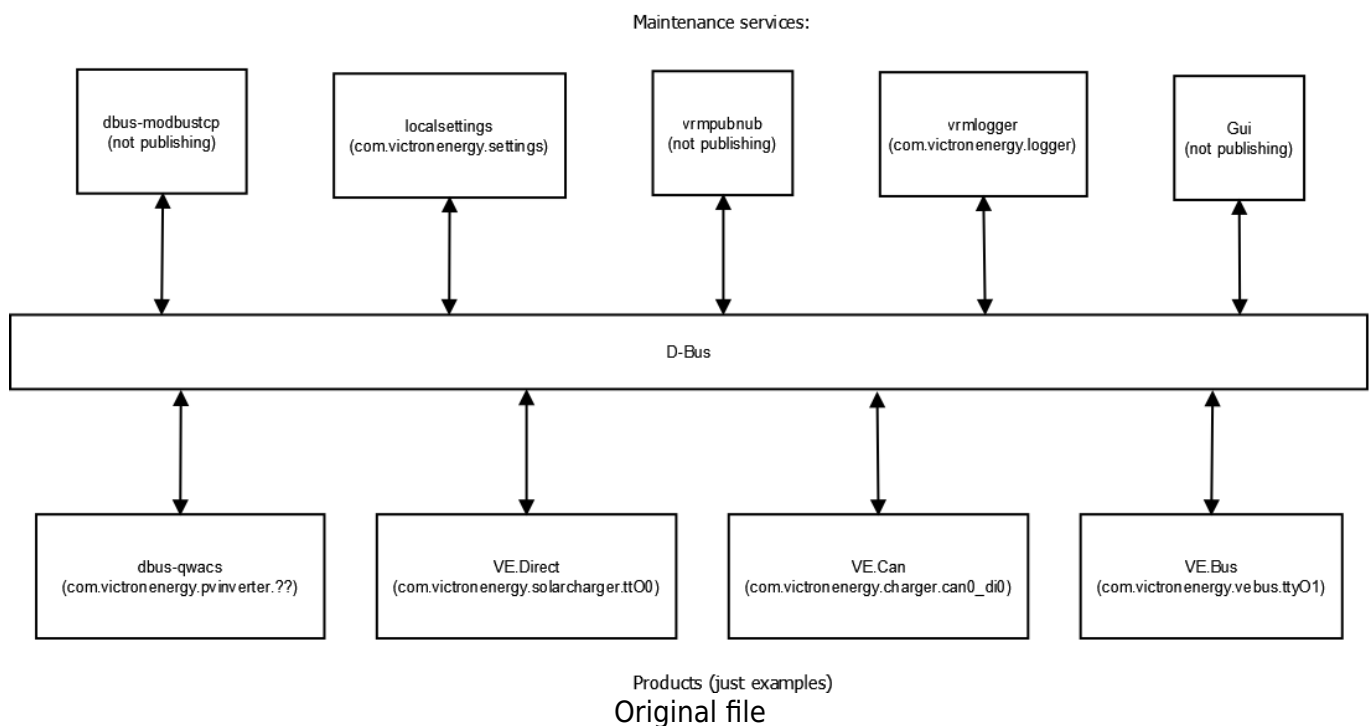


# D-Bus API definition

## Introduction

D-Bus is used as the main data exchange, to share values such as voltages, as well as settings and other data, between all the processes running on the CCGX. D-Bus is a common linux inter process communication mechanism, see google and the [D-Bus page on wikipedia](#) for more information.

Below diagram gives a good overview on the CCGX:



## Basics

- Standard Linux D-Bus has two bus-es: Session and System. On the CCGX the System bus is used.
- The D-Bus connection-name of a D-Bus service always begins with `com.victronenergy`.
- For D-Bus services representing products connected to the system, the service name rules are:
  - Connection via serial port (onboard VE.Bus connection, VE.Direct ports, usb-serial converters): `com.victronenergy.[product type].[tty name]`  
Note that this can be VE.Direct, but also a GPS for example
  - Connections via canbus:  
`com.victronenergy.[product type].[interface]_di[device instance]`
- As implied by above naming rules, when one executable connects to different products, it will make create multiple D-Bus services. An example is the process taking care of all canbus communications, `vecan-dbus`.
- Never use the fourth part in the service name (interface, tty name etc.) to deduct the DeviceInstance or connection method. The only purposes of it is to make the name is unique and easy to identify from the command line. Use `/DeviceInstance/` instead.
- Use SI units when publishing data on the D-bus.

Exceptions: use kWh for energy and degrees Celsius for temperature.

- Processes representing products will connect to the dbus after they know what kind of product they will represent.
- Never change your the service name once on the D-Bus. Instead remove the service and register a new one.
- When a dbus service cannot communicate anymore with its direct counterpart, the process will disconnect from the D-Bus. And, if it has nothing else to do, will exit. An example is a BMV connected through VE.Direct stops communicating, perhaps because it is unplugged.
- Each object on the D-Bus represents one value. In VE.Bus for example, /Dc/0/Voltage is the voltage, /Dc/0/Current the current.
- An invalid value is represented by an empty array of integers. In Python this is `dbus.Array([], signature=dbus.Signature('i'), variant_level=1)`.

## Implementation notes

- Applications publishing values to the dbus (ie a product driver), do not need to invalidate all values before going offline. Applications using values from dbus, such as the GUI or vrmlogger, need to monitor for nameowner changes / service watches. One reason: an application could also crash (so the dbus service disappears without a chance of first sending out all invalids).
- Applications using values from the D-Bus, such as GUI or vrmlogger, should take care that when a new D-Bus service comes online, it might not immediately have all object paths.
- Applications publishing values to the D-Bus, should, when adding object paths after they have already created their D-Bus service, send a PropertiesChanged signal.
- Applications publishing values to the D-Bus, that change their /DeviceInstance, should disconnect their service from the D-Bus and reconnect with the new /DeviceInstance value. Or, change your name, to trigger nameowner changes.

## TODO: verify and finalize below

- When putting a D-Bus service online, should there be a PropertiesChanged signal for all object paths?

## Service name examples

### Services representing products

The services below retrieve measurements from devices connected to the color control, and publish them on the D-Bus. The hyperlinks in the tables below refer to the source code of the projects on [github](#). Services without hyperlink are not (yet) open sourced.

Below is a list of example possible and common service names.

Service name	Description
com.victronenergy.batter.ttyO2	
com.victronenergy.vebus.ttyO1	mk2-dbus
com.victronenergy.charger.ttyO0	Charger connected via VE.Direct at tty0

Service name	Description
com.victronenergy.solarcharger.ttyO2	Solar charger connected via VE.Direct at tty2
com.victronenergy.solarcharger.ttyUSB2	Solar charger connected via VE.Direct via USB cable
com.victronenergy.vebus.socketcan_can0_di0	VE.Bus system connected via canbus 0, and configured for device instance 0
com.victronenergy.vebus.socketcan_can0_di1	VE.Bus system connected via canbus 0, and configured for device instance 1
com.victronenergy.charger.socketcan_can0_di0	Skylla-i charger connected on canbus, device instance 0
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.pvinverter.qwacs_nnn</a>	Quby AC sensors
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.pvinverter.fronius_nnn</a>	Fronius PV inverters
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.grid.ttyUSBn</a>	Carlo Gavazzi AC sensors
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.gps</a>	USB/serial GPS retrieval

## Maintenance services

Process	Description
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.settings</a>	interface to xml-based non-volatile settings storage (/data/conf/settings.xml)
com.victronenergy.gui	gui. takes care of buttons and lcd display
vrmllogger	Communication between CCGX and VRM Database
vrmpubnub	Two-communication via internet, (to be) used by mobile apps, Portal and VE Power Setup.
<a href="#">com.victronenergy.system</a>	Computes statistics from devices (total power, consumption, power to grid...)
<a href="#">modbustcp</a>	Modbustcp gateway, allows access to all connected products

## Device instances

The device instance (object path /DeviceInstance) makes a device unique. The device instance is based on the connection method. The used rules are:

- NMEA2K devices report the NMEA2K device instance (max. 255).
- Devices connected to a (virtual) serial-port report from 256 up. Their instance is determined by the device name:
  - /dev/ttyOx: 256 + x
  - /dev/ttySx: 272 + x
  - /dev/ttyUSBx: 288 + x
  - COMx: 256 + x
- Redflow service uses:
  - System totals: 40
  - Battery one on 40 + Modbus-RTU id of that battery
  - Battery two on 40 + Modbus-RTU id of that battery
  - Etc.
- com.victronenergy.system (aka systemcalc): 0

## Use of the DeviceInstance in CCGX configuration & settings

The device instance is used for several configuration items:

- Settings → System Setup → Main battery monitor
- Genset start/stop selection of battery monitor and ac source
- and perhaps more config items.

## Use of the DeviceInstance on VRM

In logging to the VRM database ([vrn.victronenergy.com](http://vrn.victronenergy.com)) the device-instance is used, for example IV1[0] (input 1 voltage of device instance 0), and it (the instance) should therefore not change at random. Maximum of the instance field in the VRM database is 65535.

## Use of the DeviceInstance on ModbusTCP

The ModbusTCP server, used by customers to query data from either the total system or separate devices, uses the ModbusTCP server in the addressing. The UnitID aka SlaveID in the request is mapped to the device instance.

This mapping is not one on one and has a bit of history, since we didn't realize at first that a lot of PLCs do not support a device instance above 247. Also (though unconfirmed!) UnitID 0 is not supported.

More details: [unitid2di.csv map in the sources](#). And also the user documentation, [the modbustcp excelsheet](#) and also the [ModbusTCP FAQ](#).

## Object-paths

The naming convention for new object paths is to write a full word. So /Ac/Voltage instead of /Ac/V and /Management instead of /Mgmt.

### Objects paths that all services need to implement

Object-path	Definition
/Mgmt/ProcessName	For example vcan_dbus
/Mgmt/ProcessVersion	For example v1.02
/Mgmt/Connection	Textual description for connection method. To be used in the menu ("VE.Direct port 2")

### Object paths that are mandatory for services representing products

Object-path	Definition
/ProductId	As defined in products.h in velib. GetValue should return the decimal, as uint32 (ie 516), and GetText should return this as a hex string: 0x204.
/ProductName	As defined in products.c in velib, probably also on VE.Can as PGN 1F014, field 4 'Manufacturer's Model ID'.

Object-path	Definition
/FirmwareVersion	The format of the GetText reply depends on the type of product: VE.Can: as specified in the column Textual in VREG 0x0102, see VE.Can registers - public.docx VE.Bus: 7 digit number for example 1956204
/HardwareVersion	
/DeviceInstance	The Device Instance, see chapter above
/Connected	Value 0 = not-connected, Value 1 = connected

## Other standard object paths

### /Serial

String, containing one serialnumber. In a system with multiple units, the one from the master is shown.

### /N2KUniqueNumber

Int, containing the N2K unique number. In a system with multiple units, the one from the master is shown.

### /Devices/...

The Devices object path is only used for products that operate in parallel mode. This object-path is used to access the underlying real products. Examples of products operating in parallel mode are VE.Bus products (Inverters, Multi's, Quattro's), Skylla-i's and MPPT 150/70's. The first device will report under /Devices/0/... , the second device under /Devices/1/.... Etcetera. When relevant this numbering is kept equal to bus numbering. For example MK2-addressing.

### /Interfaces/...

The Interfaces object path is used when access to a certain product goes via known interfaces. For VE.Bus products for example you could find the MK2 in /Interfaces/, or the mk2-can and the mk2. The reasons to do this are:

- How is the device connected
- Publish / retrieve firmware versions of intermediate interfaces
- Diagnostics (where is the connection lost)

An example of the interfaces of a VE.Bus system connected through canbus:

/Interfaces/Mk2	
/Interfaces/Mk2/Version	1130132
/Interfaces/Mk2-can/	
/Interfaces/Mk2-can/Version	v1.12

## D-Bus interfaces

All D-Bus object paths have the following interfaces:

### Interface **com.victronenergy.BusItem**

(Variant value) GetValue()

Returns the value.

(String value) GetText()

Returns the value as string, including units. For example '21.3 W'. When invalid, it returns an empty string.

(Int32 retval) SetValue(Variant value)

Sets the specified value. Returns 0 when success, and something else when not allowed.

(Variant value) GetMin()

Returns the limit minimum.

(Variant value) GetMax()

Returns the limit maximum.

### Following is only supported by **com.victronenergy.settings**

(Int 32 retval) SetDefault()

Sets the value(s) to default value. When this is called on a group (for example object path /Settings/Logscript, all values in this group are set to default.

(Variant value) GetDefault()

Returns the default value.

(Int32 retval) AddSetting(String group, String name, Variant defaultValue, String itemType, Variant minimum, Variant maximum)

Adds a new local setting according to the specified parameters. The possible itemType's are 'i' (integer), 'f' (float) and 's' (string). The minimum and maximum can be specified when the itemType is an integer or float. Minimum and maximum are ignored when both are specified as 0 (zero).

### Interface **org.freedesktop.DBus.Introspectable**

(String data) Introspect()

Returns the introspection data in XML format. Interface org.freedesktop.DBus.Properties (Variant value) Get(String interface, String property)

Returns the value of specified interface and property. For example the interface com.victronenergy.BusItem and the property Valid.

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