

Apex Network Rescue: Step-by-Step Guide

This guide explains how to use `apex-network-rescue.exe` to help an amplifier get a network address and unlock its front panel.

Before You Start

You need:

- A Windows computer.
- The `apex-network-rescue.exe` program.
- An Ethernet cable.
- Physical access to the amplifier, including its power switch or power cable.

Important: this tool temporarily changes your computer's Ethernet settings while it runs. When it finishes, it tries to put those settings back the way they were.

Why Administrator Permission Is Needed

Windows protects network settings so ordinary programs cannot change them by accident.

This program needs Administrator permission because it must:

- Temporarily change your computer's Ethernet IP address.
- Listen for network setup requests from the amplifier.
- Send the amplifier a temporary network address.
- Restore your original Ethernet settings afterward.

Without Administrator permission, Windows will block those actions and the rescue process cannot work.

Step-by-Step Instructions

1. Connect the Ethernet cable

Plug one end of the Ethernet cable into your Windows computer.

Plug the other end directly into the amplifier's control port.

If your computer has Wi-Fi, you can leave it on. The rescue tool is meant to use the wired Ethernet connection.

2. Open an Administrator Command Prompt

1. Open the Windows Start menu.
2. Type `cmd`.
3. Right-click **Command Prompt**.
4. Click **Run as administrator**.
5. If Windows asks for permission, click **Yes**.

You should now have a black Command Prompt window running with Administrator permission.

3. Go to the folder containing the program

In the Command Prompt, go to the folder where `apex-network-rescue.exe` is located.

For example:

```
cd C:\Path\To\ApexNetworkRescue
```

Replace that example path with the actual folder on your computer.

4. Start the rescue tool

Run:

```
apex-network-rescue.exe
```

The program will show a warning that it will temporarily change your Ethernet settings.

Press **Enter** to acknowledge the warning.

5. Confirm the amplifier is connected

The program will ask you to confirm that the computer is connected directly to the amplifier with an Ethernet cable.

Check the cable, then press **Enter**.

6. Wait while the network is configured

The program will temporarily configure your computer's Ethernet connection so it can talk to the amplifier.

You may see messages such as:

- `Configuring the network...`
- `Network configured.`
- `Checking amplifier IP / assigning one if needed...`

7. Restart the amplifier if it gets stuck assigning an IP

When the program is attempting to assign an IP address, the amplifier may need to be physically restarted before it accepts the new address.

If the program stays for a long time on:

```
Checking amplifier IP / assigning one if needed...
```

then restart the amplifier:

1. Turn the amplifier off.
2. Wait a few seconds.
3. Turn the amplifier back on.
4. Leave the Ethernet cable connected.
5. Leave the rescue tool running.

Restarting the amplifier makes it ask the computer for a fresh network address. That gives the rescue tool another chance to assign the amplifier an IP address.

8. Wait for the unlock process

After the amplifier has an IP address, the program will try to connect to it and unlock the front panel.

You may see messages such as:

- Amplifier IP assigned.
- Connecting to the amp...
- Amplifier connected.
- Unlocking front panel...
- Front panel unlocked.

9. Let the program restore your network settings

When the unlock process is finished, the program restores your original Ethernet settings.

You should see:

```
Restoring network configuration...  
Done.
```

After **Done.**, the rescue process has finished.

If You Need to Cancel

Press **Ctrl+C** in the Command Prompt window.

The program will try to restore your original Ethernet settings before it exits.

If Something Goes Wrong

If the program was interrupted and your Ethernet connection does not seem normal afterward, open an Administrator Command Prompt and run:

```
adapter-restore.bat
```

This tells the program to restore the saved Ethernet settings from the previous run.

Log File

The Command Prompt only shows simple progress messages.

More detailed information is written to:

```
apex-network-rescue.log
```

This file is useful if someone technical needs to diagnose what happened.