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10-25-2016, 05:50 PM

#1



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)

Beginner's Guide to BMW ISTA+

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BMW ISTA+ (INTEGRATED SERVICE TECHNICAL APPLICATION)

This beginner's guide was created considering the number of questions that have been coming up recently whether related to installation, configuration and/or usage. The guide attempts to answer fundamental questions on what the tool is for, what can you do with it and how to configure it so that you can connect to the car and run diagnostics on all cars and in case of F/G/i/Mini/RR cars, programming.

The information in the guide is based primarily on publicly available knowledge and experiences that have been consolidated into a single dynamic document that can be used to get going with [ISTA+](#).

This document is not definitive and will never be. It is to get the reader to a position where they are comfortable with utilizing the features and functions of the tool. As things change in the program or based on feedback, updated versions might be posted.

The following caveats apply:

- Installation of ISTA+ discussed in the document is limited to sources obtained from the Rheingold/ISTA-D thread in this forum only.
- If you got it from somewhere else, you're on your own. You will probably get help but without knowing where it was obtained, it is hard to tell how to install or configure.

Try to ask questions in this thread so that other folks who are just starting out will know what issues can pop up and how to deal with them. Over the next few days, a few frequently used procedures will be posted. As with everything else, I'm no expert in [ISTA+](#) but I'm confident many other forum members will contribute to the learnings in this thread.

Finally, while acknowledging the many people who shared their knowledge, big thanks to the following individuals for their support in creation, sources and the dialog behind it:

- Almareto
- Pshoey
- Shawn Sheridan
- ruben_17non
- aboulfad

If this document helps, post your comments, experiences etc. so that other people can learn and share, and the document itself can be evolved. Contributions to procedures/programming knowledge are most welcome. Good luck!

Attached Files

[GUIDE TO ISTA+.pdf](#) (2.36 MB, 6941 views)

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-25-2016, 05:54 PM

#2

Reclaimer

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812



Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Programming with ISTA+

Programming fundamentals with ISTA+

NOTE: Programming with ISTA+ is only possible with an ICOM and a 70+ amp rated Power Supply. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO PROGRAM WITH ISTA+ WITHOUT THESE TWO ITEMS!**

- Programming can be accessed via the "Vehicle management" / "Software update" menu.
- The planned actions are initially produced in the measures plan. The measures plan determined after the [vehicle test](#) can be done directly in the "Comfort" tab, or added to manually beforehand in the "Advanced" tab, then calculated and executed.
- The car can be programmed to the latest I level using the comfort software update without any further actions based on the measures plan which has already been determined.
- It is not possible to select additional actions manually in this menu.
- Initializations and follow-up operations that might be required are automatically added during the measures plan calculation.

All other modes of programming and pre/post requirements are discussed in detail in the Help Document located at ~\Rheingold\Help folder.

- Software update
 - Comfort – as per the suggested measures plan
 - Advanced – with broadened scope
 - Additional software (range of functions is not active yet)
 - [Control unit replacement](#)
 - Before exchange (preparation) – control unit read-out for the exchange
 - After exchange (subsequent evaluation) – control unit configuration after exchange
- Vehicle modification
 - Retrofit
 - Conversion
 - Conversion (only coding)
 - Backfitting
 - Immediate measures

She said that to me once... about being a machine.

Last edited by Reclaimer; 10-27-2016 at 08:05 PM.



10-26-2016, 08:06 AM

#3



shawnsheridan
bimmerfest Supporting Member
Location: Houston, TX

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 30,893
Mein Auto: 2011 535i M-Sport
[View My Garage](#)

Nice work!



- 2011 535i M-Sport (Born 10/10) - AW/BLK/DW - /ZMP (w/ARS, EDC, DHP, & AD) /ZPP /ZP2 (w/ZPS & ZPT) /ZCV (w/SCAD) /6FL /6VC
- Mods - M5 343M 20" Forged Wheels / 6WB MFID / 2TB SAT / 4U1 Ceramic / 6NR Apps / PDV 5k Fogs / Rear Fogs / Euro Tail Lights / Cyba Quad Tips



10-26-2016, 09:51 AM

#4

T love
Registered User
Location: YYC

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 8
Mein Auto: '13 335i MSport xDrive
[View My Garage](#)

Thanks for putting this together Reclaimer, and all those who helped.

One thing I might add to the install instructions is a suggestion to run 7Zip as admin. I had files unblocked and everything seemed to be working fine except it never completely unzipped one of the databases. Running as Admin solved it. Not sure if it's a Windows 10 quirk or just something about my laptop or I overlooked that in the instructions somehow

Also, for Step 10, there's a difference in phrasing between the instructions and the program. It didn't ask for a dealer ID, I can't recall what it actually said but I kinda assumed that meant the same thing as dealer ID



10-26-2016, 09:21 PM

#5

Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)



Quote:

Originally Posted by [shawnsheridan](#)
Nice work! 🍷

Thanks Shawn! 😊

Quote:

Originally Posted by [T_love](#)
Thanks for putting this together Reclaimer, and all those who helped.

One thing I might add to the install instructions is a suggestion to run 7Zip as admin. I had files unblocked and everything seemed to be working fine except it never completely unzipped one of the databases. Running as Admin solved it. Not sure if it's a Windows 10 quirk or just something about my laptop or I overlooked that in the instructions somehow

Also, for Step 10, there's a difference in phrasing between the instructions and the program. It didn't ask for a dealer ID, I can't recall what it actually said but I kinda assumed that meant the same thing as dealer ID

Thanks for the feedback, Step 4 has that info:
Extract Rheingold.7z using 7zip ONLY. You may have to give admin privileges for extracting. Location doesn't matter, but preferred location is C:\. If extracting to this location, you will need admin privileges for 7zip before extracting the file.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-27-2016, 12:46 PM

[mengman](#)
Registered User
Location: Canada

#6

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 7
Mein Auto: 323i and X3
[View My Garage](#)

Hi, sorry for the stupid question. Can ISTA+ do programming on E series currently?



10-27-2016, 12:46 PM



[shawnsheridan](#)
bimmerfest Supporting Member
Location: Houston, TX

#7

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 30,893
Mein Auto: 2011 535i M-Sport
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by [mengman](#)
Hi, sorry for the stupid question. Can ISTA+ do programming on E series currently?

No. Need ISTA/P for E-Series.



- 2011 535i M-Sport (Born 10/10) - AW/BLK/DW - /ZMP (w/ARS, EDC, DHP, & AD) /ZPP /ZP2 (w/ZPS & ZPT) /ZCV (w/SCAD) /6FL /6VC
- Mods - M5 343M 20" Forged Wheels / 6WB MFID / 2TB SAT / 4U1 Ceramic / 6NR Apps / PDV 5k Fogs / Rear Fogs / Euro Tail Lights / Cyba Quad Tips



10-27-2016, 01:15 PM

[mengman](#)
Registered User
Location: Canada

#8

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 7
Mein Auto: 323i and X3
[View My Garage](#)

Thanks Shawn,
I have ISTA+, INPA / EDIABAS and NCS installed,
Do I really need ISTA/P for just a couple of functions to activate? such as, door locking automatically, window closing using key and a few others.

Quote:

Originally Posted by [shawnsheridan](#)
No. Need ISTA/P for E-Series.



10-27-2016, 01:21 PM

#9



shawnsheridan
bimmerfest Supporting Member
Location: Houston, TX

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 30,893
Mein Auto: 2011 535i M-Sport
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **mengman**
*Thanks Shawn,
I have ISTA+, INPA / EDIABAS and NCS installed,
Do I really need ISTA/P for just a couple of functions to activate? such as, door locking automatically, window closing using key and a few others.*

You asked about Programming. That is Coding, and that can be done with NCS.



- 2011 535i M-Sport (Born 10/10) - AW/BLK/DW - /ZMP (w/ARS, EDC, DHP, & AD) /ZPP /ZP2 (w/ZPS & ZPT) /ZCV (w/SCAD) /6FL /6VC
- Mods - MS 343M 20" Forged Wheels / 6WB MF1D / ZTB SAT / 4U1 Ceramic / 6NR Apps / PDV 5k Fogs / Rear Fogs / Euro Tail Lights / Cyba Quad Tips



10-27-2016, 08:03 PM

#10



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)

FAQ: Evaluate SOC and Battery Registration with ISTA+

Checking your State of Charge and Battery Registration with ISTA+

Connect to the car using your preferred cable.

- Do a vehicle test
- After a vehicle test, go to Vehicle Management --> Service functions tab.
- Next select Body, then Voltage Supply
- Then select Battery

Here you will be presented with 2 options:

- Option 1 is to test SOC. Choose Evaluate Battery State of Charge OR
- Option 2 - Register Battery Replacement
- Then click on at the bottom right. The ABL/FUB/REP and/or SSP will be populated. Select the FUB or REP to learn more OR select the ABL and run it.

NOTE: If changing battery types, coding is required before you can register battery replacement.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-27-2016, 08:04 PM

#11



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)

FAQ: Steering Angle Sensor Adjustment

Steering Angle Sensor Adjustments:

- Go to Vehicle Management --> Service Functions
- Select Chassis and Suspension
- Select Steering Angle Sensor
- Select Steering Angle Sensor Adjustment
- Then click on at the bottom right. The ABL/FUB/REP and/or SSP will be populated. Select the FUB or REP to learn more OR select the ABL and run it.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-28-2016, 09:54 AM

#12

mengman
Registered User
Location: Canada

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 7
Mein Auto: 323i and X3
[View My Garage](#)

Thanks Shawn,
I tested the KDCAN cable + ISTA+ yesterday

It worked on E90 but didn't read out VIN on E83, showing "The vehicle could not be identified. Please check the access to the vehicle and check whether the testing-analysis-diagnosis has been activated." What could be wrong?

Quote:

Originally Posted by **shawnsheridan** You asked about Programming. That is Coding, and that can be done with NCS.



10-28-2016, 10:30 AM

#13



shawnsheridan
bimmerfest Supporting Member
Location: Houston, TX

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 30,893
Mein Auto: 2011 535i M-Sport
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Quote:

Originally Posted by **mengman** Thanks Shawn, I tested the KDCAN cable + ISTA+ yesterday It worked on E90 but didn't read out VIN on E83, showing "The vehicle could not be identified. Please check the access to the vehicle and check whether the testing-analysis-diagnosis has been activated." What could be wrong?

Not for sure, but 2/2007 and older vehicles requires the DCAN pin 7 and 8 to be bridged to work..3/2007 and later requires pin 7 and 8 to be separate.



- 2011 535i M-Sport (Born 10/10) - AW/BLK/DW - /ZMP (w/ARS, EDC, DHP, & AD) /ZPP /ZP2 (w/ZPS & ZPT) /ZCV (w/SCAD) /6FL /6VC
- Mods - M5 343M 20" Forged Wheels / 6WB MFID / 2TB SAT / 4U1 Ceramic / 6NR Apps / PDV 5k Fogs / Rear Fogs / Euro Tail Lights / Cyba Quad Tips



10-28-2016, 10:42 AM

#14

mengman
Registered User
Location: Canada

Join Date: Oct 2016
Posts: 7
Mein Auto: 323i and X3
[View My Garage](#)

E83 is from 2010, which is quite new.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **shawnsheridan** Not for sure, but 2/2007 and older vehicles requires the DCAN pin 7 and 8 to be bridged to work..3/2007 and later requires pin 7 and 8 to be separate.



10-28-2016, 10:44 AM

#15



shawnsheridan
bimmerfest Supporting Member
Location: Houston, TX

Join Date: Jan 2009
Posts: 30,893
Mein Auto: 2011 535i M-Sport
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **mengman** E83 is from 2010, which is quite new.

Then I have no idea why one works and the other does not.



- 2011 535i M-Sport (Born 10/10) - AW/BLK/DW - /ZMP (w/ARS, EDC, DHP, & AD) /ZPP /ZP2 (w/ZPS & ZPT) /ZCV (w/SCAD) /6FL /6VC
- Mods - M5 343M 20" Forged Wheels / 6WB MFID / 2TB SAT / 4U1 Ceramic / 6NR Apps / PDV 5k Fogs / Rear Fogs / Euro Tail Lights / Cyba Quad Tips



10-28-2016, 02:11 PM

#16



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
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Possibly cable fault, if it worked on one car and not the other. Program connection settings shouldn't change with model series of the car.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



#17

10-28-2016, 02:52 PM

Thorsten
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: Germany

Join Date: Jan 2015
Posts: 236
Mein Auto: [BMW F11](#)
[View My Garage](#)

HI,
about this:
BUT program only F-/I-/G-/Mini/RR se
Mini R50, R56 not possible and same with older RR too.

Thorsten



#18

10-28-2016, 03:49 PM



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Thorsten**
HI,
about this:
BUT program only F-/I-/G-/Mini/RR se
Mini R50, R56 not possible and same with older RR too.
Thorsten

Thanks for the info, Thorsten.

From the release notes, following series are supported for programming in ISTA+ and iLevels for each series:

- F001 (F0x, RR4, RR5) F001-16-11-501
- F010 (F06, F1x) F010-16-11-501
- F020 (F2x, F3x, F80, F82, F83, F87) F020-16-11-501
- F025 (F15, F16, F25, F26, F85, F86) F025-16-11-501
- F056 (F4x, F5x, F6x) F056-16-11-501
- S15A (G1x, G3x) S15A-16-07-506
- I001 (I03, I08) I001-16-07-506

The following Mini/RR programming is not supported in ISTA+

- R056 (R55, R56, R57, R58, R59, R60, R61)
- RR01 (RR1, RR2, RR3)

You can use ISTA/P to program these cars.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.

Last edited by Reclaimer; 10-29-2016 at 12:31 PM.



#19

10-29-2016, 11:32 AM

Bravarian Rohan
Registered User
Location: Florida

Join Date: Jul 2016
Posts: 5
Mein Auto: F10
[View My Garage](#)

Rheingold troubleshooting

First off, thank you Reclaimer for compiling all this very helpful and useful information for a first time user of ISTA+ like myself. Also much thanks to all those who contributed to the manual. Your contributions are invaluable to those of us who either don't have the time to devote to learning/researching and or do not have the technical expertise.

I was wondering if you or someone could point me to the Rheingold/ISTA+ troubleshooting forum thread.

I received the below error message when attempting to run a test plan on the ACSM module to clear the Airbag fault/warning as a result from coding that module with E-sys.

A technical error appeared while loading the "ABL_DIT_AT6577_ACSM31.dll".

After closing this message, close the procedure with "x" right above. Terminate ISTA and execute a repairing installation. If the problem is not solved, send a feedback to the technical support.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.



10-29-2016, 11:40 AM

Bravarian_Rohan

Registered User
Location: Florida

FAQs

#20

Join Date: Jul 2016
Posts: 5
Mein Auto: F10
[View My Garage](#)

Also, is there a general FAQ section for coding/diagnostics/programming?

Wanted to know if ISTA+ and E-sys could be run at the same time.

Sorry, I'm new to Bimmerfest and the forums.



10-29-2016, 01:33 PM



Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

#21

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bravarian_Rohan**
First off, thank you Reclaimer for compiling all this very helpful and useful information for a first time user of ISTA+ like myself. Also much thanks to all those who contributed to the manual. You contributions are invaluable to those of us who either don't have the time to devote to learning/researching and or do not have the technical expertise.

I was wondering if you or someone could point me to the Rheingold/ISTA+ troubleshooting forum thread.

I received the below error message when attempting to run a test plan on the ACSM module to clear the Airbag fault/warning as a result from coding that module with E-sys.

A technical error appeared while loading the "ABL_DIT_AT6577_ACSM31.dll".

After closing this message, close the procedure with "x" right above. Terminate ISTA and execute a repairing installation. If the problem is not solved, send a feedback to the technical support.

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

I don't think there is an exclusive ISTA troubleshooting thread. You could start one if you like. My guess is either corrupt download or corrupt files in Rheingold folder. Check for blocked/missing files in Rheingold folder.

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Bravarian_Rohan**
Also, is there a general FAQ section for coding/diagnostics/programming?

Wanted to know if ISTA+ and E-sys could be run at the same time.

Sorry, I'm new to Bimmerfest and the forums.

ISTA+ general information is in the help files located in `Rheingold\Help folder. General FAQ on coding/programming/diagnostics is spattered all over the Coding and Programming forum. Use search to find what you need specifically.

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-29-2016, 08:23 PM

aboulfad

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: MTL, QC

#22

Join Date: Jun 2015
Posts: 228
Mein Auto: 15 M4, MG/SO
[View My Garage](#)

Wow, awesome job to help all the newbies, kudos to you sir for having the patience and taking the time to document! And thanks for the mention, I didn't do much :-)



10-29-2016, 08:28 PM

Reclaimer
Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: The Great White North

#23

Join Date: Oct 2015
Posts: 1,812
Mein Auto: 2012 E84 x28i



Quote:

Originally Posted by **aboulfad**

Wow, awesome job to help all the newbies, kudos to you sir for having the patience and taking the time to document! And thanks for the mention, I didn't do much :-)

Its all good, 3 words, "Rheingold Session Controller"...LOL

She said that to me once... about being a machine.



10-30-2016, 10:10 AM

aboulfad

Officially Welcomed to the 'Fest
Location: MTL, QC

#24

Join Date: Jun 2015
Posts: 228
Mein Auto: 15 M4, MG/SO
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Reclaimer**

Its all good, 3 words, "Rheingold Session Controller"...LOL

Oh that 😊 Glad people found it useful. My 2nd project didn't materialize (ISTA/ENET programming), that would have been a bit more useful. I've asked few people with ICOM to contribute some logs and experiments but nada...



12-27-2016, 05:15 PM

LukeSkywalter

Registered User
Location: Germany

#25

Join Date: Dec 2016
Posts: 4
Mein Auto: 320D E91
[View My Garage](#)

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Reclaimer**

Programming fundamentals with ISTA+
NOTE: Programming with ISTA+ is only possible with an **ICOM** and a 70+ amp rated Power Supply.

First Thank you very much for this really great Guide 🙏

Can you please tell me what ICOM means? Is it the hardware **BMW** ICOM A2?
So a simple D+K+P CAN-BUS Interface USB OBD II isn't working or should not be used??



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BMW Coding and Programming

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-- Light (Old Style) ▼

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