

F-LINK

Configuration manual



Frama F-Link

Configuration Manual (EN)

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Safety precautions and warnings

Thank you for deciding to use the Frama F-Link.

The information in this guide is intended to support you during the configuration of the Frama F-Link unit.

This networking unit meets currently valid safety regulations. Inappropriate use, however, can lead to personal injury or damage to property. With this in mind, please first read this guide before you put the unit into service. By doing so, you will protect yourself and avoid damaging the unit. Store this guide carefully and pass it along to any subsequent owner.

Symbols used

This configuration guide uses the following symbols:

**Danger!**

This symbol points to dangers and safety risks when handling, operating or servicing the F-Link unit which could result in personal injury.

**Note!**

This symbol points to valuable guidelines and instructions for handling the F-Link unit which can eliminate the risk of damage to the F-Link, the franking system, the mail items or the immediate surroundings.

**Tip!**

Interesting notes and tips for efficient handling of the F-Link.

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1 Introduction

This manual describes the configuration of the device F-Link for the operation with a Frama franking system. To install the F-Link on a Frama franking system the installation manual shipped with the device [F-Link Installation Manual, Order-Nr: 1018863] shall be used.

The F-Link can be configured via the configuration page. For configuration tasks an additional PC with internet web browser is needed.

The F-Link configuration pages are supported by the following internet web browsers:

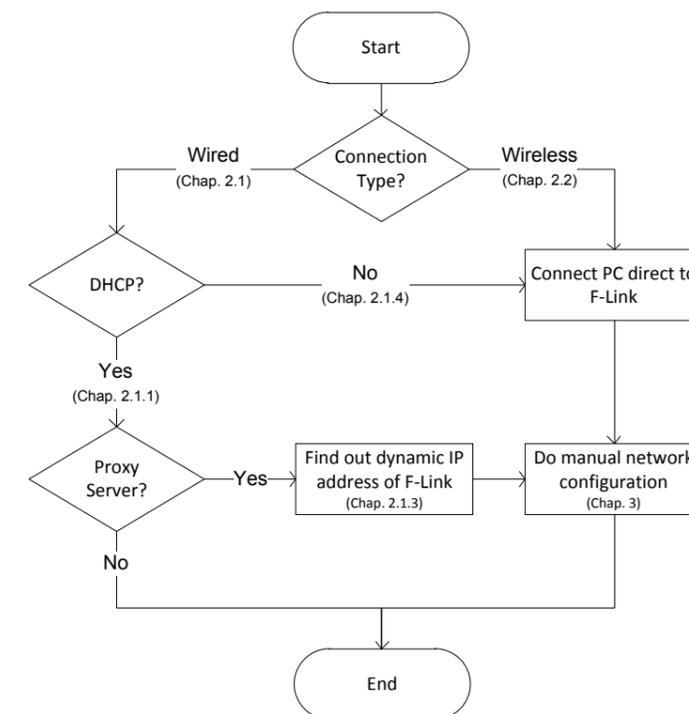
- Mozilla Firefox 13.0 and newer
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 9.0 and newer
- Google Chrome 20.0 and newer
- Apple Safari 5.1.7 and newer

This version of the configuration manual is based on the screenshots and features of firmware release version F-Link 2-2-10 / Image 1-0-22.

2 Configuration

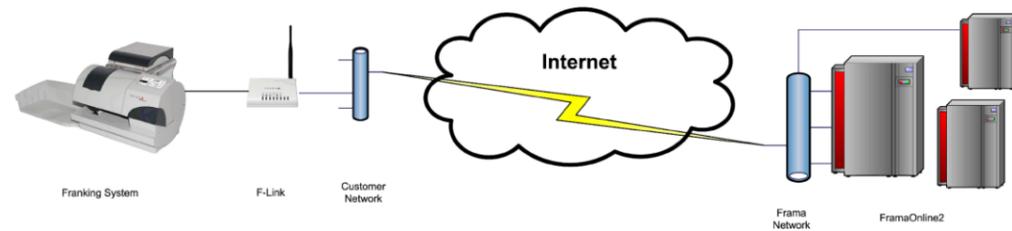
The F-Link can be connected either in wired or in wireless mode to an existing network. The F-Link is pre-configured for wired operation in a LAN network with a DHCP server. In this case, normally no additional configuration is required. During first connection to the Frama FO2 backend system the F-Link will be configured (e.g. country code, language, time ...) automatically. Thus the very first connection takes longer time than subsequent ones.

The following illustration gives an overview about the different modes and how they can be configured:



2.1 Wired operation

The F-Link supports operation with dynamic IP address assigned by a DHCP server or with a static IP address configured via configuration page.



2.1.1 DHCP Mode

The factory default LAN connection type is DHCP (auto configuration). The F-Link can be connected to the network with an active DHCP server as is described in the installation manual. After powering-up the F-Link gets an IP address from the DHCP server in the LAN network.

In most cases no additional configuration is required and the F-Link operates with the franking system.

2.1.2 DHCP Mode with Proxy Server

If the internet connection is handled via proxy server, the proxy configuration has to be setup first.

For connecting to the configuration pages of the F-Link device, the dynamic assigned IP address has to be known. Chapter 2.1.3 outlines, how this IP address can be identified.

The determined IP address can now be typed into the browsers address field to access the F-Link configuration page. See Chapter 3 for further details.

2.1.3 Identifying the dynamic IP address of an F-Link device

Identifying this address can be done in several ways:

- A) The IP address is shown as a part of the error message on the franking system.
If the F-Link device is not able to connect with the Frama FO2 server, a corresponding error message will be displayed. Several messages show a hint for configuring of the F-Link. This hint includes the current IP address of the device!
- B) The IP address can be find out by consulting a listing (e.g. arp table) which shows the assignments between MAC and IP addresses inside a DHCP network. The MAC address of the F-Link can be found at the sticker at the bottom of the device.
- C) Finding the DHCP IP of the F-Link with the Frama F-Link IP Finder tool in your network.
 - Download the Frama F-Link IP Finder tool, which can be found at www.frama.com (downloads), to your PC (Only Windows operating systems like Windows XP, Windows 7 are supported)
 - Start the Frama F-Link IP Finder tool
 - Enter the MAC address of the F-Link, which can be found at the sticker at the bottom of the device.
 - Press the Search button
 - The Frama F-Link IP Finder tool scans all IP addresses in your network. If an F-Link was found with this MAC address an entry will be showed in the result list.
 - The F-Link configuration page can be opened now with the default internet web browser on your PC by clicking on the IP address in the list

2.1.4 Static Mode

The F-Link device can operate with a static IP address. The factory default LAN connection type is DHCP (auto configuration).

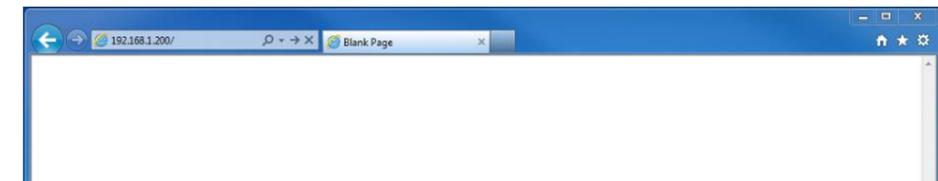


Remark!

If the F-Link was used with LAN connection type DHCP or STATIC before for connections, the access to the F-Link configuration page by the default IP address 192.168.1.200 and a direct LAN cable is only possible after a reset of F-Link.

Changing to a static IP address is done in following steps:

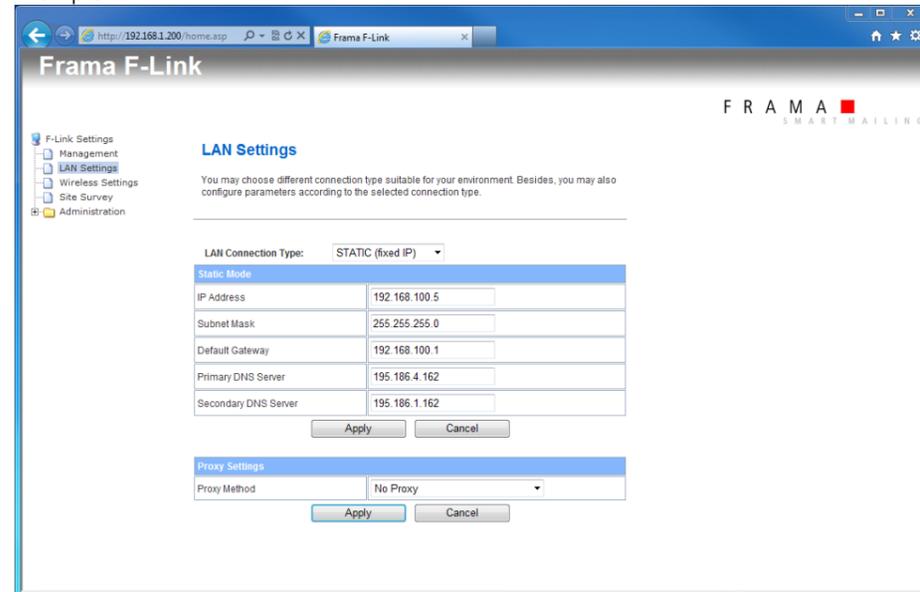
1. Connect the F-Link device directly with a LAN cable to a PC (A cross-wired LAN cable is needed if the PC doesn't support auto-MDIX).
2. Note the PC LAN network settings for later use.
Set the PC LAN network settings as follow:
IP address: 192.168.1.199
Subnet mask: 255.255.255.0
3. Turn on the F-Link and wait until the Ready LED of the F-Link is on.
4. Open internet web browser on PC.
5. Insert the F-Link default IP 192.168.1.200 into address field.



6. Login with username and password. (Default username: "admin" and password: "admin").
7. Open configuration page LAN Settings.
8. Change LAN connection type to "STATIC (fixed IP)".

9. Enter the IP settings for F-Link accordingly to your network.

Example:



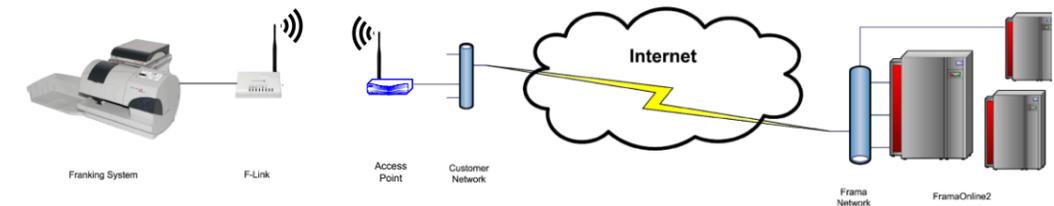
Press button "Apply". -> F-Link reboots. Wait until Ready LED of the F-Link is on again. (The execution of the command may need to be confirmed in the internet web browser)

10. Turn off F-Link.
11. Disconnect direct LAN network cable between F-Link and PC.
12. Set the LAN network settings of the PC back to the previous values (refer to your notes).
13. Connect the F-Link device to the LAN network for the operation with the franking system.
14. Turn on the franking system and the F-Link.
15. Execute business processes on the franking system when the Ready LED of the F-Link is on.

It's also possible to change to a static IP address when F-Link uses currently a DHCP IP address. In this case the dynamic assigned IP address has to be entered into the browser address field. Processes for finding out this address are described in Chapter 2.1.3.

2.2 Wireless operation

The F-Link device can also operate with a wireless network. By default the F-Link is configured to operate with a wired connection. Refer to the install manual for information about installing the F-Link on the franking system for wireless operation.

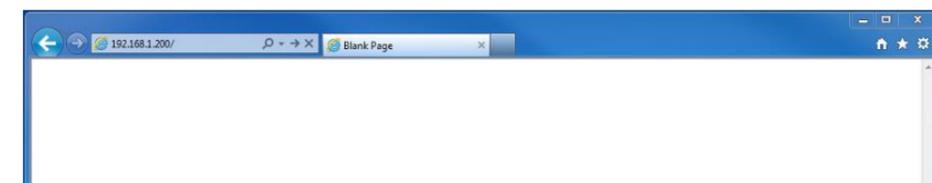


Remark!

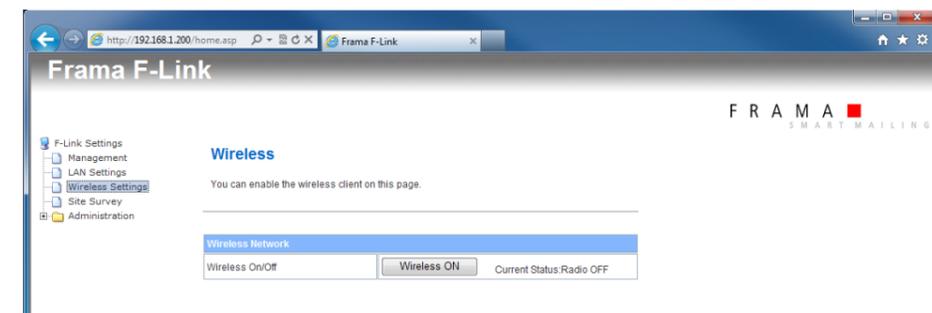
If the F-Link was used with LAN connection type DHCP or STATIC before for connections, the access to the F-Link configuration page by the default IP address 192.168.1.200 and a direct LAN cable is only possible after a reset of F-Link.

Configuring the F-Link for wireless operation is done in following steps.

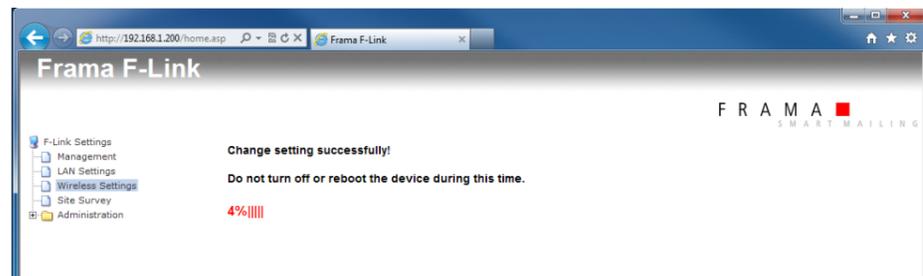
1. Connect the F-Link device directly with a LAN cable to a PC (A cross-wired LAN cable is needed when the PC doesn't support auto-MDIX).
2. Note the PC LAN network settings for later use.
Set the PC LAN network settings as follows:
IP address: 192.168.1.199
Subnet mask: 255.255.255.0
3. Turn on the F-Link and wait until the Ready LED of the F-Link is on.
4. Open internet web browser on PC.
5. Insert the F-Link default IP 192.168.1.200 into address field.



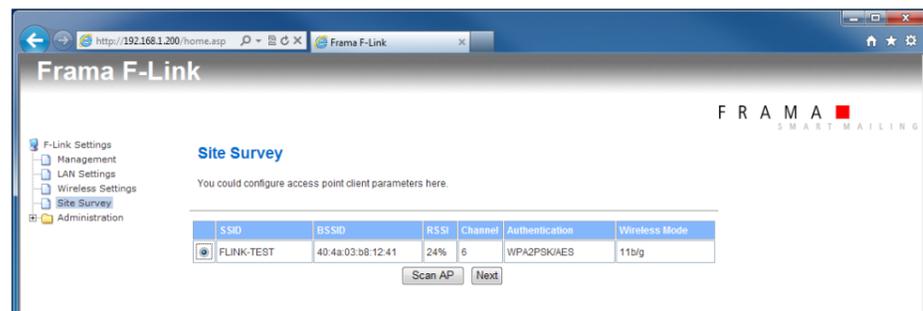
6. Login with username and password. (Default username: "admin" and password: "admin").
7. Open configuration page Wireless Settings.



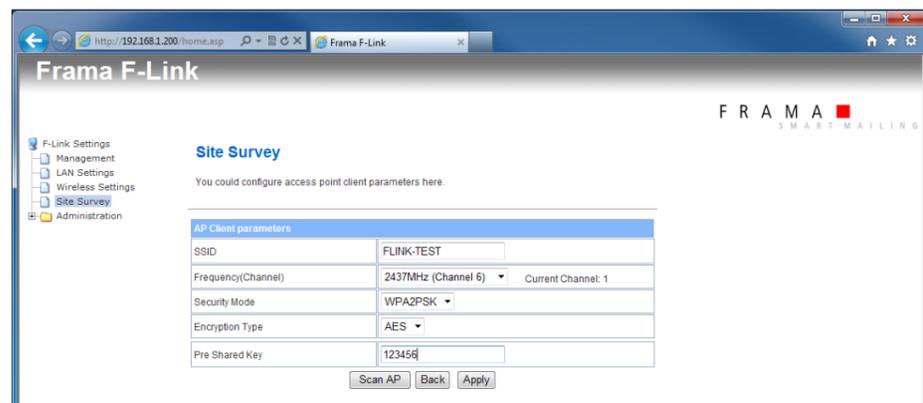
8. Press button "Wireless ON" -> Please wait. The wireless function will be enabled.
(The execution of the command may need to be confirmed in the internet web browser)



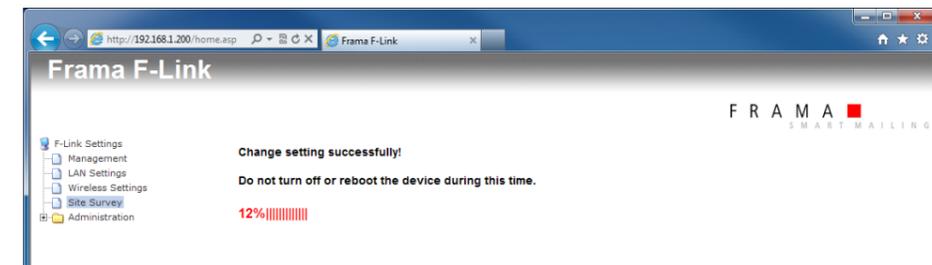
9. Wait until Ready LED of the F-Link is switched on again. Wait until home site is displayed again. Open configuration page Site Survey
10. Press button "Scan AP"



11. Select the wireless network which shall be used. Press button "Next".
If your wireless network uses Hidden-SSID then press button "Next" without selecting a wireless network.
12. Select the channel, security mode and encryption type for your wireless network. Insert the pass-phrase / security keys for your wireless network.
Insert also the SSID of your wireless network even if it uses Hidden-SSID.



13. Press button "Apply". -> Please wait. The wireless network will be connected.
(The execution of the command may need to be confirmed in the internet web browser)



14. Wait until Ready LED of the F-Link is switched on again.
15. When F-Link is able to build-up a wireless connection to your access point, the connection over the LAN port will be closed. The F-Link configuration page can therefore not be opened again by default IP 192.168.1.200 and a direct LAN cable connection.

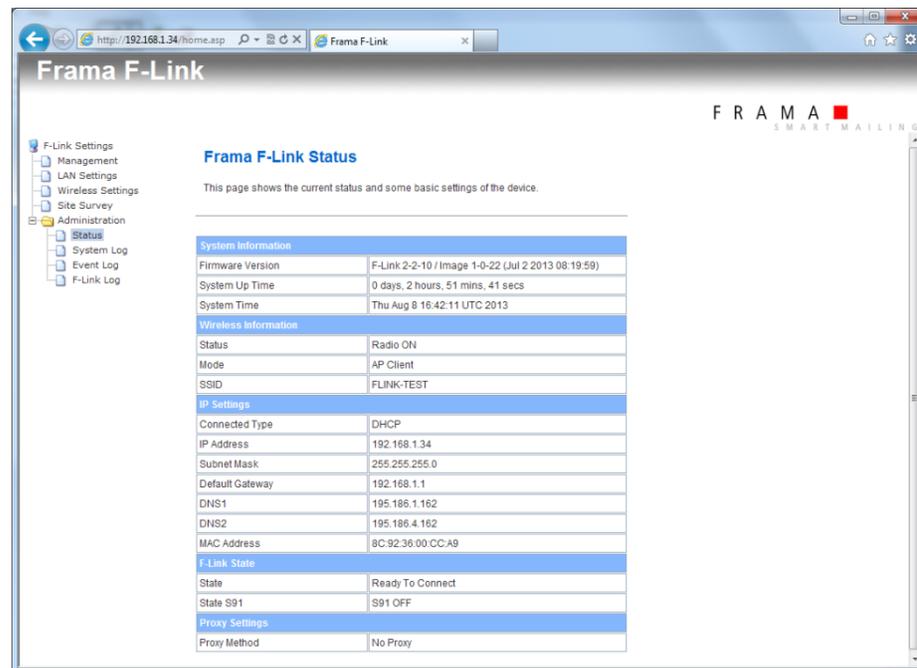
If the configuration page was reloaded in your internet web browser with the default IP 192.168.1.200 the F-Link has no access to your wireless network. Check the wireless signal strength at the F-Link position and the wireless settings of F-Link (SSID, pass phrase, key, channel, ...)

16. Disconnect direct LAN network cable between F-Link and PC.
17. Set the LAN network settings of the PC back to the previous values.
18. Execute business processes on the franking system.

Optional additional steps:

19. The F-Link configuration page can now only be opened by an access via wireless network and the assigned DHCP IP address for F-Link. For identifying the DHCP IP address of the F-Link see chapter 2.1.3.
20. Open internet web browser on a PC that is also connected to the same wireless network as the F-Link. Enter the DHCP IP address of F-Link into the address field of the internet web browser.

21. Open configuration page Administration – Status. Check if F-Link gets the correct IP settings from the wireless network.



22. Check the F-Link status. Must be "Ready To Connect".
23. Execute business processes on the franking system.

Don't enable the wireless function, when F-Link is connected to a LAN network with DHCP server!

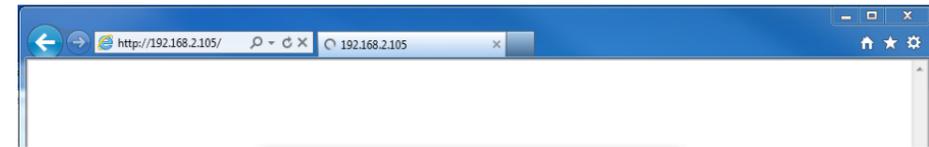
 Connect the F-Link device directly to a PC for configuring it for wireless operation.

Remark! After enabling the wireless function the F-Link still uses the default IP 192.168.1.200 on the LAN connection as long as the wireless network connection was not successfully build up.

3 Configuration Page Features

3.1 Login

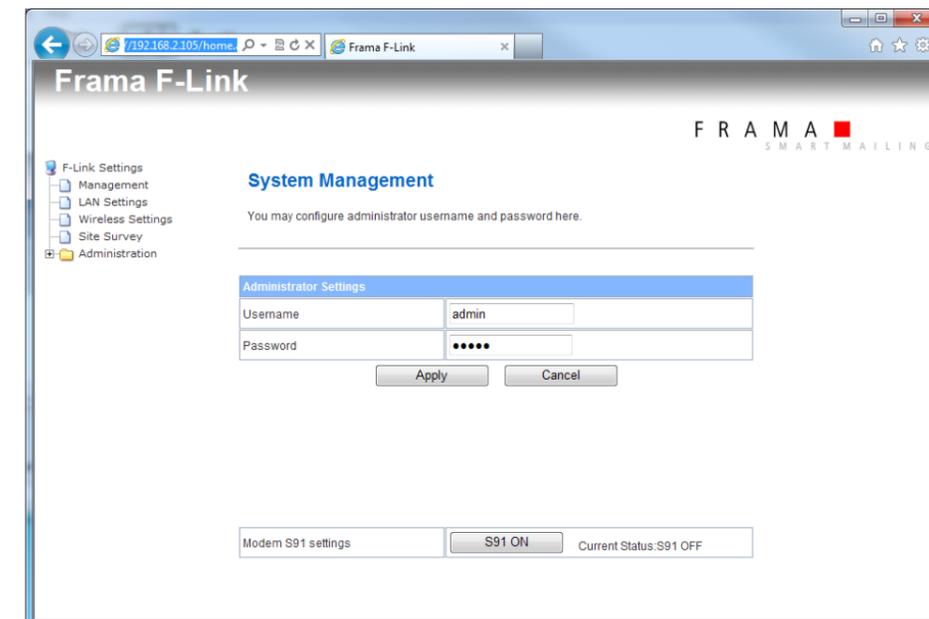
Enter the IP address of the F-Link into the address field of the internet web browser.



Enter the username and the password into the login window:
(Default username: "admin" and password: "admin")



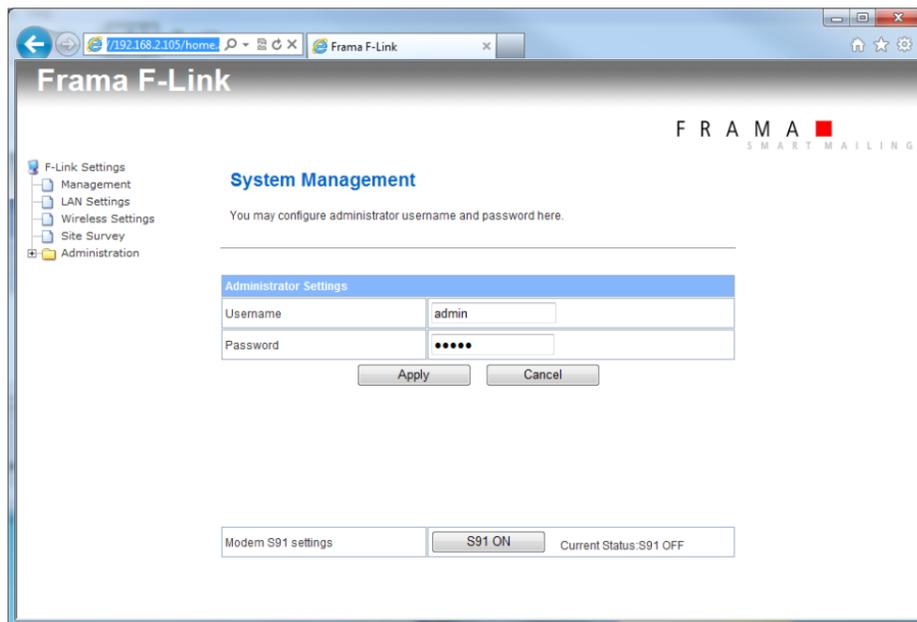
Press button OK.



Now you are on the home screen. Over the configuration page you can change the settings of the F-Link, display the actual status and the logged data. Use the menu on the left side to navigate. All changes on the configuration page are stored only when you press the "Apply" button below the settings fields.

3.2 Configuration Page Management

On the configuration page Management you can set your own administrator username and password for the access to the F-Link configuration page.



3.2.1 Modem S91 setting (only applicable to F-Link a/b versions)

The modem S91 setting changes the attenuation of the internal modem in F-Link. This option is only relevant for Frama franking systems of the Matrix F series range. The attenuation can be switched between two values:

S91 OFF	default attenuation
S91 ON	higher attenuation

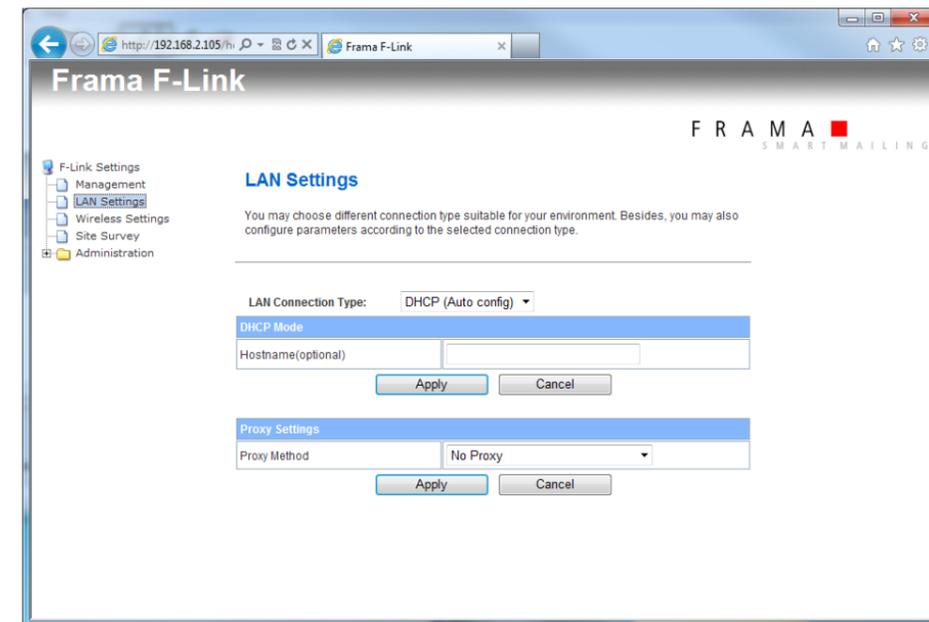
The higher attenuation / S91 ON is only recommended if you experience problems with the modem communication between F-Link and the Matrix F series franking system (frequently no answer / no connection build up or connection lost during communication).

The first pressing of the S91 ON button after a reset of F-Link initializes this feature internally only. Press the S91 ON button a second time to change the value. The current status shows the actually state of the modem S91 setting.

If the modem S91 setting was changed try multiple connections before estimate the effect. In special cases also a decreasing of the modem speed on the Matrix F series franking system might also help to get a more stable communication performance.

3.3 Configuration Page LAN Settings

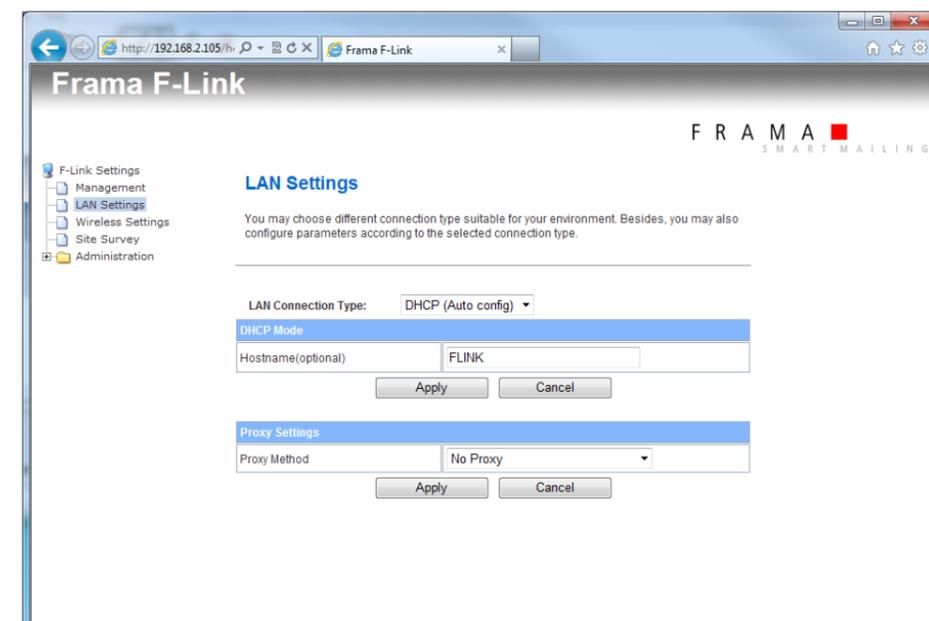
On the configuration page LAN Settings you can change the LAN connection type, set values for the LAN connection type and set the proxy settings for F-Link.



The usage of the connection type is described in chapter 2.1.

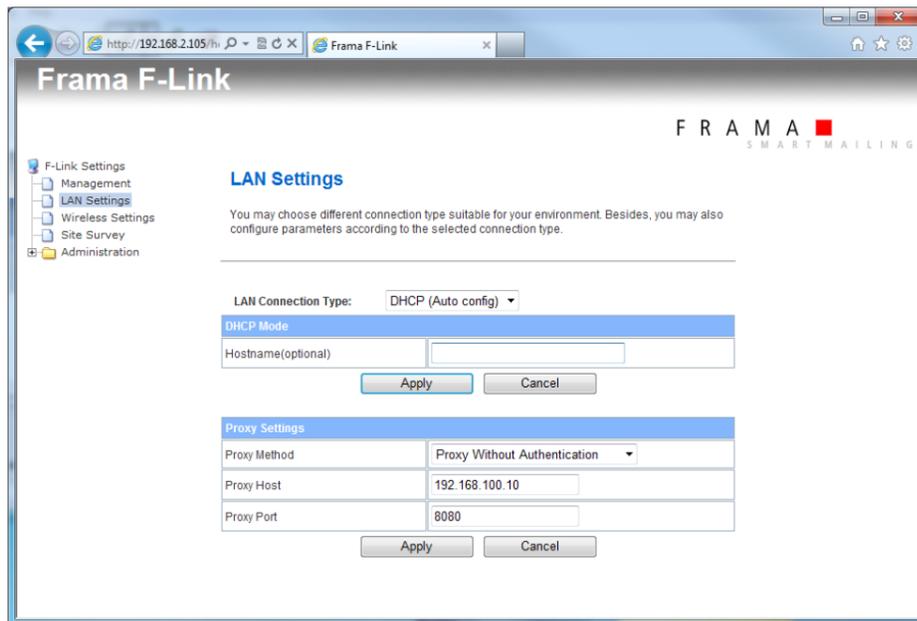
3.3.1 DHCP hostname

An optional hostname for the F-Link can be set on DHCP mode into the field "Hostname", e.g. "FLINK".

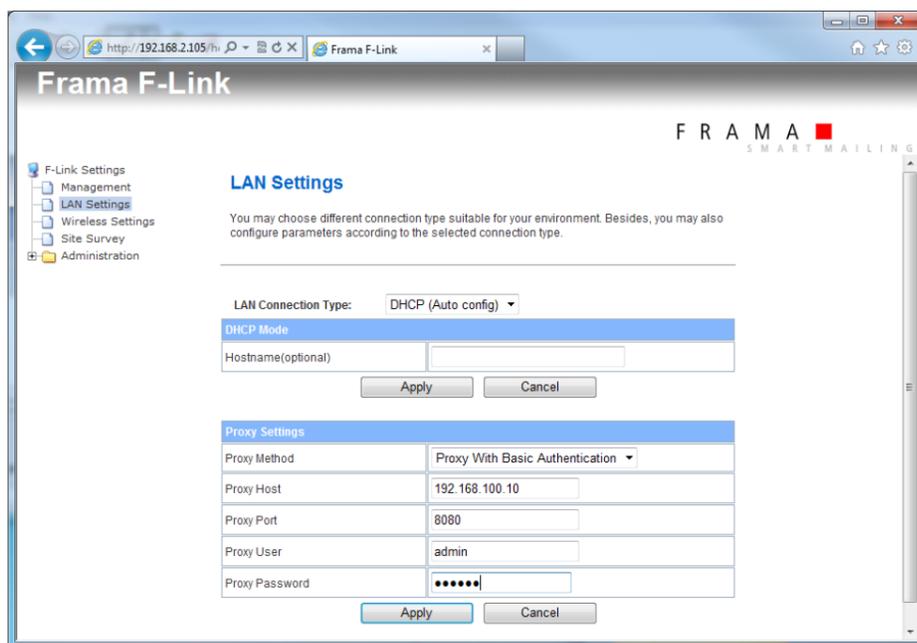


3.4 Proxy Settings

When F-Link is forced to use a proxy server without authentication then set the proxy method to "Proxy Without Authentication". Enter the IP address of the proxy server into the field "Proxy Host". Enter the port number of the proxy server into the field "Proxy Port".



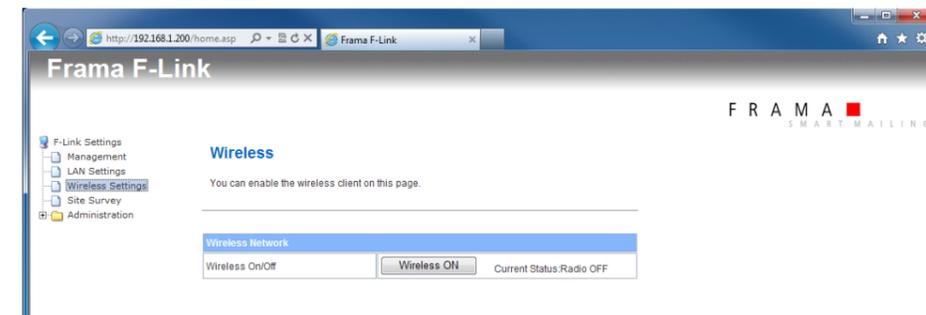
When F-Link is forced to use a proxy server with authentication then set the proxy method to "Proxy With Basic Authentication". Enter the IP address of the proxy server into the field "Proxy Host". Enter the port number of the proxy server into the field "Proxy Port". Enter the proxy username into the field "Proxy User" and the proxy user password into the field "Proxy Password".



Consider also chapter 4.4.

3.5 Configuration Page Wireless Settings

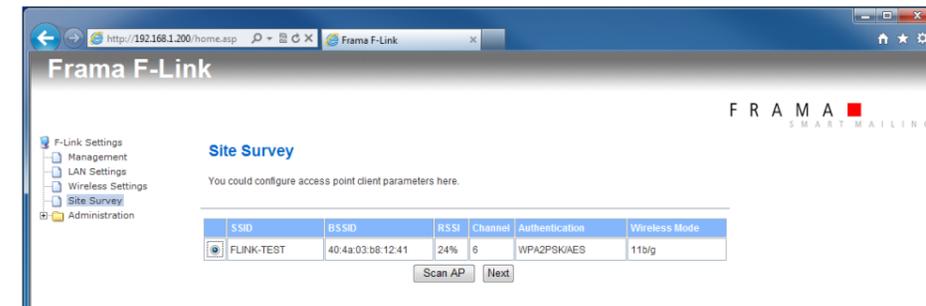
Enable or disable the wireless function over the configuration page Wireless Settings.



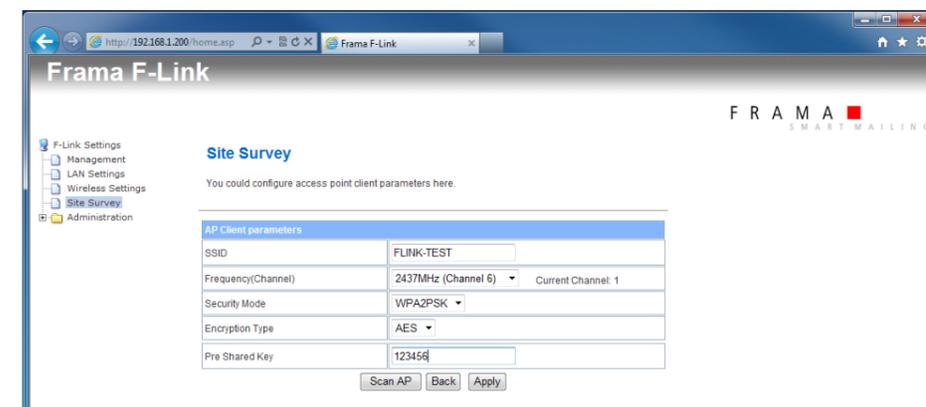
3.6 Configuration Page Site Survey

When the wireless function is enabled you may scan for access points using the configuration page Site Survey.

The value RRSI show the signal level of the wireless network. If this value is too low, no stable network connection is possible. Try to find a better position for F-Link where the signal level is higher.



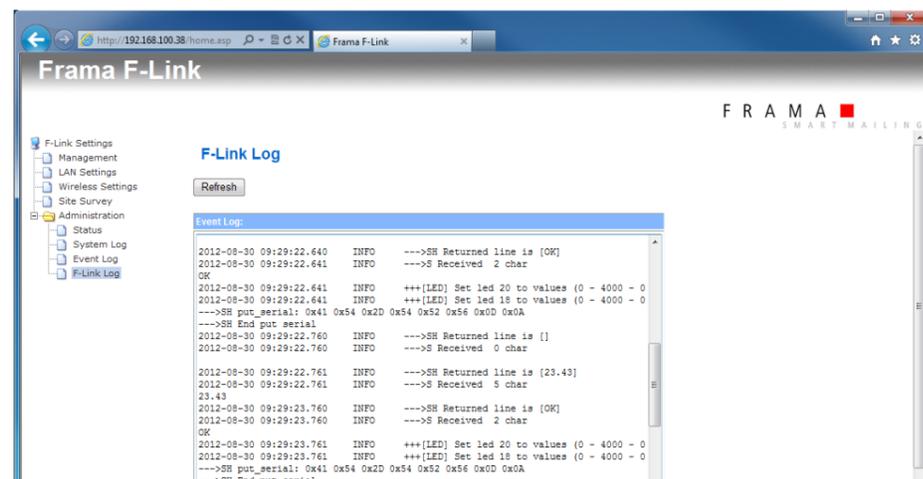
When you have selected a wireless network and have pressed the button Next the additional configuration page for the wireless network will be shown.



Select the right channel, security mode and encryption type for your wireless network. Normally you must only enter the pass phrase or security key for your wireless network here. The other settings should be left to the automatically detected values.

3.10 Configuration Page Administration – F-Link Log

The F-Link writes an operation log file. You can display the log entries when you open the configuration page Administration – F-Link Log and press the button Refresh.



4 Troubleshooting

4.1 No access to the configuration pages

When the access to the configuration pages is not possible then different reasons are possible.

1. Network errors
Are you sure that you use the right IP address for the F-Link?
Try a ping to the IP address of the F-Link from the console of a PC in the same network (if ping is working in your network). When you get no answer from the F-Link then check your network.
2. Proxy configuration errors
It is possible that you use a Proxy server in your network for internet browsing. You must configure the proxy settings of your PC that the local IP address of F-Link is bypassed / excluded by the proxy server.
3. Login fails / lost login values
If you don't know the username and password for the F-Link configuration page access anymore, you can reset the F-Link. After the reset the administrator username and password are on the default values username: "admin" and password: "admin".
4. No access by default IP 192.168.1.200
If the F-Link was used before for connections with LAN connection type DHCP or STATIC the access over the default IP address 192.168.1.200 is not possible. Perform a reset of F-Link without a connected network cable (see chapter 4.5). The default IP 192.168.1.200 is now active again for a configuration by a direct LAN cable connection.

4.2 Old configuration page values

Internet web browsers store data from web pages for offline mode and caches data to show web pages faster. It is possible that not the actual data are displayed on a configuration page of F-Link. You can clear the offline and cached data of your browser normally over a menu entry of the browser. Restart the browser after you clear the offline and cached data and try again.

4.3 F-Link LED status

The different status of the LED's from F-Link are described in the installation manual [F-Link Installation Manual, Order-Nr: 1018863].

4.4 No access to Frama FO2 backend server

For a successful connection to the Frama FO2 backend server the following network configurations are required:

Open firewall ports:
53 DNS
443 HTTPS

Allow access to URL:
fo2.frama.com

The IP address of the URL fo2.frama.com can be found either by using the ping command "ping fo2.frama.com" in a command line window (if ping is allowed in your network) or by a DNS lookup service in the internet.

Proxy servers using SSL-interception require a specific rule in order to allow transparent communication (franking system via F-Link to FramaOnline2) via https port 443.

The specific rule grants correct identification of FramaOnline2 (https certificate) for the franking system.

4.5 Reset the configuration

The configuration of the F-Link can be reset. Disconnect the LAN cable from F-Link. Press the RESET switch at the back of the device for a minimum of 10 seconds. After this process the F-Link restores the factory configuration and all previous configuration settings will be lost. After the reset, the F-Link reboots and is ready to be reconfigured when the Ready LED is on again.

4.6 Connecting F-Link to another franking system

Always reset F-Link if the device is connected to a different franking system. It is not possible to use F-Link for more than one franking system at the same time. Ignoring this may lead to wrong configuration settings for the franking system rendering successful connections to FramaOnline2 impossible.

4.7 Supported special characters

The F-Link does not support all kind of characters as values in the input fields on the configuration page.

The following special characters can be used in all input fields: **! # \$ % () * + - . / = ? @ [] ^ _ ` { | } ~**

4.8 Status Messages

In case of operation errors the F-Link shows a status message on the display of the franking system.

Status	Message on franking system	Description / Troubleshooting
F001	No WAN (internet) available. Check network or settings using a web browser on {ipaddress} Refer to manual for further info.	F-Link is connected to the network and gets a valid IP address in the network. F-Link is unable to access the internet and the FO2 backend server. Please check your internet access with another device in the same network and check the network settings of F-Link over the configuration page.
F002	No DHCP IP address assigned. Change network settings using a browser on {ipaddress} Refer to manual for further info.	The network configuration of F-Link is invalid. F-Link changes the settings back to the default values. Please configure the F-Link network settings properly. To set the configuration you can access to the F-Link configuration page over the default IP address 192.168.1.200.
F003	No WAN (internet) available. Check local network /-settings. Please refer to manual for further info.	F-Link cannot open the network communication. Please configure the F-Link network settings properly, check the cable connection and try to connect to your network with another device in the same network.
F004	FramaOnline2 (fo2.frama.com) is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later. Please refer to manual for further information.	The FO2 backend server cannot handle the request of F-Link at the moment. The response on the request is HTTP error code 503 – Service unavailable. Try again later. This message is triggered when the FO2 backend server is busy or is shut down for maintenance. If this error stays on for longer time call the FramaOnline2 hotline.
F005	FramaOnline2 (fo2.frama.com) is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later. Please refer to manual for further information.	The request of F-Link was responded with a HTTP error code (more codes are possible). The HTTP error code can be found in the event log of F-Link. Try again later. This message is triggered when the FO2 backend server is busy or is shut down for maintenance. If this error stays on for longer time call the FramaOnline2 hotline.
F006	FramaOnline2 (fo2.frama.com) is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later. Please refer to manual for further information.	F-Link gets no answer from the FO2 backend server on its request. Possible cause is a loss of the network connection while a connection to the FO2 backend server was running. Try again later. If this error stays on for longer time call the FramaOnline2 hotline.
F007	FramaOnline2 (fo2.frama.com) is temporarily unavailable. Please try again later. Please refer to manual for further information.	F-Link is connected to the network and has got a valid IP from the network. F-Link has access to the internet. But F-Link has no access to the FO2 backend server. Try again later. If this error stays on for longer time call the FramaOnline2 hotline.

F008	<p>F-Link Status: F008 F-Link updates the firmware! DO NOT SWITCH OFF F-Link!</p> <p>Wait until READY LED is switched on again and retry!</p>	<p>F-Link updates its firmware instead of processing your operation (inspection, credit loading). After the complete download of the firmware from the FO2 backend server the installation of the firmware is running and this message is displayed on the franking system.</p> <p>Do not switch of the F-Link is this state. F-Link reboots automatically to startup with the new firmware. Wait until the Ready LED is light up stable again. Then please repeat your operation.</p> <p>F-Link checks for a firmware upgrade on each call to the FO2 backend server.</p>
F009	<p>No answer from DHCP server Change F-Link DHCP settings on {ipaddress} Please refer to manual for further information.</p>	<p>F-Link is configured to get a dynamically IP address from a DHCP server in your network. But F-Link gets no dynamically IP address from a DHCP server.</p> <p>Please configure the F-Link network settings properly. To set the configuration you may access the F-Link configuration pages over the displayed IP address. Please check the operation of the DHCP server in your network.</p>
F010	<p>Proxy error. Change F-Link Proxy settings on {ipaddress} or update Proxy Server. Refer to manual for further info.</p>	<p>The request of F-link is responded with a HTTP error code (more codes are possible) of local proxy server. The HTTP error code can be found in the event log of F-Link.</p> <p>Please configure the F-Link proxy settings properly. To set the configuration you may access the F-Link configuration pages over the displayed IP address.</p> <p>Possible cause for HTTP error code 305 – Use Proxy: The internet is only accessible over the local proxy server. Possible cause for HTTP error code 407 – Proxy Authentication Required: The username and password for access to the local proxy server is wrong. Possible cause for HTTP error code 502 – Bad Gateway: The proxy server cannot communicate with the FO2 backend server.</p>
F011	<p>F-Link Status: F011</p> <p>Currently no WAN (internet). Check local DNS, local firewall and local Proxy-Server.</p> <p>Refer to manual for further info.</p>	<p>F-Link is connected to the network and has got a valid IP address in the network. F-Link had access to the internet and to the FO2 backend server in the past. Currently, F-Link has no access to the internet and to the FO2 backend server.</p> <p>Please check your internet access with another device in the same network and try again.</p>

