



In the News

28 April 2014

We are really excited about the stuff happening in the Internet side of our business. There are a number of issues still plaguing the uploading of data reliably, especially with older modems, specifically the Landis P22/32 range. These do not allow for dual channel connections and when the GPRS (primary channel) drops off, then the modem becomes mute and usually requires a call-out. We are now working with Vodacom and MTN to look at different packages and solutions.

An ideal upgrade to the above 'traditional' data request environment is the use of 'push' technology. Here the modem interrogates the metering device and sends data to the server. This has proven very reliable and seems to have something to do with the fact that this mechanism is more akin to the native communications mechanism used with TCP/IP.

The communication mechanism for most billing meters is based on legacy protocols expecting a stable pipe between server/PC and meter, whereas TCP/IP is the native protocol for GPRS/3G communication expecting packets being sent and received, introducing delays and is not ideal for the use with legacy protocols. For this reason the PUSH technology seems far more appropriate. Clearly the modem must be able to 'talk' to the metering device and therefore the meter's native protocol must be available within the modem communications module. Currently the only protocol available is for the Elster meters. We are anxiously awaiting the inclusion of the other popular meters, including the L&G, EDMI and Modbus meter types.

As mentioned initially, our website has had an eCommerce section for some time and now also boast a WikiBoard, currently under test and somewhat hidden under: "About Us" <http://www.energyshop.co.za/mediawiki-1.22.6/index.php>

We will be using the WikiBoard to include our processes and procedures in anticipation of normalisation and standardisation of our solutions.

We'll update our NEWS board soon – we hope. Do advise us if we don't update our content regularly: info@energyshop.co.za

Regards,

Jens