

Firmware and Database Manual Updates

9/19/2025

When you absolutely cannot get IT to give you a trusted site for HOS. There is a way around it manually.
HOS = Hydrolab Operating Software, for short.

How to manually update Firmware

Go to the web site <https://vipierftp.otthydromet.com>

Click on release1, then firmwareZip

Download all the firmware zip file to a folder just for this file

Place the files below in a folder of your choice, like c:\TEMP\firmware.

Download the zip file and the PDF file explaining how to use it; which is this document, if you wish.

Install firmware zip file offline

This is the easy way to get the latest firmware.

Follow these steps

- 1) Open Hydrolab Operating Software (HOS).
- 2) Click on Help->Offline Firmware Update.
- 3) Use the [...] to navigate to the folder you saved the firmware zip file.
- 4) Select that firmware file, click on OK.

The newest firmware has been installed on your system. Restart Hydrolab Operating Software, connect your device, if there is new F/W, the program will notify you.

How to manually update the database

The database changes much more often than the firmware because it gets LDO cap coefficient updates and other custom information on a regular basis.

Close Hydrolab Operating Software

Go to the web site <https://vipierftp.otthydromet.com>

Click on release1 then click configFiles.

Download the HCFF file

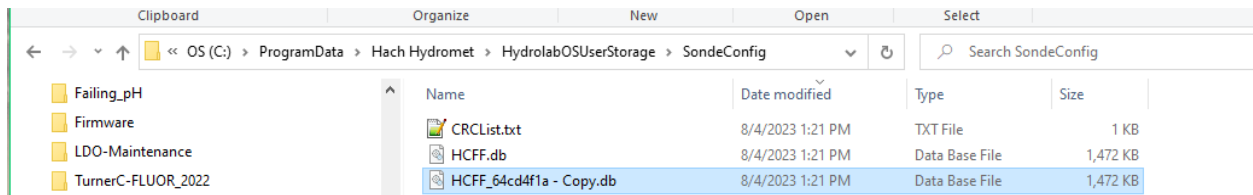
Download the HCFF file.

Only the newest database file is shown. Move this file to

C:\ProgramData\Hach Hydromet\HydrolabOSUserStorage\SondeConfig

Rename the database file

Click on the HCFF file you just moved and copy/paste it (<Ctrl><c> and <Ctrl><v>) to create a copy.



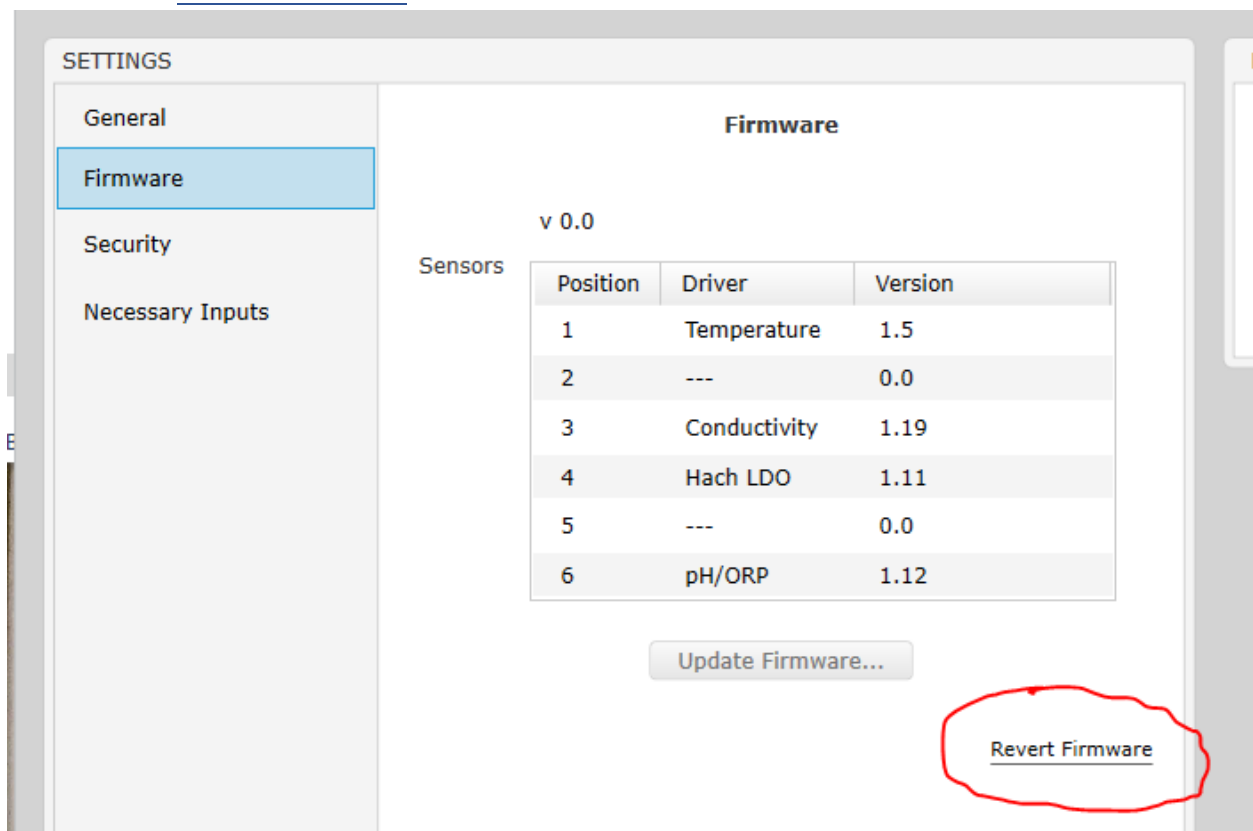
Delete the HCFF.db file.

Rename the HCFF...-Copy.db to HCFF.db

Start Hydrolab Operating Software again.

How to manually back up to a previous version of a sensor driver.

Click on the [Revert Firmware](#) link

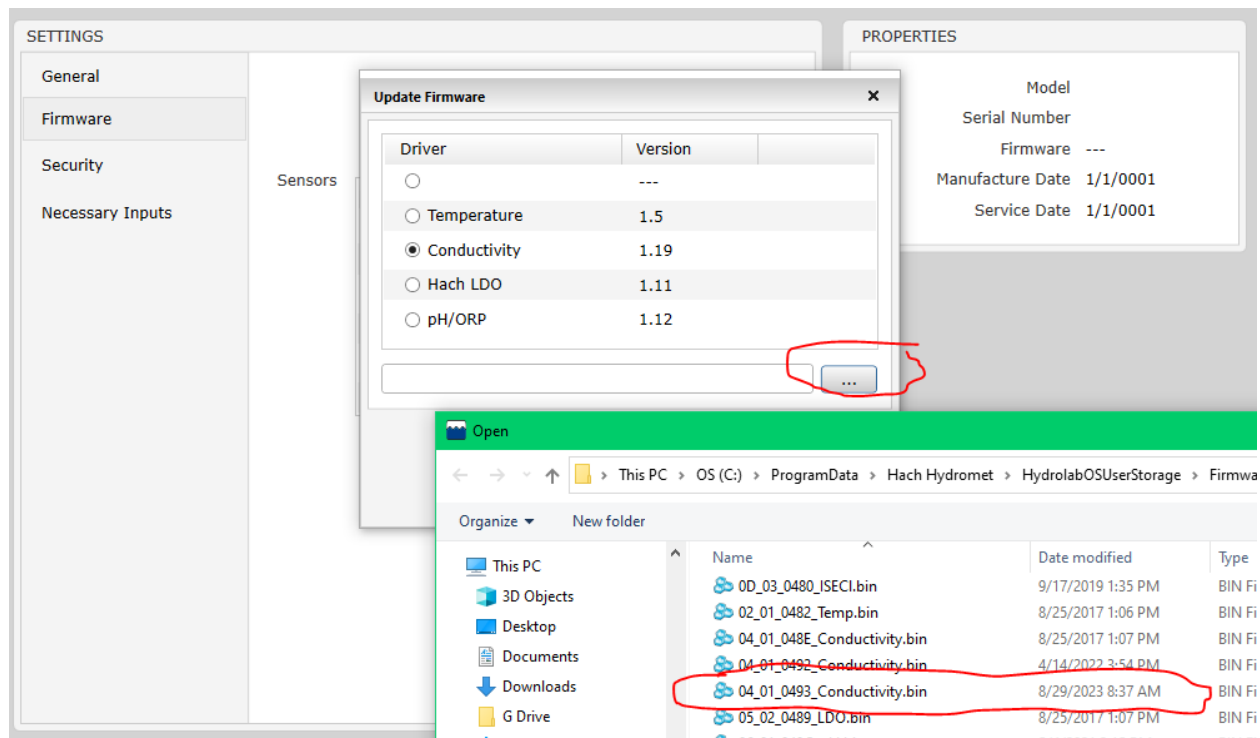


Install the firmware you want

Select, one at a time, the sensor that you want to update.

Click on the ". . ." button and navigate to the folder you have the older firmware saved.

Then select the version of the firmware you want.



The new firmware will be examined, if you select incorrect firmware, you will be told and it won't be allowed.

File name translations

The firmware filenames were designed for programs to read and sort, not humans, so they look weird. This is how to translate them. These are the only files currently used, ignore any file not in this list below. The numbers and letters prefacing the file name are machine readable version encodings. The list below is just the recognizable text part of the files.

- _Temp.bin - Temperature sensor
- _Conductivity.bin - conductivity sensor
- _LDO.bin - LDO sensor
- _pH.bin - pH only sensor
- _pHORP.bin - pH/ORP combined sensor
- _Depth<nnn>.bin - Depth sensor options nnn is the max depth in meters
- _Turbidity.bin - Turbidity sensor
- _CentralWiper.bin - HL7 brush only
- _ChlA.bin - Chlorophyll A sensor
- _RWT.bin - Rhodamine WT sensor
- _BGAF.cin - Blue green algae, Fresh water sensor
- _BGAM.cin - Blue green algae, Marine sensor
- _ISENH4.bin - Ammonia/Ammonium sensor
- _ISENO3.bin - Nitrate sensor
- _ISECI.bin - Chloride sensor
- _ISENH4NO3.bin - Ammonium/Nitrate combined sensor

- _ComMod.bin - USB communications module
- _ComSDI12.bin - SDI12 communications module
- _ComMB232.bin - MODBUS RS232 communications module
- _ComMB485.bin - MODBUS RS485 communications module
- _ComTTY.bin - TTY communications module
- _HL4.bin - HL4 sonde firmware
- _HL7.bin - HL7 sonde firmware

- _C9_01_Surveyor.bin - Model 1 Surveyor HL firmware
- _C9_02_Surveyor.bin - Model 2 Surveyor HL firmware