

### **How can I control the numeric format (regional settings) used when a device interprets data?**

- When a serial (RS232) device, networked device, or text file device processes data values, it has to know what a numeric reading looks like. In some areas of the world, the decimal separator of a number is a period ("."), while in others it is a comma (","). Prior to WinSPC 8.3.4, these three device types would always use the current computer's Windows regional settings to determine the numeric format (the Windows regional settings can be changed in the Windows Control Panel).

In WinSPC 8.3.4 and above, it is now possible to configure a serial, network, or text file device to use a different numeric format other than the current computer's Windows regional settings. This setting is useful if you have a device that can only produce readings for a specific numeric format and that numeric format does not match your current Windows regional settings (and you do not wish to change your Windows regional settings to match the device's numeric format).

The device's numeric format is configured on the "Mask" tab of the device setup (this screenshot shows a serial device, but this same setting also exists on the "Mask" tab for the network and text file devices): The "Numeric Format" can be configured in one of three different ways:

"1234.567" - This option will force the device to use a period (".") as the decimal separator, regardless of the computer's Windows regional settings. This option will be the default for new devices created on computers with a Windows regional setting that uses a period as the decimal separator. "1234,567" - This option will force the device to use a comma (",") as the decimal separator, regardless of the computer's Windows regional settings. This option will be the default for new devices created on computers with a Windows regional setting that uses a comma as the decimal separator. "Regional Settings" - This will cause the device to use the current computer's regional settings. Note that if this device is used for data collection on other computers, during data collection, that computer's regional settings will be used for the numeric format. If you have upgraded to WinSPC 8.3.4 from an earlier version, all existing serial, network, and text file devices will have this option selected after the upgrade (to ensure the device works the same way as it did prior to the upgrade).

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