Solar and wind priority

NOTE: this is a new feature that is being rolled out in steps:

1. VE.Bus Firmware, implement float-only feature - done per version 26/27xx506.
2. VEConfigure, add float-only config option - pending. Expected late June 2023.
3. VictronConnect, add float-only setting & add user control to override it in case a full charge from shore is needed - pending.
4. Venus OS Normal GUI, add user control to override it in case a full charge from shore is needed.
5. Venus OS HTML5 GUI, add user control to override it in case a full charge from shore is needed - pending.
6. VRM Dashboard controls, same - pending.

In other words, per late June 2023, it is possible to use this feature. A while later, hopefully already in July, we'll have added the user option to - temporarily - override it for moments when a full charge from shore is required.

1. Feature description

In VEConfigure, there is a new setting, "limit internal charger to prioritize other energy sources".

Enabling that will make the inverter/charger use mains/shore power to charge up to the configured float voltage only. Instead of up to the, higher, configured absorption voltage.

This charges the battery enough to prevent premature ageing, while at the same time leaving the rest of the charge up to renewable sources, such as wind or solar.

When after seven days the battery still isn't fully charged, the inverter/charger will complete one charge cycle. These seven days are configurable, it is the repeated absorption interval setting.

The intended application is boats, campers, and so forth that want their solar charger to take care of most of charging when connected to shore power; both while traveling but also when back home. For systems with a Quattro, the charge-to-float will only be applied to AC-in-2, the input where we recommend to wire shore. When charging from AC-in-1, recommended to wire the generator, it will make for a full charge. This AC input selection is not configurable. To prioritize solar over charging from the generator, look at options to start the generator early.

When using a DMC, closing the generator select input (terminals of screw connector on backside) will force a full charge also.

2. Config instructions

DRAFT - TO BE COMPLETED

Step 1 - Firmware update

WARNING: updating the firmware of this product range is strongly advised to be carried out by trained

personnel only. Doing the update will cause all settings to be reset to their default: we therefor advise to save the settings before updating and after updating reinstall the configuration.

Update VE.Bus firmware to 506 or higher:

- To do that locally, using an MK3-USB adapter, use VictronConnect. Full instructions.
- To do that remotely, over the internet, see the Remote VE.Bus firmware update instructions.

Step 2 - Enable the mode

The setting is enabled in VEConfigure, on the advanced tab:
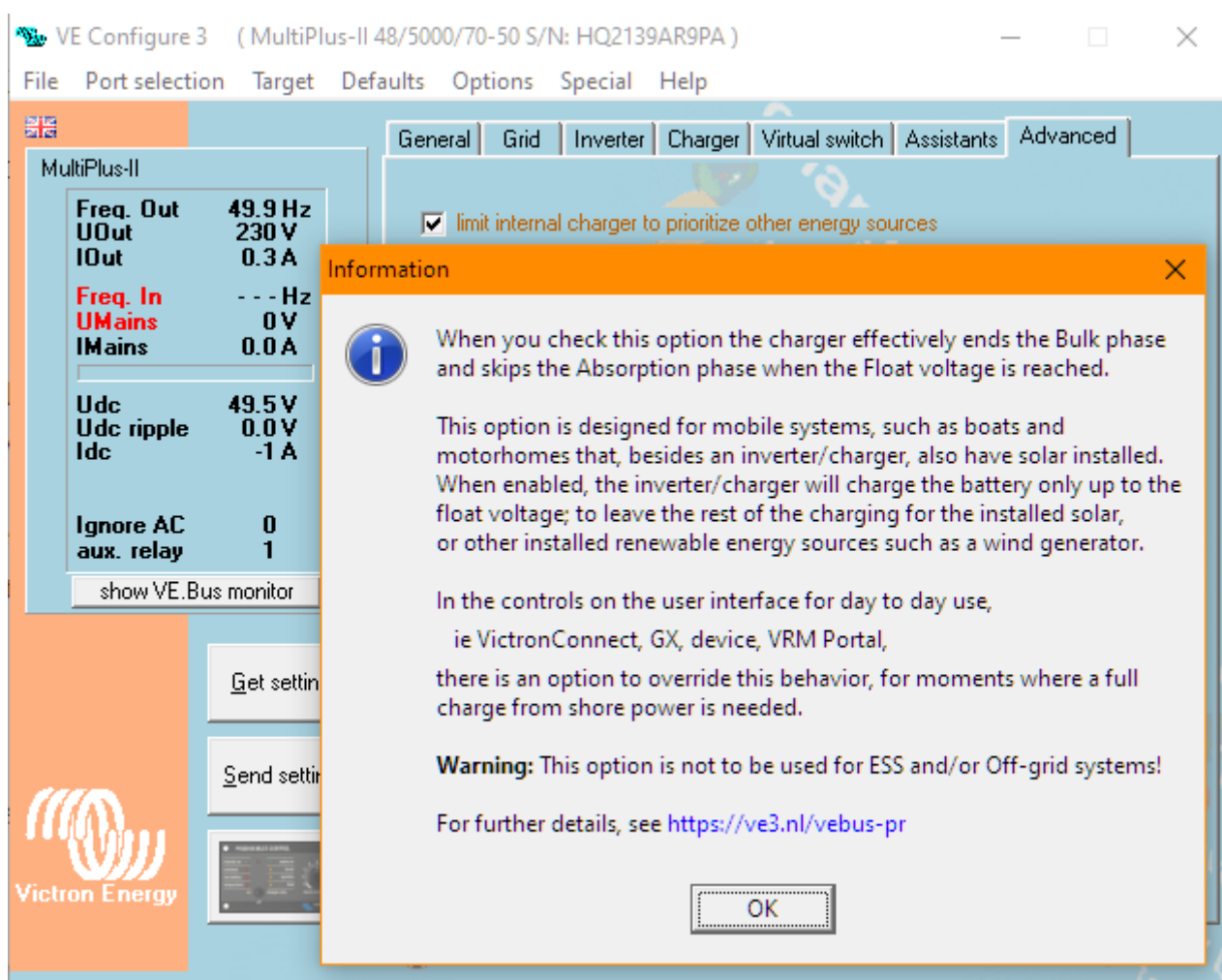
Once enabled the Multi will charge to float.

Step 3 - Check further settings

- if the Storage setting is enabled, then after 12 hours of float, the system will go to storage

- repeated absorption interval.

3. User instructions

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Here have an explanation, and screenshots of where the override settings are. Its important for boat builders and installers to have content that is targeted to (non-technical) end users on how to use this feature.

4. Alternative: disconnect from shore automatically

Mostly applicable for larger systems, where the size of the installed inverter is sufficient to power all the loads, there is an alternative solution.

By using the "Conditonal AC input control" / "Ignore AC input" feature, the Multi or Quattro can be configured to remain disconnected from the shore connection completely. This is described in detail in this blogpost on Panbo.com

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Permanent link:
https://www.victronenergy.com/live/ve.bus:skip-absorption?rev=1688370062

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