The Application Note is pertinent to the Mentor II/Quantum III Family

Mentor II/ Quantum III Security Code

For some new User’s of Mentor II and Quantum III Drives, the parameter security system is sometimes found to be a rather mysterious subject. This article will attempt to unveil those mysteries.

Security Basics

Read/Write Drive parameters that cannot be changed (indicated by that parameter not flashing when the MODE key is depressed), are being protected by a security code. The security code can be the “as shipped factory default code” or a User assigned code, referred to as a Level 3 Security Code.

The “as shipped” security codes for these drives are:

- Level 1  xx.00 = 149  Partial Access  (xx means “any menu”)
- Level 2  xx.00 = 200  Full Access

The Level 3 Security Code parameter is #11.17. The “as shipped” value in this parameter is 149. After a security code is entered, it will remain in effect until power is removed from the drive. If you wish to re-establish this security, you can place a number other than 149 or 200 into xx.00 before walking away from the drive.

You can click on this link to see how to do this—\textcolor{red}{CTVI123}

User Security Code Assignment

A User can assign their own 3 digit security code within the range of 0-255 by placing it into #11.17 (writing over the 149) and performing a STORE.\footnote{Placing a 001 into xx.00 following by a RESET will perform a parameter store of all R/W parameters}

\textbf{NOTE:} Avoid using 233 and 255 as user security codes, these codes are used to reset the drive to “regen” or “non-regen” defaults. If this code is entered in parameter X.00 and the reset button is pushed, the drive will reset to defaults. In summary, you should avoid 0, 1, 149, 200, 233 and 255 as User security codes.

From this point forth, access to parameters will require that code to be placed into xx.00. After this code is entered, you must still enter the Level 1 access code to obtain Level 1 parameter change access or the Level 2 access code to gain access beyond Level 1 parameters (full access).

\footnote{xx.00 refers to - any menu location zero  i.e. 00.00 through 16.00}
Forgotten Security Codes

People often forget their security codes. You can always see the assigned security code parameter (#11.17) via the serial port with CTFile, DriveCom, Mentor II View or MentorSoft. However, from the Drive, you must go in through the “back door”.

“The Back Door”

To obtain the forgotten security code, you can DEPRESS and HOLD both the MODE key and the LEFT ARROW key and then APPLY POWER to the drive. The Level 3 security code number should immediately appear on the data display, which normally displays the contents of parameter #0.00 upon application of power.

If the power-on or “boot-up” parameter (see parameter #11.18) was changed from the default of #0.00, the Level 3 security code will not immediately appear. You must up or down arrow to any menu xx.00 to see the forgotten security code.

Security Bypass

During initial start-up of the drive, having to enter the security code after each power-up can become a nuisance and slow down the start-up process. To bypass or eliminate the need to enter a security code, one can accomplish this by placing a 0 into parameter #11.17 and performing a Store.

If this bypass is done to speed up the start-up process, you should remember to re-assign the 149 default to #11.17 (and Store) before leaving the job site. Otherwise, the drive will have no parameter access security.

Note: Defaulting the drive parameters (using 233 or 255) does not reset the Level 3 security code. A previously assigned code by the User will remain even after defaulting parameters.

Questions?? Ask the Author:

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