version of PB-DIAG Suite Software from www.softing.com

How to connect PROFIBUS Tester 4





DSUB cable to connect PB-T4 to PROFIBUS network

240 V AC power supply

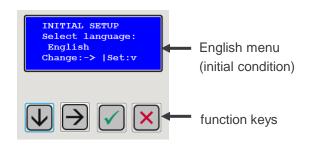
USB cable to connect to PC (not required in Stand-Alone-Mode)

Please note:

Install PB-DIAG-Suite software <u>prior</u> to connecting PROFIBUS Tester 4 to PC!

Basic Settings of PROFIBUS Tester 4







Normally, on first-time operation PROFIBUS-Tester 4 requests the operator to select GUI language. If not, you can easily change the settings of PB-T4 as follows:

Change language from German to English:

- ► connect PB-T4 to the power supply, no PC connected!
- ▶ press ▶ 5x to get "EINST. & BEDIEN." menu
- ▶ press → 2x to "Akt. Sprache"
- ▶ press to change from German to English
- press 2x to return to the main menu



Change Limit for Quality-Level:

- connect PB-T4 to the power supply, no PC connected!
- ▶ press → 3x to "Cur. Q-Limit"
- ▶ press ✓ to change to 2500 (recommended value)
- press 2x to return to the main menu



4. Strategy for analyzing networks with PROFIBUS Tester 4

Strategy



We recommend the following initial steps:

Step 1:

- ► Perform a "Live-Status" with PB-T4 in "Stand-Alone-Mode" (without PC)
- ► Always (!) execute this "Live-Status" on both ends of your network
- ► Case 1: Your network is OK (no further actions required):
 - if all quality levels are good in both measurements and
 - if there are no error frames or frame repititions in both measurements
- ► Case 2: your network needs service if there are :
 - bad signal levels or
 - error frames or
 - frame repetitions in one or in both measurements

Startegy



We recommend the following initial steps:

Step 2:

- Connect PB-T4 again to that end of the network that displayed problems
- Connect PB-T4 to USB-port of your PC and start PB-DIAG-SUITE software
- ▶ Perform a "Quick Test" from your PC (or in stand-alone mode for later download on your PC)

This way you can store up to 10 measurements on the PB-T4 without a PC. Make notes, which measurement location refers to which memory location on PB T4

Strategy



We recommend the following initial steps:

Step 3

Now you can analyse the recorded measurements in your PC in a comfortable way. The advantage is that you do not need to do this in the plant (load, dirty, uncomfortable,...)

Just take your PC to a comfortable place and proceed as follows:

- Connect PB-T4 to USB-port of your PC and start PB-DIAG-SUITE software
- ▶ Download the measurements from PB-T4 to your PC. Please take care to allocate the measurements to the correct test location in your network This ist important for the interpretation
- ► The "Overview Window" will help you to determine whether you are faced with electric and/or communication problems.
- ► Select "Protocol" and/or "Signal Quality" views for further diagnostic details



5. Stand-Alone Mode

Rapid Network Analysis without a PC





: OK

Comm.: OK Phys. : OK Use the Live-Status with **Stand-Alone-Mode** for a first simple test of

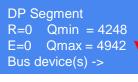
- communication (R= frame repetitions, E= error frames)
- signal quality (Qmin and Qmax of total network) from **both** ends of a network:

Step 1:

- ▶ connect PB-T4 to one end of your PROFIBUS network
- ▶ press ▶ button once to get "Live-Status" menu
- ▶ press ✓ button to start "Live-Status"
- read the results (in this case everything OK)
- ▶ press → for details
- All details are good from this end

Step 2: : ERROR Comm.: OK

- ► connect PB-T4 to *other* end of your PROFIBUS network
- carry out "Live-Status"
- read the results (in this case there are problems)
- ▶ press → for details
- ► There are poor signals from this end



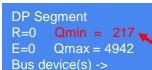
Bus

Bus

Details →

Details →





Phys. : Warning

Rapid Network Analysis without a PC



Conclusion:

Bus : OK Comm. : OK Phys. : OK Details → If you get this result from **both** ends of your network, your segment is OK. There are no error frames and frame repetitions.

→ There is no need for further tests!

Bus : ERROR
Comm. : ERROR
Phys. : Warning
Details →

If your network test results in an error message on one and/or both ends you know that your network needs service.

DP Segment
R=3 Qmin = 217
E=0 Qmax = 4942
Bus device(s) ->

- → Continue your test at the location with the worst result.
- → Connect your PB-T4 with your PC and start PB-DIAG-SUITE for further tests or store recordings with "Quick-Test" on PB-T4 and download them to your PC later for comfortable analysis in your office.

Bus : ERROR
Comm. : ERROR
Phys. : OK
Details →

Here is a unique case:

DP Segment R=0 Qmin = 4248 E=0 Qmax = 4942

Bus device(s) ->

- Communication indicates "ERROR"
- R=0, E=0, all signals are OK

Interpretation: At least one PROFIBUS node is <u>down</u> but the rest of the network is working perfectly.

→ Connect your PB-T4 with your PC and start PB-DIAG-SUITE to identify the missing node(s) or store recordings with "Quick-Test" on PB-T4 and download them to your PC later for comfortable analysis in your office.

Easy Storage of Measurements on PB-T4





QUICK TEST Memory loc.. ? →

QUICK TEST Memory loc. 2 → Start ?

STAND-Alone Mode DP 1.5 Mbit/s 100 % 🔽

Quick Test

Quick-Test:

With the "Quick-Test" function you can store up to 10 measurements on your PB-T4. You can download these measurements later to your PC for analysing in a comfortable working athmosphere:

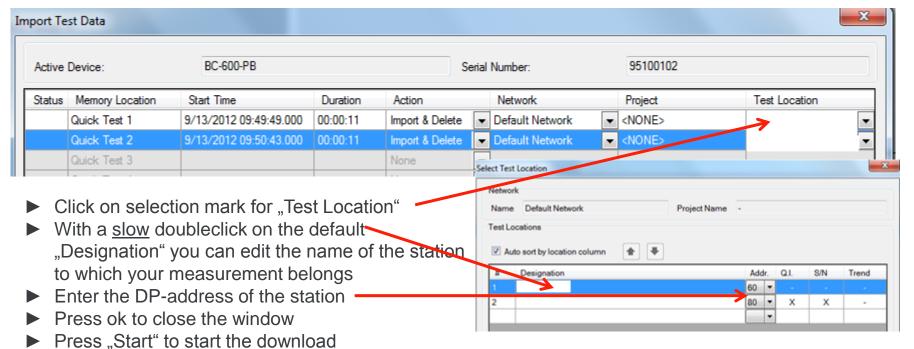
- Connect PB-T4 to one end of your DP segment and note the Profibus address of the device to which you are connected
- Go to main menu
- Press U- button 2x to get "Quick-Test" menu
- Press button 1x to select memory location
- If location "1" is occupied continue with > to find the next free memory location
- Press not to start the "Quick-Test", wait until 100 % is reached
- Please note which Profibus address belongs to which memory location. You need this later to understand which measurement was made from which position in your segment
- Press to go back to main menu. Data are stored also if unpowered!

Download of measured Data from PB-T4 on your PC



Download of Data from PB-T4 on your PC:

- Connect PB-T4 with PC via USB cable
- ▶ Open PB-DIAG-Suite on your PC and wait until PB-T4 is recognized by PB-DIAG-Suite
- If you have got test data stored on PB-T4 the "Import Test Data" window opens automatically
- Select your required action (e.g. "import")
- Select the network name from the list or add a new network name





6. The PROFIBUS Diagnostic Suite software

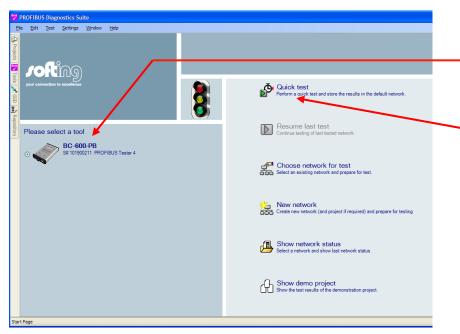
Step 1: Getting Started



- ▶ Connect PB-T4 to the PROFIBUS network at the location that indicated a network issue (as described in the previous 2 slides)
- ▶ Connect PB-T4 to your PC using the USB-cable
- ► Follow the installation wizard for the hardware istallation

After a successful hardware installation click on to start PB-DIAG-SUITE on your PC





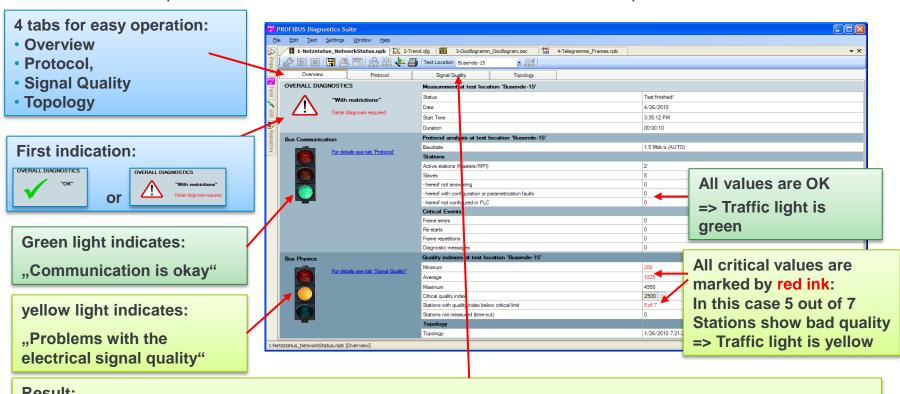
- Check if your PB-T4 is recognized by PB-**DIAG-SUITF**
- Click on "Quick Test" for starting a measurement. After this the "Overview Window" will open automatically

Step 2: Overview Windows



The Overview Window indicates:

- Is the network OK from this side?
- if not, the problem is either related to communications or electrical problems



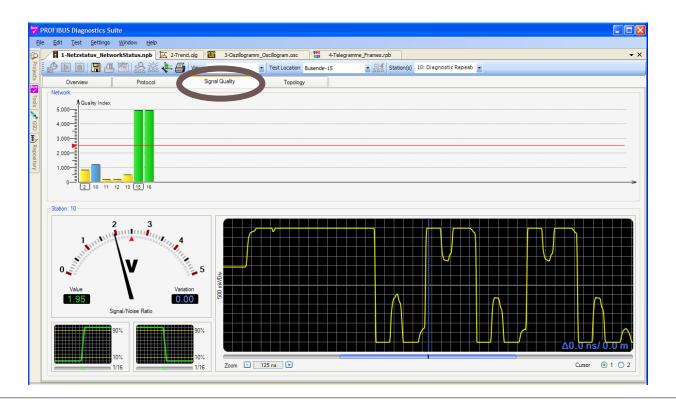
Result:

Measurement from this end indicates bad signal quality. Click on "Signal Quality" (link or tab) for more details

Step 3: Signal Quality Window



- ➤ Ain the "Overview Window" there are electrical issues in our demo network.
- ► For more details open the Signal Quality Window. This shows you the signal quality for all PROFIBUS stations as a bar graph and provides an oscilloscope view for a selected station.



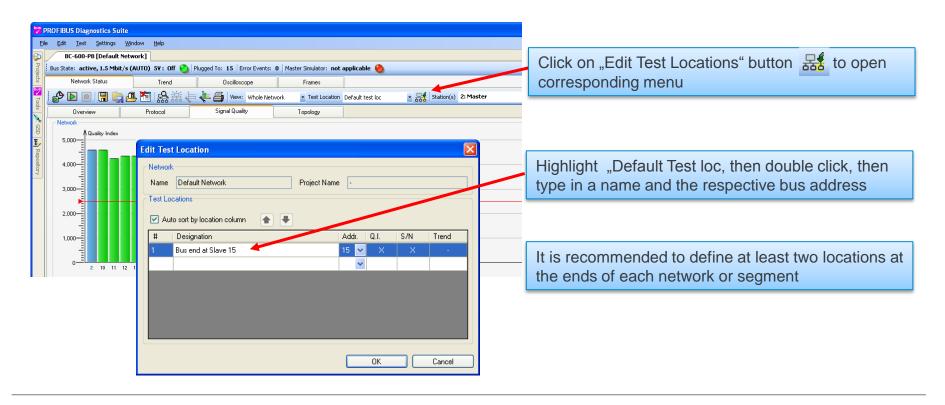
Step 4: Signal Quality Window



name test locations

Why should you name your test locations?

As already stated in the "Stand-Alone-Mode" slides, test results may vary depending on the test location. In order to easily compare the results later-on we recommend to associate a symbolic name with each test location.



Step 5: Signal Quality Window



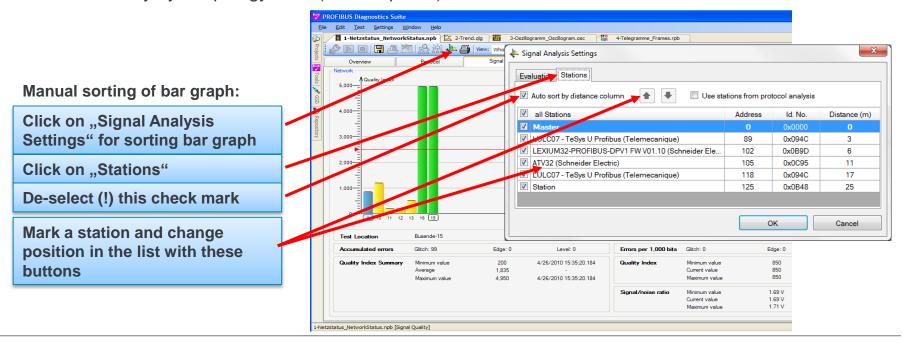
sorting of bar graphs

By default the signal quality bars are sorted by node address. However, most of the time the physical location of a node with a specific address on the network does not follow this rule.

To make the interpretation easier it is highly recommended to sort the bars according the correct topology (their correct physical order).

You can achieve this

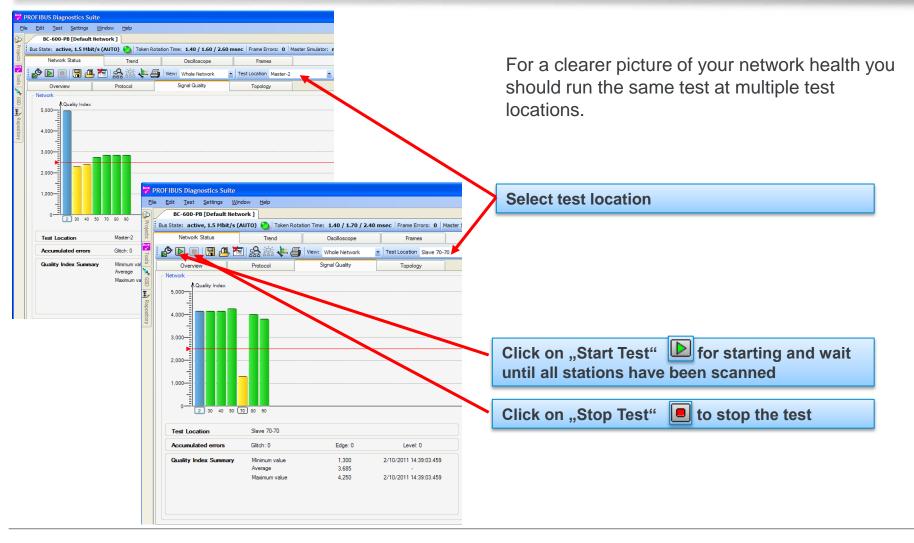
- manually as described below
- or automatically by a topology scan (see chapter 7)



Step 6: Signal Quality Window



making further measurements

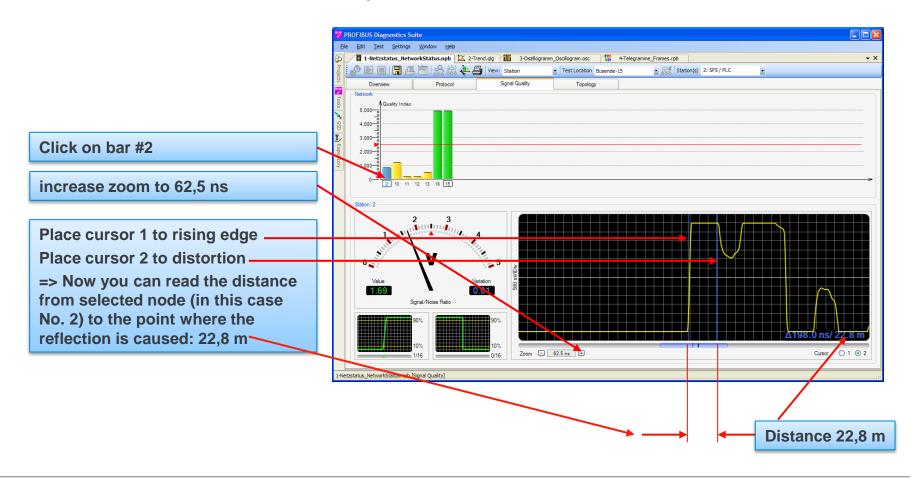


Step 7: Signal Quality Window



Oscilloscope

Localize the failure with the Oscilloscope:



Step 7: Signal Quality Window

Josting)

Oscilloscope

Now you can compare the distances between the failure and the different stations:

Click on bar #2

Place cursors

Now distance to problem is 22,8 m

Click on bar #12

Place cursors

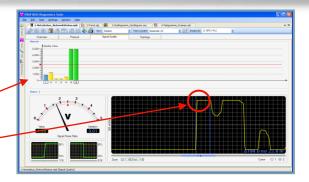
Now distance to problem is only 12,5

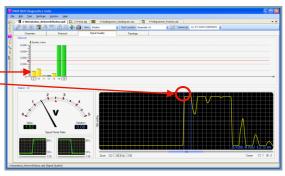
Click on bar #15 (Busend)

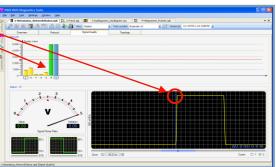
Now distance to problem is 0 m and no distortion

Result: the reflection is caused by (or is close to) node #15 (e.g. missing terminator).

Consequently no reflections can be seen there.



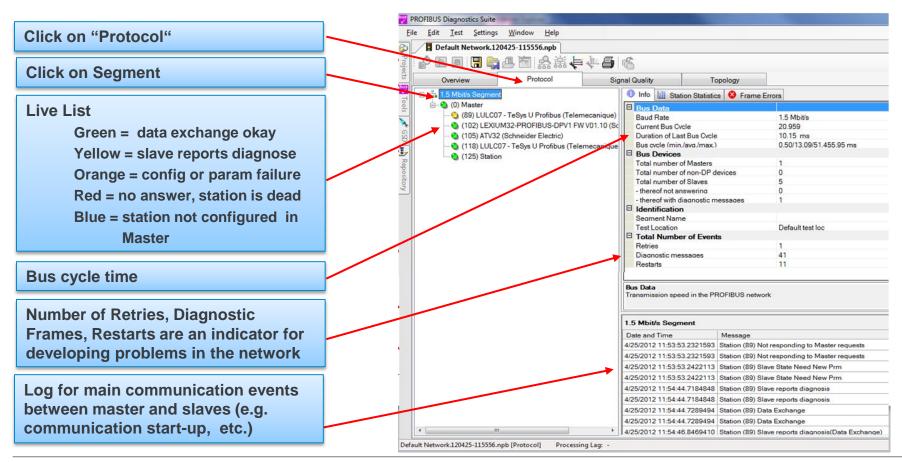




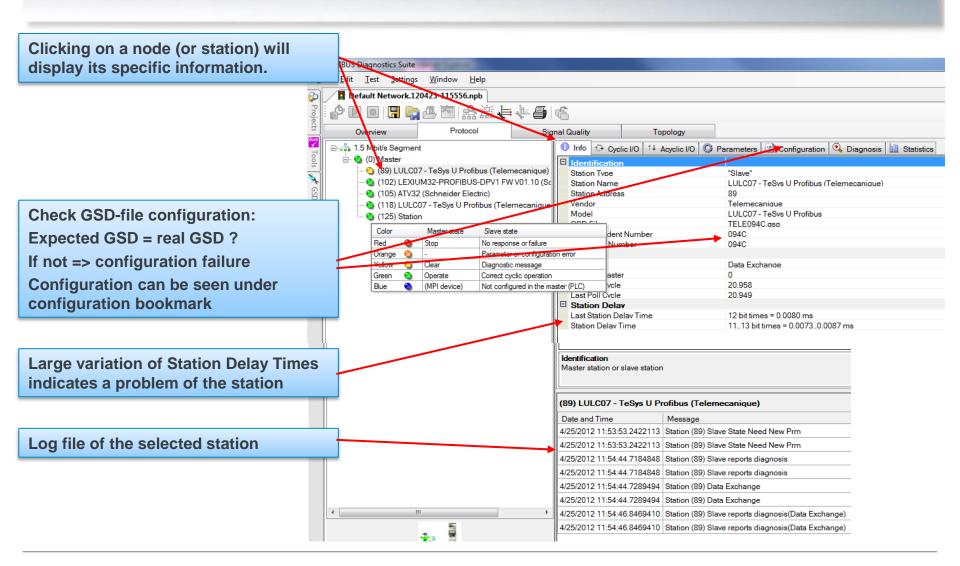


In case of communication problems open the "Protocol Window"

Typically, communication issues are caused by wrong PROFIBUS parameters settings in the master.



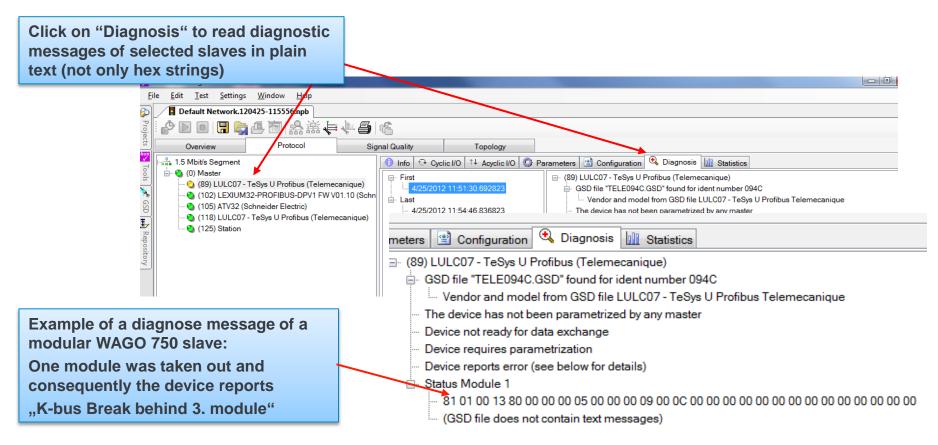






Diagnose Messages in Plain Text:

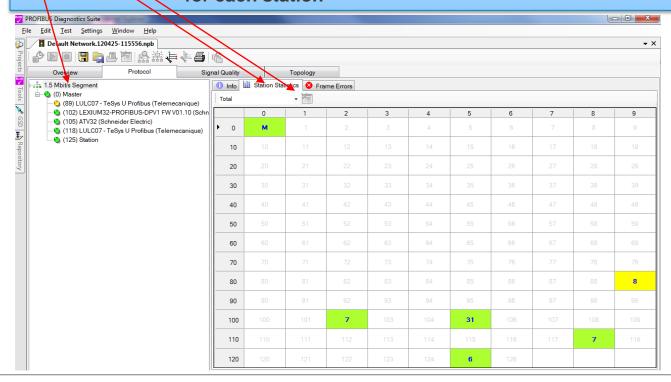
If a device reports problems you can read the respective diagnose telegrams in plain text.





If you prefer the matrix overview, you may use this as well:

- Click on segment
 - Select "Station Statistics"
 - You can display all events or select "retries", "diagnose", "set parameters" for each station



Step 9: Frame Window



Detailed Information for Professionals:

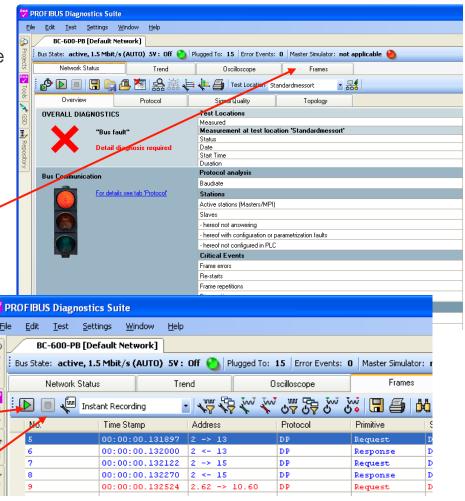
The Frames display allows you to record and analyze the entire communication down to a single bit:

- Decode all frames
- Analyze timing by time stamps
- Trigger for frames or specific bits to catch sporadic events

click on "Frames" tab to open the frame window

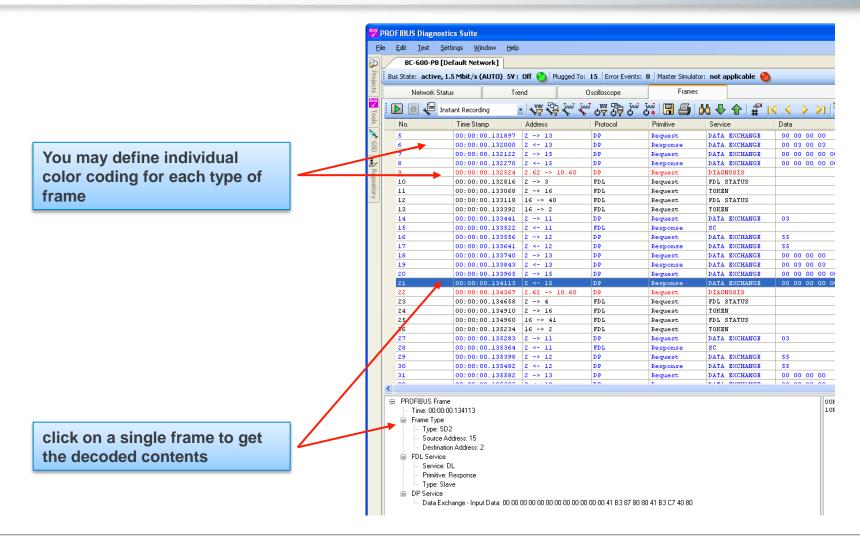
click on "Start Test" button to start recording

click on "Stop Test" button to stop recording



Step 9: Frame Window





Project Window



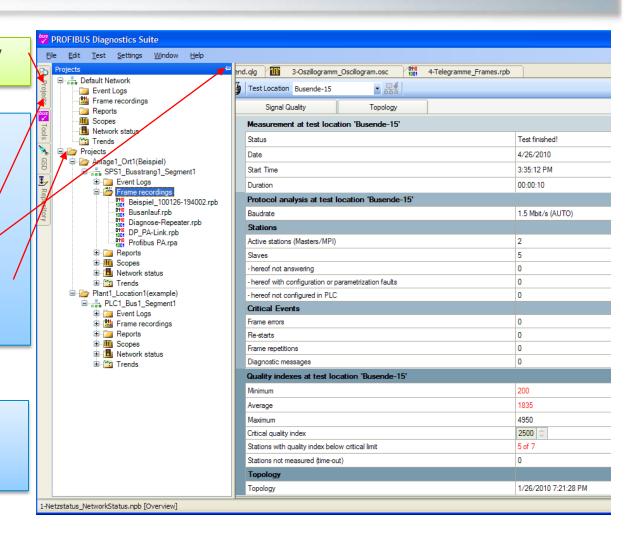
The "Project Window" offers an easy filing of your records

You will find <u>further record files</u> for demonstration in the "Project View"

- Place the cursor on "projects" tag: /
 =>The project view opens
- you may lock the window to avoid automatic closing
- open "Projects"-file to view saved records

Please note:

You can send your records as file attachment by e-mail e.g. for remote interpretation by a specialist



Automatically generated Test Report

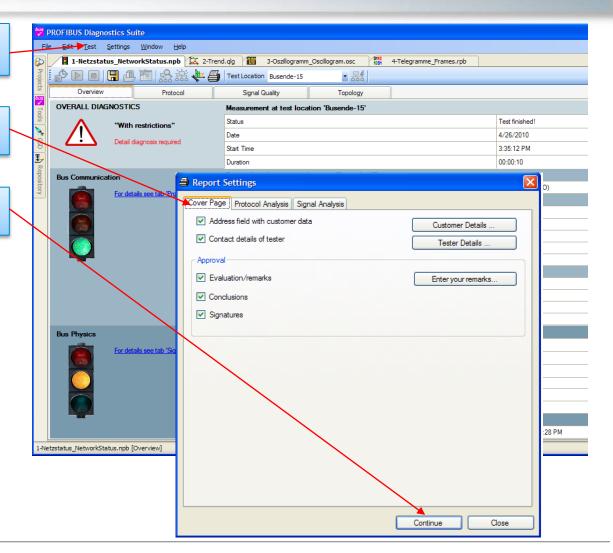


click on:

Test / Create Report

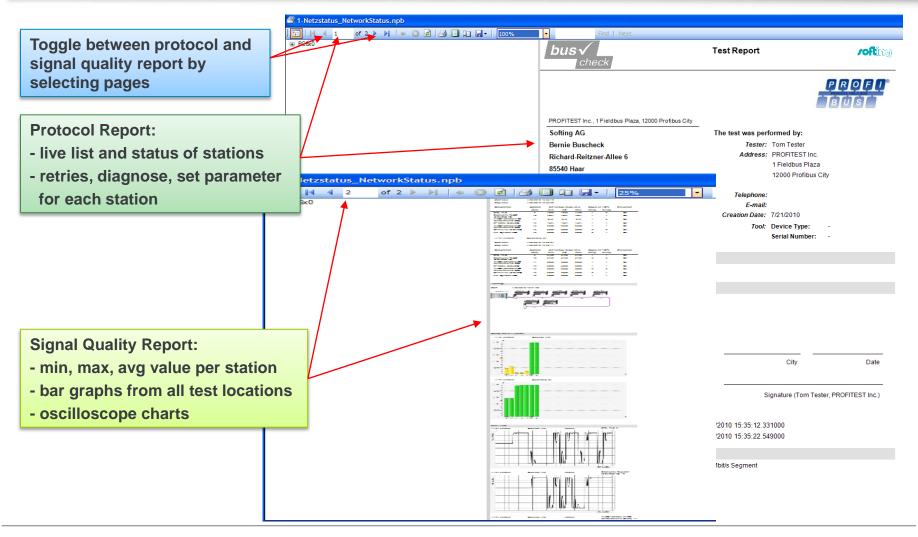
click on "Cover Page" to type in your company data

click on "continue" to create the report



Automatically generated Test Report





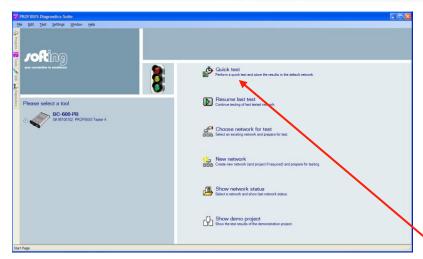


7. Topology Scan

Step 1: Start with a Quick-Test of your network



to scan all devices





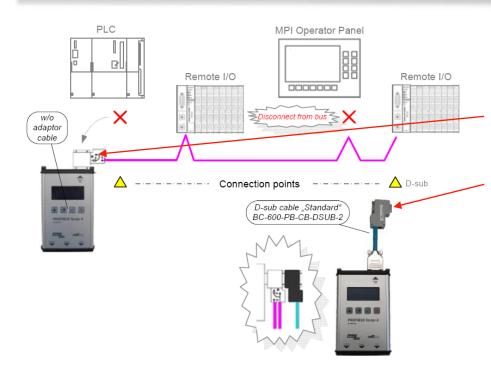
For best-results, the network should be "healthy" before starting the topology scan. Please verify the health of your network by using the this suite as shown on the previous slides.

As a first step you need to scan for all slave devices in your network (if not already done).

- Connect your PB-T4 to a running network
- Start Quick Test with a click
- ➤ After completing the Quick Test open the window for topology scan
- ⇒ PB-T4 shows all detected devices in the numerical sequence of the PROFIBUS addresses (most of the time the physical sequence is different)

Step 2: Disconnect masters and connect PROFIBUS Tester 4 instead





A true and correct Topology Scan can only be done with no active PROFIBUS master attached to the network.

Therefore you need to disconnect any masters in your network and then connect PB-T4 as shown.

Please only use <u>BC-600-PB-CB-DSUB-2</u> cable that is included in the standard scope of supply.

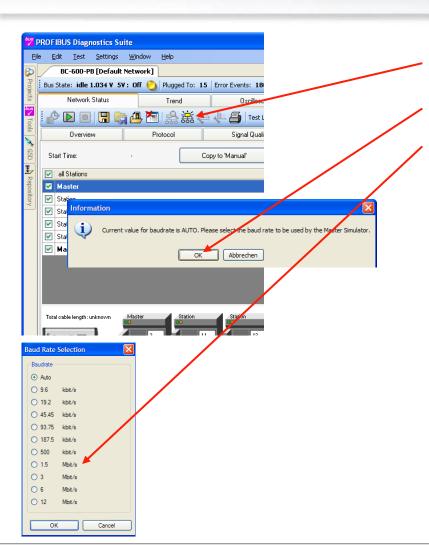
Disconnect every single active device (PLC, MPI and, if necessary, diagnostic repeaters) from the power supply or the bus.

Connect the PROFIBUS Tester 4 to one end of your network. Typically, you would remove the connector for your PLC and plug it directly into the Tester 4.

The PROFIBUS Tester 4 will provide the necessary power for the bus termination.

Step 3: Activate Master Simulator in PB-DIAG-Suite on your PC

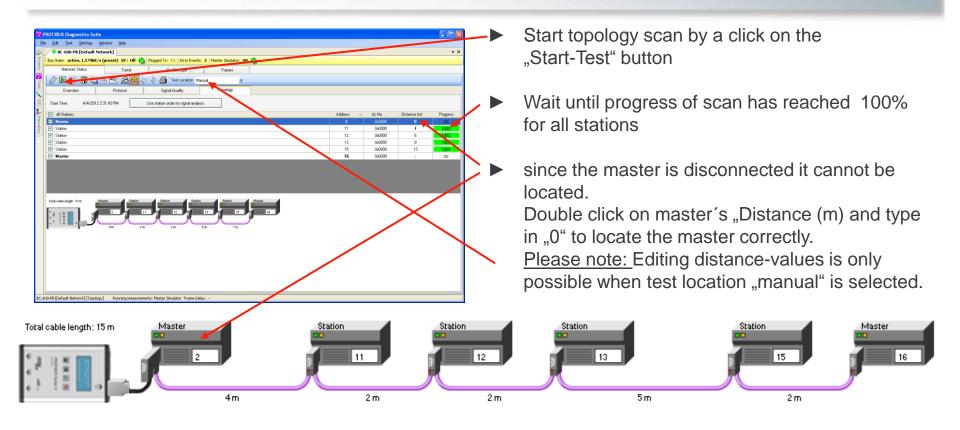




- ► Click on this button to activate the "Master Simulator"
- Accept manual setting of baudrate
- Select the correct baudrate of your system

Step 4: Perform the topology scan





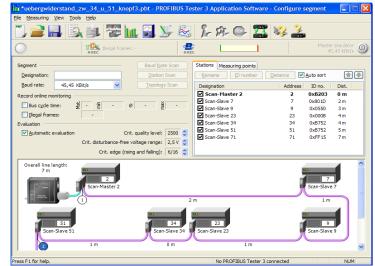


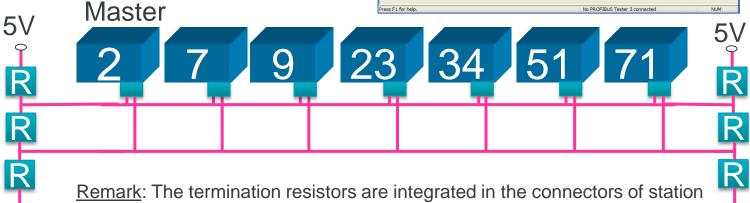
8. Typical Network Issues in a PROFIBUS Network

Sample Network



The following network issues were recorded on a sample network as shown below:





2 and 71; the 5V supply for the termination is provided by the respective device.

Case 1: Reversal of results from both ends of the system



Case 1:

Step 1:

connect and test from *left* end side (Master 2)

Step 2:

connect and test from *right* end side (Slave 71)

master 2 (Mast

measurement from <u>left</u> side (Master 2)

Result:

Test results on the **left** end:

- good quality values for stations 2 34
- bad quality values for stations 51 71

Test results on the **right** end:

- bad quality values for stations 2 34
- good quality values for stations 51 71

→ Reversal of Q-Levels!



measurement from <u>right</u> side (slave 71)

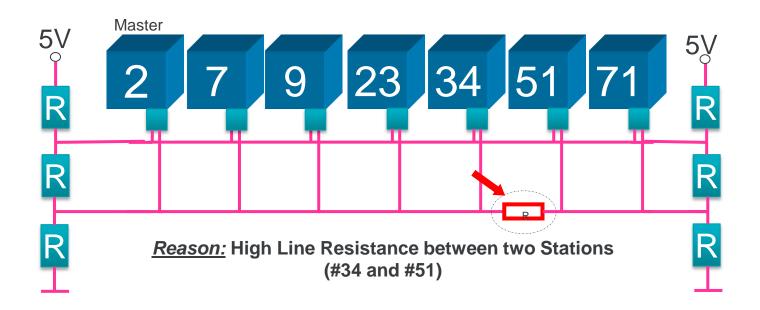
Case 1: Reversal of results from both ends of the system



Interpretation:

The test result from the <u>right</u> side is the <u>reversal (!)</u> of the test results from the <u>left</u> side and vice versa.

This kind of reversal is a clear indication for a <u>high resistance</u> in the network. In this case the problem is caused somewhere between slave 34 and slave 51 e.g. corrosion, sharply bent cable, etc.



Case 2: Q-level becomes worse from one measuring point to the next



Case 2:

- Step 1: perform test at <u>left</u> end (Master 2)
- Step 2: perform test at **right** end (Slave 71)
- Step 3: perform tests at random stations located in the **middle** of the network

Result:

- No reversal of Q-level between left and right side
- Instead, the Q-level for all stations generally declines from one station to the other.



Case 2: Q-level becomes worse from one measuring point to the next

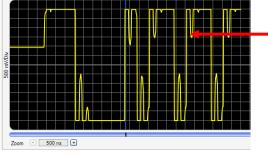


Interpretation:

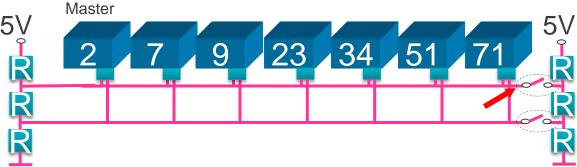
- The problem is **not** caused by resistance problems (corrosion, cable too long, etc...
- The problem is caused by signal <u>reflections</u> in the network, in this case by a missing termination resistance at Slave 71.

Typically, the problem is located at the test point that shows most stations with a bad Q-

level.



You can see the reflections in the oscilloscope display of master 2 while connected at test point Slave 71.



Case 3: Some stations are "missing" depending on the test location

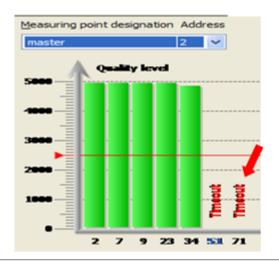


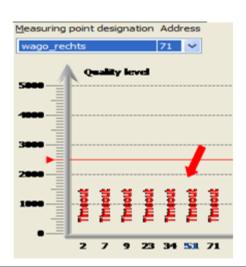
Case 3:

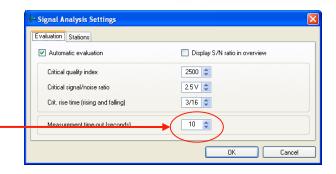
- Step 1: perform test at left side (Master 2)
- Step 2: perform test at right side (Slave 71)
 (Note: make sure that Timeout is not caused by the time-out setting in PB-T4: => Tools / settings)

Result:

- Test at left end: Slave 53 and 71 are missing
- Test at right end: all stations are missing







Case 3: Some stations are "missing" depending on the test location



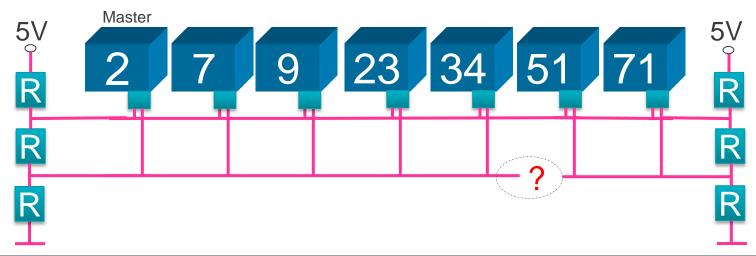
► Interpretation:

The fact that some devices can be seen from one end but not from the other indicates that the problem is not be caused by the devices themselves.

The test result at the left end shows that the Q-levels are good until slave 34. After slave 34 the Q-levels are not testable. This indicates that the problem must be in the line between slave 34 and 51.

► Conclusion:

The problem is caused by a break of one or both signal lines.



Case 4: Quality Level of one device is bad



Case 4:

- Step 1: perform test at left side (Master 2)
- Step 2: perform test at right side (Slave 123)
- Step 3: perform test at Slave 23

Result:

► The Q-level of slave 23 is bad. All others are good. The result of <u>all</u> three measurements is basically <u>identical</u>.

► Interpretation:

▶ The voltage level of RS485 driver of station 23 (and only station 23) is too low.

measurement from left side (master 2)



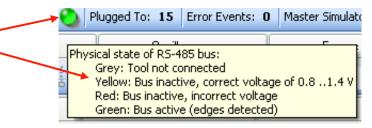
Case 5: Bus-termination is not powered correctly Johns



Indication of idle voltage:

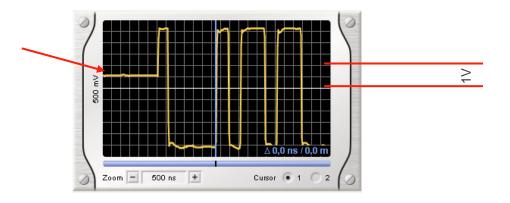
The correct idle voltage is supposed to be between 0.8 and 1.4 V.

An idle voltage lower than that indicates that one or both bus-terminations are not powered correctly.



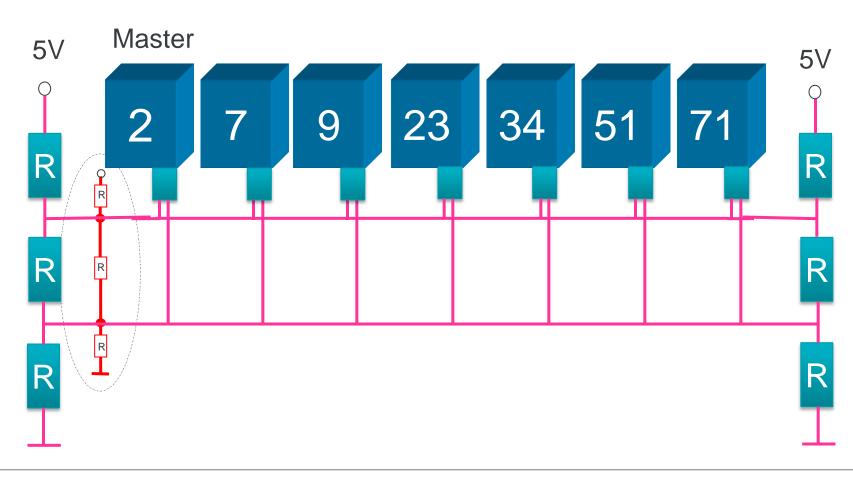
- An idle voltage of approx. 0.6 Volts indicates that only one bus-termination is powered correctly ⇒ communication may work, sporadic failures likely
- An idle voltage close to 0 Volts (both terminations not correctly powered or one termination missing/one not correctly powered ⇒ PROFIBUS will not start

In addtion, you can detect a low idle-voltage in the oscilloscope (in this case approx. 0.5 V)



Case 6: Too many bus-terminations or additional electrical resistance





Case 6: Too many bus-terminations



or additional electrical resistance

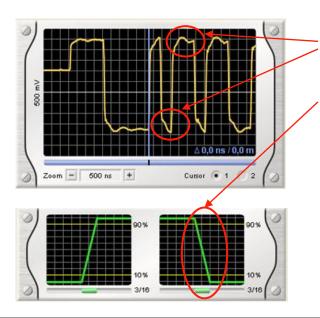




Note: The test results get worse the closer the PBT-4 is connected to the location of the problem (Master #2).

However, the signal quality level of the problematic station (Master #2) might be one of the best.

Unfortunately, the test results do not change as strikingly when dealing with tool many bus-terminations as they do with missing bus-terminations. Additional resistance usually affects all stations.

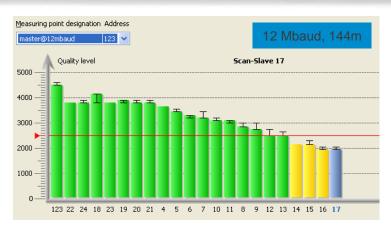


signal blurred only some drops in signal due to reflections bad signal edges

Case 7: Cable too long for selected baud rate



(transmission speed)



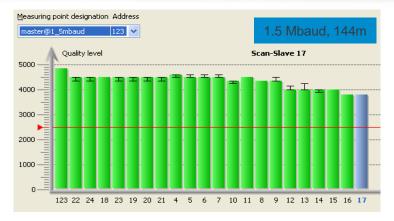
Note 1:

A cable length of 144m is too long for 12 Mbaud (100m permissible).

Therefore, the quality levels / signal level of the stations measured at the master drop with the distance to the referring slave.

Note 2:

A test performed at the opposite end of the network (station #17) will show a "mirrored image". In contrast to high line resistance the signal quality degrades gradually.



Note:

Here the built-in Master functionality of the PB-T4 comes in very handy.

Without changing the PLC-program, the network can be tested at different baud rates (e.g. 1.5 Mbaud). As shown above, running the same network at a baud rate of 1.5 Mbaud is perfectly acceptable.



9. Best-Practice for a stable PROFIBUS network

Cable type, number of stations, cable length



► PROFIBUS RS-485

Layout: terminated line, branch (or stub) lines < 0.3 m (1 foot) !!

Cable type: shielded twisted pair cable acc. to PROFIBUS specification

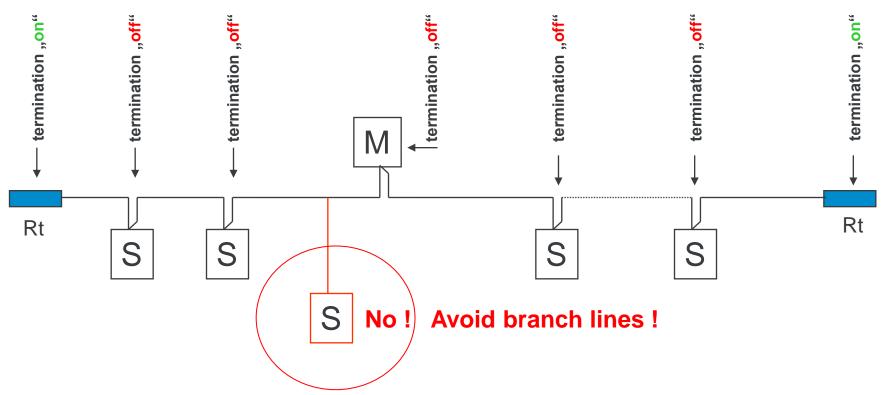
Number of stations: max. 32 w/o repeater, 127 using repeaters

Max. cable length (applies to cable type A only):

Baud Rate		Max. Cable Length	
9.6, 19.2, 31.25, and 45.45Kbit/s		1200 m	(3940 ft)
93.75 and 187.5	Kbit/s	1000 m	(3280 ft)
500	Kbit/s	400 m	(1310 ft)
1500	Kbit/s	200 m	(656 ft)
3000, 6000, and 12000	Kbit/s	100 m	(328 ft)

Correct line topology, setting of bus termination

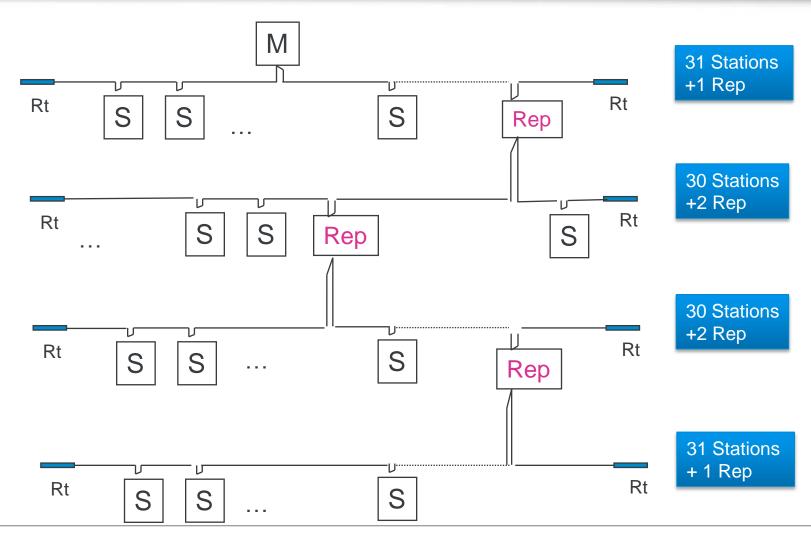




Copper cable 0.22 mm², twisted pair, shielded, AWG 24* Max. 32 stations (Masters and Slaves) in one segment without repeater

Correct line topology with repeaters

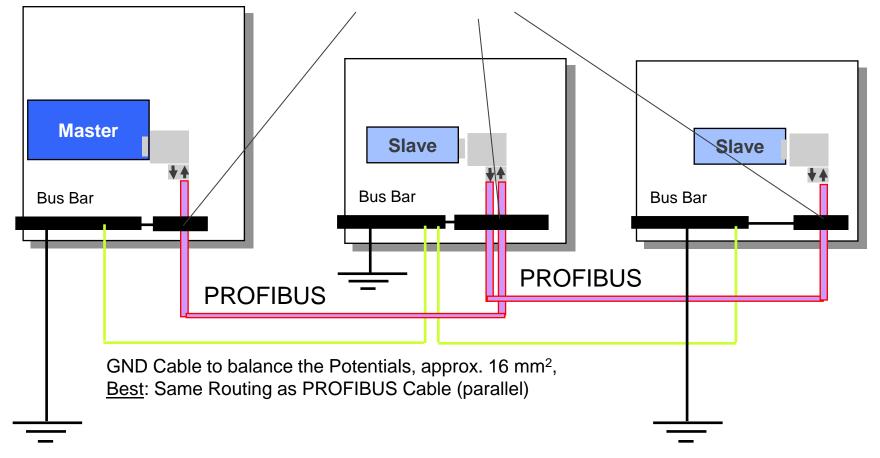




Grounding and mounting of PROFIBUS RS-485 Joffing







Thank you for your attention!

industrial.softing.com