FlashPoint Software Inc.

4100U/ES Launcher Version Information

Version 3.0

1. Program development was updated to Visual Studio 2013 from Visual Basic 6. This will insure operating system compatibility now and in the future. Also made compatible with 64 bit Windows versions. ==Now Windows 10 compatible.==
2. Changed interface to show more job information at a glance and require less searching and clicking.
3. Double-click or Press the <Enter> key on a job to load it in its current programmer version.
4. Can click on column headers to sort, and drag column headers to change column order.
5. ==Right-click on a job== to get a shortcut menu that allows you to open the job folder, zip the job folder, zip and email the job folder, or delete the job folder.
6. Added ==automatic update checking== each time the program is started (if an Internet connection is present). If an update is found, the you will be asked if you want to install it. You can now be assured you are using the most current version, and bug fixes can be pushed out quickly.
7. The initial installation creates a shortcut on the users Desktop, and also in the Start menu in the "FlashPoint Software Inc" folder. The program must be started from these shortcuts; there is no longer an EXE file. The shortcuts can be copied and placed anywhere that is convenient to the user.
8. 4100U/ES Launcher version 3.x can be installed along side the previous version 2.x. You can use whichever version you want at any time. The "Write Config" menu option in version 3.x will write either version 2.x or 3.x to the SOS.ini file for use by the New Network Programmer.

BACKGROUND: The 4100U/ES Launcher is programmed and maintained by me, Brant Gunther, a ==former/retired== JCI/SimplexGrinnell technician in the Denver district office since 1983 (with a stint in Technical Support from early 1990 to late 1996). I receive no compensation of any kind for this work, or for the maintenance of the website. I enjoy programming, and believe in the ability of computers to automate mundane processes. The program started out as a tool to make my own life and job easier, and evolved to a point where it seemed a shame not to share it with others. Your suggestions for changes and improvements are always welcome.

==Please note that I retired in July 2018.== I anticipate leaving the www.flashpointsoftware.com website active for some time after that, but of course there are no guarantees. I recommend that you save the installation zip file you downloaded somewhere safe, maybe on a home computer, so you can use it if something happens and you need to reinstall it after the website goes down. ==Since this will probably be the last major upgrade, please let me know if you have complaints or suggestions!==

What happens after I retire? I personally hope that Simplex incorporates the 4100U/ES Launcher functionality into their products so future technology changes do not obsolete my program without having a replacement available. I am somewhat surprised they have not done this already. In any case, at some point it will be out of my hands.

I released the original 4100U Launcher over 10 years ago, in 2007. It has been an unqualified success and is considered by many technicians to be indispensable. It has been a very satisfying experience for me, even in the absence of any official recognition. The recognition of the people who use it is what matters most to me.

DISCLAIMER: This program is NOT endorsed or recognized by JCI/SimplexGrinnell. It in no way modifies any 4100U/ES programmer databases, so it cannot possibly damage or corrupt them. It simply reads some basic information from the database so it can load job files into the appropriate version programmer.