OPERATION MANUAL

Comet 3

Instrument Communication Software

Comet3-9800

Rev. A

Met One Instruments

POWERED BY ACOEM

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Met One Instruments

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 About This Manual

This manual describes the installation, configuration, and operation of Comet 3, the Met One Instruments PC application for communicating with Met One air quality instruments. Comet 3 connects to instruments over serial (RS-232/USB), TCP/IP, or the cloud, and provides real-time readings, stored data retrieval, charting, device settings management, remote control, and a direct command terminal.

NOTE: Comet 3 replaces Comet 2. Data downloaded by Comet 3 is stored in the same folder structure used by Comet 2, so existing station data remains accessible.

This revision documents Comet 3 version 3.1.0. Screens are shown with a representative set of stations; the instruments and site names in the figures are examples.

1.2 Supported Instruments

Comet 3 automatically detects the connected instrument model and adapts its retrieve, settings, and remote control capabilities accordingly.

INSTRUMENT	DATA RETRIEVE	SETTINGS	REMOTE CONTROL
BAM 1020 (Gen 3)	Yes	Yes	GUI
BAM 1020 (Gen 3, Gen 2 protocol)	Yes	No (Standard protocol required)	GUI
BAM 1020 (Gen 2)	Yes	No	None
BAM 1022	Yes	Yes	GUI
E-BAM / E-BAM Plus	Yes	Yes	GUI
E-BAM Gen 1	Yes	No	None
BC 1054	Yes	Yes	VNC (P/N 84059) / None (P/N 82401)
BC 1060	Yes	Yes	LCD
C-12	Yes	No	LCD
OPX 1025	Yes	Yes	VNC
DR-324	Yes	Yes	None
DR-528	Yes	Yes	None
ES-405	Yes	No	LCD
ES-642	Yes	Yes	None

INSTRUMENT	DATA RETRIEVE	SETTINGS	REMOTE CONTROL
E-Sampler (V2)	Yes	Yes	None
E-Sampler Gen 1 / E-Sampler (Legacy Mode)	Yes	No	None
E-SEQ-FRM	Yes (XMODEM)	Sample schedule (firmware 1.2.0 or later)	GUI
E-FRM DC	Yes (XMODEM)	Sample schedule	GUI
Super SASS 2 / SASS 2	Yes (XMODEM)	Sample schedule (Save to USB)	VNC
I-SASS / T-SASS / P-SASS	Yes (XMODEM)	Sample schedule (Save to USB)	VNC
SASS / Super SASS / C-SASS / E-FRM	Yes (binary, decoded)	No	None
Swift 6 / Swift 25	Yes	Yes	None
Aerocet 531S	Yes	Yes	None
Aerocet 532	Yes	Yes	None
BT-610 / BT-620	Yes	Yes	None
GT-324	Yes	Yes	None
GT-521 / GT-521S	Yes	Yes	None
GT-526	Yes	No	None
GT-526S	Yes	Yes	None
Model 804	Yes	Yes	None
Model 831	Yes	Yes	None
136 Multi-Met / AutoMet 580	Yes	Yes	LCD
TACMET II	Live readings only	No	None
Cloud stations	Yes (cloud)	No	None

Table 1-1 Supported Instruments and Capabilities

NOTE: Data Retrieve lists how stored data is downloaded, where XMODEM and binary transfers are decoded automatically. Settings indicate whether Comet 3 provides a settings screen for the model; instruments marked No are still configured from their own front panel or through the Terminal. Remote control type is selected automatically from the detected model — the BC 1054 is distinguished by part number, since the two hardware versions report the same model string. VNC remote control uses a separate network port and can run alongside a terminal session. A Gen 3 BAM 1020 whose Protocol setting is on Gen 2 is still filed as a BAM 1020: Comet 3 reads the protocol from the instrument before every retrieve, Detect and settings operation and uses the matching command set, so data retrieve and remote control work in either mode. Settings and Real-Time need the Standard protocol; switch it on the instrument and the next operation picks it up. Diagnostic Data is retrieved on the Gen 2 protocol as well, and from Gen 2 hardware.

1.3 System Requirements

PARAMETER	REQUIREMENT
Operating system	Windows 10 (build 19041) or Windows 11
Runtime	.NET (bundled with the installer)
Ports	RS-232 serial port or USB (with USB serial driver), and/or Ethernet
Disk space	TBD
Display	1280 x 800 minimum recommended

Table 1-2 PC Requirements

2. INSTALLATION and FIRST LAUNCH

2.1 Installing Comet 3

1. Download the Comet 3 installer from the Met One Instruments website, or install it from the media provided.
2. Run the installer and follow the prompts. Administrator rights may be required.
3. If the instrument connects through USB, download and install the USB drivers. A link is provided on the Comet 3 About screen (Download USB Drivers).
4. Launch Comet 3 from the Start menu or desktop shortcut.

2.2 The Welcome Tour

On first launch, Comet 3 presents a short guided tour that highlights the main areas of the application: the Station Explorer, the Add Station button, and the work-area buttons. Use Next and Back to move through the tour, or Skip to dismiss it.

> **NOTE:** The tour is shown only once. To watch it again, open Options and click Show Welcome Tour.

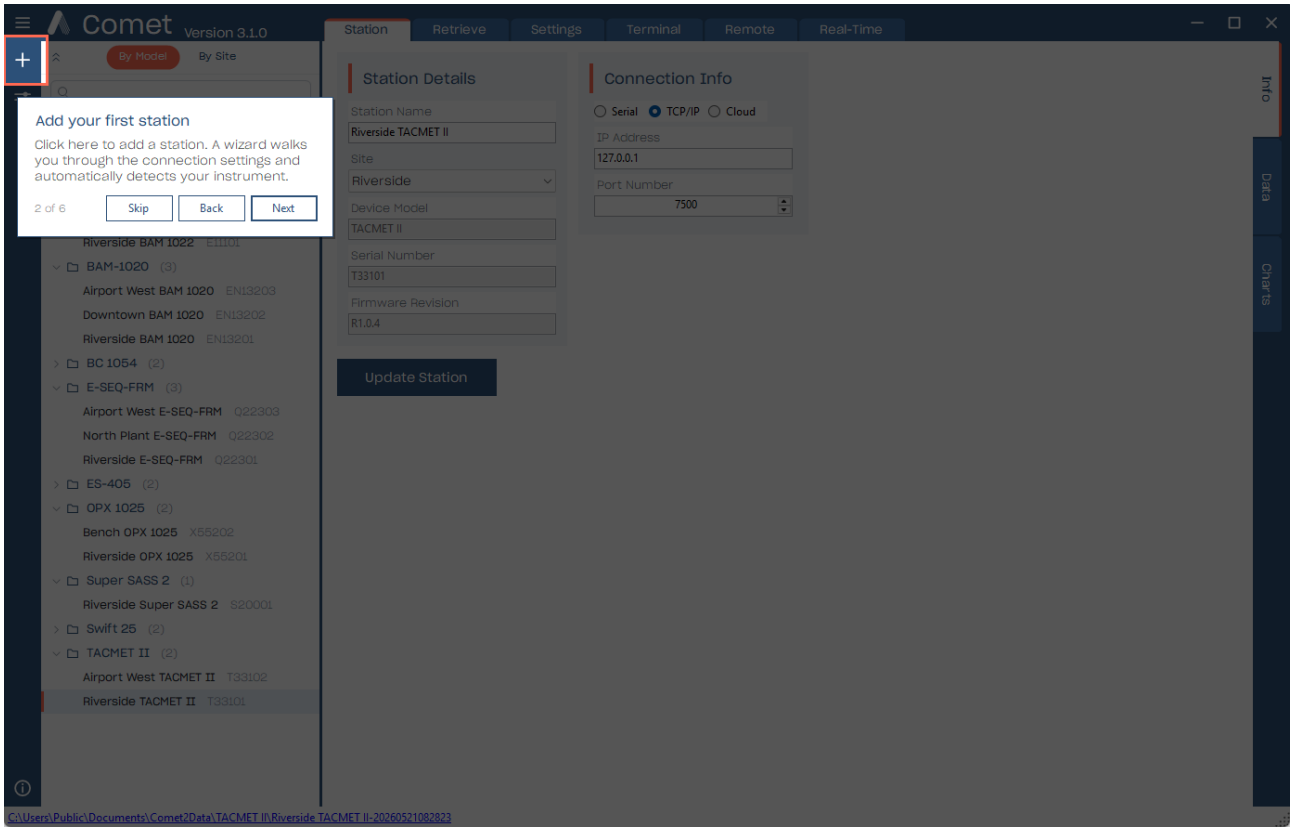


Figure 2-1 Welcome Tour Highlighting the Add Station Button

2.3 Checking for Updates

Comet 3 checks for a newer version at start-up. When one is published, an Update button appears in the left-hand button rail; click it to open the update. The button is absent when the installed version is current, so no action means nothing is waiting.

The About screen always shows the installed version. Comet 3 looks for updates on the internal software share first and falls back to the web download site, so a machine that cannot reach the internal network still finds published updates.

3. USER INTERFACE

3.1 Main Window Layout

The Comet 3 main window is divided into three areas: the title bar with the work-area buttons, the Station Explorer on the left, and the work area on the right. Within the Station work area, vertical tabs along the right edge switch between Station Info, Data, and Charts for the selected station. The title bar carries the Acoem symbol, the Comet name and the installed version at its left, and the same symbol on a navy square is the application's icon on the desktop, the taskbar and the Start menu.

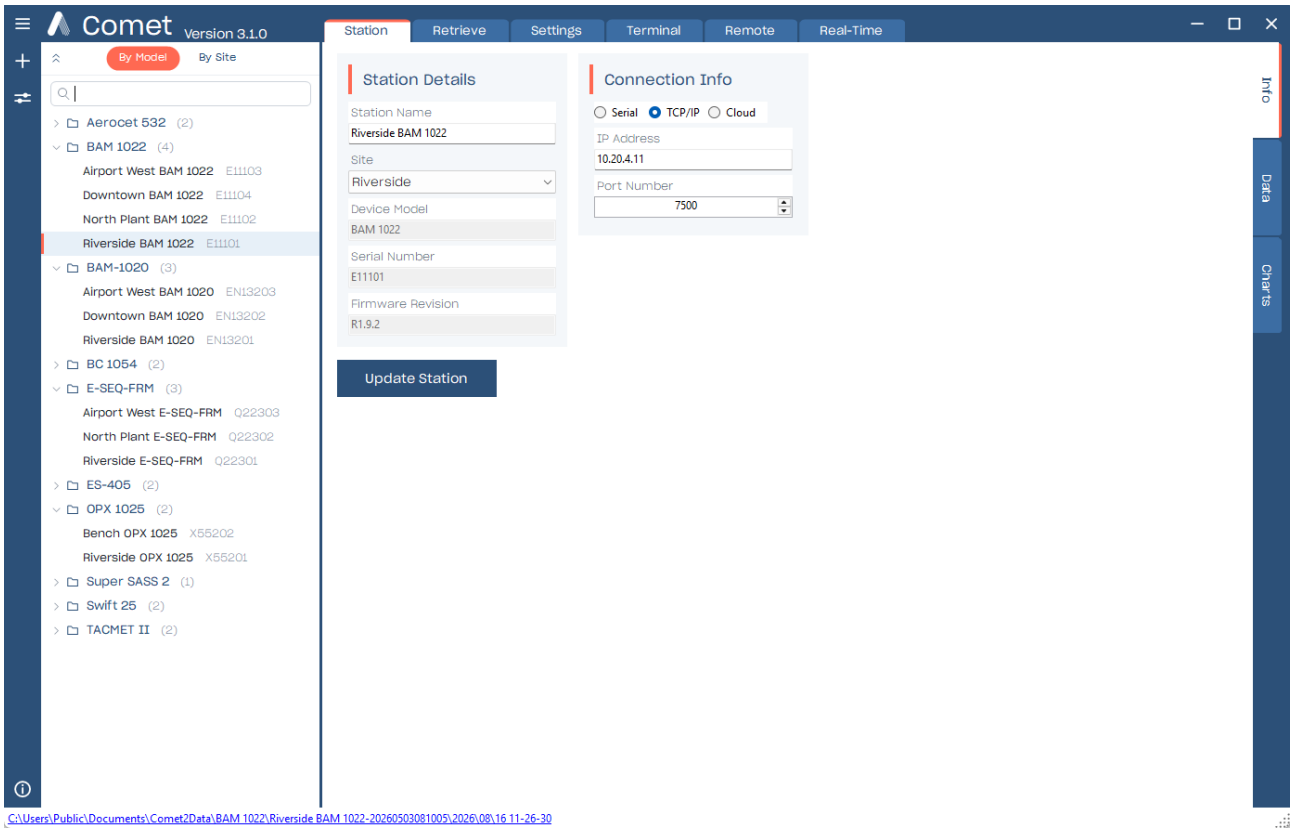


Figure 3-1 Comet 3 Main Window with a Station Selected

BUTTON	FUNCTION
Real-Time	Live readings from the connected instrument, displayed as tiles with mini-charts
Remote	Remote control of the instrument's display and keypad (model dependent)
Terminal	Direct command-line communication with the instrument
Settings	Read and change instrument settings
Retrieve	Download stored data, reports, diagnostics, and alarms
Station	Station details: model, serial number, firmware revision, and connection settings

Table 3-1 Work-Area Buttons

3.2 The Station Explorer

Every instrument appears as a station in the explorer. Stations sit under group headings, and the number of stations in each group is shown beside the heading. Click a heading to fold or unfold that group.

The button above the list switches the grouping between By Model, which groups stations by product family, and By Site, which groups them by the site each station is assigned to. In the By Site view a muted column on the right shows each station's model, so a station's name never has to carry it.

Type in the filter box to narrow the list. The filter matches station name, serial number, and model, so typing bam finds every BAM station as well as any station whose model is a BAM. While filtering, group headings show how many of their stations match, and groups with no matches are hidden.

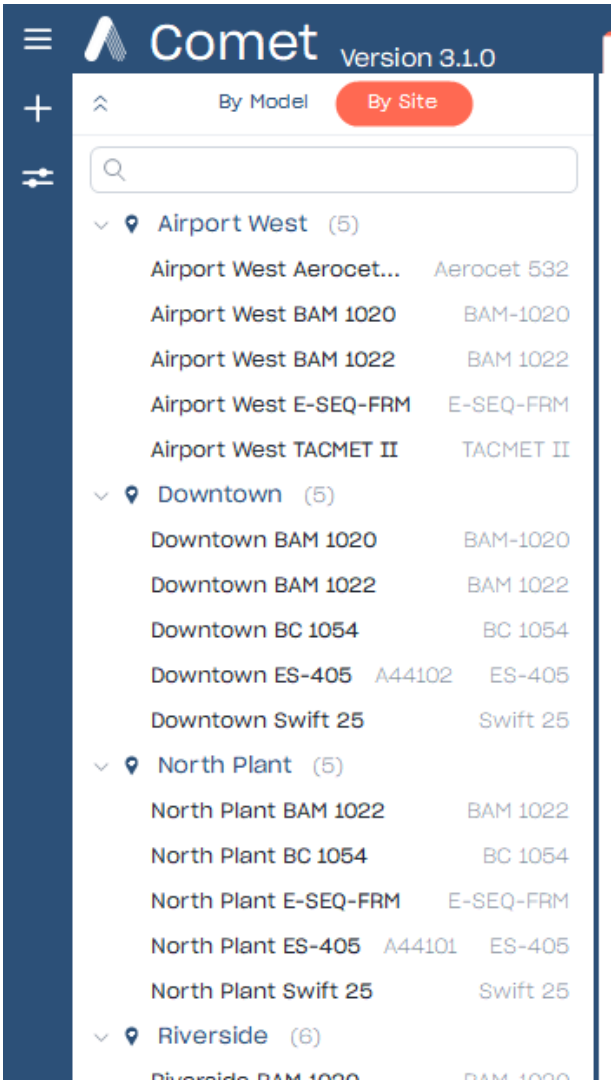


Figure 3-2 Stations Grouped by Site

At fleet size the list is longer than the pane. The button to the left of the grouping switch folds every group shut, leaving a short list of models or sites; pressing it again unfolds them. Which groups are folded is remembered between sessions, and the group holding the last selected station is always opened at start-up.

1. Press the collapse button to the left of the grouping switch to fold every group.
2. Click the heading of the required model or site.
3. Click the station to select it.

NOTE: Right-click a station for its actions, including assigning it to a site and deleting the station and its data. Right-click a site heading to create, rename, or delete a site.

NOTE: Downloaded data is no longer browsed in this list. Selecting a station loads its most recent download automatically, and earlier downloads are chosen from the Retrieval list on the Data tab.

3.3 Grouping Stations by Site

A site is a name for a location — a shelter, a rooftop, a plant — that stations can be assigned to. Grouping by site answers "what is running at this location", which the model grouping cannot.

1. Switch the explorer to By Site.
2. Right-click any site heading and choose New site, then enter the name.
3. Right-click a station, choose Assign to site, and pick the site.

A station can belong to one site at a time. Stations that have not been assigned are collected under Ungrouped. A site can also be set on the Station Info page, which is convenient while a station is already being edited.

NOTE: Site membership is stored inside the station's own folder, so it follows the station if the station is renamed. The list of site names is held in a single file at the top of the data folder.

NOTE: Deleting a site removes only the grouping. No station and no data is deleted, and the stations that belonged to it move to Ungrouped.

4. ADDING and MANAGING STATIONS

4.1 Adding a Station

The Add Station wizard collects the connection settings, verifies communication, and automatically detects the instrument model, serial number, part number, and firmware revision.

1. Click the Add Station button (+) in the button rail on the left.
2. Choose the connection type: Serial, TCP/IP, or Cloud.
   a. Serial: select the COM port and baud rate.
   b. TCP/IP: enter the instrument's IP address and port.
   c. Cloud: enter the GroveStreams API key.
3. Enter a station name. This name identifies the instrument in the Station Explorer.
4. Click Next, then click Detect. Comet 3 connects to the instrument and reads its model, serial number, part number, and firmware revision.
5. Verify the detected values and click Add Station.

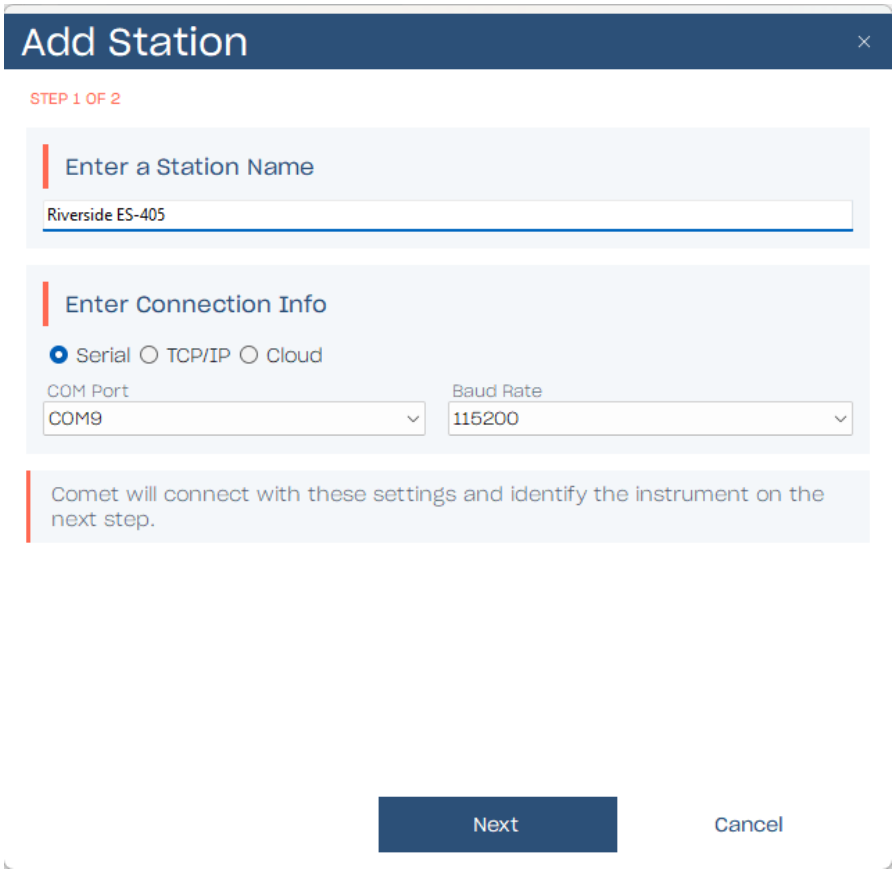


Figure 4-1 Add Station Wizard

NOTE: If the instrument does not report a serial number (for example, a replacement board whose serial has not yet been programmed), Comet 3 will not create the station. Program the serial number on the instrument first (SS command), then run Detect again.

4.2 Cloud Stations

Instruments that report to GroveStreams can be added as cloud stations. Choose Cloud as the connection type and enter the organization's API key. Data retrieval for cloud stations downloads records from the cloud service instead of connecting to the instrument directly.

Cloud records are downloaded in the instrument's own time zone, which GroveStreams records with the component, and are stamped in standard time all year so that they match a serial download of the same data. To have the file in local wall-clock time instead, tick Daylight saving on the Retrieve tab; the choice is remembered for the station. The PC's time zone is used only when the cloud component has no zone recorded.

NOTE: The terminal, real-time display, and remote control require a direct serial or TCP/IP connection and are not available for cloud stations.

4.3 Deleting Stations and Data

1. Right-click the station in the Station Explorer.
2. Choose Delete and confirm.

CAUTION: Deleting a station removes its folder from the data directory, including all downloaded data and terminal logs for that station. This cannot be undone from within Comet 3.

4.4 Using Data from Comet 2

Comet 3 reads the same data folder structure as Comet 2, and its default data folder is the Comet 2 folder (Documents\Comet2Data). Stations created with Comet 2 appear in the Station Explorer automatically. If the Comet 2 data is stored elsewhere, point the Data Folder in Options at that location.

4.5 Station Information Updates

The firmware revision and serial number stored for a station are refreshed automatically at the end of every data retrieve. If an instrument's firmware is upgraded or its serial number is programmed after the station was created, the stored values update the next time data is retrieved from that station.

The Station Info page also carries the station’s Site. Choose a site (or None) and click Update Station to save it with the rest of the station details.

4.6 Options

SETTING	DESCRIPTION
Data Folder	The root folder where station data is stored. Default: Documents\Comet2Data
Language	English or Chinese (Simplified). Changing language restarts the application
Idle Timeout	Seconds of line silence that mark the end of a data download
Terminal Logging	Off, Formatted (timestamped), or Raw (received data only)
Terminal Word Wrap	Wraps long lines in the terminal display
Show Welcome Tour	Replays the first-run guided tour

Table 4-1 Options Settings

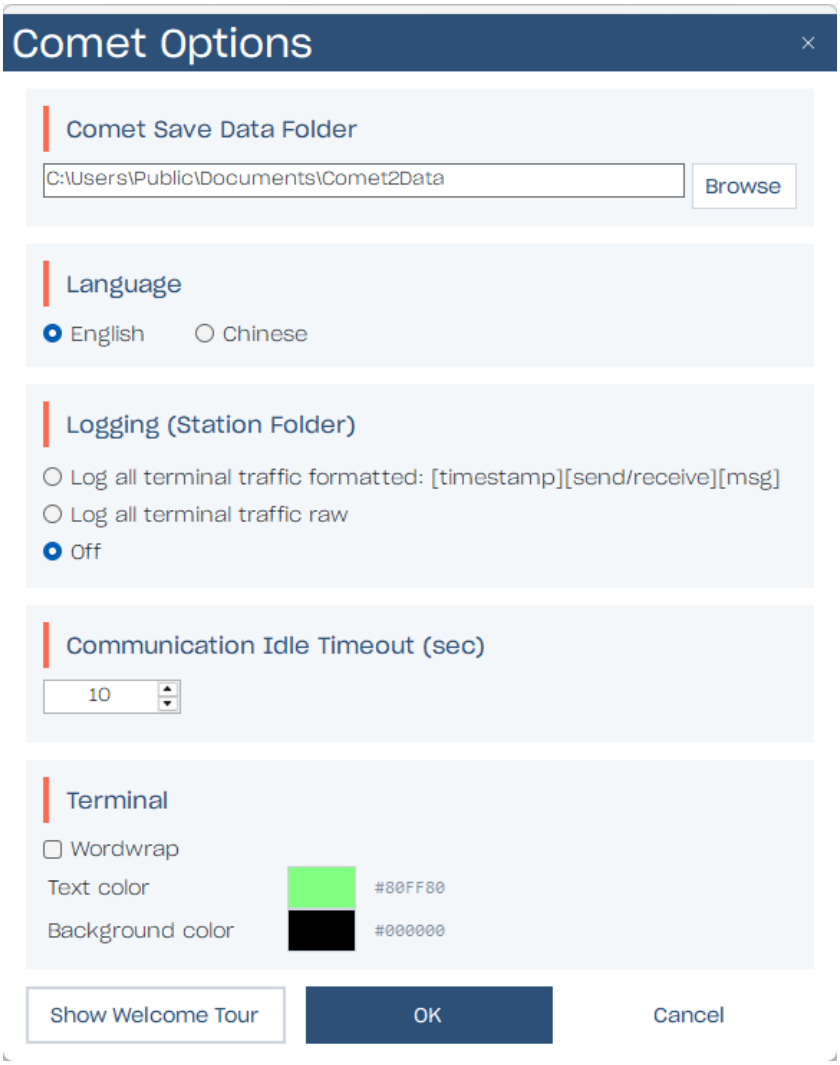


Figure 4-2 Options Screen

5. OPERATING PROCEDURES

5.1 Real-Time Monitoring

1. Select the station in the explorer and click the Real-Time button.
2. Click Detect to read the instrument's available channels.
3. Check the channels to display.
4. Set the sample interval, then click Start.
5. Click Stop to end the session and release the connection.

Each selected channel is shown as a tile with its current value, units, and a mini-chart of recent samples. Tiles can be dragged into any order.

When the instrument reports both wind speed and wind direction, a wind tile is offered alongside the channels. It draws a dial with a needle for the current direction and the speed at its centre, which reads faster than two numeric tiles.

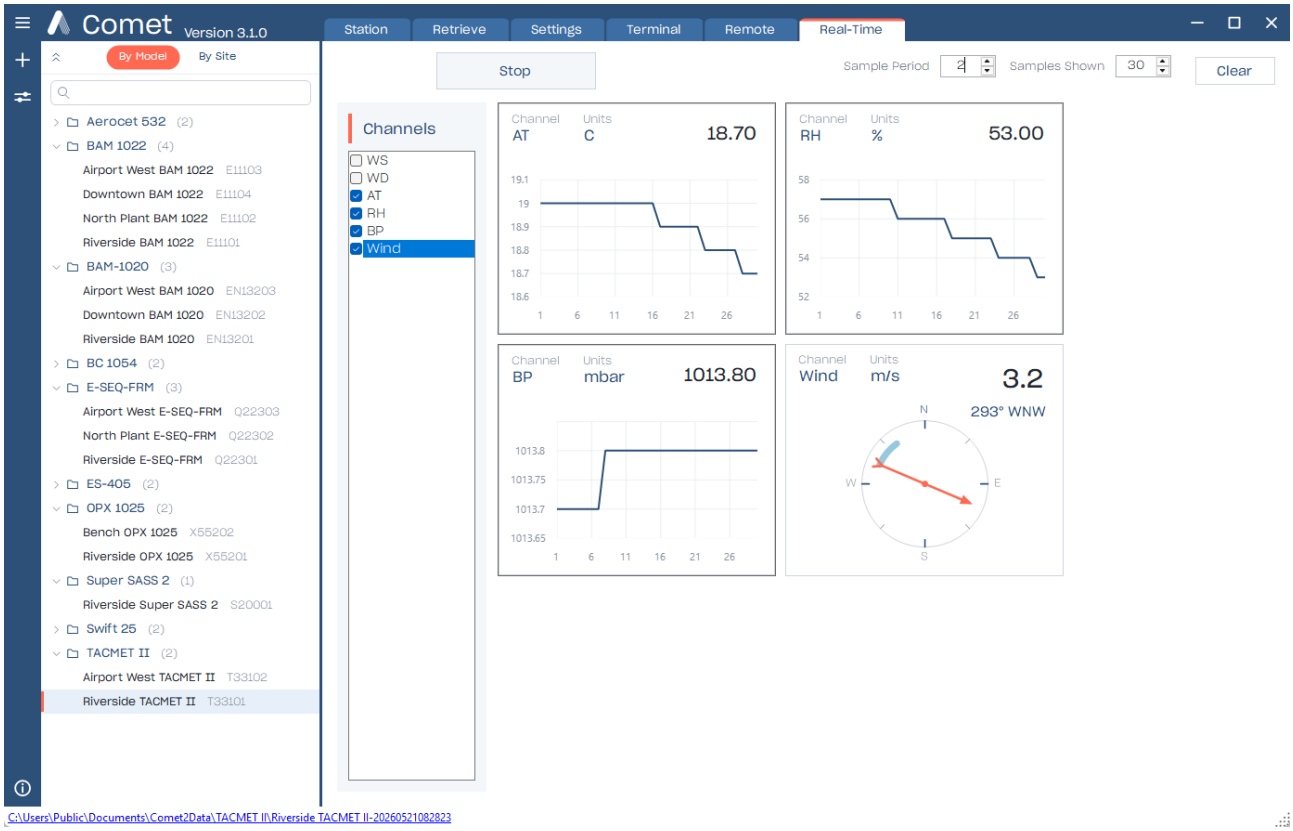


Figure 5-1 Real-Time Tiles with the Wind Dial

> **NOTE:** A TACMET II does not answer queries — it broadcasts its readings on its own interval — so Detect listens for that broadcast instead of asking. Allow one broadcast interval for the channels to appear.

5.2 Using the Terminal

The terminal provides direct command-line communication with the instrument for diagnostics and advanced commands.

1. Select the station and click the Terminal button.
2. Click Connect. The terminal shows Ready when the connection is established.
3. Type a command and press Enter. To send an escape-prefixed command, press the Esc key or type ESC+ before the command (for example, ESC+RV).

Sent commands are shown in blue, received data in green, and status messages in gray. The terminal retains the most recent 5,000 lines.

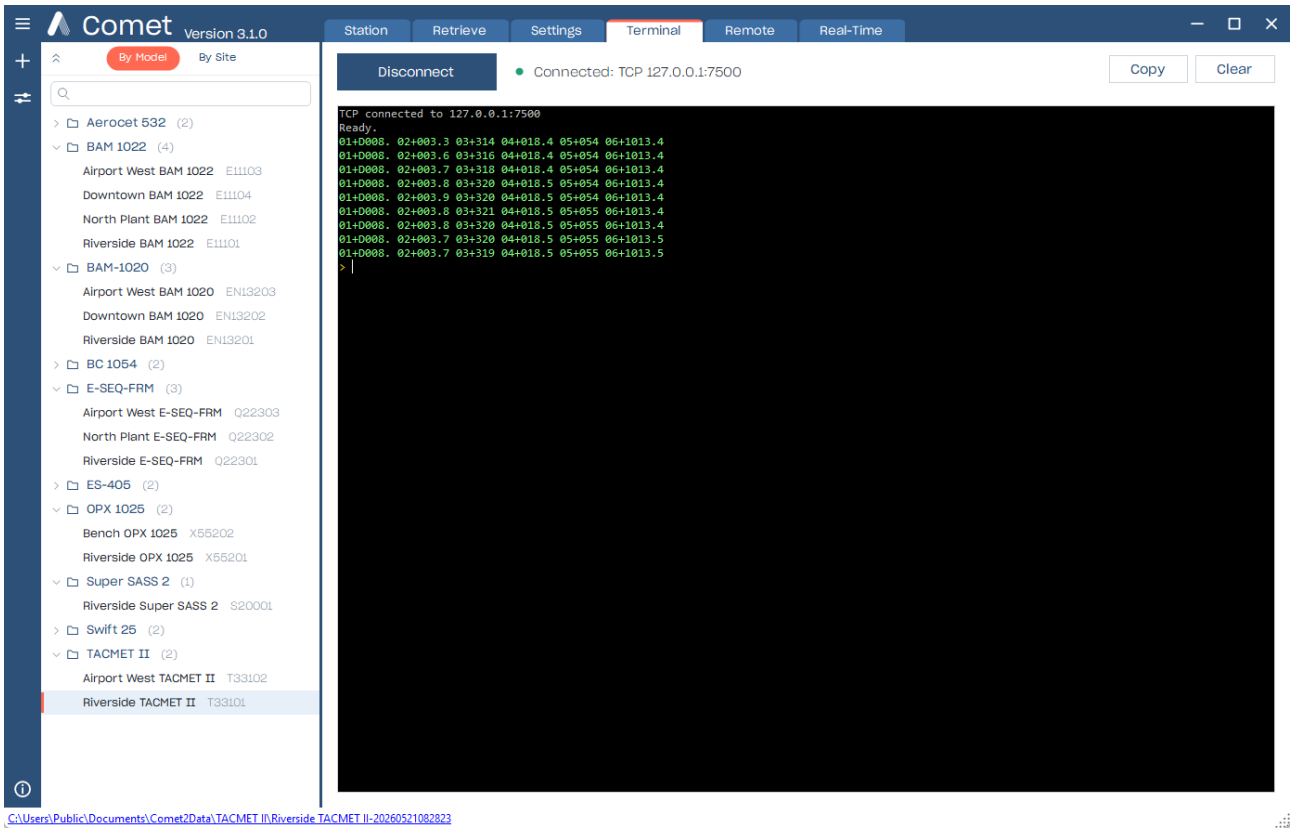


Figure 5-2 Terminal Session

> **NOTE:** Instrument passwords entered with the PW command are automatically masked with asterisks in the terminal display and in terminal log files. The actual password is still transmitted to the instrument.

Terminal logging: when enabled in Options, all terminal traffic is written to a daily log file stored with the connected station's data (TerminalLogs folder inside the station folder). Formatted mode adds timestamps and direction markers; Raw mode records received data exactly as it arrived. With a menu-driven instrument

(see above) keystrokes are not written to the log, only the instrument's replies, because a single key cannot be told from a password digit.

Menu-driven instruments: for a BAM-1020 running the Gen 2 protocol, the E-BAM Gen 1, and the E-Sampler Gen 1 (or an E-Sampler V2 set to its Legacy protocol), the terminal works like a real terminal: each key is sent to the instrument as it is pressed, and Enter sends a carriage return by itself. These instruments act on single keys and treat a following carriage return as the next menu selection, so typing a command and then pressing Enter would cancel it. Comet 3 selects this behaviour from the station's model and protocol and says so in the terminal after Connect; nothing is echoed locally, the screen shows what the instrument sends back. Press Enter three times to bring up the instrument's menu. For a BAM-1020 the protocol is re-read from the instrument on every Connect.

5.3 Remote Control

Remote control mirrors the instrument's display and keypad on the PC. The remote control type is selected automatically from the instrument model: GUI (BAM 1022, BAM 1020 Gen 3 in either protocol mode, E-BAM and E-BAM Plus, E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC), LCD (BC 1060, C-12, ES-405, 136 Multi-Met and AutoMet 580), or VNC (OPX 1025, the SASS 2 family, and the BC 1054 with part number 84059).

1. Select the station and click the Remote button.
2. Click Connect. For VNC devices, enter the instrument's VNC password if prompted.
3. Operate the instrument using the on-screen display and keys.
4. Click Disconnect when finished.

CAUTION: GUI and LCD remote control use the same communication port as the terminal. Comet 3 prevents the terminal and remote control from connecting at the same time on these models; disconnect one before starting the other. VNC remote control uses a separate network port and may run alongside a terminal session.

5.4 Reading and Changing Instrument Settings

1. Select the station and click the Settings button.
2. Click Get Settings. Comet 3 connects and reads the instrument's current configuration.
3. Change the desired values in the settings form.
4. Click Set Settings to write the changes to the instrument.

CAUTION: Some settings changes (for example, clearing memory or zeroing) take effect immediately on the instrument and cannot be undone. Review pending changes before clicking Set Settings.

Filter samplers have an event scheduler in place of a settings form. For the E-SEQ-FRM, E-FRM DC, Super SASS 2, SASS 2, I-SASS, T-SASS and P-SASS the Settings tab builds the list of sample events: each event has a Filter ID, a start time and a duration, plus the PM inlet type and standard temperature on the E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC or the canister group on the SASS family. Click Add Event for each event, then Save to USB to write the schedule file to a USB stick, and load the schedule into the instrument from the stick. The SASS-family control boxes have no schedule commands over the connection, so Get Settings and Set Settings say so on those pages.

The Filter ID of an event already in the grid can be changed in place: click the Filter ID cell, type the new ID and press Enter. Filter IDs are uppercase letters and digits, up to 12 characters on the SASS family and 8 on the E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC, and an ID already used by another filter of the same event (or, on the E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC, anywhere in the schedule) is refused and the previous value put back. On the Super SASS 2 each event is added with the channel numbers as its Filter IDs, and the grid is where the IDs are entered.

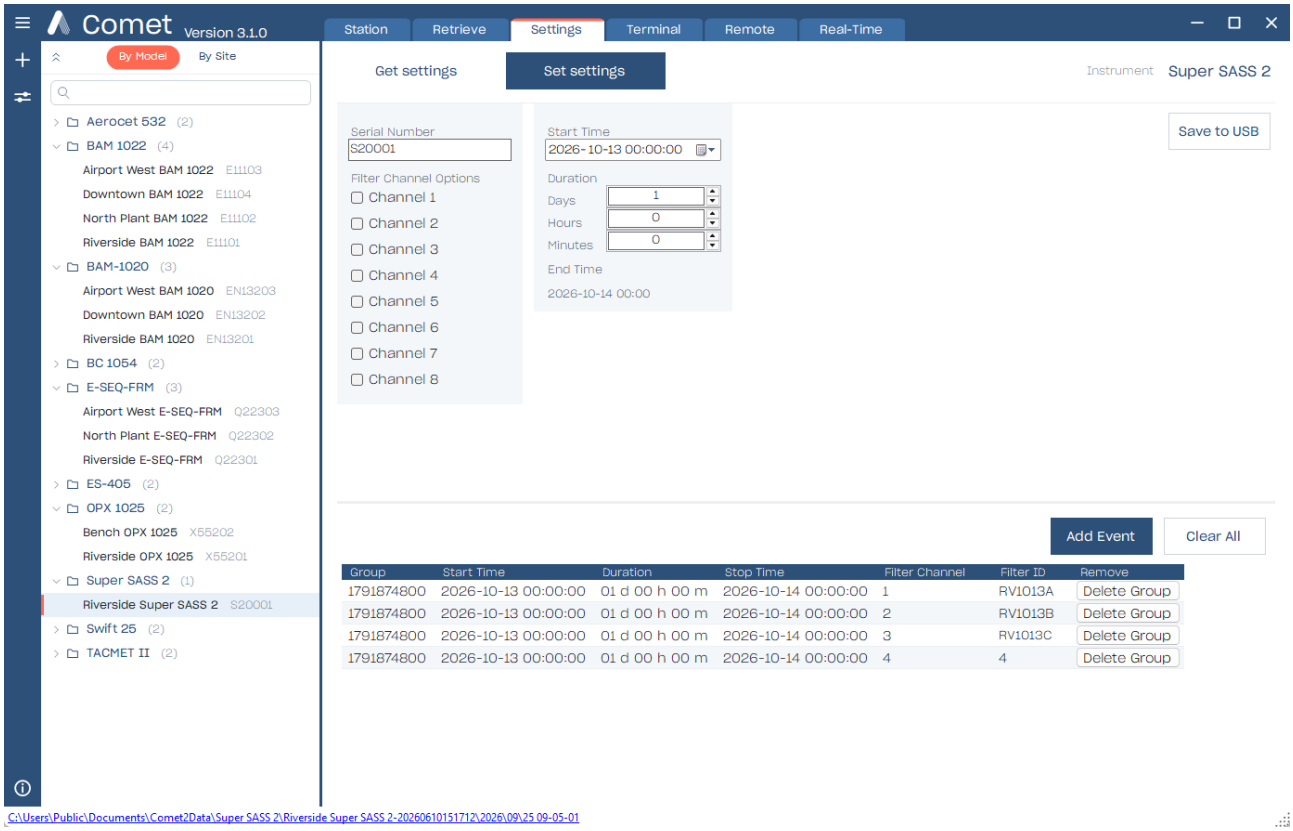


Figure 5-3 Editing Filter IDs in the Schedule Grid

On the E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC the schedule can also go over the serial or TCP/IP connection. Get Settings reads the events pending on the instrument into the grid. Set Settings replaces the instrument's schedule with the grid: after a confirmation the pending events are deleted, each event in the grid is added, and the schedule is read back and checked; an empty grid clears the instrument's

schedule. The page applies the instrument's own rules before anything is sent: Filter IDs of up to 8 letters and digits, unique in the schedule; at most 16 events on the E-SEQ-FRM and 2 on the E-FRM DC; no blank events on the E-FRM DC; durations from 1 minute to 31 days.

NOTE: Reading and writing the schedule over the connection needs E-SEQ-FRM firmware 1.2.0 or later; every E-FRM DC release has it. A password set on the instrument's front panel locks the schedule commands, and the instrument then does not answer; clear the password on the instrument and try again.

6. DATA RETRIEVAL and CHARTING

6.1 Retrieving Data

1. Select the station and click the Retrieve button.
2. Check the items to download: Settings Report, User Data, Diagnostic Data, and/or Alarms (availability depends on the model).
3. Choose the range: New records only, All records, records Since a date, or the Last N records.
4. Click Retrieve. Progress is reported in the terminal area; click Cancel to abort.

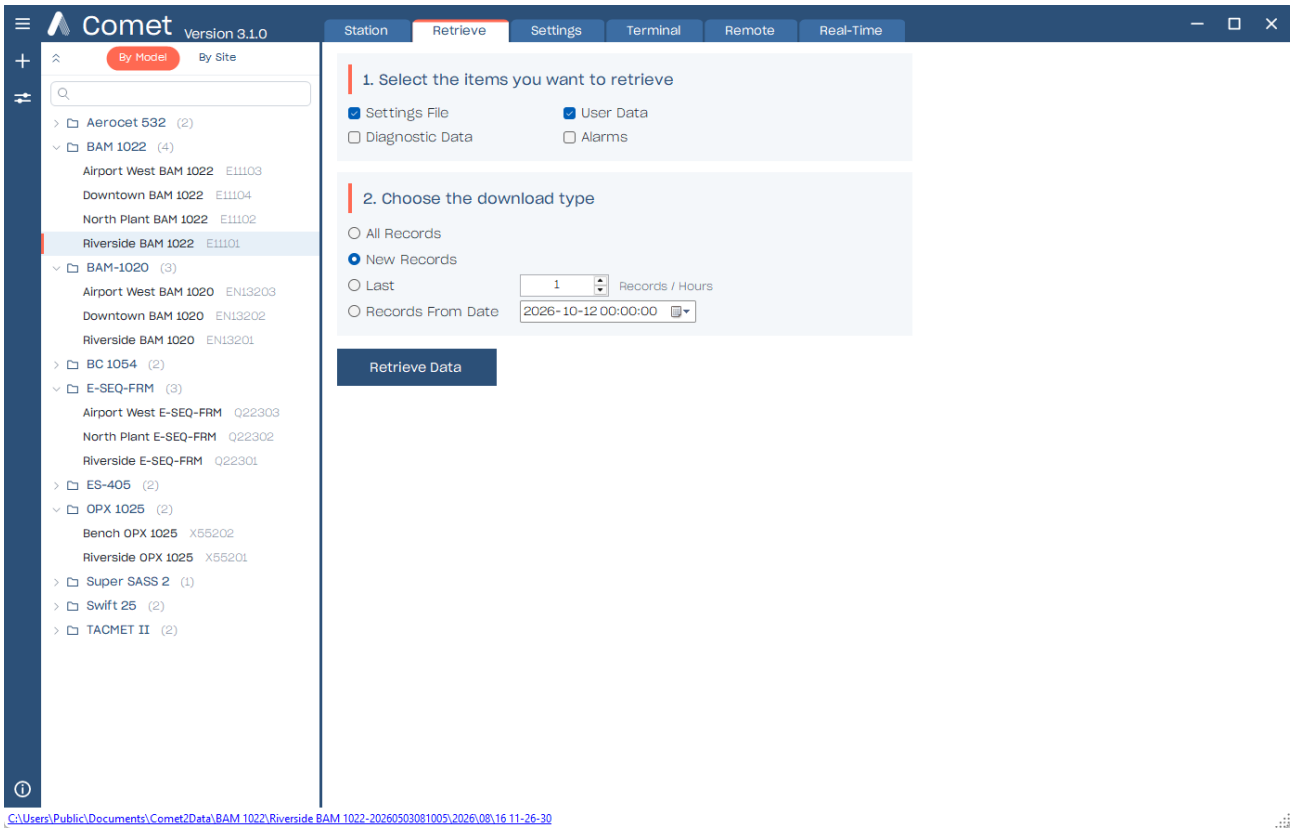


Figure 6-1 Data Retrieve Screen

A status window shows progress while the download runs, then reports the result in place — what was retrieved, or what failed and why — with an Open Folder button that opens the folder the files were written to. Downloaded files are saved beneath the station folder, organised by date.

NOTE: E-SEQ-FRM and Super SASS 2 user data downloads use the XMODEM protocol and are saved as binary files before decoding.

NOTE: For cloud stations the Retrieve tab also shows a Daylight saving checkbox. Off, the default, prints the instrument's standard time; on prints local wall-clock time. See section 4.2.

6.2 Viewing Data and Charts

Selecting a station loads its most recent download automatically. The Retrieval list at the top of the Data tab holds every download for that station, newest first; choose an earlier one to open it.

Each file in the download appears as its own tab. Text reports are shown as text; CSV files are shown as a table on the Data tab and as an interactive chart on the Charts tab.

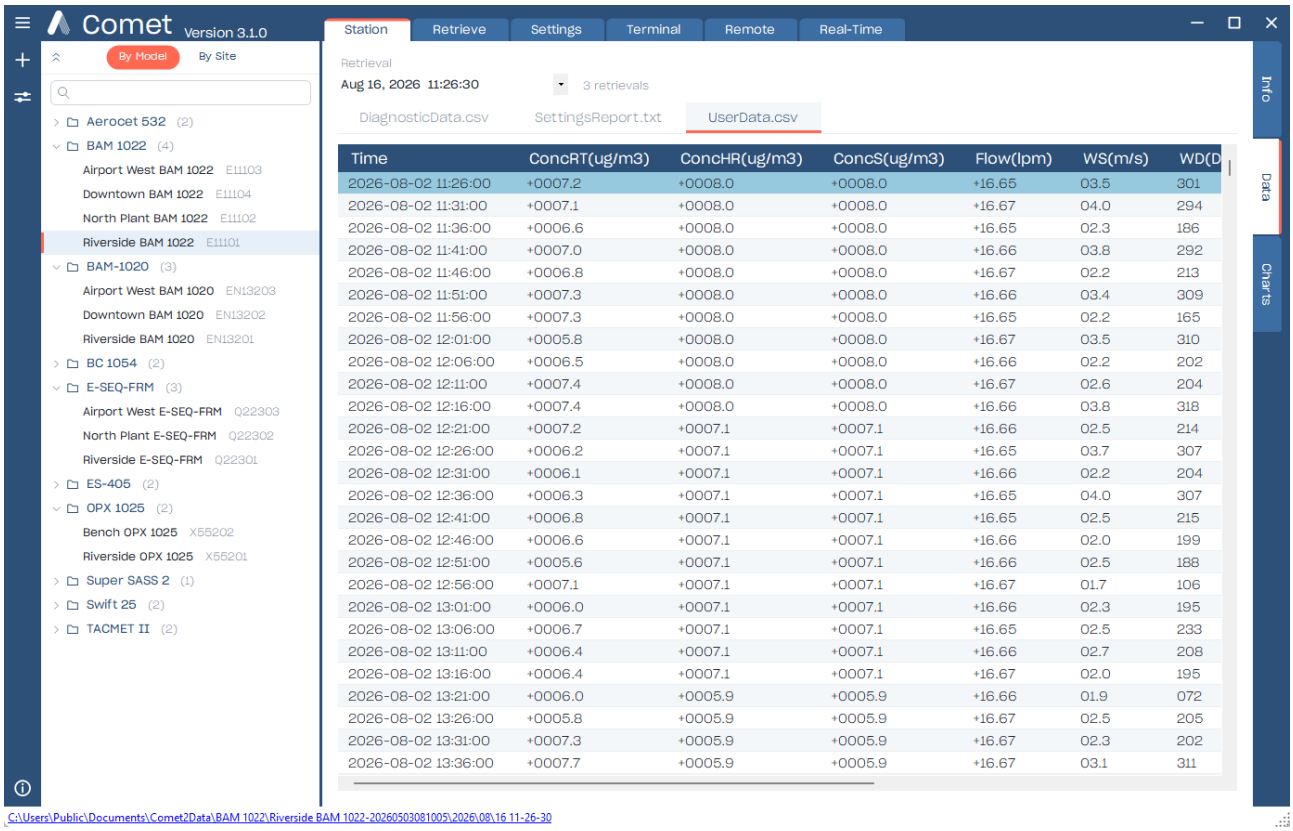


Figure 6-2 Retrieval List and the Data Tab

1. On the chart, check the channels to plot. Each channel is drawn in a distinct color.
2. For large files, use the slider at the bottom of the chart to page through the data.
3. Use the Rows per view selector to choose how many records are shown per page (500 to 10,000). Smaller pages redraw faster.
4. Drag to zoom and use the mouse wheel to pan within the plotted window.



Figure 6-3 Chart View with Channel List

Where a file carries a wind speed and wind direction pair, the Charts tab also offers a wind rose. It divides the compass into sixteen sectors and shows how often the wind blew from each, banded by speed, over the whole file.

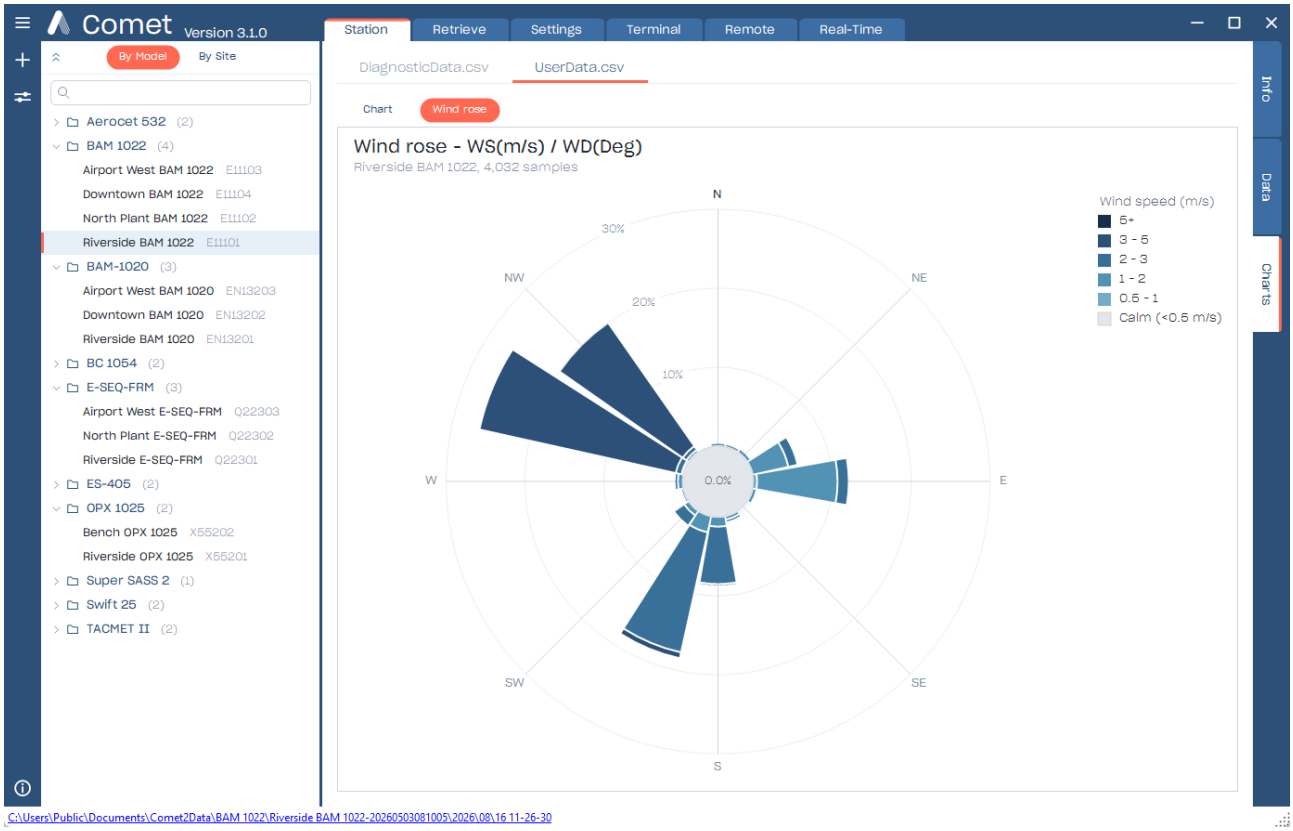


Figure 6-4 Wind Rose for a Wind Speed and Direction Pair

For the filter samplers (Super SASS 2, SASS 2, I-SASS, T-SASS, P-SASS, E-SEQ-FRM and E-FRM DC) each download also holds an event summary, EventLog.txt, laid out as in FSCommAQ: Event, Flow Statistics, Min/Max Filter Temperature, Ambient Temperature and Pressure, Flow Warnings, Warnings and Power Failures, with the sampled volume and the time of every maximum and minimum. A warning row reads Yes or No, and a No carries no time. The data log's columns carry the FSCommAQ names and units, with the filter temperatures first, then the flows, then the pump box temperature.

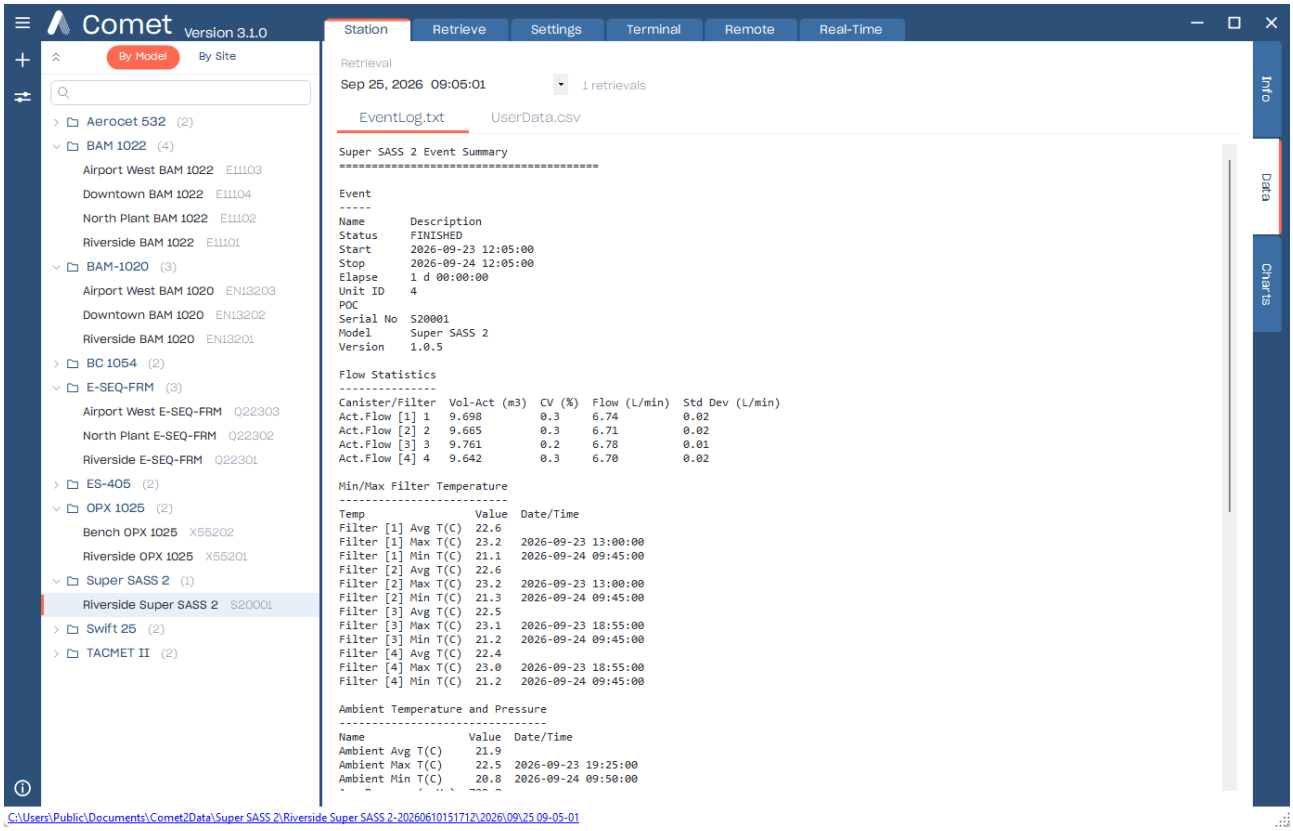


Figure 6-5 Filter Sampler Event Summary on the Data Tab

7. MAINTENANCE and TROUBLESHOOTING

7.1 Log Files

Comet 3 records unexpected errors to a log file. Each entry carries the date and time, the version in use, and the technical detail needed to identify the fault. The log is the single most useful thing to include with a problem report.

1. Click the About button at the bottom of the button rail.
2. Click Open Log Folder.
3. Attach errors.log to the report.

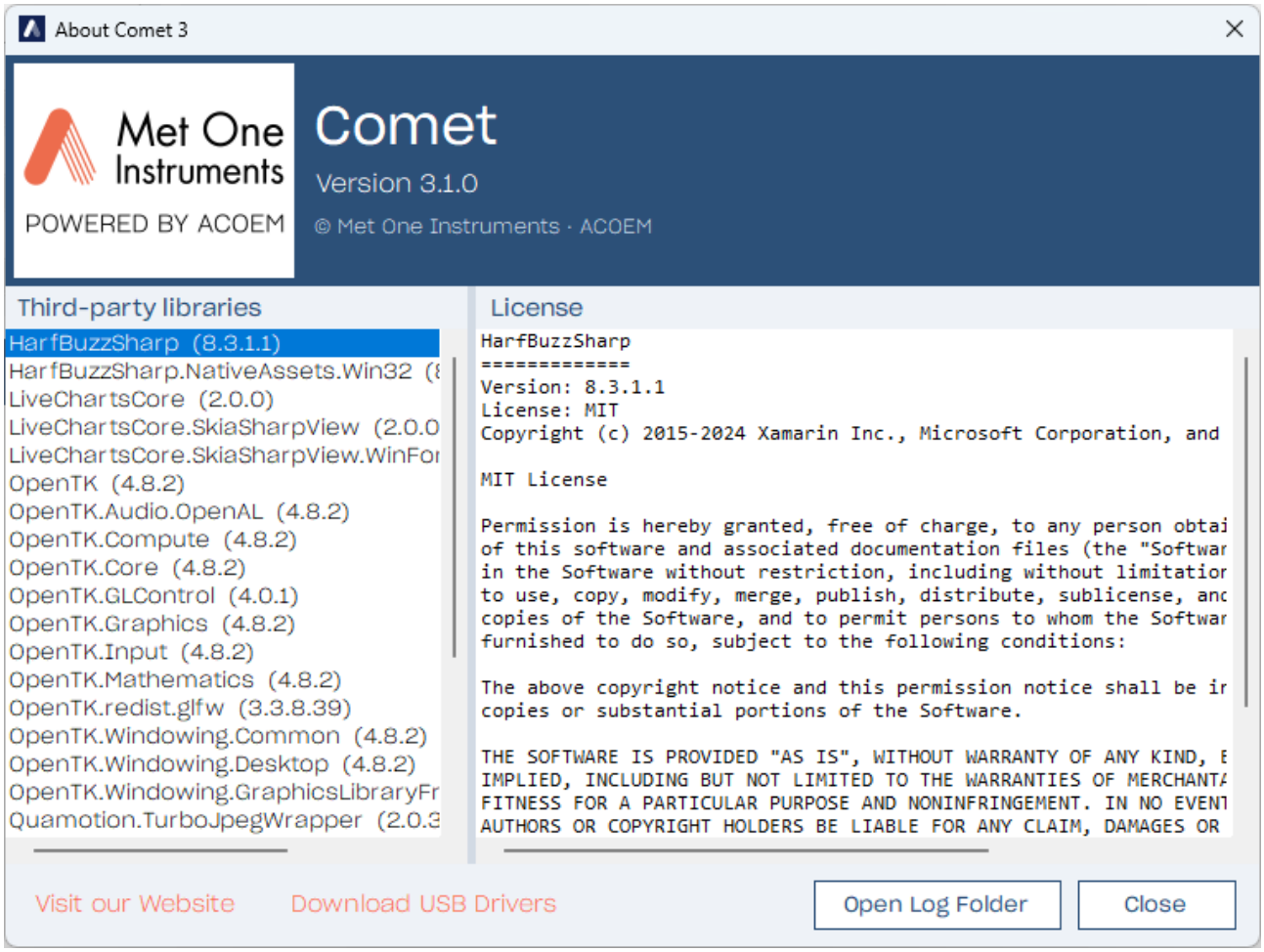


Figure 7-1 Open Log Folder on the About Screen

LOG	LOCATION
Errors and crashes	Documents\Comet3Logs\errors.log
Previous error log	Documents\Comet3Logs\errors.prev.log
Terminal logs (per station)	<data folder>\<product>\<station>\TerminalLogs\YYYY-MM-DD.log

LOG	LOCATION
Terminal logs (no station selected)	Documents\Comet3Logs\TerminalLogs\YYYY-MM-DD.log
Downloaded data	<data folder>\<product>\<station>\<year>\<month>\<day>

Table 7-1 Log File Locations

NOTE: The error log is trimmed when it grows large, and the previous contents are kept alongside it as errors.prev.log. If a fault happened some time ago, check both files.

7.2 Common Issues

SYMPTOM	LIKELY CAUSE / REMEDY
Comet 3 closed unexpectedly, or reported an unexpected error	Open About > Open Log Folder and send errors.log with a note of what was happening at the time
A station is missing from the explorer	Clear the filter box; check the By Model / By Site switch, since the station may be under another heading; folders whose name ends in $Skip are hidden deliberately
Cannot connect over serial	Wrong COM port or baud rate; USB driver not installed; port in use by another program
Cannot connect over TCP/IP	Wrong IP address or port; instrument not on the network; firewall blocking the connection
Terminal connect refused with remote control message	A GUI/LCD remote control session owns the port. Disconnect remote control first
Detect completes but Add Station is refused	The instrument reported no serial number. Program the serial (SS command) and re-run Detect An E-BAM Gen 1 on firmware before R1.59.3 has no serial-number command; Comet 3 3.0.17 and later read its serial from the instrument's EEPROM report instead, so Detect again with a current version rather than upgrading the firmware first.
Get Settings or Set Settings on an E-SEQ-FRM or E-FRM DC reports that the instrument did not answer	A password set on the instrument's front panel locks the schedule commands: clear it on the instrument and try again. An E-SEQ-FRM on firmware before 1.2.0 has no schedule commands; update the firmware, or build the schedule on the Settings tab and load it from a USB stick with Save to USB
Station shows outdated firmware revision	Run any data retrieve from the station; the revision refreshes automatically
Retrieve reports no data	The instrument's logger is empty, or the selected range contains no new records
Terminal log file missing entries under heavy load	The log records a 'dropped entries' marker when disk writing cannot keep up; reduce logging to Formatted or Off during large downloads

Table 7-2 Troubleshooting

7.3 Technical Support

For technical support, contact Met One Instruments service. When reporting a communication issue, enable Formatted terminal logging in Options, reproduce the issue, and include the station's terminal log file for the day — it is stored in the station's TerminalLogs folder and identifies the exact commands and responses exchanged with the instrument.

For anything that looks like a fault in Comet 3 itself rather than in communication, include errors.log from the log folder and the version shown on the About screen.

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Table 7-3 Contact Information