

**VR Series (VR06 or VR18) Firmware update procedure:**

1) Dump any data in the VR memory to the CF card or to the PC if using optional Observer II software. If data is not important you may clear the VR memory without saving.

1.1) To clear old data from memory without saving to CF card or PC: Turn off power, press and hold the top left key before turning power on - turn power on BUT do not release the top left key until you hear two "BI" sounds. VR will show all data cleared and erase was successful. Turn power off and then on again.

2) Download the new firmware file to the CF card (file should not be in any directory; file name is "recorder.img"; note that the firmware version is not included in file name.) Firmware file may be downloaded at our site:

[http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders\\_VR\\_Series\\_Download\\_Firmware\\_Observer\\_Software.html](http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders_VR_Series_Download_Firmware_Observer_Software.html)

3) Insert CF card into the recorder.

4) Go the Main Configuration Screen and Select System Info.

4.1) Under System Info mode note the current firmware and Boot ROM levels.

4.2) If firmware is v1.20 or later, proceed to step 5.

4.3) If firmware less than v1.20 proceed to step A

4.4) Boot ROM version less than 1.20 must be replaced. Updating Boot ROM is a hardware change;

[contact technical support](#) and refer to the following documentation -

[VR18-Chip Replacement DOC - Boot ROM-A.pdf](#)

5) Press the Update key and press Yes to the dialogue box asking if you want to update the core system program; wait until you see "Update Successful" before next step.

6) After update is complete you will be prompted to power down the recorder and the new Firmware will be active on next power up; it will be necessary to set the clock to the current time and whether daylight savings is used.

[VR18-Chip Replacement DOC - Boot ROM-A.pdf](#)

**Step A) VR18 firmware less than v1.20 (does not apply to VR06 as it was introduced with v2.32)**

- VR18 firmware less than v1.20 must first be updated to v1.20 or v1.21. Do not update VR18 to the latest version without first updating to v1.20 or v1.21 as the DOC chip will be damaged.
- Follow steps 1 through 5 above to load v1.20 or v1.21 to VR18.
- After v1.20 or v1.21 is installed, follow steps 1 through 5 with the most recent version of firmware.

**Observer I or II PC Software** (note: Observer v2.33 and later are Windows Vista and V2.37 Windows 7 compatible) Observer software versions must be equal to or a later version to communicate with VR recorder firmware versions; i.e. VR firmware v2.33 requires Observer v2.33 or later. Observer software is backward compatible to earlier versions of VR software; i.e. Observer v2.33 will communicate with VR firmware v2.10.

Observer I software may be downloaded at:

[http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders\\_VR\\_Series\\_Download\\_Firmware\\_Observer\\_Software.html](http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders_VR_Series_Download_Firmware_Observer_Software.html)

Contact [Technical Support](#) to arrange an update to the optional Observer II software.

When Observer I/II is upgraded to a new version [first uninstall previous version] when first opening to view VR Series data you must use a NEW project name. If use the previous or old project name the new data cannot be viewed.

New user manual matching VR & Observer versions may be downloaded at our site:

[http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders\\_VR\\_Series\\_Download\\_Firmware\\_Observer\\_Software.html](http://www.futuredesigncontrols.com/Recorders_VR_Series_Download_Firmware_Observer_Software.html)