



SensaLab[®] LinkTo

User Guide

Document Version 1.2
SensaLab LinkTo Version
1.20105.2

Doc. Id	AL_001	Version No.	1.2	Version Date	04-Apr-2020	Version Status	Published
----------------	--------	--------------------	-----	---------------------	-------------	-----------------------	-----------

Statement of confidentiality: The information contained in this document is proprietary to Somark Group Ltd (Somark). This document is provided by Somark with the understanding it will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be disclosed or duplicated in whole or in part.

Table of Contents

Document History.....	3
Document Conventions.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1 About the Product.....	5
1.2 Download and Installation	5
1.2.1 Downloading the Setup File	5
Windows 7, MS .Net Framework Update	5
SensaLab LinkTo setup	5
1.2.2 Installation of the Setup File	6
1.3 Configure SensaLab LinkTo and SensaLab Reader	7
1.3.1 SensaLab Reader Device Preparation	7
1.3.2 SensaLab LinkTo Software Overview	9
1.3.3 Configure SensaLab LinkTo	10
1.3.3.1 Settings.....	11
1.3.3.2 Device Details.....	11
1.3.3.3 Black list	12
1.3.3.4 SensaLab LinkTo version	12
1.3.3.5 Help	12
2. Scanning Tags	13
2.1 Display Only.....	13
2.2 Copy to clipboard.....	14
2.3 Transfer to application.....	15
2.4 Send over a named pipe	17
3. Blacklisting Tags.....	17
4. Running SensaLab LinkTo in background	19
5. Troubleshooting	21
6. Appendix A.....	24

Document History

Date	Version	Description
02 August 2019	1.0	Published version
09 October 2019	1.1	Published revision – support for Windows 7
14 April 2020	1.2	Published revision – support for named pipe

Document Conventions

The document uses the conventions described on the table for easier reference.

Important

The **Important** symbol indicates prerequisite checks and important information.

Note

The **Note** symbol indicates supplementary explanations and useful tips.

Caution

The **Caution** symbol indicates critical notices and restrictions.

Texts in **bold** indicates a screen within the application.

1. Introduction

1.1 About the Product

The SensaLab LinkTo software allows you to use the SensaLab Reader™ device to display and capture a Somark Digital™ tag's TID (Tag ID code) which is unique for each Digital tag.

SensaLab LinkTo allows users to display, capture and transfer the tag's TID from the animal tagged on to their device screen or to an application based on the cursor position or click of the mouse pointer.

1.2 Download and Installation

SensaLab LinkTo supports Microsoft Windows 10 or Windows 7 operating systems.

If you are running any other version of Microsoft Windows, please contact Somark for further assistance.

1.2.1 Downloading the Setup File

Windows 7, MS .Net Framework Update

Windows 7 requires the latest Microsoft .Net Framework to be installed prior to installing SensaLab LinkTo to your device. This is available on the Microsoft website using the Offline or Web Installer at:

Web: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=53345>

Offline: <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/download/details.aspx?id=53344>

Note

Installation of Microsoft .Net Framework requires administrator access on the machine or device of installation.

SensaLab LinkTo setup

Download SensaLab LinkTo setup file from <https://somarktestingsoftware.blob.core.windows.net/ai-link-to/Setup.exe> assure you that the installation file comes from an official distribution channel.

Note

Some web browsers have built-in security measures which prevents downloading of executable files to your storage. However, this is a concern only for downloads from an untrusted or deceptive site.

Depending on your web browser, you may need to manually approve the setup file from the provided URL. For example, when you encounter a similar security prompt below, click the dropdown arrow beside the Discard button and choose to "Keep".



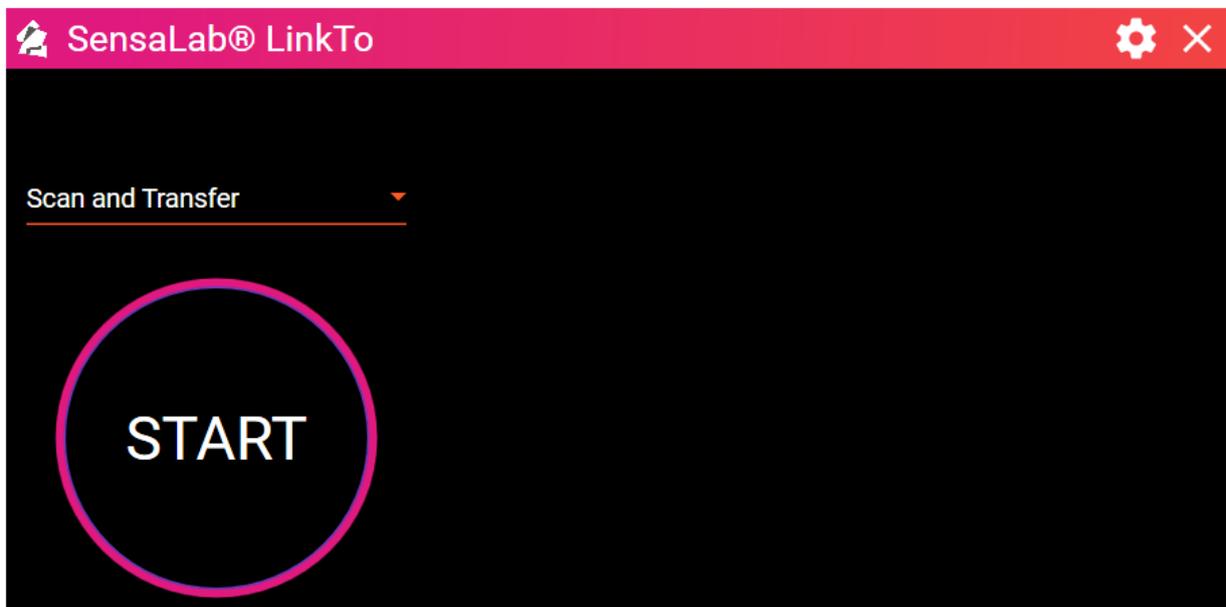
1.2.2 Installation of the Setup File

After you have successfully downloaded the setup file, it is now time to install the SensaLab LinkTo application.

Step 1. Run the setup file

Step 2. Setup will extract the necessary files and install SensaLab LinkTo on to your system

Step 3. When setup is complete, the SensaLab LinkTo application will run

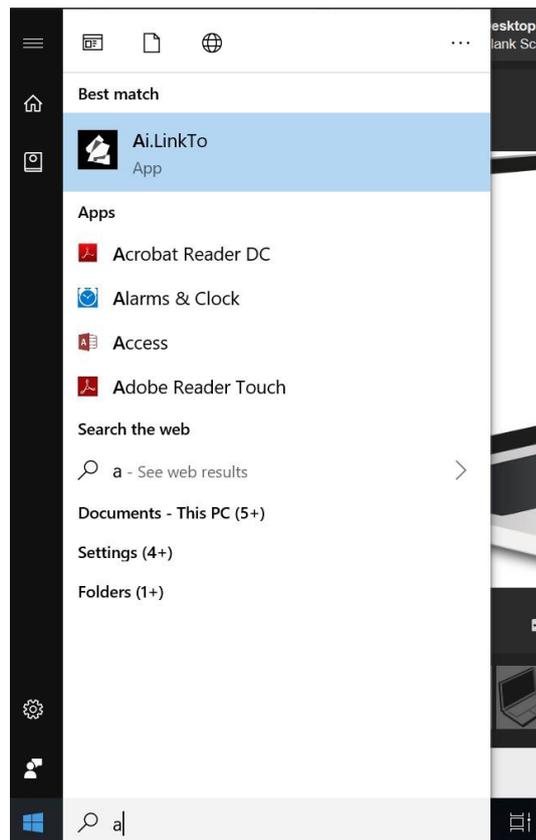


1.3 Configure SensaLab LinkTo and SensaLab Reader

1.3.1 SensaLab Reader Device Preparation

Configuring the SensaLab Reader device to work with the SensaLab LinkTo software is quick and simple.

Step 1. Run the SensaLab LinkTo application by starting the application from the Windows Start Menu



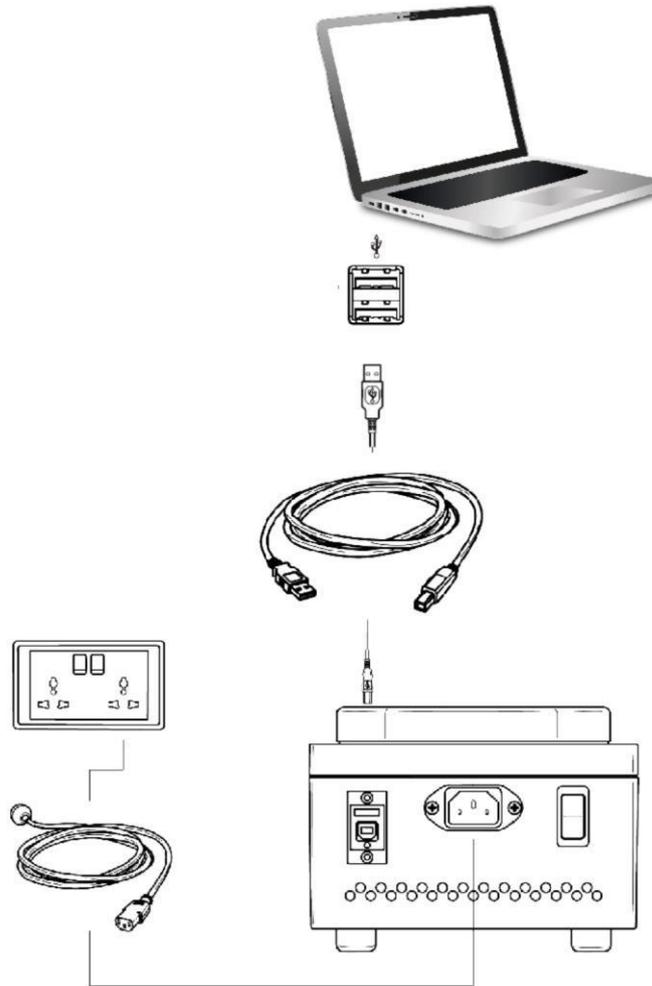
Step 2. Connect the power cord of the SensaLab Reader device to a power supply

Step 3. Connect the USB A to USB B cable to an available USB port to the computer

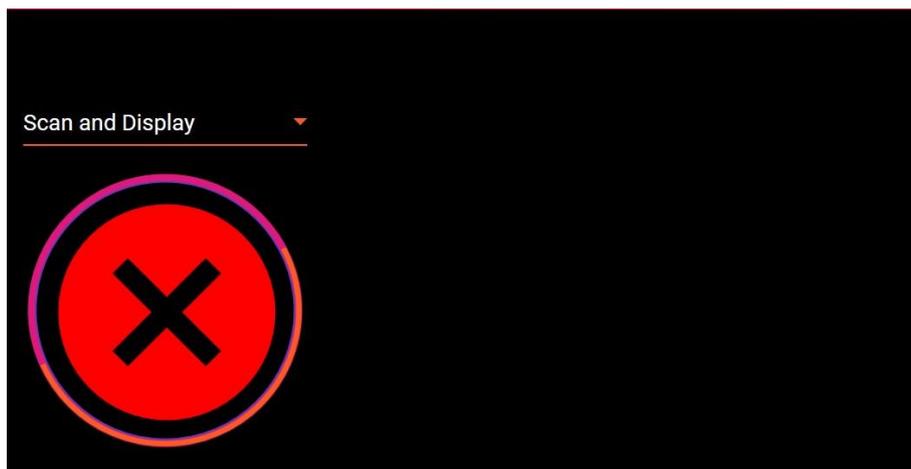
Step 4. Turn on the SensaLab Reader device using the power button located at the rear of the device

Step 5. The SensaLab Reader device is detected and configured automatically.

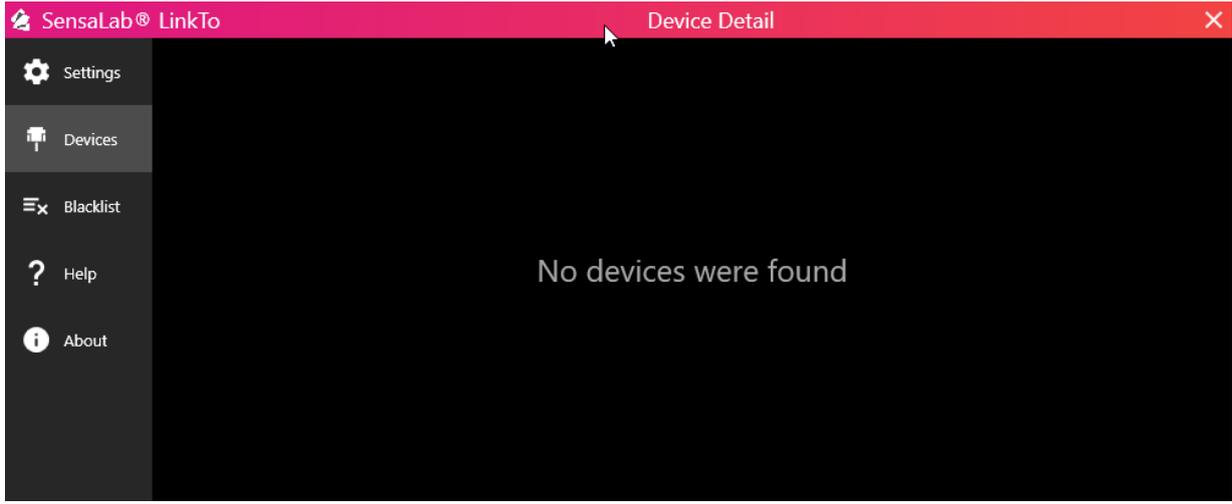
Step 2 – 5: Refer to the diagram below to connect the SensaLab Reader device to your computer.



If the SensaLab Reader device is not detected or is not connected, SensaLab LinkTo will display a Red Cross when the Start Button is clicked.

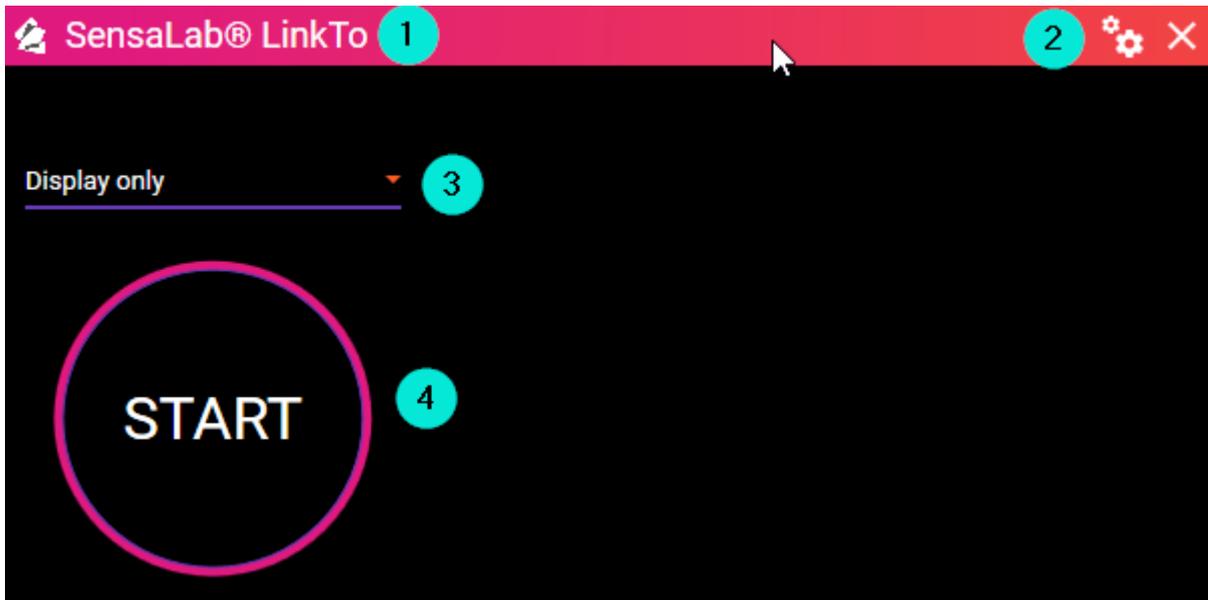


When the SensaLab Reader device is not detected or is not connected, SensaLab LinkTo will display No devices were found in the Settings: Device Details area.



1.3.2 SensaLab LinkTo Software Overview

Below is an overview of the various elements that make up the SensaLab LinkTo software interface.



The Home Screen elements are as follows:

1. Screen title
2. Settings Button
3. Action Selector
4. Start button

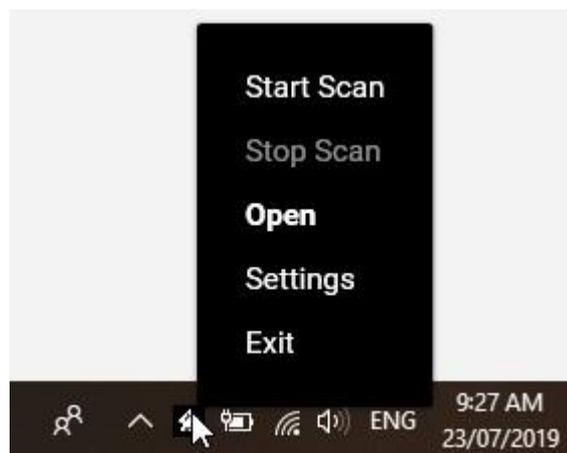
	<p>Settings button – access the application configuration options</p> <p>Action Selector – select an action to be performed on the successful scan of a Digital Tag.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Display only– only displays the scanned tag on the screen 2. Copy to clipboard – displays and copies the scanned tag to the clipboard 3. Transfer to application – displays, copies and pastes the scanned tag to an active field/window
--	--

	4. Send over a named pipe – allows the tag to be transferred over an application that uses named pipe e.g. StudyLog.
	Start button – Activate the SensaLab Reader to start scanning for Digital tags

1.3.3 Configure SensaLab LinkTo

You can access the configuration options by either:

- using the Setting Button on the top-right corner of the Scan Screen
- using a mouse right click on the SensaLab LinkTo icon (which can be found in the bottom of your computer screen in the “tray menu”) and selecting Settings

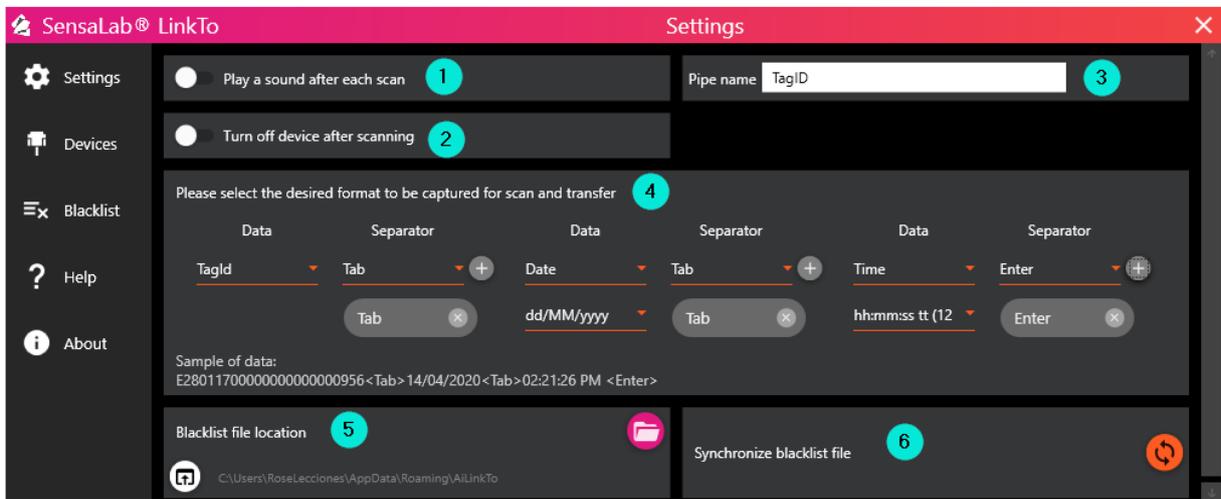


Note

If you do not see the SensaLab LinkTo icon in your menu as shown above, it may be present in the list accessed via the ^ button – as shown next to the arrow cursor above.

1.3.3.1 Settings

The Settings menu shows the following elements:



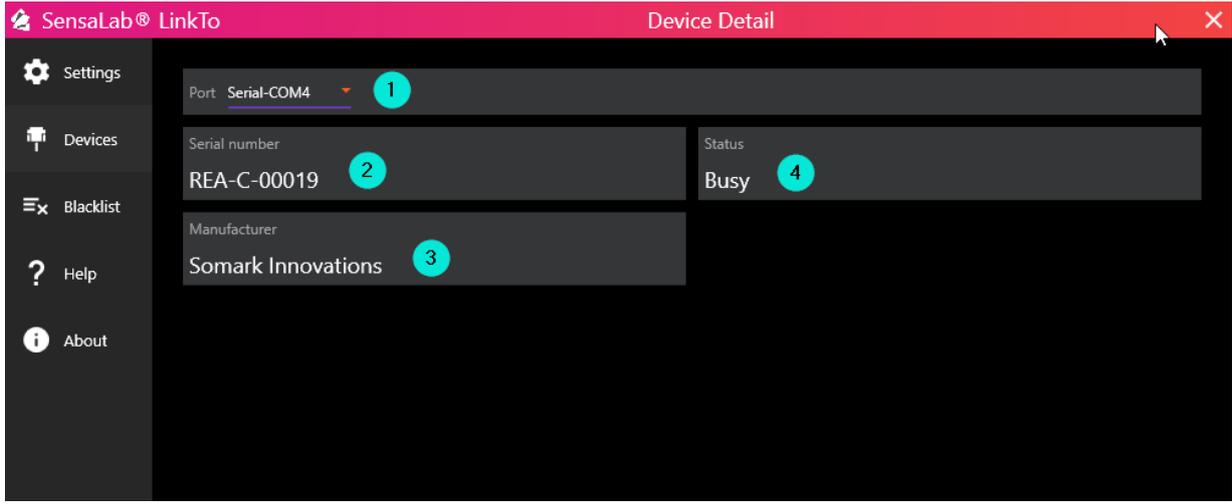
1. Play sound after each scan - When this setting is on, the application will play a beep sound to indicate that a tag has been scanned.
2. Turn off device after scanning - When this setting is on, the application will stop SensaLab Reader from actively waiting for a tag to be scanned. User needs to click the Start button again to scan a new tag.
3. Pipe Name – When there is an application that uses named pipe that will be used alongside LinkTo, the value of this field should be the value of the named pipe. See Appendix A on how to configure name pipe for StudyLog.
4. Data transfer setting – This determines the format of the data that will be transferred to active field/application when “Transfer to application” is selected in the main screen
5. Blacklist File Location – The path where the file blacklist.csv is saved. A blacklist file contains the tags that the user wants to be blacklisted/not read.
6. Sync blacklist file – Clicking the sync icon will check whether there has been changes in the blacklist file

1.3.3.2 Device Details

Select the **Devices** menu to view details of the connected SensaLab Reader.

Device details include the following :

1. Port where the device is connected.
2. Serial number of the device
3. Manufacturer
4. Status – Busy if the device is currently running, Ready if the devices is connected but not running



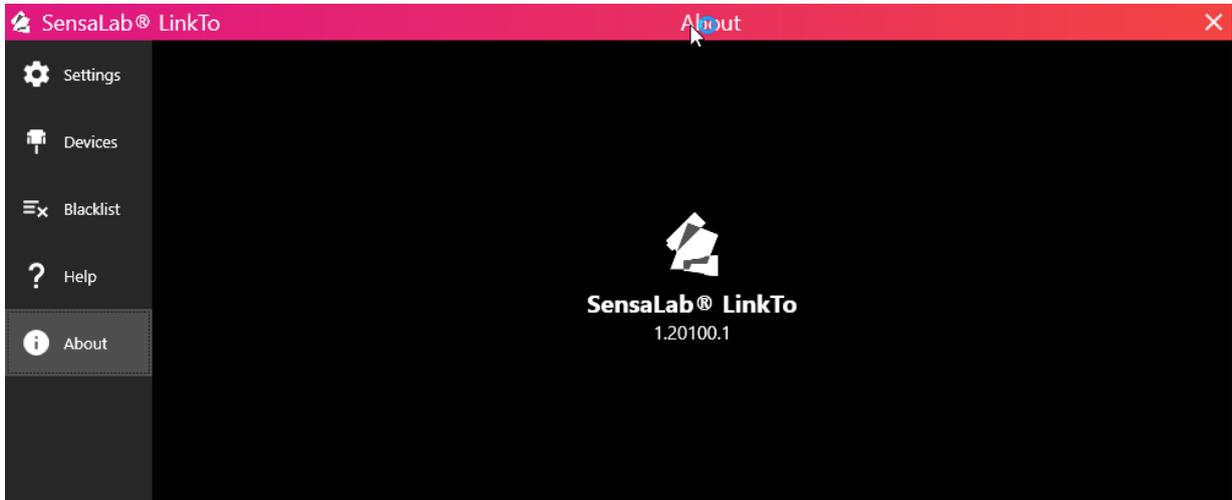
1.3.3.3 Black list

Select **Blacklist** from the menu to blacklist tags and stop the SensaLab LinkTo from scanning and displaying a specified Tag. All blacklisted tags are maintained in a blacklist file.

The blacklist file is a comma separated file (or CSV) that contains the scanned tag and the name of the user currently logged in to the computer. Any tags in the blacklist file will not be scanned in the main SensaLab LinkTo screen.

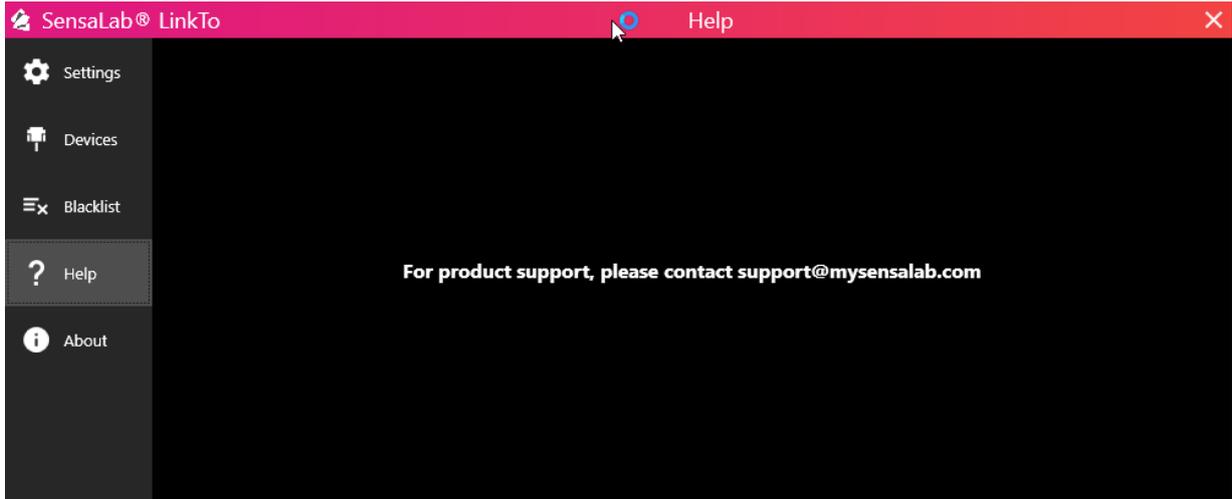
1.3.3.4 SensaLab LinkTo version

Select the **About** menu item to display the version details of SensaLab LinkTo which may be required for troubleshooting purposes.



1.3.3.5 Help

Select the **Help** menu item to access the contact information for product and technical support.



2. Scanning Tags

SensaLab LinkTo allows you to Scan and Display or Scan and Capture the scanned Digitail Tag TID code (Tag ID code) which is unique for each Digitail tag.

2.1 Display Only

Use the Display Only option to display the Digitail Tag TID on the SensaLab LinkTo screen on a successful scan. Once scanned the user can manually copy and paste the TID code of the scanned to an application.

To scan and display a tag, do the following:

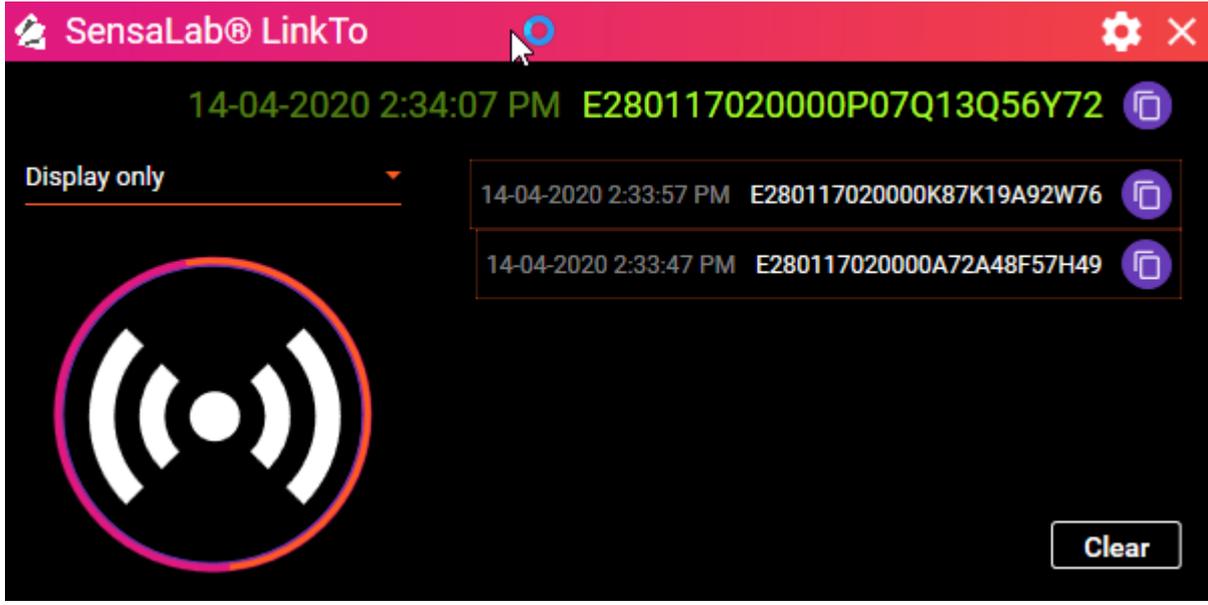
Step 1: Select “Display Only” from the action selector.

Step 2: Click the “Start” button.

Step 3: Scan a tag on the SensaLab Reader. Once the tag has been scanned, the tag detail will be displayed on the screen.

Step 4: To copy the TID click the copy to clipboard button 

Step 5: Click the clear button to remove the TIDs from being displayed.

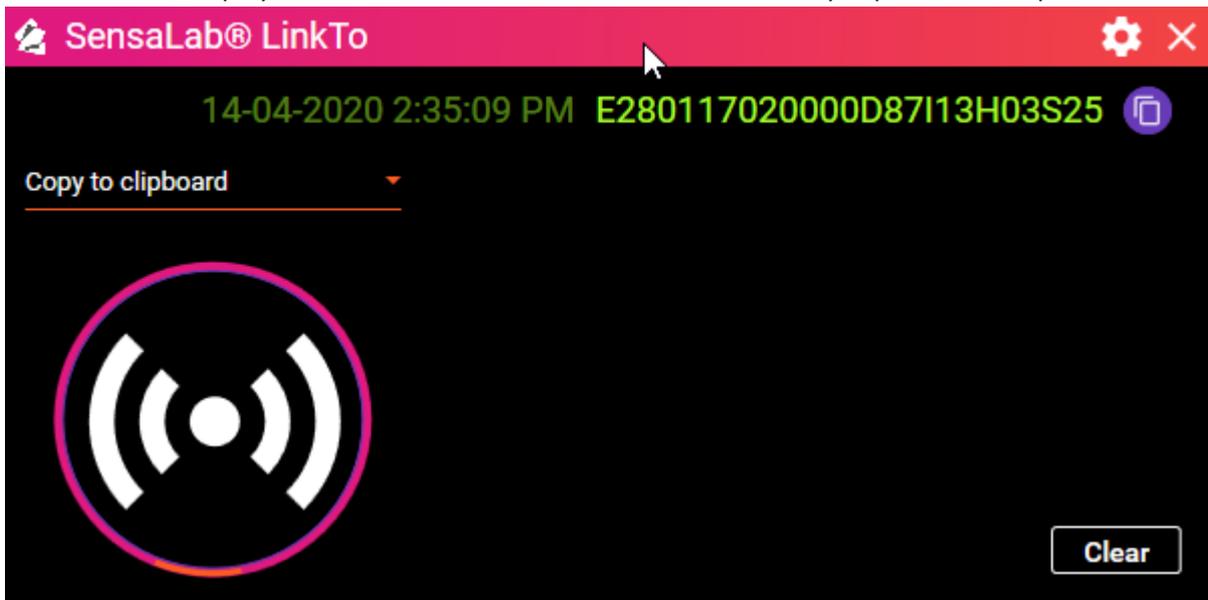


2.2 Copy to clipboard

Use the Copy to clipboard action to scan an animal Digital TID code and copy it automatically to the clipboard in a single action. The scanned tag will still be displayed on the screen as well.

To scan and copy a tag, do the following:

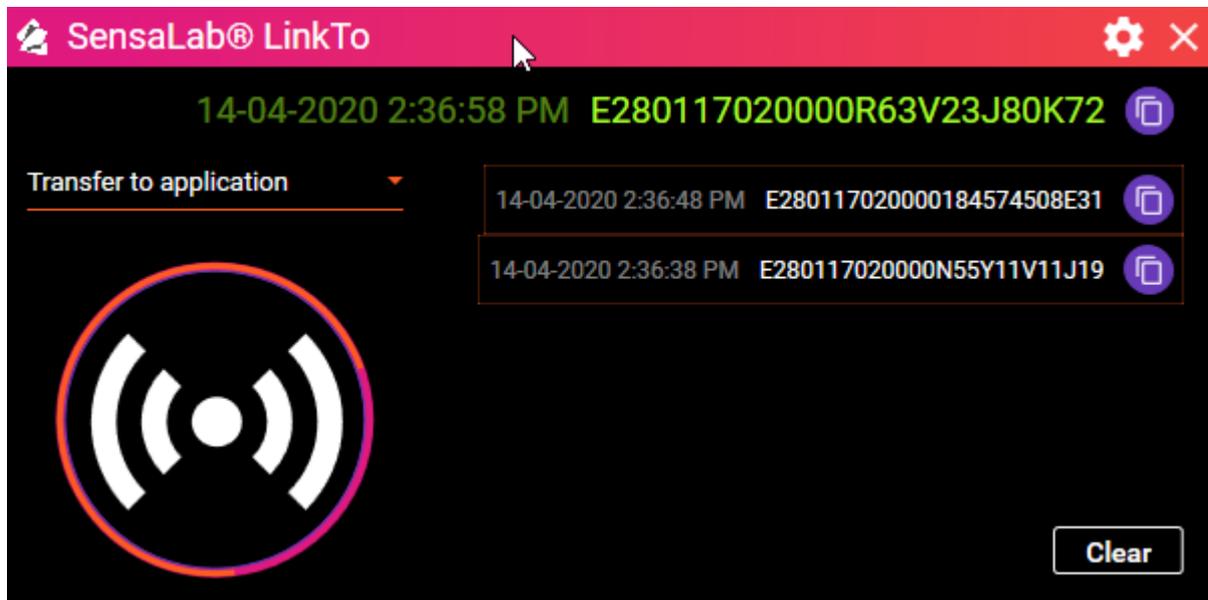
- Step 1: Select “Scan and Copy” from the action selector.
- Step 2: Click the “Start” button.
- Step 3: Scan a tag on the SensaLab Reader. Once the tag has been scanned, the tag detail will be displayed on the screen and the detail is automatically copied to the clipboard.



2.3 Transfer to application

Use the Transfer to application action to scan an animal Digitail Tag TID and paste it into an application field where the cursor has been focused.

Use the Settings options to define how the tag is to be separated which may be either on a new line, using a tab space or with no separator between values.



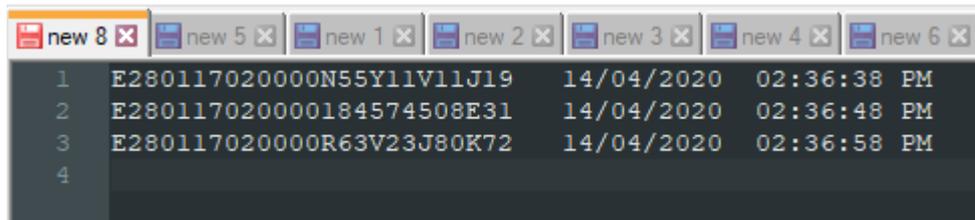
To scan and copy a tag, do the following:

- Step 1: Select “Scan and Transfer” from the action selector. Step
- 2: Click the “Start” button.
- Step 3: Scan a tag on the SensaLab Reader. Once the tag has been scanned, the tag detail will be displayed on the screen and the detail is automatically copied to the clipboard and pasted on the field where the cursor is focused.

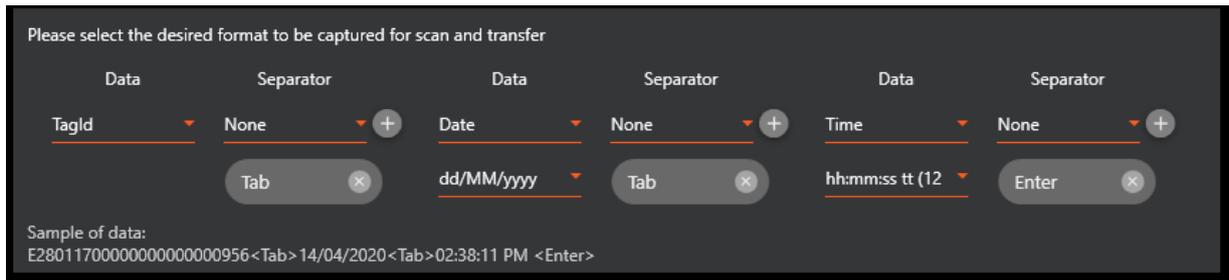
Important

The cursor should be focused on an enabled text field for the transfer to work.

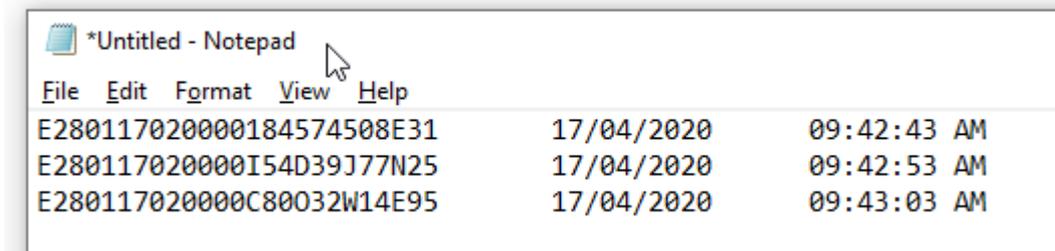
Example: The tag detail as transferred to an active Notepad application.



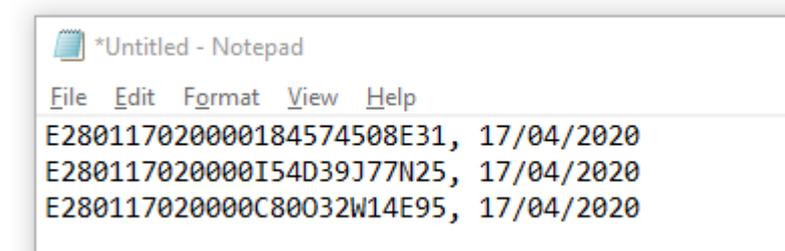
Depending on the transfer setting, multiple tags will be separated differently.



TagID<TAB>Date<TAB>Time<ENTER>

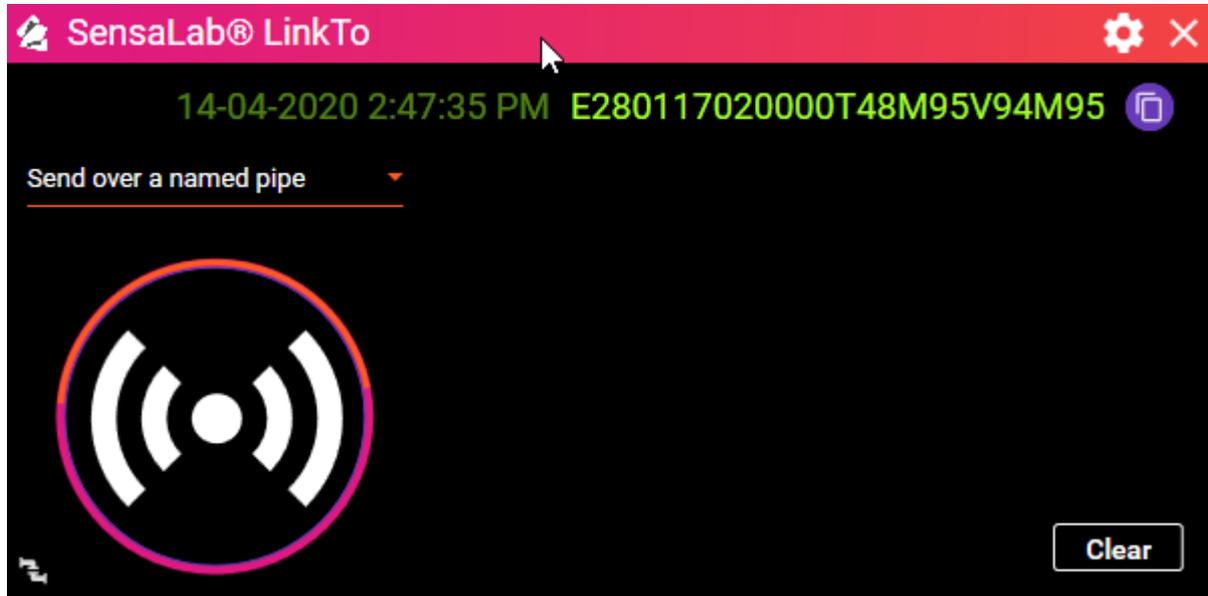


TagID<COMMA><SPACE>Date<ENTER>



2.4 Send over a named pipe

Use the Send over a named pipe action if you are using LinkTo with an application that uses named pipe E.g. Study Log. This behaves the same way as the Transfer to application, but instead of the tags being transferred to a text field, they are transferred to the named pipe 3rd party application.



Important

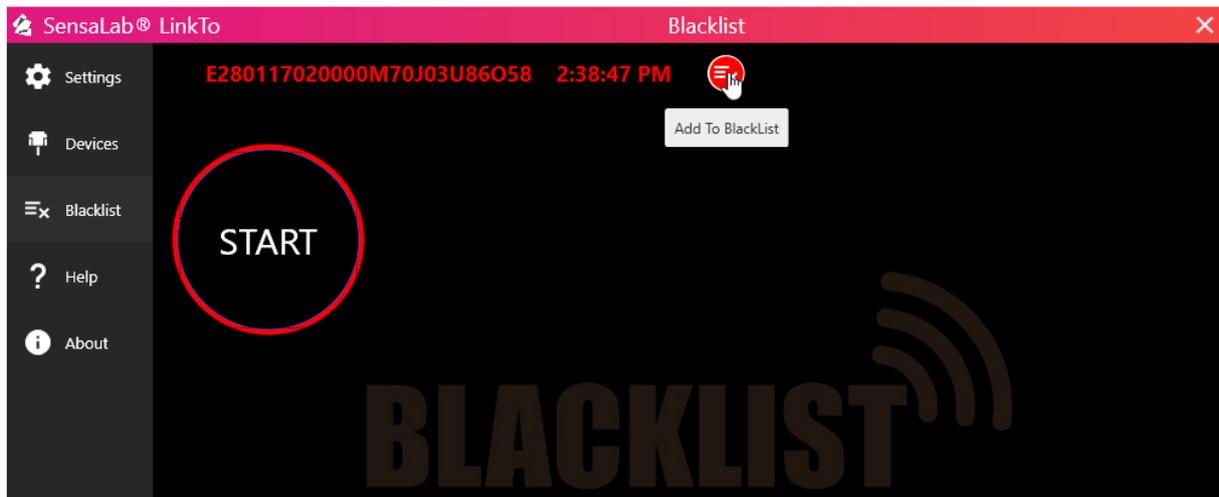
The name pipe name in Settings should be the same as the name of the pipe expected in your application. Contact the application provider or check the user guide of the 3rd party application to know how to do this.

For StudyLog users, see Appendix A on how to setup named pipe.

3. Blacklisting Tags

Users can blacklist a Digital Tag which will stop SensaLab LinkTo from scanning the Tag in future. The scanned tag is added to a blacklist file.

To configure and select the blacklist file location access the Blacklist Settings from the Settings options.



To blacklist a tag:

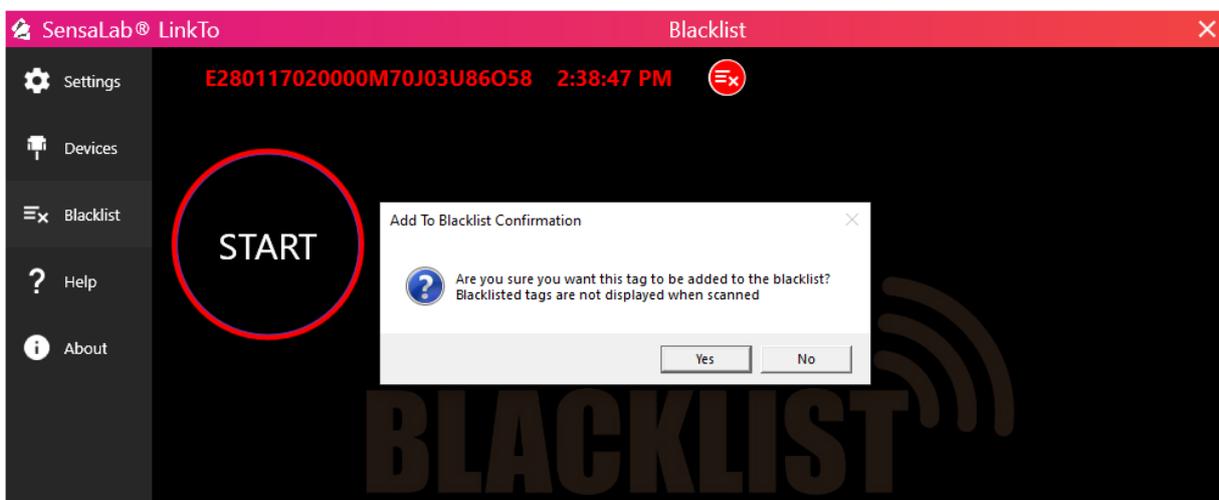
Step 1: Open the Settings screen.

Step 2: Go to Blacklist tab.

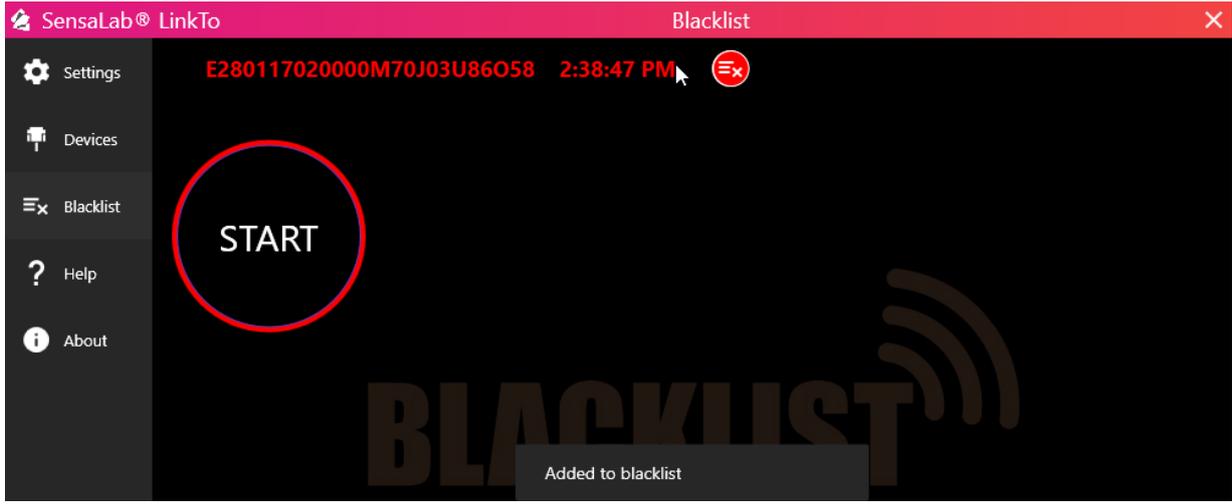
Step 3: Click the Start button.

Step 4: Scan a tag on the SensaLab Reader. Once the tag has been scanned, the tag detail will be displayed on the screen.

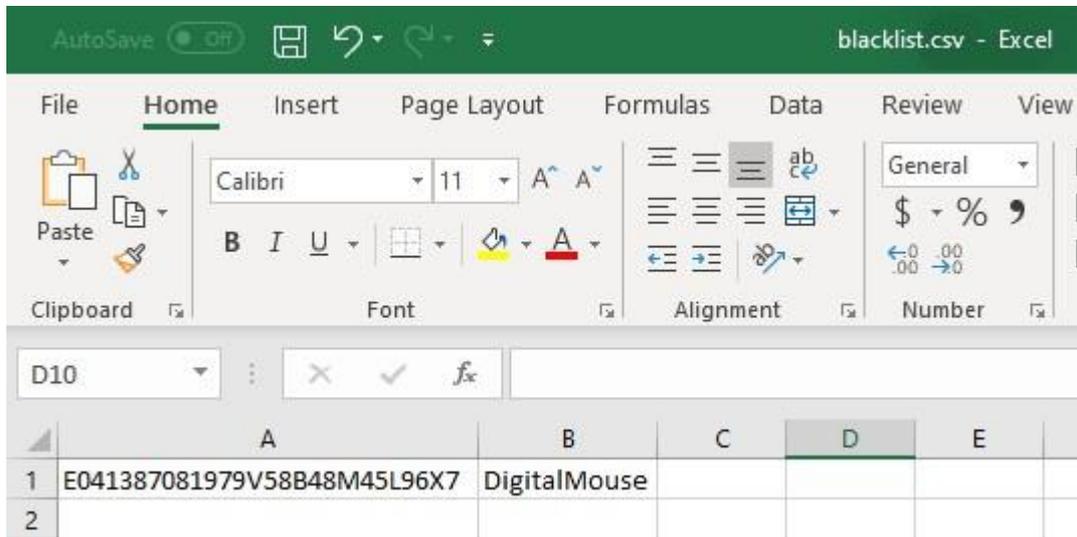
Step 5: Click the Add to Blacklist button to add the tag to the blacklist file.



Users will be notified when the tag has been added to the blacklist file.



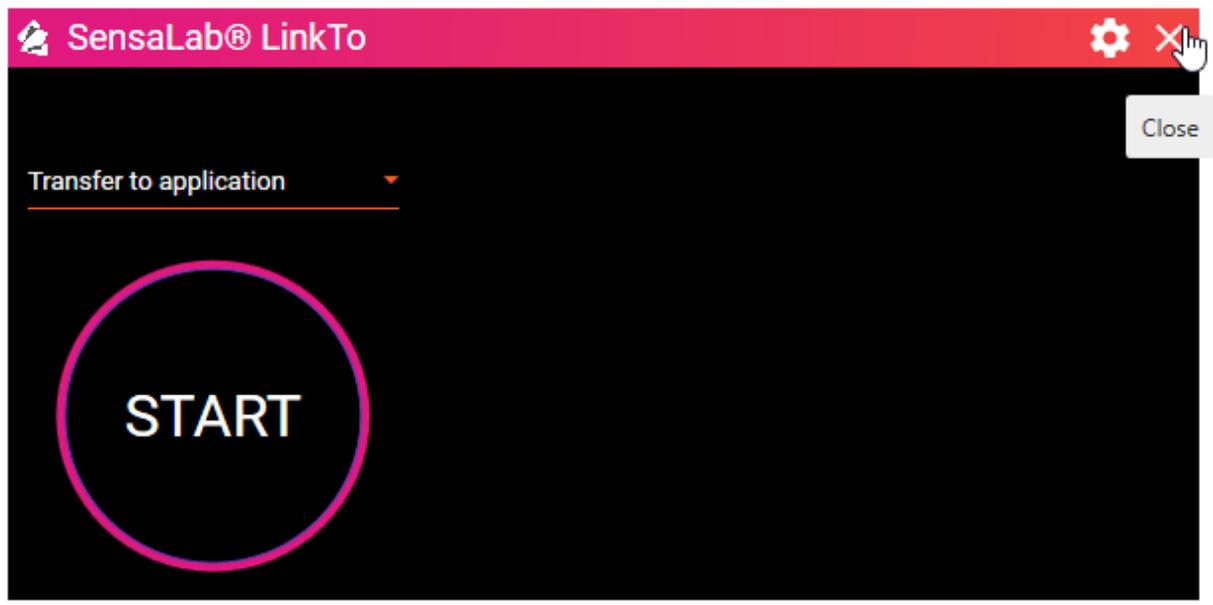
Blacklist file:



When user tries to scan the blacklisted file, nothing will happen as the Reader will skip this tag.

4. Running SensaLab LinkTo in background

When you close SensaLab LinkTo, it will continue to work in the background so you can continue to scan tags.



Users can set **Turn Off Device After Scanning to OFF** to allow multiple scans to be completed until the Scanning is manually turned off.

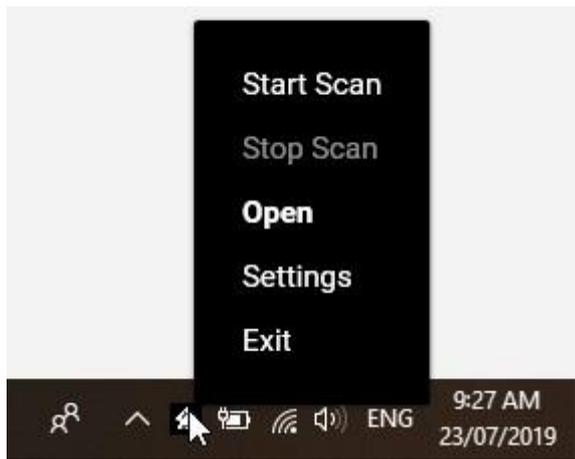
The SensaLab LinkTo icon will turn green to indicate the SensaLab Reader is active.



If SensaLab Reader is not active, the icon will turn white.



Right-clicking the icon will give you the following options:



1. Start Scan – activates the SensaLab Reader. This is disabled when SensaLab Reader is already active.
2. Stop Scan – deactivates the SensaLab Reader. This is disabled when SensaLab Reader is already inactive.

3. Open – opens the main screen.
4. Settings – opens the setting screen.
5. Exit – exits the application. Selecting this will end the application and will no longer run in the background.

5. Troubleshooting

SYMPTOM	POSSIBLE CAUSE	ACTIONS
SensaLab Reader is not displayed in the Devices List	The SensaLab Reader device may not be connected to the computer.	Check that the USB cable which connects the SensaLab Reader to the computer is securely connected to the USB ports on the SensaLab Reader and the computer.
	The SensaLab Reader device driver is not loaded.	When you first connect SensaLab Reader to your computer, your system may need to download the SensaLab Reader device driver, if it is not already present. This may take 1-2 minutes to download and install. If the device driver is not installed, the SensaLab Reader device will not be found.
	The SensaLab Reader may not be powered up or turned-on.	Ensure that the SensaLab Reader power cable is securely connected to the SensaLab Reader and plugged into a power outlet. Ensure that the SensaLab Reader has been turned on using the power button located on the rear side of the device. The LED indicator will flash (illuminate) once when the device has been turned on. <i>The LED indicator will remain on once the first scan is completed by a user.</i>
	 Important SensaLab Reader does not receive power from the computer. It must be plugged into a power outlet.	Contact customer support at support@mysensalab.com to order a replacement cable.
SensaLab Reader is powered on and connected with status “Ready” but the tags are not being scanned.	The SensaLab Reader may not have been started.  Important The SensaLab LinkTo icon is shown in color green when SensaLab	Ensure that the Start button has been clicked in the main screen or started by right-clicking the tray icon then selecting Start Scan. The SensaLab Reader device LED indicator will remain on once the first scan is completed by a user.

	Reader is actively scanning.	
I started the SensaLab Reader in SensaLab LinkTo but it suddenly stopped scanning.	<p>The SensaLab Reader may not have been used for a period of more than 30 seconds.</p> <p>👉 Important SensaLab LinkTo will automatically stop the SensaLab Reader from scanning if left idle for more than 30 seconds to prevent the device from overheating.</p>	If the SensaLab Reader has been left idle for more than 30 seconds, simply start the scanning again using the main screen or by right-clicking the tray icon then selecting Start Scan.
	The SensaLab Reader may have been configured to stop scanning after every tag.	If you want to scan continuously without having to start the SensaLab Reader every time, ensure that the “Turn Off Device After Scanning” is set to OFF in Settings screen.
I accidentally added a tag to the blacklist file and I want to be able to scan it again.		Check the Settings screen to see where the blacklist file is located. Open the file in a text editor or Excel and delete the tag that you accidentally blacklisted. Save the file and click “Sync Blacklist File” in Setting.
I selected “Transfer to application” but the tags are not being transferred to my application.	The cursor may not be focused on the field where you want the tag to be transferred.	Ensure that the cursor is active on the field where you want to transfer the tag.

<p>SensaLab LinkTo is not running on Windows 7</p>	<p>Windows has not been updated to the latest .Net framework required for SensaLab LinkTo</p>	<p>Install the latest Microsoft .Net framework from and reinstall SensaLab LinkTo.</p> <p>Download the framework from:</p> <p>Web: https://www.microsoft.com/enus/download/details.aspx?id=53345</p> <p>Offline: https://www.microsoft.com/enus/download/details.aspx?id=53344</p> <p> Important Administrator access is required to install the Microsoft .Net framework.</p>
--	---	--

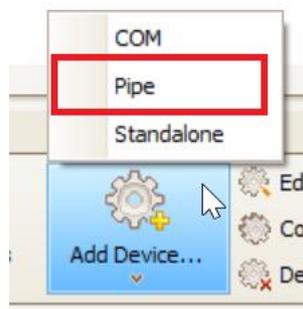
6. Appendix A

Setting Up LinkTo in Studylog Desktop

**The named pipe in LinkTo must be called "ChipID"

Steps for setup within Studylog Desktop:

1. Under Dictionaries > Devices, add a Pipe device:

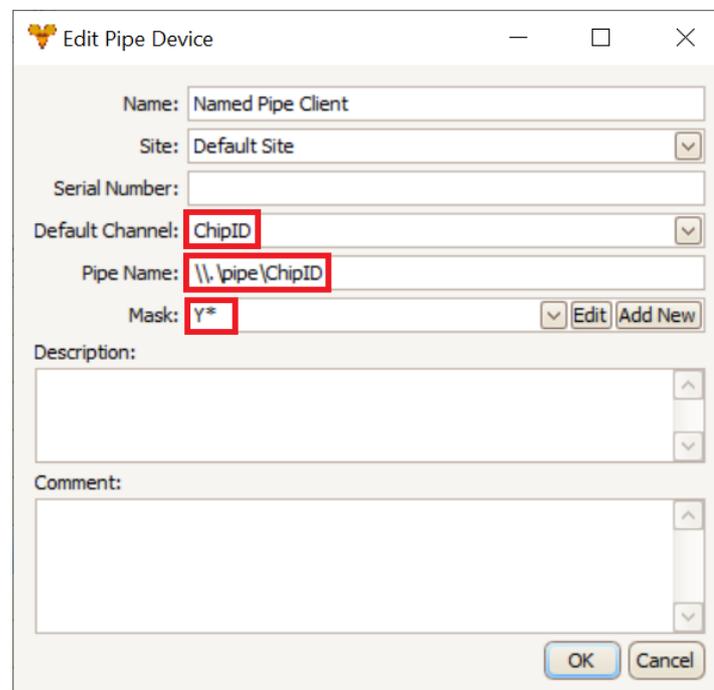


2. Edit the device settings and update the following fields to the shown values:

Default Channel: ChipID

Pip Name: \\.\pipe\ChipID

Mask: Y*



Edit Pipe Device

Name: Named Pipe Client

Site: Default Site

Serial Number:

Default Channel: ChipID

Pipe Name: \\.\pipe\ChipID

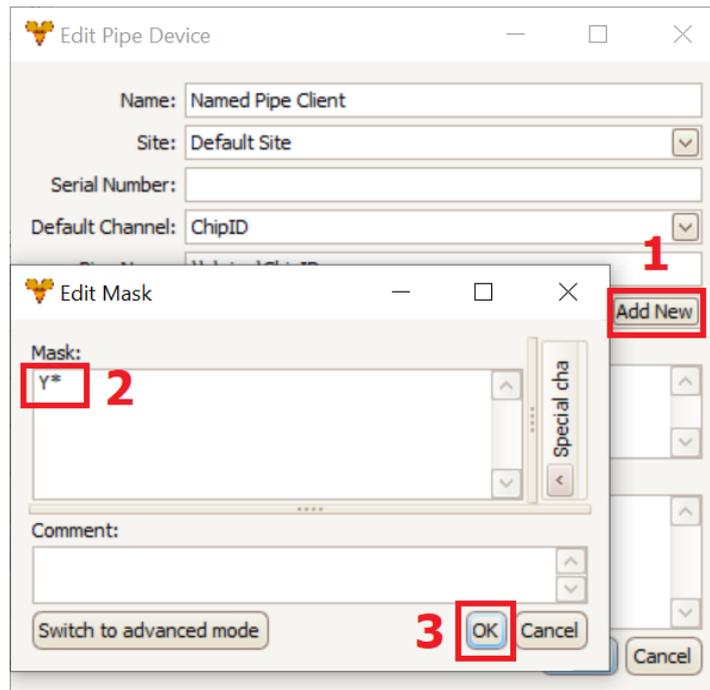
Mask: Y* Edit Add New

Description:

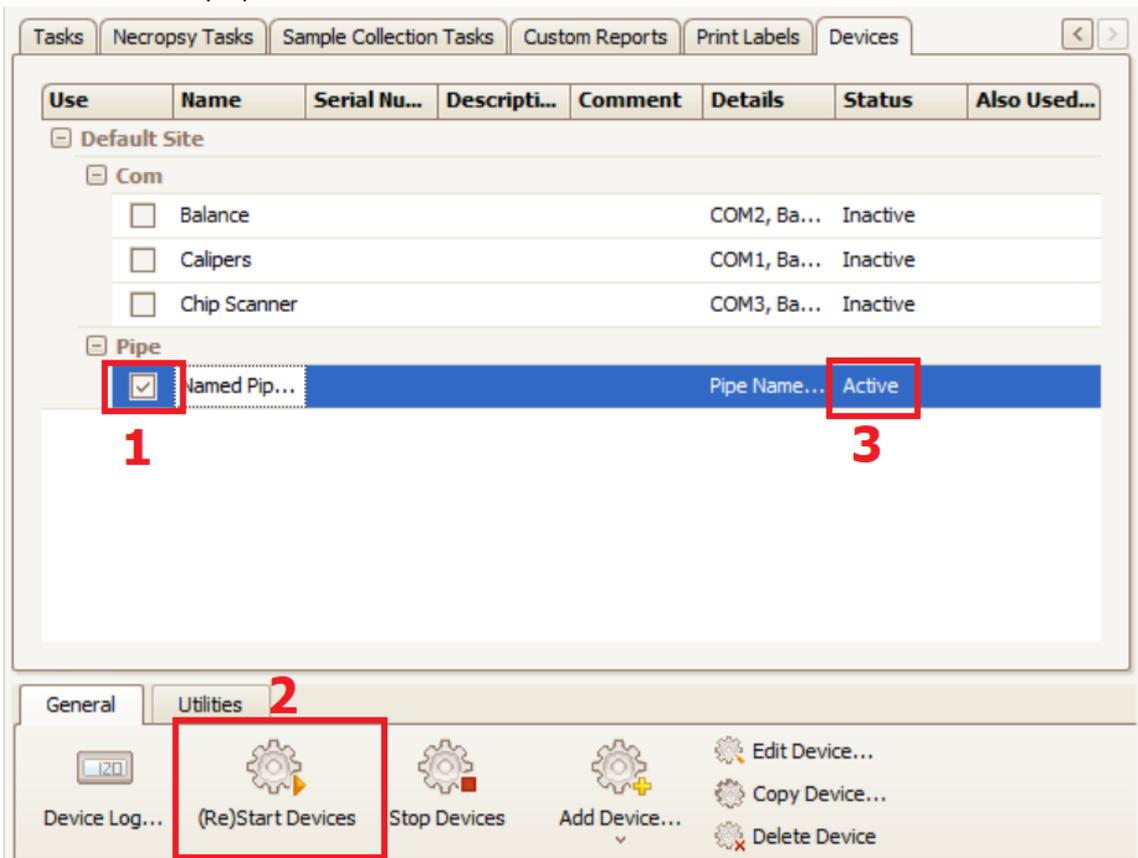
Comment:

OK Cancel

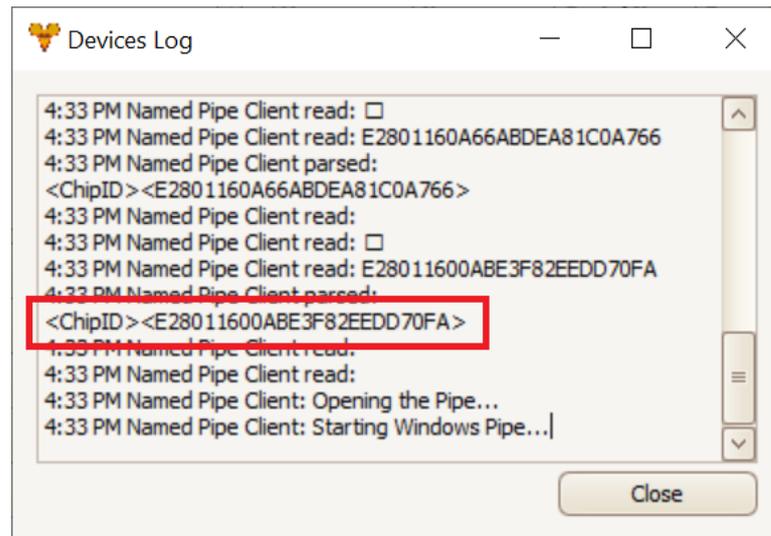
- a. If the mask drop-down does not contain "Y*", use "Add New" and manually add the mask:



3. Save the device and make the device active. To change the status to “Active”, check the device and use “(Re)Start Devices”:



4. Open the “Device Log” and scan a chip. If the device is set up properly, the parsed message should show as “<ChipID><(chipIDvalue)>”:



5. The device is now fully set up. Within Study Design on the "Animals" tab, scanning the animals should automatically generate animals with the associated IDs.

***For further questions regarding Studylog Desktop functionality, please contact support@studylog.com*