TRB143 Modbus

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Summary

Modbus is a serial communications protocol. Simple and robust, it has become a de facto standard communication protocol and is now a commonly available means of connecting industrial electronic devices.

This manual page provides an overview of the Modbus functionality in TRB143 devices.

If you're having trouble finding this page or some of the parameters described here on your device's WebUI, you should **turn on "Advanced WebUI" mode**. You can do that by clicking the "Advanced" button, located at the top of the WebUI.

Modbus TCP Server

A **Modbus TCP Server** listens for connections from a TCP Client (client) and sends out a response or sets some system related parameter in accordance with the given query. This provides the user with the possibility to set or get system parameters.

The figure below is an example of the Modbus TCP window section and the table below provides information on the fields contained in that window:

Field	Value	Description
Enable	off | on; default: **off**	Turns Modbus TCP on or off.
Port	integer [0..65535]; default: **502**	TCP port used for Modbus communications.
Device ID	integer [0..255]; default: **1**	The device's Modbus server ID. When set to 0, it will respond to requests addressed to any ID.
Mobile Data type	Bytes | Kilobytes | Megabytes; default: **Bytes**	Selects mobile data unit representation type.
Allow remote access	off | on; default: **off**	Allows remote Modbus connections by adding an exception to the device's firewall on the port specified in the field above.
Keep persistent connection	off | on; default: **onn**	Allows keep the connection open after responding a Modbus TCP client request.
Connection timeout	integer [0..60]; default: **0**	Sets TCP timeout in seconds after which the connection is forcefully closed.
Enable custom register block	off | on; default: **off**	Allows the usage of custom register block.
Register file path	path; default: **/tmp/regfile**	Path to file in which the custom register block will be stored. Files inside /tmp or /var are stored in RAM. They vanish after reboot, but do not degrade flash memory. Files elsewhere are stored in flash memory. They remain after reboot, but degrade flash memory (severely, if operations are frequent).
First register number	integer [1025..65536]; default: **1025**	First register in custom register block
Register count	integer [1..64512]; default: **128**	Register count in custom register block

Modbus Registers

Get Parameters

Modbus parameters are held within **registers**. Each register contains 2 bytes of information. For simplification, the number of registers for storing numbers is 2 (4 bytes), while the number of registers for storing text information is 16 (32 bytes).

The register numbers and corresponding system values are described in the table below:

required value	register address	register number	number of registers	representation
System uptime	1	2	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile signal strength (RSSI in dBm)	3	4	2	32 bit integer
System temperature (in 0.1 °C)	5	6	2	32 bit integer
System hostname	7	8	16	Text
GSM operator name	23	24	16	Text
Router serial number	39	40	16	Text

LAN MAC address	55	56	16	Text
Router name	71	72	16	Text
Network registration info	103	104	16	Text
Network type	119	120	16	Text
Current WAN IP address	139	140	2	8 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received today (SIM1)	185	186	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent today (SIM1)	187	188	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received this week (SIM1)	189	190	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent this week (SIM1)	191	192	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received this month (SIM1)	193	194	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent this month (SIM1)	195	196	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received last 24h (SIM1)	197	198	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent last 24h (SIM1)	199	200	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received last 7 days (SIM1)	292	293	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent 7 days (SIM1)	294	295	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data received last 30 days (SIM1)	296	297	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Mobile data sent last 30 days (SIM1)	298	299	2	32 bit unsigned integer
PIN 3 status (4 PIN connector)	324	325	1	16 bit unsigned integer
PIN 4 status (4 PIN connector)	325	326	1	16 bit unsigned integer
PIN 3 direction	326	327	1	16 bit unsigned integer
PIN 4 direction	327	328	1	16 bit unsigned integer
Modem ID	328	329	8	Text
IMSI	348	349	16	Text
Unix timestamp	364	365	2	32 bit unsigned integer
Local ISO time	366	367	12	Text
UTC time	378	389	12	Text
LAN IP	394	395	2	8 bit unsigned integer
Add SMS	397	398	90	Text

Set Parameters

The Modbus daemon can also set some device parameters.

value to set	register address	register number	register value	description
Hostname	7	8	Hostname (in decimal form)	Changes hostname
Device name	71	72	Device name (in decimal form)	Changes device name
Switch mobile data connection (ON/OFF*)	204	205	1 | 0	Turns mobile data connection ON or OFF
Reboot	206	207	1	Reboots the router
Change APN	207	208	APN code	Changes APN. The number of input registers may vary depending on the length of the APN, but the very first byte of the set APN command denotes the number of the SIM card for which to set the APN. This byte should be set to: • 1 - to set APN for SIM1 • 2 - to set APN for SIM2
Switch PIN 3 state	324	325	1|0	Toggles PIN 3 ON or OFF, when output is selected
Switch PIN 4 state	325	326	1|0	Toggles PIN 4 ON or OFF, when output is selected
Switch PIN 3 direction	326	327	1|0	Toggles PIN 3 direction between INPUT (0) or OUTPUT (1)
Switch PIN 4 direction	327	328	1|0	Toggles PIN 4 direction between INPUT (0) or OUTPUT (1)
Change LAN IP	394	395	IPv4 (in decimal form)	Changes device LAN IP
Send SMS	396	397	1|0	Sends an SMS with content defined in Add SMS (397) register
Add SMS	397	398	Message (in decimal form)	Define SMS content which will be sent using Send SMS (396) register. The register array is split into two parts that represent the recipient's "phone number" (first 10 registers) and the "SMS message contents" (remaining 80 registers).

Modbus TCP Client

A **Modbus Client** device can request data from Modbus servers. The Modbus TCP Client section is used to configure Modbus TCP servers and enable Client.

Notice the Global section config. It is used to outright turn the service off or on if any active configurations are present.

Clicking the Cog icon opens a modal window. The global configuration slider can be set and it's state

saved.

By default, the server list is empty and client is disabled. To add a new server, click the 'Add' button

After clicking 'Add' you will be redirected to the newly added server's configuration page.

Server Device Configuration

The **Server Device Configuration** section is used to configure the parameters of Modbus TCP servers that the Client (this TRB143 device) will be querying with requests. The figure below is an example of the Server Device Configuration and the table below provides information on the fields contained in that section:

Field	Value	Description
Enabled	off | on; default: **off**	Turns communication with the server device on or off.
Name	string; default: **none**	Server device's name, used for easier management purposes.
Server ID	integer [0..255]; default: **none**	Server ID. Each server in a network is assigned a unique identifier ranging from 1 to 255. When the client requests data from a server, the first byte it sends is the Server ID. When set to 0, the server will respond to requests addressed to any ID.
IP address	ip4; default: **none**	Server device's IP address.
Port	integer [0..65535]; default: **none**	Server device's Modbus TCP port.
Timeout	integer [1..30]; default: **5**	Maximum response wait time.
Always reconnect	off | on; default: **off**	Create new connection after every Modbus request.
Number of timeouts	integer [0..10]; default: **1**	Skip pending request and reset connection after number of request failures.
Frequency	Period | Schedule; default: **Period**	
Delay	integer [0..999]; default: **0**	Wait in milliseconds after connection initialization.
Period	integer [1..99999]; default: **none**	Interval in seconds for sending requests to this device

Requests Configuration

A Modbus **request** is a way of obtaining data from Modbus servers. The client sends a request to a server specifying the function code to be performed. The server then sends the requested data back to the Modbus client.

Note: Modbus TCP Client uses *Register Number* instead of *Register Address* for pointing to a register. For example, to request the *Uptime* of a device, you must use **2** in the *First Register* field.

The Request Configuration list is empty by default. To add a new Request Configuration loon to the Add New Instance section. Enter a custom name into the 'Name' field and click the 'Add' button:

The new Request Configuration should become visible in the list:

Field	Value	Description
Name	string; default: **Unnamed**	Name of this Request Configuration. Used for easier management purposes.
Data type	8bit INT | 8bit UINT | 16bit INT, high byte first | 16bit INT, low byte first | 16bit UINT, high byte first | 16bit UINT, low byte first | 32bit float (various Byte order) | 32bit INT (various Byte order) | 32bit UINT (various Byte order) | 64bit INT (various Byte order) | 64bit UINT (various Byte order) | 64bit float (various Byte order) | ASCII | Hex | Bool | PDU; default: **16bit INT, high byte first**	Defines how read data will be stored.
Function	Read coils (1) | Read input coils (2) | Read holding registers (3) | Read input registers (4) | Set single coil (5) | Set single coil register (6) | Set multiple coils (15) | Set multiple holding registers (16); default: **Read holding registers (3)**	Specifies the type of register being addressed by a Modbus request.
First Register	integer [0..65535]; default: **1**	First Modbus register from which data will be read.
Register Count / Values	integer [1..2000]; default: **1**	Number of Modbus registers that will be read during the request.
Remove Brackets	off | on; default: **off**	Removes the starting and ending brackets from the request (only for read requests).
off/on slider	off | on; default: **off**	Turns the request on or off.
Delete [X]	- (interactive button)	Deletes the request.

Additional note: by default the newly added Request Configurations are turned off. You can use the on/off slider to the right of the Request Configuration to turn it on:

After having configured a request, you should see a new 'Request Configuration Testing' section appear. It is used to check whether the configuration works correctly. Simply click the 'Test' button and a response should appear in the box below. **Note:** to use test buttons, you need to enable Client section. A successful response to a test may look something like this:

Alarms Configuration

Alarms are a way of setting up automated actions when some Modbus values meet user-defined conditions. When the Modbus TCP Client (this TRB143 device) requests some information from a server device it compares that data to with the parameters set in an Alarm Configuration. If the comparison meets the specified condition (more than, less than, equal to, not equal to), the Client performs a user-specified action, for example, a Modbus write request or switching the state of an output.

The figure below is an example of the Alarms Configuration list. To create a new Alarm, click the 'Add' button.

After adding the Alarm you should be redirected to its configuration page which should look similar to this:

Field	Value	Description
Enabled	off | on; default: **off**	Turns the alarm on or off.
Function code	Read Coil Status (1) | Read Input Status (2) | Read Holding Registers (3) | Read Input Registers (4); default: **Read Coil Status (1)**	Modbus function used for this alarm's Modbus request. The Modbus TCP Client (this TRB143 device) perform this request as often as specified in the 'Period' field in Server Device Configuration.
Compared condition data type	8bit INT | 8bit UINT | 16bit INT, high byte first | 16bit INT, low byte first | 16bit UINT, high byte first | 16bit UINT, low byte first | 32bit float (various Byte order) | 32bit INT (various Byte order) | 32bit UINT (various Byte order) | 64bit INT (various Byte order) | 64bit UINT (various Byte order) | 64bit float (various Byte order) | ASCII | Hex | Bool; default: **16bit INT, high byte first**	Select data type that will be used for checking conditions.
First register number	integer [1..65536]; default: **none**	Number of the Modbus coil/input/holding-register/input-register to read from.
Values	various; default: **none**	The value against which the read data will be compared.

Condition	More than | Less than | Equal to | Not Equal to | Less or equal | More or equal; default: **More than**	When a value is obtained it will be compared against the value specified in the following field. The comparison will be made in accordance with the condition specified in this field.
Action frequency	Every trigger | First trigger; default: **Every trigger**	Describes how frequently the specified action will be taken.
Redundancy protection	off | on; default: **off**	Protection against executing a configured action too often.
Redundancy protection period	integer [1..86400]; default: **none**	Duration to activate redundancy protection for, measured in seconds. This field becomes visible only when 'Redundancy protection' is turned on.
Action	Ubus event | SMS | MODBUS Write Request| Trigger output | MQTT message; default: **MODBUS Write Request**	Action that will be taken if the condition is met. Possible actions: • **SMS** - sends and SMS message to a specified recipient(s). • **Modbus Request** - sends a Modbus Write request to a specified server. • **Trigger output** - changes state of selected I/O output pin.
SMS: Message	string; default: **none**	SMS message text.
SMS: Phone number	phone number; default: **none**	Recipient's phone number.
MODBUS Write Request: IP address	ip | host; default: **none**	Modbus server's IP address.
MODBUS Write Request: Port	integer [0..65535]; default: **none**	Modbus server's port.
MODBUS Write Request: Timeout	integer [1..30]; default: **5**	Maximum time to wait for a response.
MODBUS Write Request: ID	integer [1..255]; default: **none**	Modbus server ID.
MODBUS Write Request: Modbus function	Set Single Coil (5) | Set Single Register (6) | Set Multiple Coils (15) | Set Multiple Registers (16); default: **Set Single Coil (5)**	A function code specifies the type of register being addressed by a Modbus request.

MODBUS Write Request: Executed action data type	8bit INT | 8bit UINT | 16bit INT, high byte first | 16bit INT, low byte first | 16bit UINT, high byte first | 16bit UINT, low byte first | 32bit float (various Byte order) | 32bit INT (various Byte order) | 32bit UNIT (various Byte order) 64bit INT (various Byte order) | 64bit UINT (various Byte order) | 64bit float (various Byte order) | ASCII | Hex | Bool; default: **Bool**	Select data type that will be used for executing action.
MODBUS Write Request: First register number	integer [0..65535]; default: **none**	Begins reading from the register specified in this field.
MODBUS Write Request: Values	integer [0..65535]; default: **none**	Register/Coil values to be written (multiple values must be separated by space character).
Trigger output: Output	Configurable Input/Output (3) | Configurable Input/Output (4); default: **Configurable Input/Output (3)**	Selects which output will be triggered.
Trigger output: I/O Action	Turn On | Turn Off | Invert; default: **Turn On**	Selects the action performed on the output.
MQTT message: JSON format	string; default: **none**	Below this field you can find special codes that begin with the '%' sign. Each code represents a piece information related to the status of the device. Include these codes in the field for dynamic information reports. Possible values: Local time, Unix time, Router name, Device name, Serial number, Current FW version, LAN IP address, Monitoring status, UTC time in ISO, WAN IP address, New line, Modbus server ID, Modbus server IP, First register number, Register value, Mobile IP addresses, Signal strength, Operator name, Network type, Data connection state, Network state, IMSI, IMEI, Modem model, Modem serial number, SIM pin state, SIM state, RSCP, ECIO, RSRP, SINR, RSRQ, ICCID, CELLID, Neighbour cells, Network info, Network serving, WAN MAC address, Analog Current Loop (6,9), Analog Input (6,9), Input (3), Digital Input (1), Output (4), Isolated Output (3,4,8), Isolated Input (2,7), Relay (5,10)
MQTT message: Hostname	host | ip; default: **none**	Broker’s IP address or hostname.
MQTT message: Port	integer [0..65535]; default: **1883**	Broker's port number.
MQTT message: Keepalive	positive integer; default: **none**	The number of seconds after which the broker should send a PING message to the client if no other messages have been exchanged in that time

MQTT message: Topic	string; default: **none**	The name of the topic that the broker will subscribe to.
MQTT message: Client ID	positive integer; default: **none**	Client ID to send with the data. If empty, a random client ID will be generated
MQTT message: QoS	At most once (0) | At least once (1) | Exactly once (2); default: **At most once (0)**	A period of time (in seconds) which has to pass after a trigger event before this Action is executed.
MQTT message: Use root CA	off | on; default: **off**	Use root CA for verifying the servers certificates
MQTT message: Use TLS	off | on; default: **off**	Turns the use of TLS/SSL for this MQTT connection on or off.
MQTT message: Use credentials	off | on; default: **off**	Turns the use of username and password for this MQTT connection on or off.

MQTT Modbus Gateway

The **MQTT Modbus Gateway** function is used to transfer Modbus data (send requests, receive responses) over MQTT. When it is enabled, the device (this TRB143) subscribes to a REQUEST topic and publishes on a RESPONSE topic on a specified MQTT broker. It translates received MQTT message payload to a Modbus request and relays it to the specified Modbus TCP server.

When the MQTT Gateway receives a response from the server, it translates it to an MQTT message and publishes it on the RESPONSE topic.

Below is an example of the MQTT Gateway page. Refer to the table for information on MQTT Gateway configuration fields.

Field	Value	Description
Enable	off | on; default: **off**	Turns MQTT gateway on or off.
Host	ip | host; default: **127.0.0.1**	IP address or hostname of an MQTT broker.
Port	integer [0..65535]; default: **1883**	Port number of the MQTT broker.
Request topic	alphanumeric string; default: **request**	MQTT topic for sending requests.
Response topic	alphanumeric string; default: **response**	MQTT topic for subscribing to responses.
QoS	At most once (0) | At least once (1) | Exactly once (2); default: **Exactly once (2)**	Specifies quality of service.
Username	string; default: **none**	Username for authentication to the MQTT broker.
Password	string; default: **none**	Password for authentication to the MQTT broker.
Client ID	integer; default: **none**	Specifies client ID for MQTT broker.

Keepalive	integer; default: **5**	Keepalive message to MQTT broker (seconds)
Use TLS/SSL	off | on; default: **off**	Turns TLS support on or off
TLS type	cert | psk; default: **cert**	Selects the type of TLS encryption
TLS insecure	off | on; default: **off**	Disables TLS security
Certificate files from device	off | on; default: **off**	Choose this option if you want to use certificate files generated on device.
CA file	string; default: **none**	Upload/select certificate authority file.
Certificates file	string; default: **none**	Upload/select certificate file.
Key file	string; default: **none**	Upload/select certificate key file.
PSK	string; default: **none**	Specifies the pre-shared key.
Identity	string; default: **none**	Specifies identity.

Request messages

Note: MQTT Gateway uses *Register Number* instead of *Register Address* for pointing to a register. For example, to request the *Uptime* of a device, you must use **2** in the *Register Number* field.

Modbus request data sent in the MQTT payload should be generated in accordance with the one of the following formats:

- TCP:

```
 0 <COOKIE> <IP_TYPE> <IP> <PORT> <TIMEOUT> <SERVER_ID> <MODBUS_FUNCTION>
<FIRST_REGISTER> <REGISTER_COUNT/VALUES>
```

- Serial:

```
 1 <COOKIE> <SERIAL_DEVICE_ID> <TIMEOUT> <SERVER_ID> <MODBUS_FUNCTION>
<FIRST_REGISTER> <REGISTER_COUNT/VALUES>
```

- MODBUS TCP connection management messages:

```
 2 <COOKIE> <CONNECTION_INDEX> <ACTION>
2 <COOKIE> <CONNECTION_INDEX> 0 <IP_TYPE> <IP> <PORT> <TIMEOUT>
```

Explanation:

- **Cookie** - a 64-bit unsigned integer in range [0..2^{64}-1]). A cookie is used in order to distinguish which response belongs to which request, each request and the corresponding response contain a matching cookie: a 64-bit unsigned integer.
- **IP type** - host IP address type. Possible values:
  - **0** - IPv4 address;
  - **1** - IPv6 address;
  - **2** - hostname that will be resolved to an IP address.
- **IP** - IP address of a Modbus TCP server. IPv6 must be presented in full form (e.g., *2001:0db8:0000:0000:0000:8a2e:0370:7334*).
- **Port** - port number of the Modbus TCP server.
- **Timeout** - timeout for Modbus connection, in seconds. Range [1..999].
- **Server ID** - Modbus TCP server ID. Range [1..255].

- **Modbus function** - Modbus task type that will be executed. Possible values are:
  - **1** - read coils;
  - **2** - read input coils;
  - **3** - read holding registers;
  - **4** - read input registers;
  - **5** - set single coil;
  - **6** - write to a single holding register;
  - **15** - set multiple coils;
  - **16** - write to multiple holding registers.
- **First register** - number (not address) of the first register/coil/input (in range [1..65536]) from which the registers/coils/inputs will be read/written to.
- **Register count/value** - this value depends on the Modbus function:
  - **1** - coil count (in range [1..2000]); must not exceed the boundary (first coil number + coil count <= 65537);
  - **2** - input count (in range [1..2000]); must not exceed the boundary (first input number + input count <= 65537);
  - **3** - holding register count (in range [0..125]); must not exceed the boundary (first register number + holding register count <= 65537);
  - **4** - input register count (in range [0..125]); must not exceed the boundary (first register number + input register count <= 65537);
  - **5** - coil value (in range [0..1]);
  - **6** - holding register value (in range [0..65535]);
  - **15** - coil count (in range [1..1968]); must not exceed the boundary (first coil number + coil count <= 65537); and coil values separated with commas, without spaces (e.g., *1,2,3,654,21,789*); there must be exactly as many values as specified (with coil count); each value must be in the range of [0..1].
  - **16** - register count (in range [1..123]); must not exceed the boundary (first register number + register count <= 65537); and register values separated with commas, without spaces (e.g., *1,2,3,654,21,789*); there must be exactly as many values as specified (with register count); each value must be in the range of [0..65535].
- **Serial device ID** - a string used to identify a serial device. Must match with Device ID field in MQTT Gateway page Serial gateway configuration section.
- **Connection index** - a number used to identify a connection on which an action will be preformed (in range [0..7]).
- **Action** - a connection action. Possible values are:
  - **0** - OPEN. This will open a closed connection, reopen an already open connection with the same parameters or close an already open connection and open a new one with new parameters.
  - **1** - CLOSE. This will close an open connection and do nothing to the closed one.
  - **2** - STATUS. This will respond with either **OK 1** for an open connection or **OK 0** for a closed connection.

Response messages

A special response message can take one of the following forms:

```
<COOKIE> OK                                  - for functions 6 and 16
<COOKIE> OK <VALUE> <VALUE> <VALUE>...   - for function 3, where <VALUE>
<VALUE> <VALUE>... are read register values
```

`<COOKIE> ERROR: ...` *- for failures, where ... is the error description*

Examples

Below are a few **examples** of controlling/monitoring the internal Modbus TCP Server on TRB143.

Reboot the device

- Request:

  `0 65432 0 192.168.1.1 502 5 1 6 206 1`

- Response:

  `65432 OK`

Retrieve uptime

- Request:

  `0 65432 0 192.168.1.1 502 5 1 3 2 2`

- Response:

  `65432 OK 0 5590`

If you're using Eclipse Mosquitto (MQTT implementation used on TRB143), Publish/Subscribe commands may look something like this:

Retrieve uptime

- Request:

  ```
  mosquitto_pub -h 192.168.1.1 -p 1883 -t request -m "0 65432 0
  192.168.1.1 502 5 1 3 2 2"
  ```

- Response:

  ```
  mosquitto_sub -h 192.168.1.1 -p 1883 -t response
  65432 OK 0 5590
  ```

See also

- **Monitoring via Modbus** - detailed examples on how to use Modbus TCP