



MultiControl

User guide for the Windows software

Version **1.5.5**

CertoClav Sterilizer GmbH

Peintnerstrasse 10, 4060 Leonding, Austria

www.certoclav.com · support@certoclav.com

1 What the software is for

2 Connecting to the autoclave

3 Recording the serial interface

4 Viewing programs

5 Changing and saving programs

6 Settings

7 Keeping the software up to date

8 When something does not work

9 Where your data is kept

1 What the software is for

MultiControl connects your Windows computer to a CertoClav autoclave through the serial interface. It does three things:

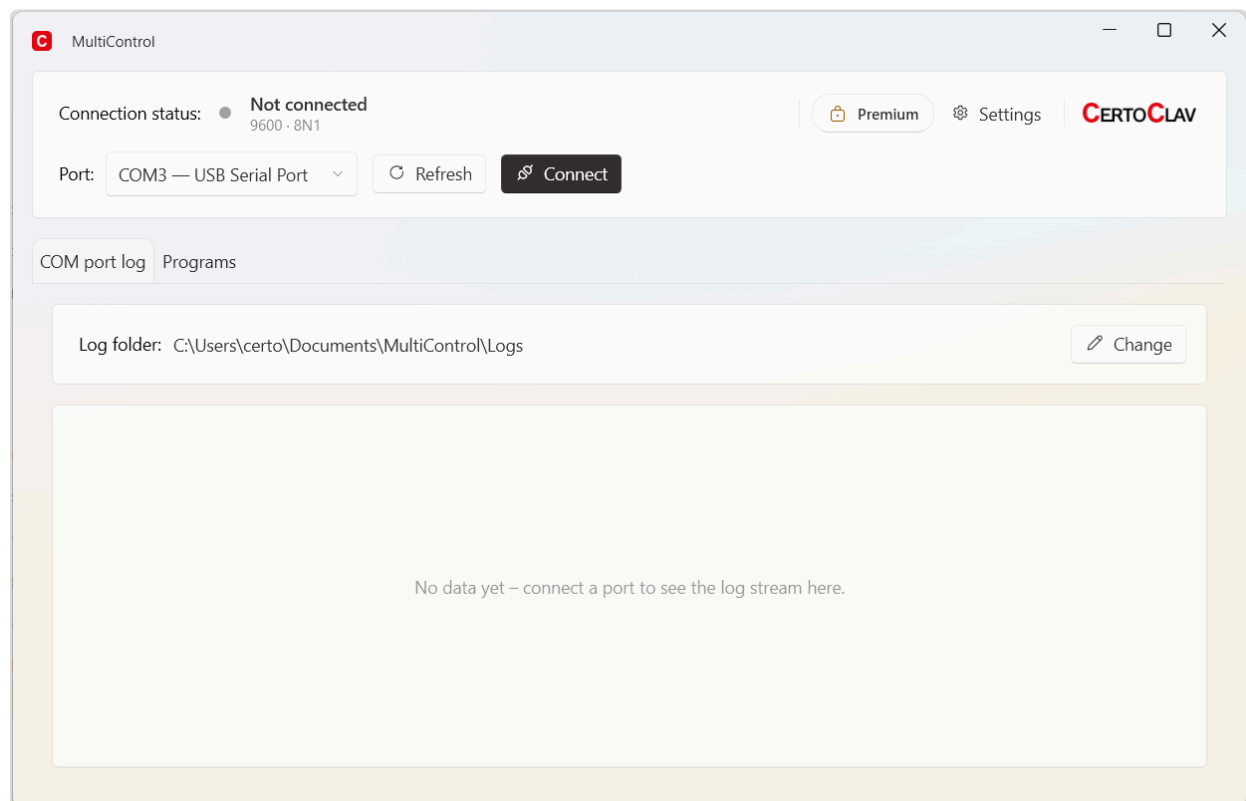
- **records** everything that travels over the interface and keeps it in a file,
- **reads the programs stored in the device** and shows their temperature curves,
- **changes program names and step values and writes them back to the device** (this one needs a premium activation, see section 6).

What you need

Operating system	Windows 10 or 11 (64 bit)
Connection	a USB-to-serial adapter and a cable to the autoclave
Permissions	None in particular for daily use. Only installing and updating ask for the Windows confirmation.

Several devices at once

You can start MultiControl more than once and connect each window to a different autoclave. Every window has its own connection and writes its own log file.



The main window after starting. The connection area sits at the top, the two tabs „COM port log“ and „Programs“ below it.

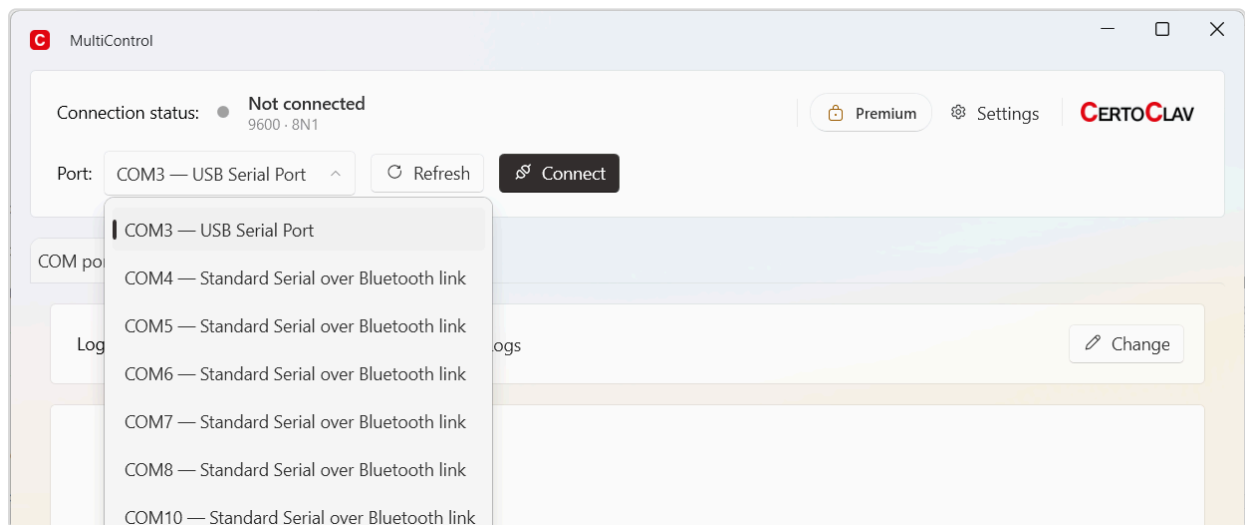
2 Connecting to the autoclave

The top of the window always tells you where you stand. The dot on the left shows the state; next to it are the device and the interface.

Grey dot	Not connected.
Turning circle	The connection is being opened and the device queried. This takes up to five seconds.
Green dot	Connected. Beside it are the port and the serial number, below them the interface settings and the cycle counter.
Yellow dot	The port is open but no device answered – usually the wrong port.

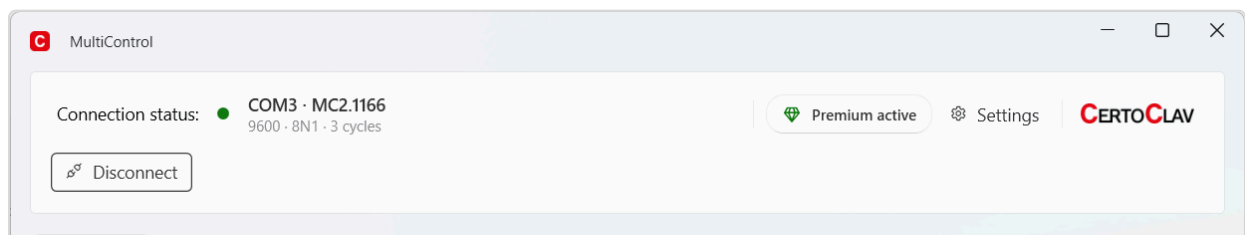
Choosing the right port

The list shows the friendly name of every port. That matters, because Windows almost always offers several virtual Bluetooth ports as well. Those open without complaint and then never answer. Look for your adapter – usually *USB Serial Port* or the manufacturer's name.



A real adapter (COM3) among several virtual Bluetooth ports. If the list is empty, plug in the adapter and press „Refresh“.

Then press **Connect**. Once it works, the line at the top changes to the port and the device's serial number, and „Connect“ becomes **Disconnect**.



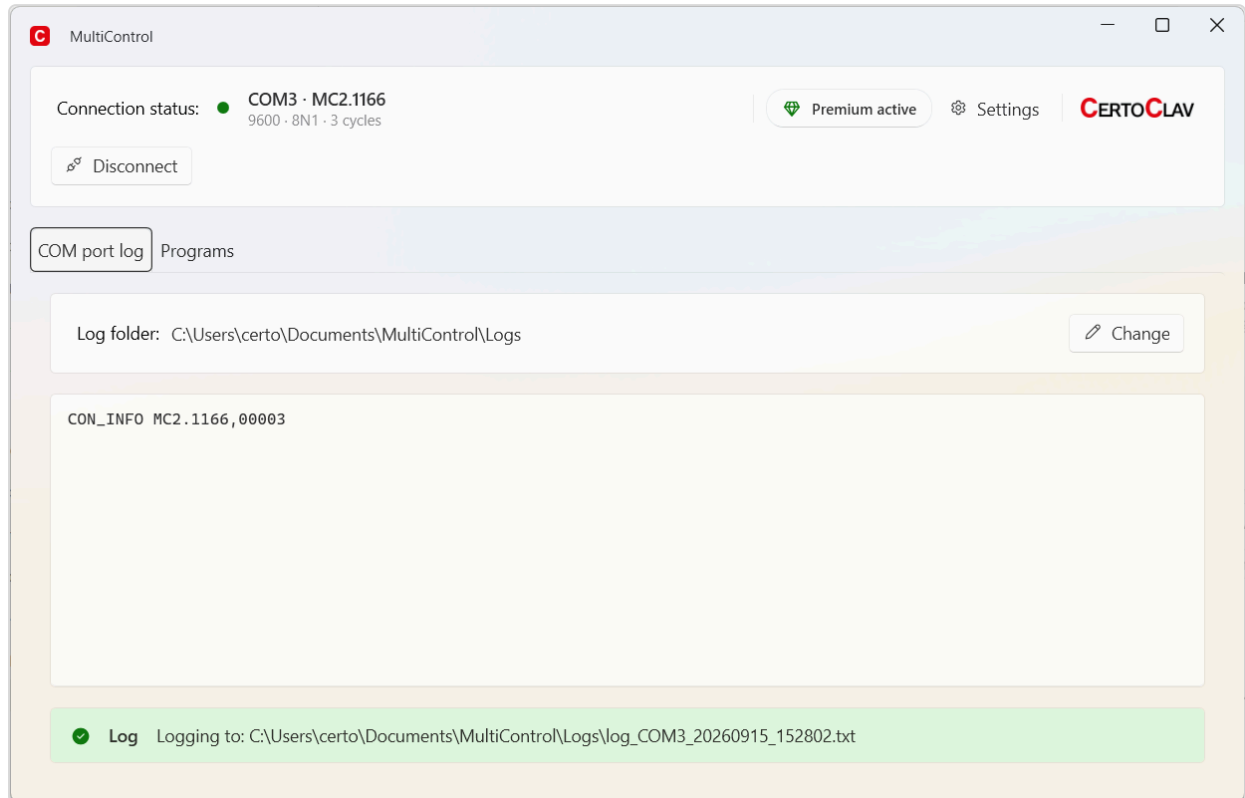
Connected: port COM3, device MC2.1166, below it 9600 · 8N1 and the autoclave's cycle counter.

The cycle counter is read when connecting

It does not keep counting while a connection is open. Disconnect and connect again when you need the current figure.

3 Recording the serial interface

As soon as a connection is open, the **COM port log** tab shows everything the autoclave sends – and writes it to a file at the same time. There is nothing to start: recording begins when you connect and ends when you disconnect.



A recording in progress. The green line at the bottom names the file currently being written.

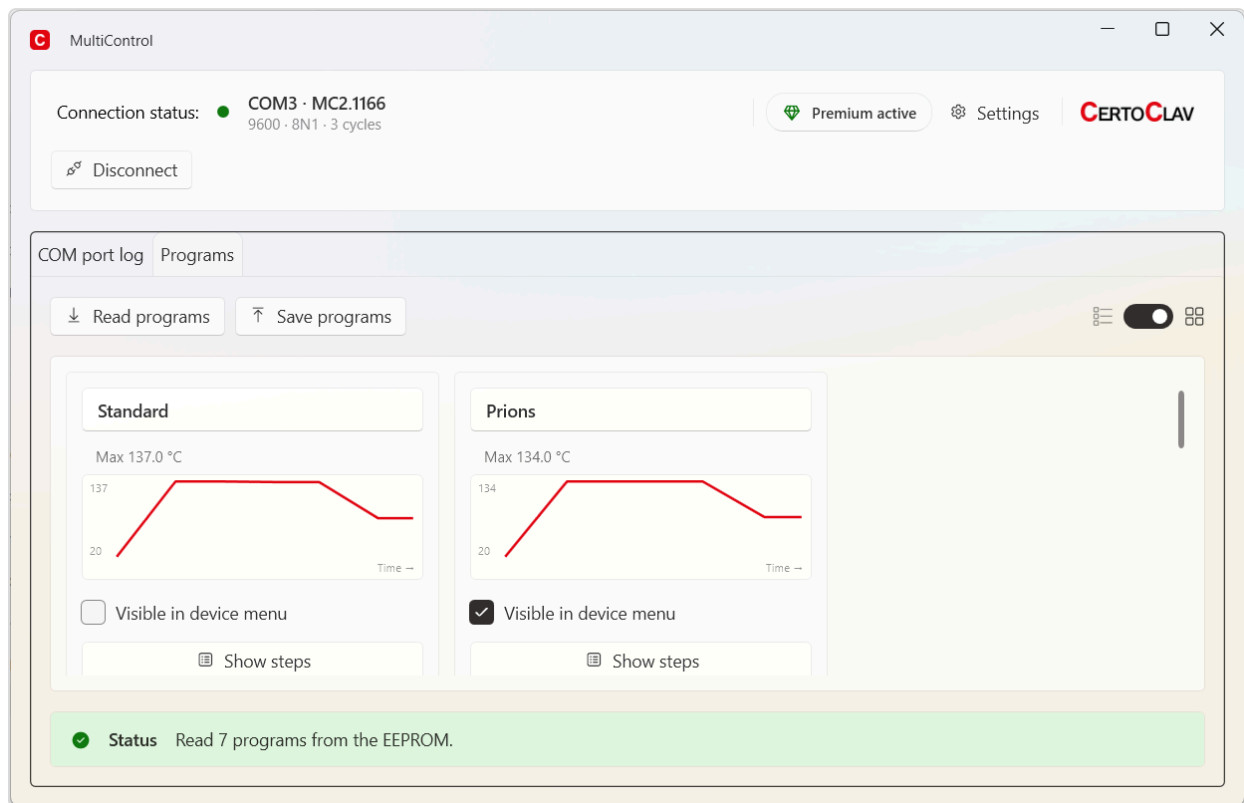
The folder the files go into is shown at the top. **Change** takes you straight to that setting (section 6). Every connection creates its own file; the name contains the port and the time.

The file can be read while recording

You can open it in an editor at any time without interrupting the connection. Everything is on disk after each block of data received.

4 Viewing programs

On the **Programs** tab, **Read programs** fetches every program from the autoclave's memory. It takes a few seconds.



Each tile shows the name, the peak temperature and the temperature curve. The switch at the top right changes between tile and list view.

The **Visible in device menu** checkbox decides whether the program can be selected on the device itself. **Show steps** opens the individual steps of a program.

Steps – Standard

Standard ☐ Visible in device menu

1. Reach	137.0	°C
2. Hold	17.0	min
3. Reach	136.0	°C
4. Hold	12.0	min
5. Reach	80.0	°C

Changes only reach the device once you use "Save programs" in the main window.

OK

The steps of a program. *Reach* is a temperature in °C, *Hold* a holding time in minutes, *Finish* the end.

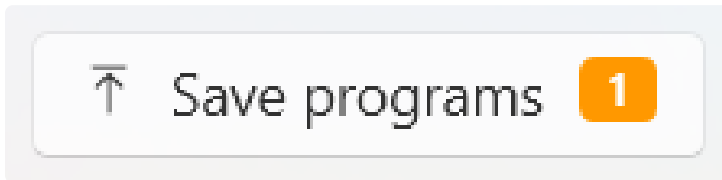
These labels stay in English everywhere

Reach, Hold and Finish appear exactly like this on the autoclave's own display. If the software translated them, screen and device would no longer match.

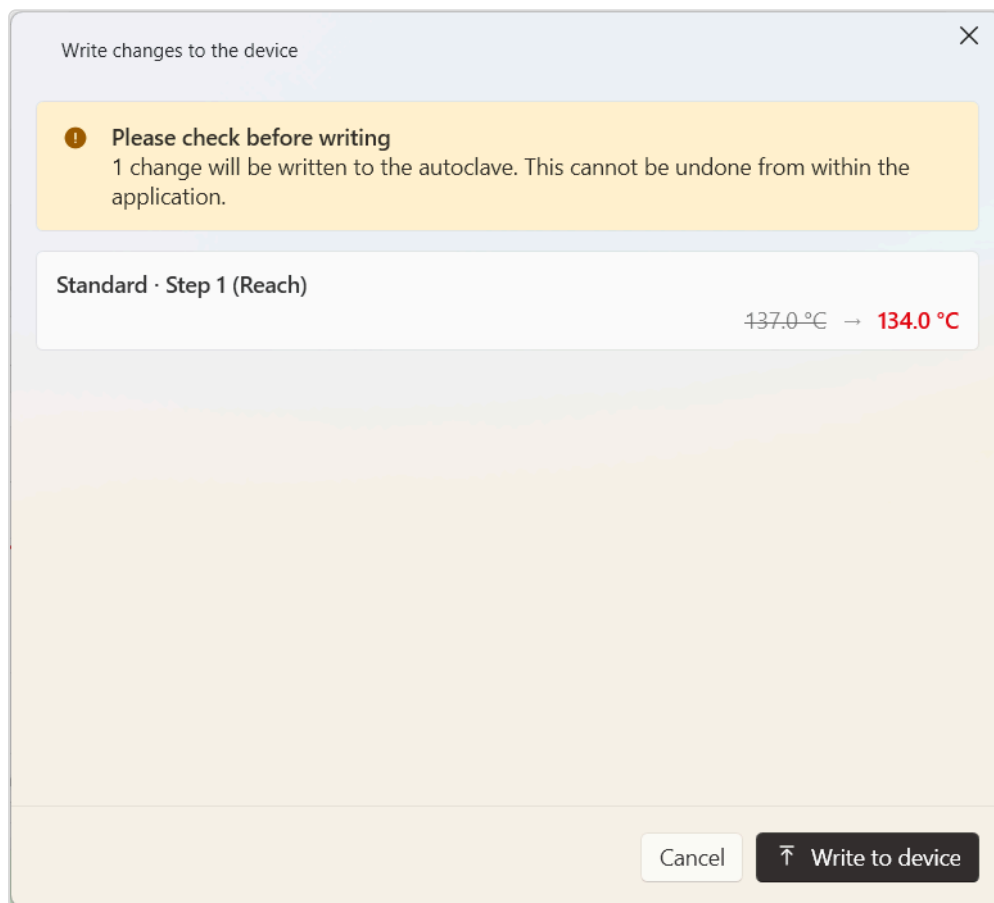
5 Changing and saving programs

Names, step values and menu visibility can be changed directly in the application. Until you save, every change stays in the window – the autoclave knows nothing about it.

The **Save programs** button tells you that something is pending: the number on it says how many changes have not reached the device yet.



Pressing it does not write straight away. First comes a list of every change with its old and new value, which you have to confirm explicitly.



Nothing reaches the autoclave before this list is confirmed. „Cancel“ leaves the device untouched.

Writing cannot be undone

There is no way back from inside the application. Read the list before you confirm. While writing is in progress „Disconnect“ is blocked – breaking off halfway could leave programs incomplete on the device.

Premium

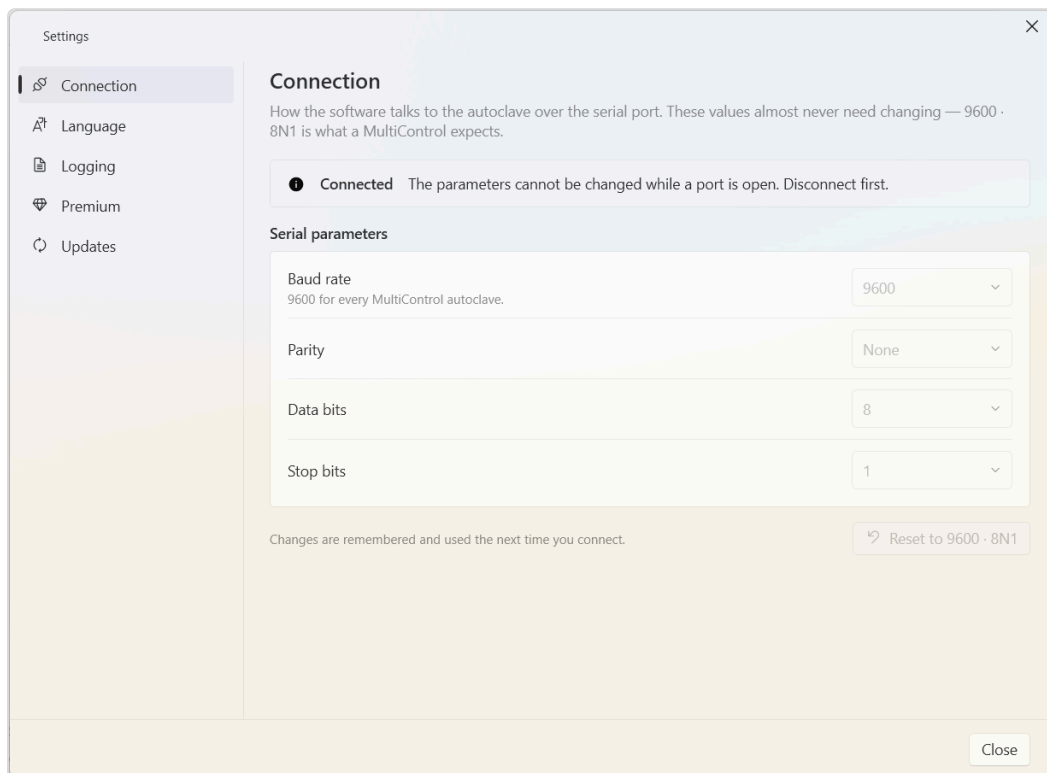
Writing to the device is the only function that needs an activation. Everything else – recording, reading, viewing, editing inside the application – works without one. The activation applies *per device*, not per computer: a key belongs to a serial number.

6 Settings

The **Settings** button at the top right opens five sections.

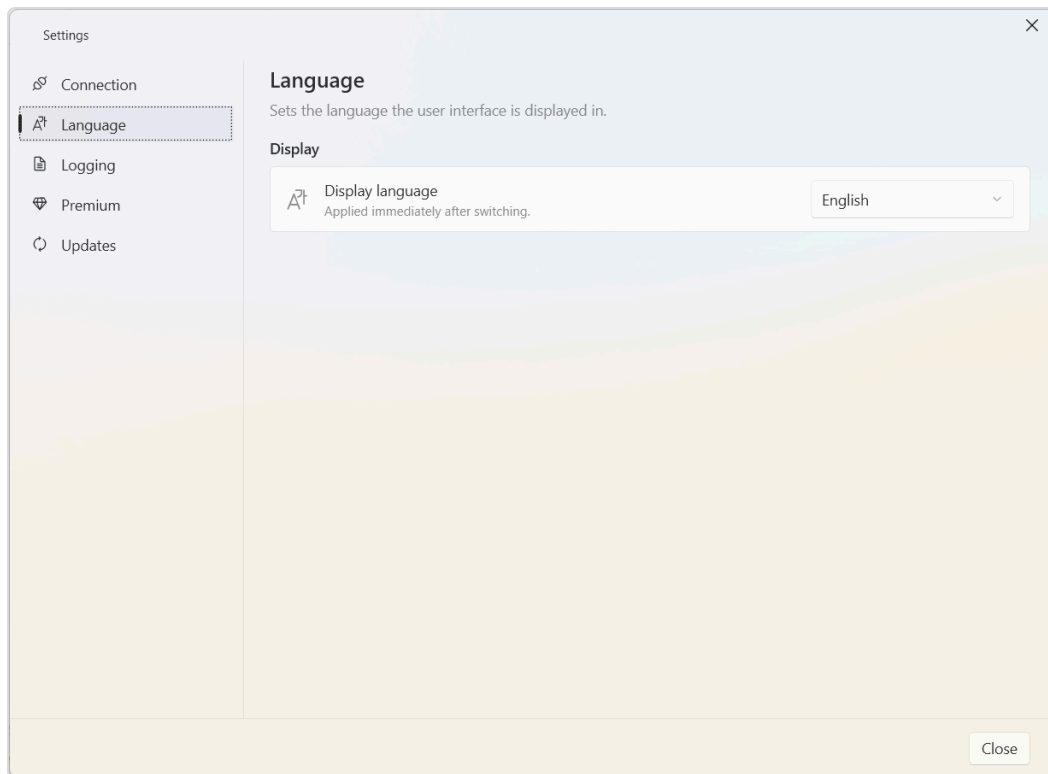
Connection

The serial interface settings. A MultiControl expects **9600 · 8N1** ; in practice you will never need to change anything here. The button at the bottom right puts everything back to the defaults. While a connection is open the fields are locked – disconnect first.



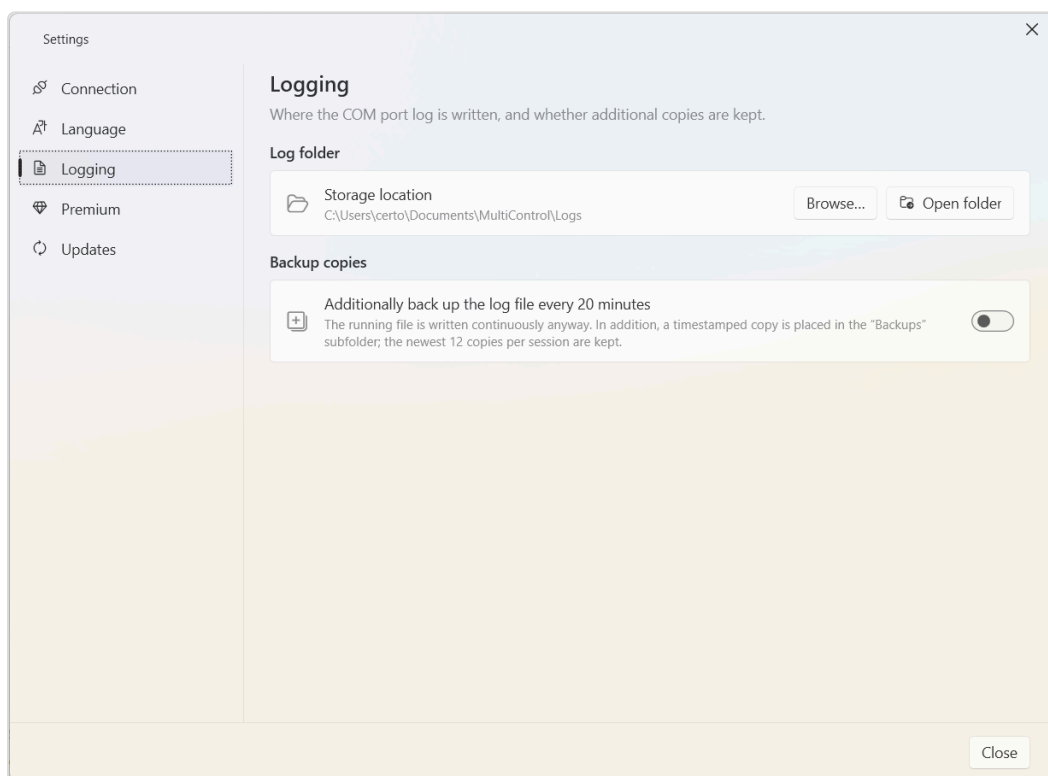
Language

German, English, Spanish and French. The change takes effect immediately, without restarting.



Logging

This is where you choose the folder for the log files. Below it you can switch on an extra copy of the running file every 20 minutes. It is off by default.

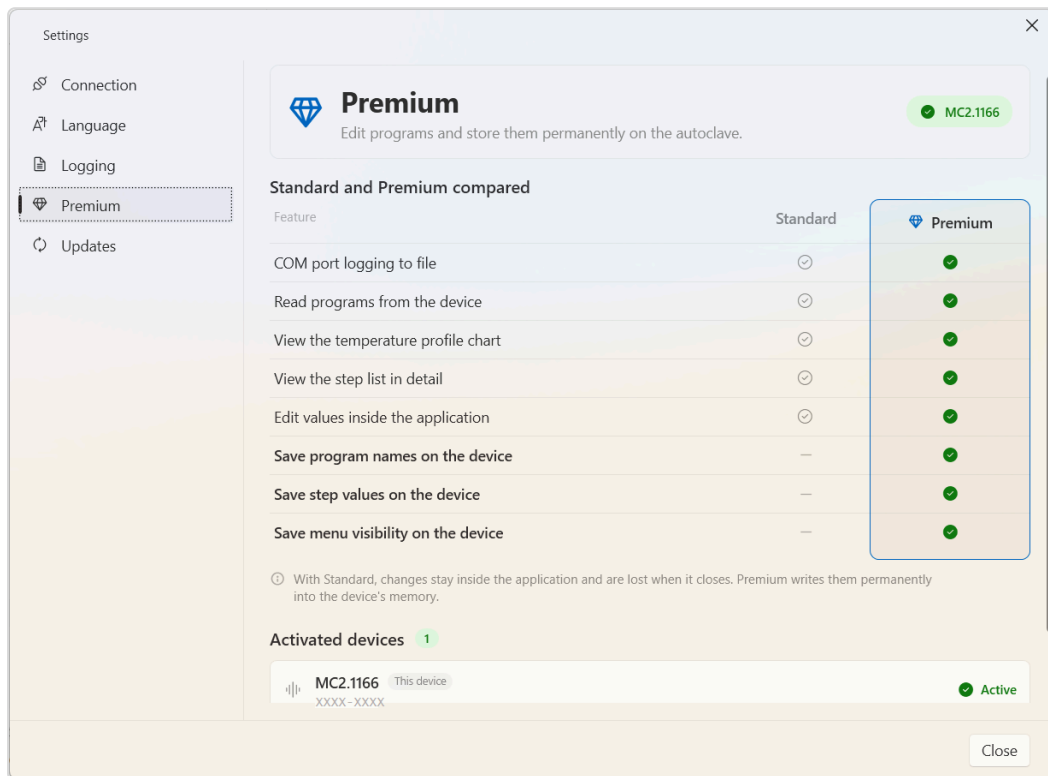


Backup copies belong on another drive

Switching this on asks you for a destination folder. Choose a USB stick or a network drive. Copies kept inside the log folder are lost together with it – the software points that out.

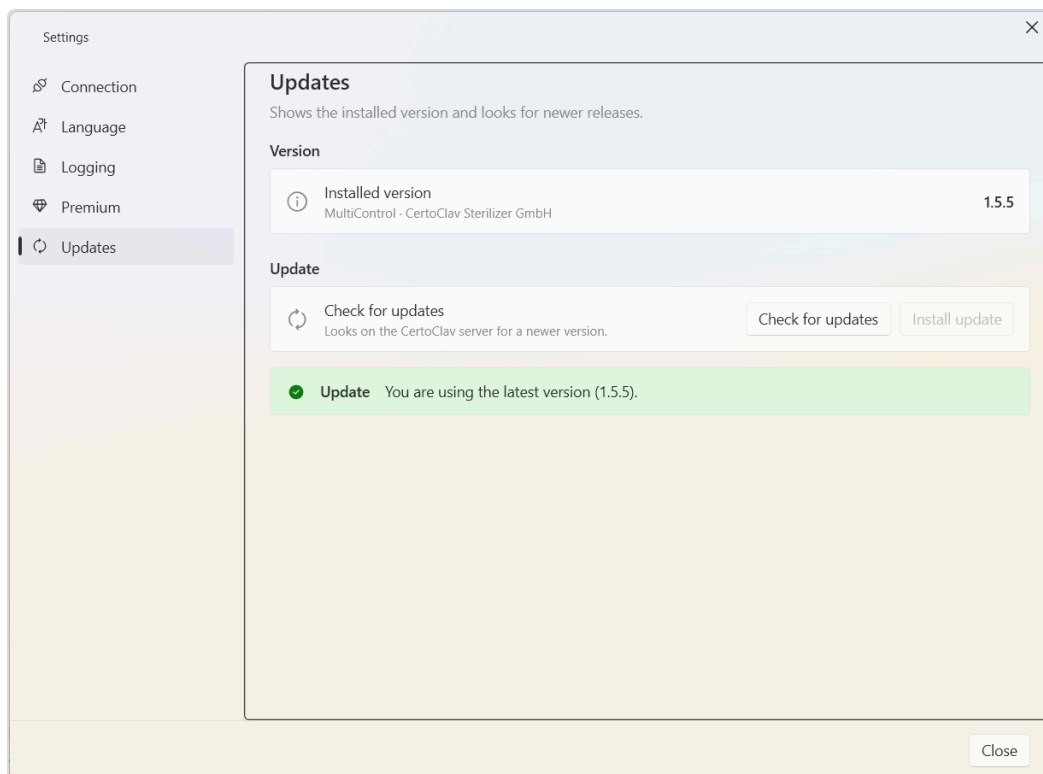
Premium

Shows what standard and premium can each do, and which devices are activated on this computer. If the connected device is still locked, this is where you enter the key you received from CertoClav.



Updates

Shows the installed version and checks for a newer one at the press of a button. More on that in the next section.



7 Keeping the software up to date

Shortly after starting, the software checks once whether a newer version exists. If there is one, a red dot appears on the „Settings“ button ...



... and inside the settings a small badge with the version number next to „Updates“.



The **Updates** section then says which version is on offer and what has changed. A click on **Install update** downloads the installer, verifies it and starts it. Windows asks for confirmation once – accept it. MultiControl then closes and comes back up on its own in the new version.

Your settings and activations survive

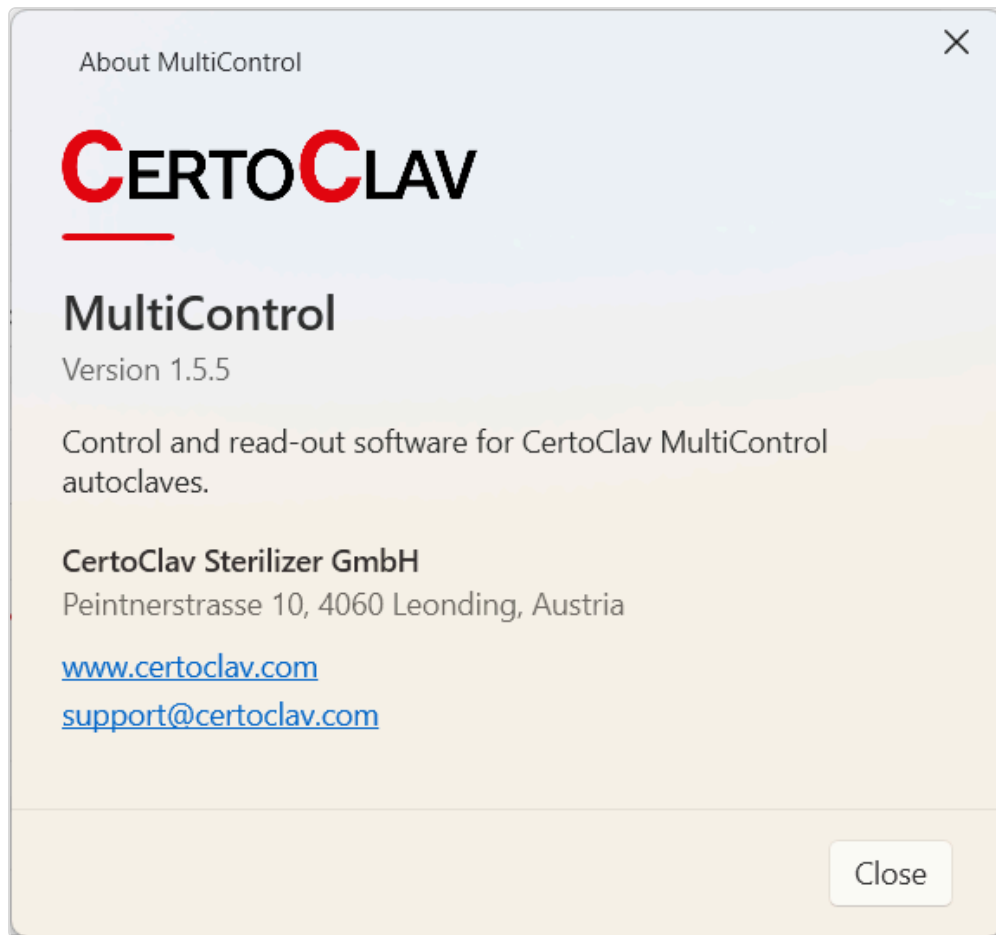
Language, folders and every premium activation survive an update. They are kept outside the program folder (see section 9).

Nothing is downloaded or installed on its own – both need your click. While data is being exchanged with the device the software refuses to update; finish that first.

8 When something does not work

What you see	What helps
„No COM port found“	Plug in the adapter and press „Refresh“. If it still does not appear, the adapter's driver is usually missing.
Yellow dot, „No device detected“	The port is open but nobody answers. Almost always a virtual Bluetooth port instead of the adapter. Disconnect, pick the right port, connect again.
„Connection failed: ... already in use“	A second MultiControl window or another program is holding the port. Disconnect there.
„Disconnect“ cannot be pressed	Data is being transferred to the device right now. The button becomes available again on its own.
„Save programs“ asks for an activation	Writing to the device is the premium function. Enter the key under Settings → Premium.
„1.5 stop bits are only possible with 5 data bits“	Windows does not allow that combination. Reset to 9600 · 8N1 under Settings → Connection.

If you get stuck, the log file of the session in question is what helps. It sits in the log folder (see section 9); attach it to a message to **support@certoclav.com**.



A click on the CertoClav mark at the top right shows the installed version and the contact details.

9 Where your data is kept

Everything the software keeps for you sits outside the program folder. That is why this data survives an update and even an uninstall.

Location	Contents
<code>Documents\MultiControl\Logs</code>	The log files and, unless another folder was chosen, their backup copies
<code>%AppData%\CertoClav\MultiControl</code>	Your settings and the premium activations

The quickest way to the folder under *Documents* is **Settings** → **Logging** → **Open folder**.

Before reinstalling on another computer

Premium activations apply per device and are derived from the serial number. There is nothing to back up – simply enter the key again on the new computer.