

# Installation Read Me File - HFAUTO Remote Control

Install\_ReadMe.docx - 04-Feb-2022 04:56

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## INTRODUCTION

These instructions are a quick guide to installing HFAUTO Software and HF-AUTO ATU Firmware

Versions 3.9.2.2 and later have a new capability of controlling an amplifier PTT by software using a GUI control, the OPER / STBY Button, using a special hardware adapter for the RS-232 Interface.

This is described in the document entitled [Amplifier PTT Control Adapter](#).

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## IMPORTANT

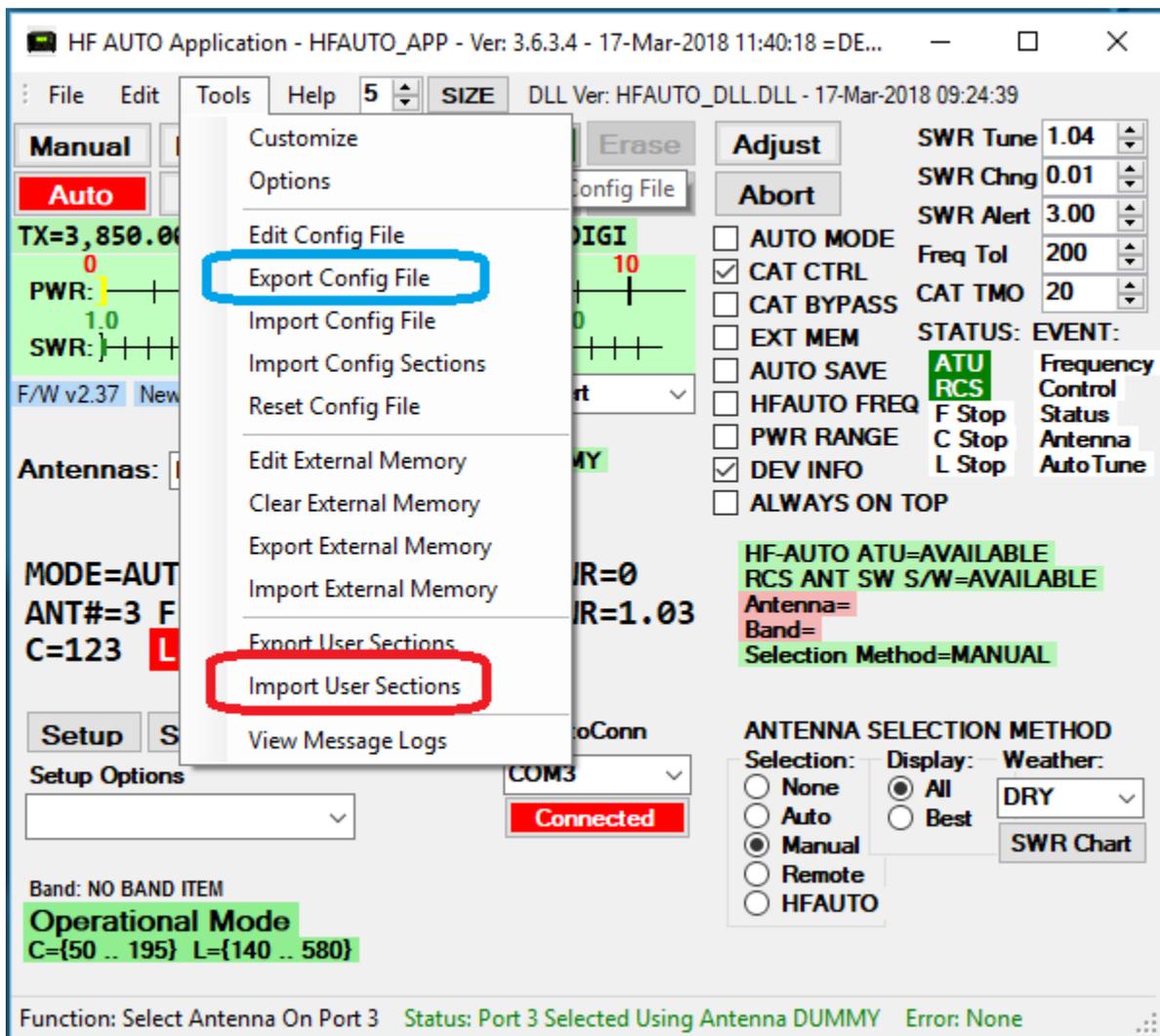
### Before Installing a NEW version of HFAUTO

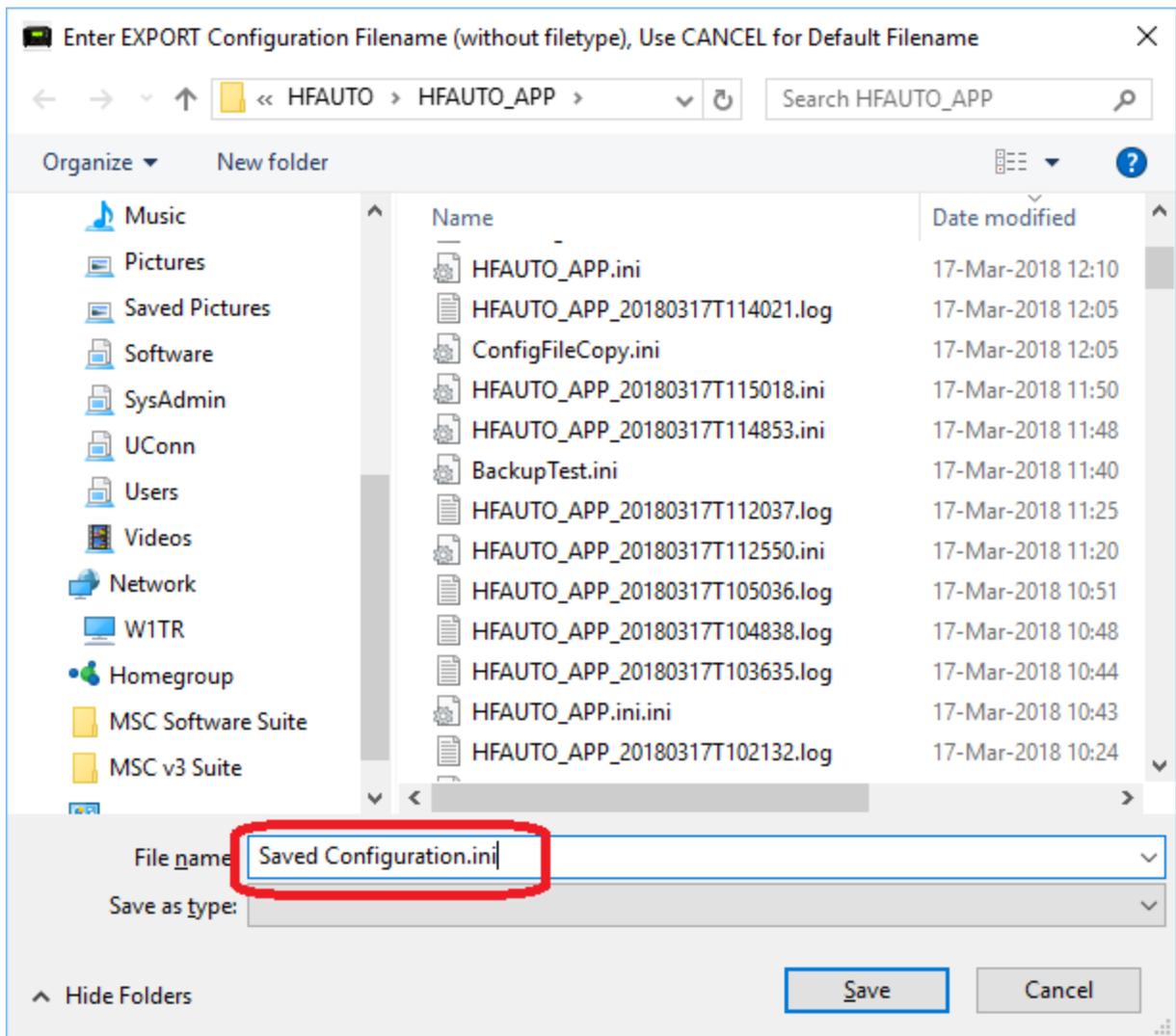
1. It is advisable to **copy the entire installation directory and rename it accordingly**, perhaps with a **version number** as part of the directory name.  
**This is imperative if you wish have keep the old version available after you install the new version.**  
After copying the existing (old) installation directory, find the \*.exe file inside, and make shortcut icon for it on the desktop.
2. Also be sure to **back up** your **configuration file** and **external memory file**.
  - a. Configuration File is HFAUTO\_APP.ini
  - b. External Memory File is ExternalMemory.csv
3. You must then **uninstall** the previous version:
  - a. Use Control Panel / Programs and Features to accomplish the uninstall process
  - b. After installation of the new version
  - c. You will want to copy the following sections from your existing configuration file to replace those in the new configuration file (see #4 below).
  - d. You will want to copy the External Memory File back to the HFAUTO Installation Folder
  - e. Installation Folder is typically: **C:\Apps\TGG\_Systems\HFAUTO** unless you chose another directory during installation

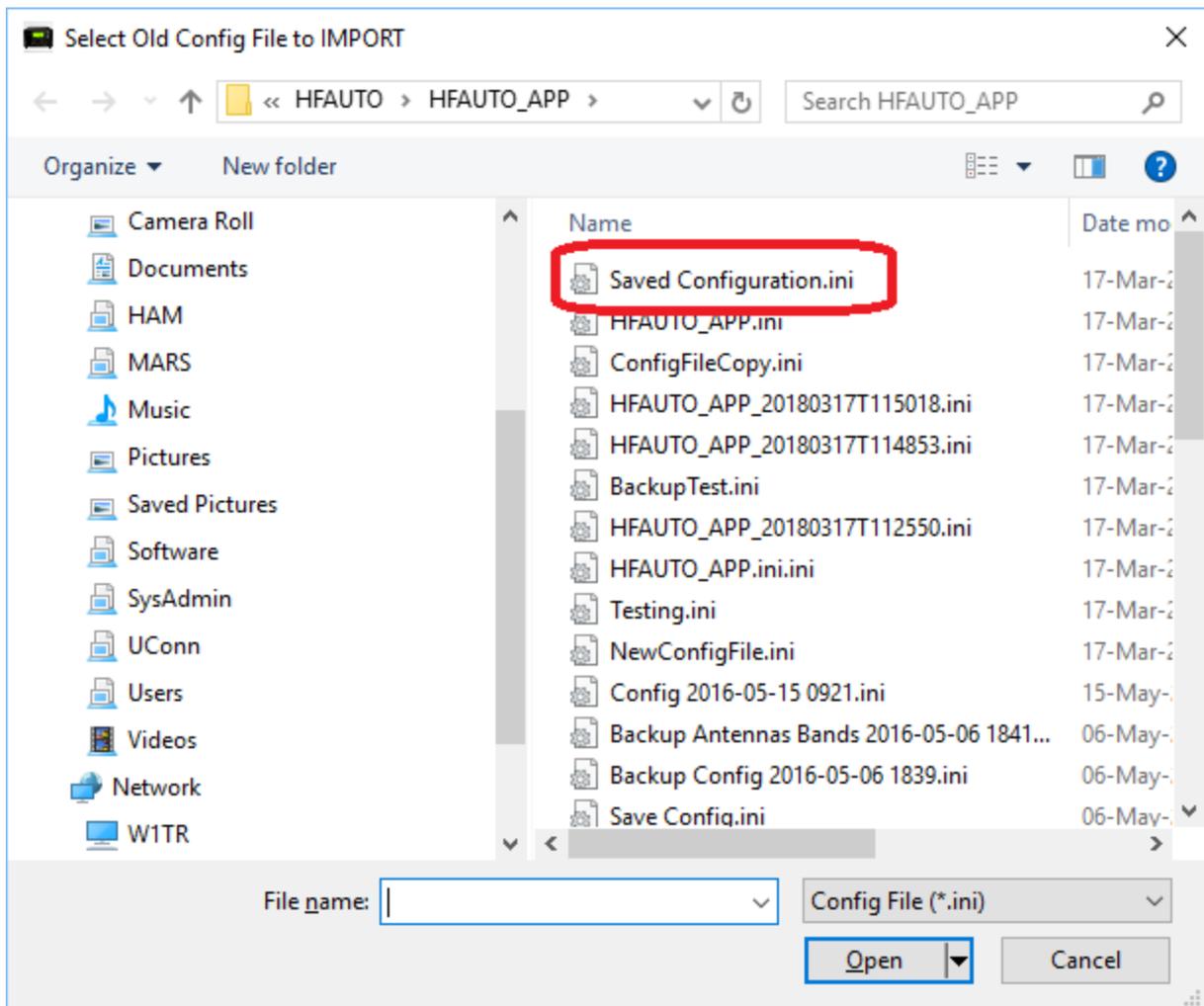
You can restore these important configuration file sections in one of two ways:

4. **Copy and Paste** the following sections from the OLD configuration file to the NEW configuration file using NotePad

- a. [Network] – UDP connections to N1MM, FLDIGI, DXLAB, DDUTIL
  - b. [Serial\_IO] – port information to connect to the HF-AUTO ATU
  - c. [Weather] – List of allowable weather conditions
  - d. [Antennas] – List of Antenna Names and HF-AUTO Antenna Port Assignments
  - e. [Bands] – List of bands and their HI/LO frequencies, the HFAUTO Mode {AUTO, MANUAL, BYPASS}, and Antenna Name
5. **Version 3.7.2.6** and later requires a new configuration parameter to work properly. Read the **HFAUTO Application User Notes** file for details.
6. **Use the Tools menu** to do this automatically
- a. **Export Config File** (when running old version of HFAUTO) to save a copy of your current Configuration File
  - b. **Import User Sections** (when running new version of HFAUTO) to import your previous settings







## FIRMWARE INSTALLATION PACKAGE

The installation package is a ZIP file that contains both software and firmware installation packages

### ZIP File Contents

The following is the contents of the ZIP file.

To access the contents, right click on the ZIP file and use Extract All...

Inside are 4 files and 1 folder:

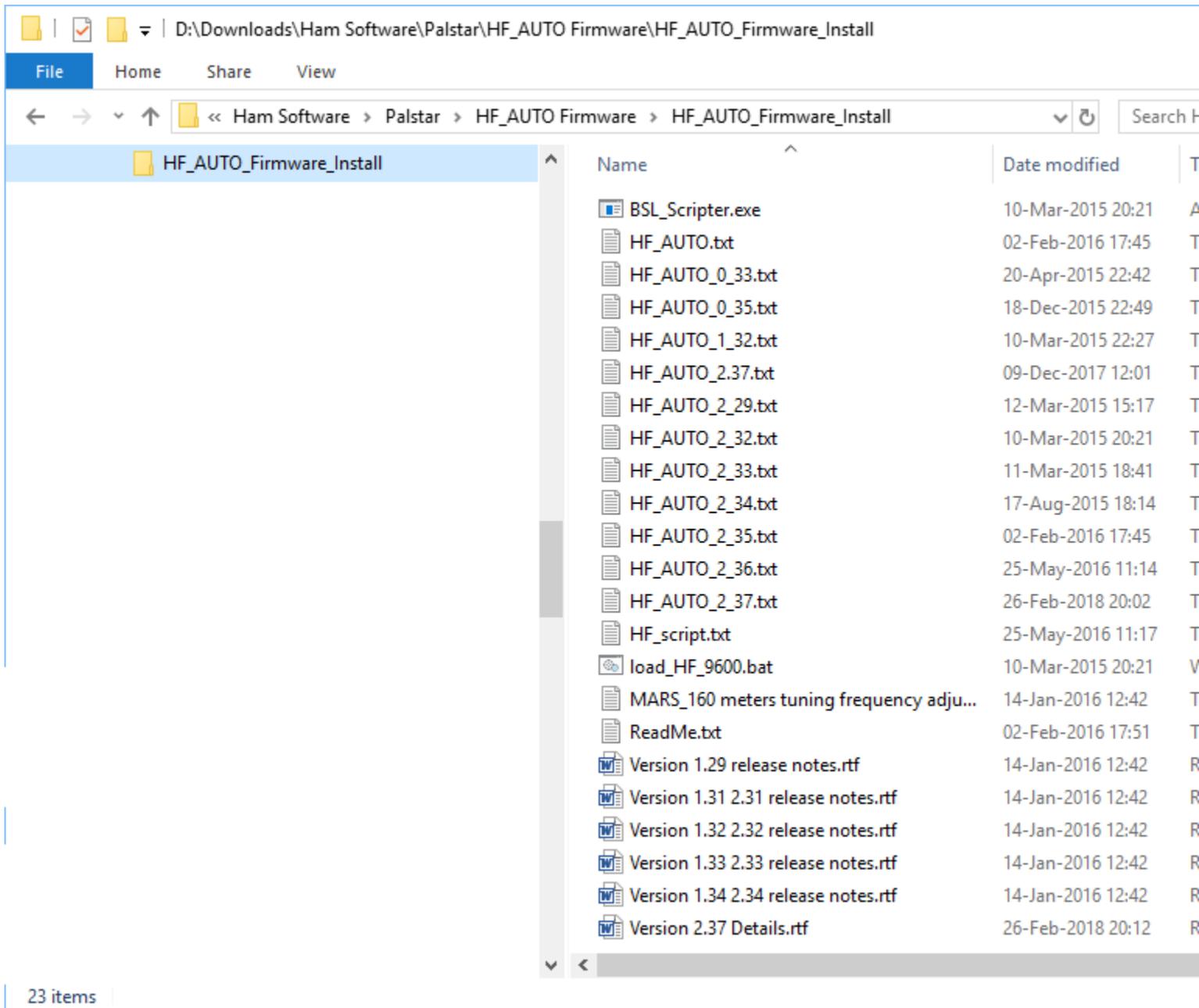
- 1) **Install\_ReadMe.pdf** – contains instructions on how to install the software. **READ THIS FIRST.**
- 2) **HFAUTO Application User Notes.pdf** – contains information about the software and its allowable use.
- 3) **Palstar HF Auto Setup - FLEX and DDUTIL.pdf** – advice on how to use the HFAUTO software with FLEX Radio Systems and DDUTIL, by Dave WO2X.
- 4) **manual\_hf-auto.pdf** – is the HF-AUTO user manual published by Palstar, available here for your convenience.
- 5) **HF\_AUTO Firmware** – Directory contains the installation package for ALL HF-AUTO ATU firmware versions, **use 2.3.6 which is the latest version.**
- 6) **HFAUTO\_Setup.V3.9.4.4.msi** – is the Microsoft System Installer file for the HFAUTO software.
- 7) **Setup.exe** – is the setup utility programmed to install the .msi file.  
You should double click on this to install.

### Firmware Installation Package

Inside the **HFAUTO Firmware** - directory are two sub-directories:

- 1) **Archive** – Contains all tools and firmware, experimental, alpha, beta.
- 2) **HF\_AUTO\_Firmware\_Install** – folder contains the HF-AUTO ATU Firmware installation package.

- a. **ReadMe.txt** are the instructions for installing the firmware: change HF\_script.txt for firmware version and COM port.
- b. The **\*.rtf** files are release notes and details
- c. **load\_HF\_9600.bat** is the batch file to execute to install the firmware (after modifying HF\_script.txt and throwing the programming switch on the back of the HF-AUTO ATU unit).
- d. **HF\_script.txt** is the file that controls which firmware file (\*.txt) and COM port will be used for the communications with the HF-AUTO ATU, **must be adjusted for your system**.
- e. **BSL\_Scripter.exe** is an executable that operates the firmware install
- f. The **HFAUTO \*.txt** files are the firmware HEX code for the various firmware versions.
- g. **MARS\_160 meters tuning frequency adjust procedure.txt** describes how to make the HF-AUTO ATU tune the range of 2.0 MHz to 2.2 Mhz properly for MARS use.



## SOFTWARE INSTALLATION PROCESS

The software installation process leads you through a number of pages, some of which allow selection of options.

**Double Click** on the **Setup.exe** or **\*.msi** to start installation.

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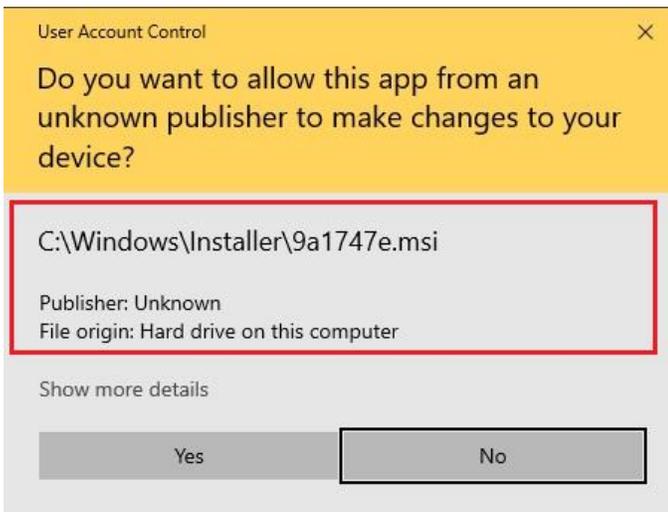
### User Account Control Page

The User Account Page will request your permission to initiate the installation process.

Click on **Yes** to continue.

Click on **No** to stop installation.

**Note:** the text within the grey part of the dialog may differ from what is shown here.



### Splash Page

The **Splash Page** will display the **product and vendor information** until dismissed by the Next or Cancel button.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to discontinue the installation process.



## Welcome Page

The **Welcome Page** welcomes you to the installation process and warns you of copyright issues.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to quit the installation process.



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## License Agreement Page

The **License Agreement Page** displays the license agreement.

Use the **scroll bar** to the **right** to view the entire document.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to discontinue the installation process.

You must check the **I Agree** radio button before the **Next** button is enabled.



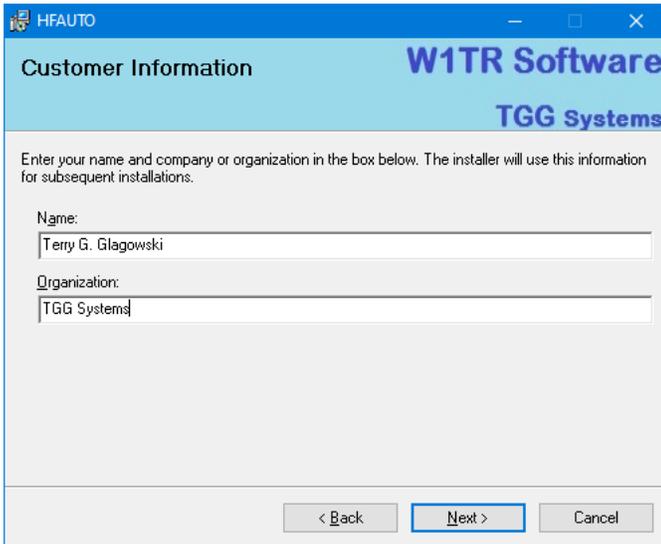
## Customer Information Page

The **Customer Information Page** collects your **name** and **organization** to be stored in the list of **installed applications**. This information will be shown in the **Apps & Features / Programs and Features Windows Settings**. **Additional columns** may need to be selected in the **Programs and Features** table to view this information.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to quit the installation process.



The screenshot shows a window titled "HFAUTO" with a blue header bar. The header contains "Customer Information" on the left and "W1TR Software" and "TGG Systems" on the right. Below the header, there is a text box with the instruction: "Enter your name and company or organization in the box below. The installer will use this information for subsequent installations." There are two input fields: "Name:" with the text "Terry G. Glagowski" and "Organization:" with the text "TGG Systems". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >", and "Cancel".

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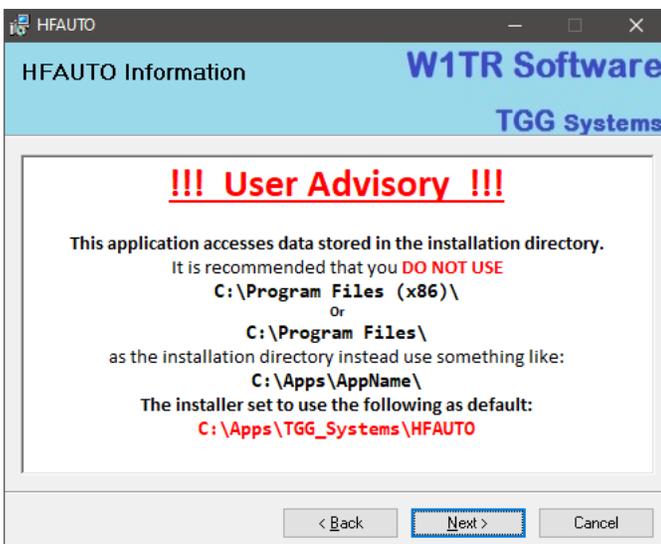
## User Advisory Page

The **User Advisory Page** notifies you of the **default installation directory choice** and some **possible alternatives**. It is **NOT a good idea** to use the **Program Files (x86)** or the **Program Files** directory because the program **reads and writes data** from those directories. They **may be protected** unless user account has **administrator privileges**.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to discontinue the installation process.



The screenshot shows a window titled "HFAUTO" with a blue header bar. The header contains "HFAUTO Information" on the left and "W1TR Software" and "TGG Systems" on the right. The main content area has a red heading "!!! User Advisory !!!" followed by the text: "This application accesses data stored in the installation directory. It is recommended that you **DO NOT USE** C:\Program Files (x86)\ or C:\Program Files\ as the installation directory instead use something like: C:\Apps\AppName\ The installer set to use the following as default: C:\Apps\TGG\_Systems\HFAUTO". At the bottom, there are three buttons: "< Back", "Next >", and "Cancel".

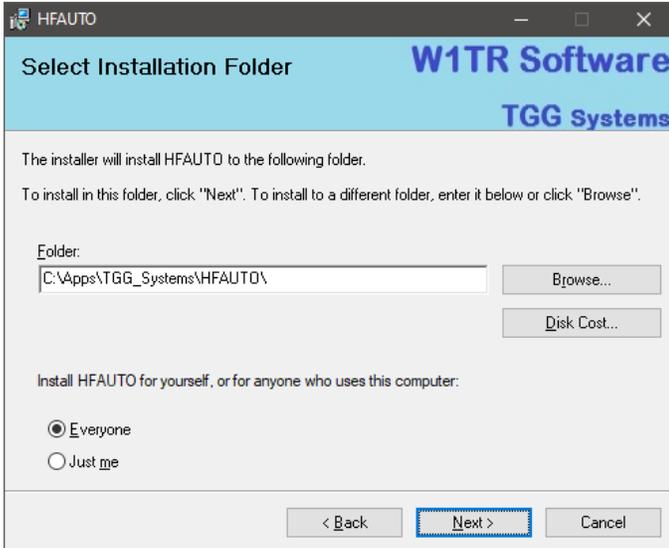
## Installation Folder Selection Page

The **Installation Selection Page** allows you to select the **installation folder** if you don't want to use the default. You can also choose to install the software for **everyone**, or just **your account**.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to quit the installation process.



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## Confirm Installation Page

The **Confirm Installation Page** is the **last stop** before installation proceeds.

Click on **Back** to view the previous page.

Click on **Next** to continue.

Click on **Cancel** to discontinue the installation process.



## User Account Control Page

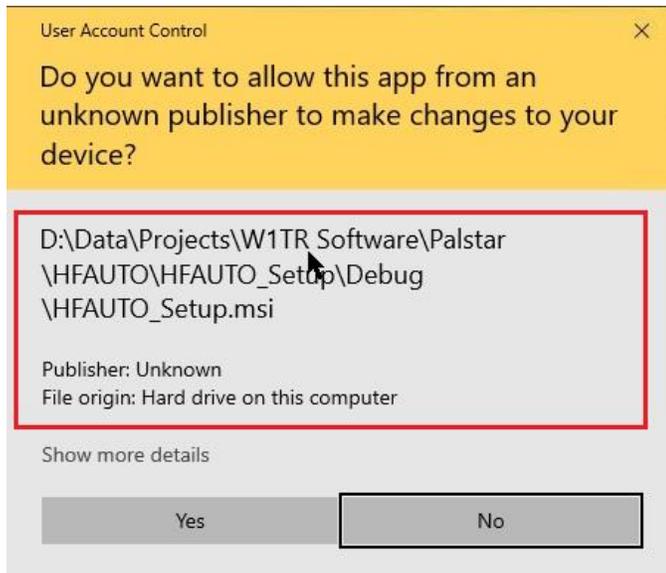
A few **Installation Progress Pages** will be quickly shown and automatically dismissed.

Then the **User Account Control Page** will appear requesting permission to proceed.

**Note:** The **text** within the **greyed part** of the dialog may differ from what is shown here.

Click on **Yes** to continue.

Click on **No** to quit the installation process.



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## Installation Complete Page

The **Installation Complete Page** notifies you that the **installation is complete**.

The **only** choice is to click on **Close** to finish the installation.



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## CUSTOM CONFIG FILES AND MULTIPLE HFAUTO INSTANCES

It is possible to have different / custom configuration files (\*.ini) for different purposes.

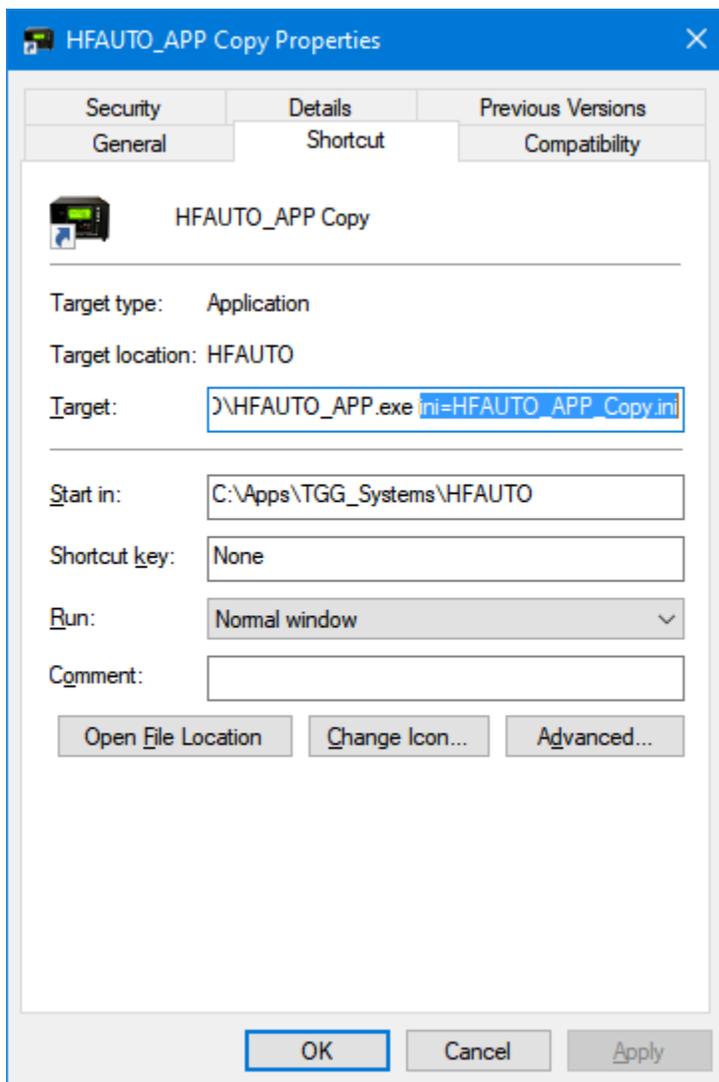
It is also possible to have multiple simultaneous instances of the HFAUTO application running at once.

This is done with use of a command line argument: **ini=xxx.ini**.

Here **ini** is the command name, and **xxx.ini** is the argument, the name of the custom configuration file.

To accomplish this:

- 1) Install the HFAUTO software in a normal fashion.
- 2) Make a copy of the **HFAUTO\_APP.ini** file (rename it appropriately, e.g. **HFAUTO\_APP\_Copy.ini**).
- 3) Edit the INI file so that the **[Serial\_IO]** section uses a different COM port.
- 4) Edit the INI file so that the **[Network]** section uses different UDP broadcast and receive ports.
- 5) Edit the INI file so that the **[Display]** section uses a different **ID=XXX** value, so you can tell multiple GUIs apart.
- 6) Edit the INI file so that the **[Function]** section uses a different **ExternalMemory.FileName=xxx** so that each configuration uses its own external memory file.
- 7) Make a desktop icon from the **HFAUTO\_APP.exe** file and rename it appropriately)
- 8) Modify the properties of the desktop ICON so that the command line argument is present.
- 9) Here the command line argument is **ini=HFAUTO\_APP\_Copy.ini**



- 10) When this desktop icon is used to start the HFAUTO software, the configuration file specified in the shortcut will be used instead of the standard one: HFAUTO\_APP.ini
  - 11) This can be done for any number of special configurations of HFAUTO.
  - 12) Multiple HFAUTO instances can be running simultaneously (with different configuration files), but be sure to edit the configuration files appropriately as described above.
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## SUMMARY

This document describes the installation package and software installation procedure for the HFAUTO Control Application provided by W1TR Software / TGG Systems, Terry G. Glasgowski / W1TR.

I hope this software will add value to your use of the Palstar HF-AUTO Automatic Antenna Tuner.

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## TROUBLESHOOTING

If you get a runtime error message, you might need to download redistributables from Microsoft:

- 1) Microsoft Office Access database engine 2007  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-US/download/details.aspx?id=13255>  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-pk/download/details.aspx?id=54920>
- 2) Microsoft Visual Studio 2010 – Tools for Office Runtime  
<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/visualstudio/vsto/how-to-install-the-visual-studio-tools-for-office-runtime-redistributable?view=vs-2019>
- 4) Microsoft Visual C++ 2010 x86 Redistributable 10.0.30319  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=8328>
- 3) Microsoft Visual C++ 2013 Redistributable (x86) 12.0.21005  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=40784>
- 4) Microsoft Visual C++ 2015 x86 Redistributable 10.0.30319  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=48145>
- 4) Microsoft Visual C++ 2019 x86 Redistributable 10.0.30319  
<https://softsharen.com/download-visual-c-redistributable-2019/24/>
- 6) Latest Visual C++ Downloads  
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/2977003/the-latest-supported-visual-c-downloads>  
<https://www.filmsofts.com/software/300041-microsoft-visual-c-2005-2008-2010-2012-2013-2019.html>
- 5) Microsoft .NET 4.5  
<https://dotnet.microsoft.com/download/dotnet-framework>

If the install package refuses to run

- 1) **Right Click** on the install package executable file (in File Explorer list)
- 2) Select **Troubleshoot Compatibility**
- 3) Try **Recommended Settings**
- 4) Click **Test the Program**
- 5) Click **Next**
- 6) Select **Yes, Save These Settings for This Program** (if this was successful)
- 7) Click **Close**

If the installed software refuses to run

- 1) Same as above, but **Right Click** on the **Desktop Icon** for the application

If the software appears in the Task Bar, but the GUI is not visible, it may be off screen

- 1) Right Click on the Task Bar
- 2) Select Cascade Windows  
ALL the open windows will be cascaded from upper left to lower right

If the software starts and GUI appears, the COM port is connected,  
but information from the ATU does not display and it cannot be controlled from the GUI

- 1) Check  
<http://www.palstar.com/en/hf-auto-boards.php>  
to see if your HF-AUTO has the latest circuit board that allows remote control.
- 2) Palstar may know the serial numbers.
- 3) I bought my Palstar HF-AUTO in 2014 and it *was* controllable.