

BalanceTalk™ XL

Interface any Balance Directly to Excel®



LABTRONICS INC.

The Instrument Interfacing Experts

BalanceTalk XL is a 32-bit software application that integrates tightly with Excel® to provide direct data collection from balances. Unlike older “wedge technology”, BalanceTalk XL’s advanced integration techniques take full advantage of Excel® to provide a seamless, easy-to-use solution. This eliminates the need to co-ordinate more than one application at the same time.

- Pre-configured balances, in the Labtronics Instrument Library, eliminates the need to set up balances
- Collect real-time data from multiple balances at the same time
- Multi-tasking — data collection runs in the background while you use other Excel® workbooks or even other applications
- Send commands to balances continually or at time intervals
- Simplify data collection by working with one integrated program instead of two or more separate applications
- Collects data from any RS232 or TCP/IP device

The advanced, integrated technology of BalanceTalk XL makes it much easier to use than traditional “wedge software”.

BalanceTalk XL includes many pre-configured methods including drying, check weighing, moisture analysis, content uniformity, density determination, difference weighing, sieving, parts counting, fixed and volatile solids, total solids, total dissolved solids and total suspended solids.

What is BalanceTalk XL?

BalanceTalk XL is a data collection application that sends balance data directly into standard Excel® workbooks for further processing and reporting.

Starting BalanceTalk XL automatically launches an associated Excel® workbook that contains new menu items used to control balances. The rest of Excel® is completely unaffected and can be used in the normal manner to enter data, draw graphs, run macros, create reports, etc. As data is received from the balances, it is processed in the background and then formatted results are added to the correct cells in the workbook.

Labtronics introduced the first commercial RS232 data collection program in 1989 and has been improving the technology ever since.

Pre-Configured Instrument Library

The Labtronics Instrument Library is an integral component of BalanceTalk XL and contains over 400 pre-configured instruments. Interfacing your balance with BalanceTalk XL is done with just three simple steps:

- 1) select the appropriate device from the library
- 2) identify the COM port being used
- 3) enter the Excel® spreadsheet cells that are to be used for the data

The Labtronics Instrument Library is updated on a regular basis as new instruments become available. New versions of the Instrument Library are available for download from the Labtronics web site.

Balances that are not already part of the Labtronics Instrument Library can be defined by the user and saved within BalanceTalk XL. Labtronics will gladly help with this process as part of our standard technical support service.

BalanceTalk XL is compatible with any balance that produces data through an RS232 port. Data collection from RS422, RS485, TCP/IP and analog devices can also be supported in most situations. Contact Labtronics to discuss your specific requirements.

Using the Instrument Library, anyone can quickly set up a balance interface.



Multiple Balances

BalanceTalk XL has been designed to handle multiple balances at the same time. Each balance will have its own control menus so that they can be controlled independently. Data from each balance can be processed separately and sent to different cell locations within the same worksheet or different worksheets. Data can be collected from multiple balances at the same time.

Multiple Methods are supported, meaning that several independent workbooks can be started, each with its own set of balances.

Working with multiple balances is as easy as working with one. Starting a BalanceTalk XL Method automatically adds menus for each balance. A single mouse click starts data collection from a balance.

Combine data from several devices into one Excel® workbook.

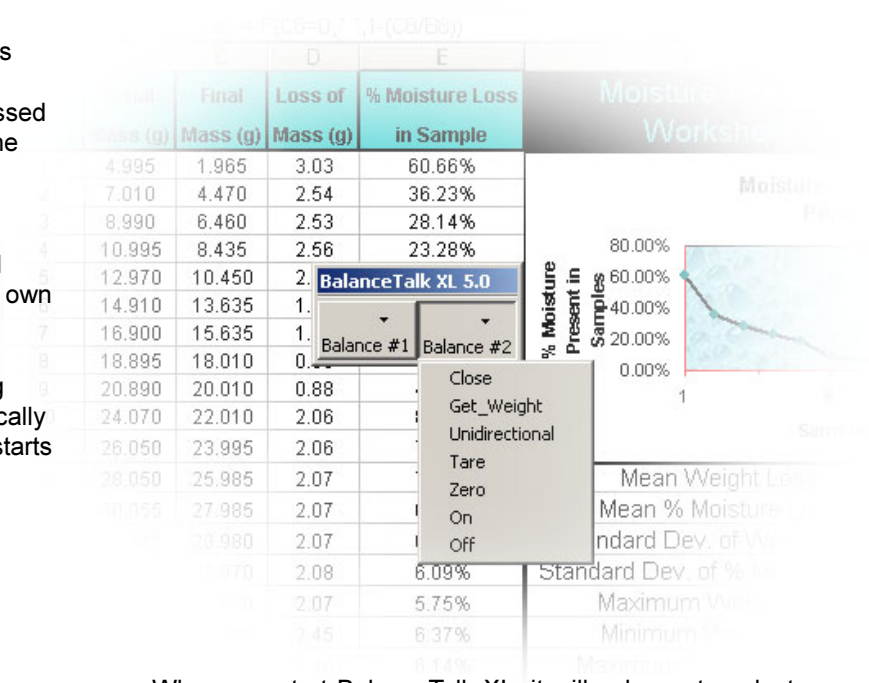
Multi-tasking

Unlike hardware or software 'wedge-type' solutions, BalanceTalk XL does not require you to keep the mouse cursor on the correct cell location. The tight integration of BalanceTalk XL with Excel® allows you to use the computer to work in other Excel® workbooks or even other applications, without interfering with data collection. Data collection occurs in the background, independent of other computer activities.

BalanceTalk XL keeps track of the balances and, when data is available, it is automatically processed (parsed) and placed into the cells without interfering with your other work. You can return to the active Excel® workbook at any time to review the data. Collected data will be added to Excel® in real time. Graphs in the workbook will be updated in real time as data is received.

Collect data in the background while working with other applications.

What Happens at Run Time?



When you start BalanceTalk XL, it will ask you to select a pre-defined Method. Making the selection will automatically start Excel®, load the correct Excel® template and add a balance control menu. Excel® is ready to be used in the normal manner to enter data, draw graphs, run macros, create reports, load files or control balances.

Balance control menus are added for each balance that has been defined in the Method. Each balance can have multiple menus, one for each command that is defined for the balance. For example, a balance might have commands for Get Weight, Tare, Open Doors and Get Weight Every 2 Minutes. Any collected data will be added to Excel® in real time – you'll see data pop into cells as it happens.

The Excel® template is a standard spreadsheet that is created for each Method. It can contain formulas, macros, graphics, headings and instructions, in any format you like. The template makes it easy to control standard procedures, since it is loaded automatically for a method, and the user is then guided using the template.

With BalanceTalk XL, data collection and balance control are now part of your standard Excel® environment.



More than Just Data Collection

BalanceTalk XL includes many additional features:

- send commands to balances on a continual basis, without operator intervention
- send commands at timed intervals
- add a date and time stamp to data
- process complex data, i.e. multi-line data
- collect data without sending commands – easy to switch between bi-directional and uni-directional modes
- export and import methods – makes it easy to expand applications to additional workstations
- test and diagnostic module to help set up new balances and methods
- view template setup during method creation
- use log file to record balance control sessions
- supports protocols for XON/XOFF and RTS/CTS
- powerful data parser

Advanced Balance Control

BalanceTalk XL is able to control balances with manual commands and with timed commands. It is also able to use values in Excel® as variables inside balance commands, making it easy for the user to dynamically change commands from inside the spreadsheet.

If your application requires a higher degree of automation and balance control, then NEXXIS BDS may be the solution. NEXXIS BDS provides secure and documented control over balance applications and balance data management. Contact Labtronics for more details.

If BalanceTalk XL meets your requirements today, it is comforting to know that an upgrade path to NEXXIS BDS exists when you need it.

Technical Support

Labtronics provides all technical support directly to the end user. Technical support, which includes unlimited telephone assistance, is offered free of charge for one year with the purchase of every Labtronics product. For subsequent years, customers may subscribe to the Labtronics Annual Support Plan.

Professional Services

The BalanceTalk XL software is designed with user setup and ease of use in mind; however, Labtronics understands that not everyone has the time to set up and learn any new software no matter how easy it may be to configure and use.

[Contact Labtronics](#) about the services available to help bring your system on-line quickly through our expertise.

30-day Money Back Guarantee

Labtronics software products are provided with a 30-day evaluation guarantee. If within 30 days you are not satisfied with our software, you may return it to us for a refund. Shipping charges are non-refundable.

Applications and System Requirements

- Windows® 98, Windows® NT 4 (minimum SR4) or Windows® 2000
- 32 MB RAM for Windows® 98: 64 MB RAM for Windows® NT 4 or Windows® 2000
- Pentium 75 MHz or higher processor
- 15 MB hard drive space for installation
- Microsoft® Excel® 97 or Excel® 2000

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