



SFD (or "Schutz der Fahrzeug Diagnose") Online Functions

This page explains how to use VCDS to interact with VW's servers real-time to handle functions that are restricted by SFD. Make sure to familiarize yourself with [the SFD Page in our Wiki](#) before proceeding.

Initial Setup:

1) First of all, you must have a HEX-NET or HEX-V2 interface that is already registered to you.

If your HEX-NET or HEX-V2 is not yet registered (or registered to someone else) you must register it in your name, and finalize the registration with the Transaction ID we will send to you before proceeding. Please note that a company name alone is not acceptable. SFD Service accounts must be associated with one (and only one) natural person, not just a company. Please refer to our [SFD Terms of Service](#) for more details.

2) You must have a version of VCDS that has on-line SFD capability.

The minimum version required as of this writing is Beta 26.5, but you should always use the latest version available. Check for updates frequently.

Make sure your interface firmware is up-to-date!

If you are using a Beta version of VCDS your interface must also be set to the Beta channel for updates in VCIconfig.

3) Next, you must create an SFD Service account with Ross-Tech.

An order for SFD Service must be placed in our web store using this page:

https://store.ross-tech.com/shop/sfd_service/.

Note that the prices shown on that page are for future reference. There is no charge for a temporary subscription while SFD functionality is still in Beta.

VW requires that we have 100% traceability for all SFD tokens, and the VINs and addresses of the modules being unlocked, as well as who those tokens were issued to. This means that we are required to verify your identity when you create an account. We do this by having you upload a legible scan or picture of a government-issued photo-ID document such as a driver's license, passport, or similar. The ID must match the registration data we have on file for the interface that you are creating an SFD Service account for.

Once your SFD Service account has been approved, you will receive an e-mail confirmation and can go on to the next step:

4) You must create an SFD Account password.

Once you have received confirmation via e-mail that your SFD Service account has been created, go to the Registration tab in VCIconfig and create a password consisting of at least 10 characters. The only acceptable characters are in this set are lowercase a-z, uppercase A-Z, numbers 0-9 as well as punctuation marks *-_=+

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ 0123456789 *-_=+

If you try to create a password that contains other characters, an error message will pop up.

You will need to enter an acceptable password twice and the two entries must match exactly.

VCDS Interface Config

File Help

Select Interface: HN3-xxxxxx Refresh Interface List

Overview Update Wifi Registration Advanced

☒ I understand that the data on this page will be sent to Ross-Tech, LLC in the USA who will use it in accordance with their [privacy policy](#).

Currently registered to:

Customer Name: Techodore Supportsky Street Address: 1369 Main Street

City/Town: Anytown Address 2 (Including state with > 2 chars.):

State/Prov. (2 char. code, only if applicable): MT ZIP/Postal Code: 12345

Company: Country: United States of America

Email: techodore@supportski.net Phone Number:

Username: Password: Confirm Password:

☐ Create new cloud account
☐ Pair with existing account
☒ Skip cloud setup

Submit Registration Request

SFD Access Password: SFD Subscription Active
 Confirm SFD Password: Set or Change SFD Password

Do not forget this password; you will need it every time you start an SFD session. Click on [Set or Change SFD Password] and then close VCIconfig.

5) Last, you will must click a confirmation link in an email.

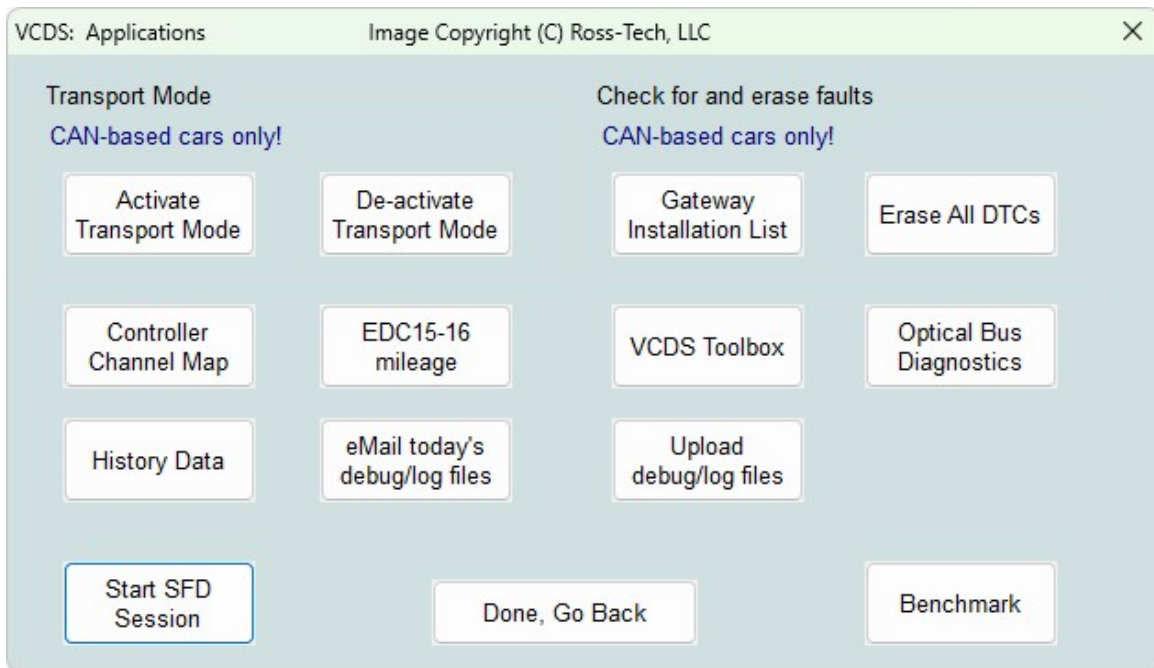
A confirmation email with subject "VCDS SFD Access Password Reset" will be sent to the address on file for that interface, and you must confirm it by clicking a link to the VCDS-Cloud server. Until you do this you will not be able to use the password you just created or changed.

After that last confirmation, your interface should be ready for the regular SFD process below:

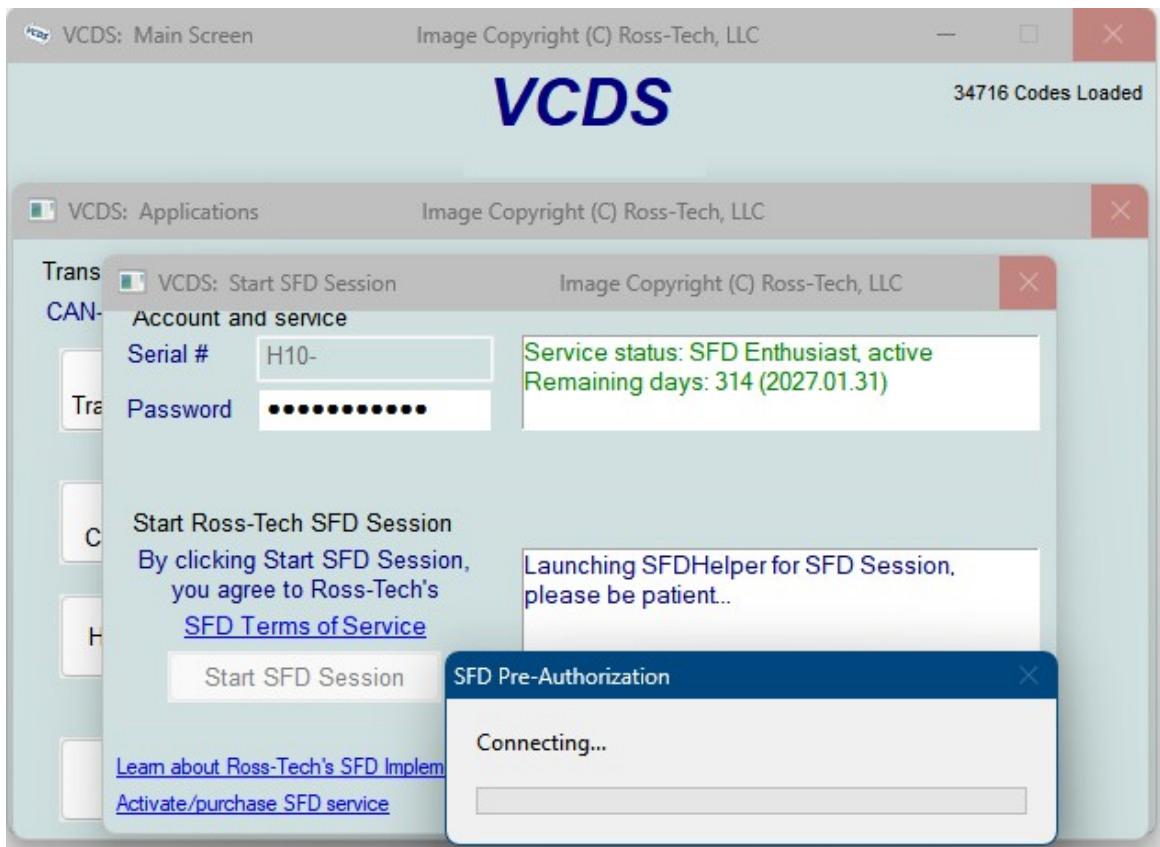
The Regular Process. This consists of two parts:

A) Start an SFD Session:

With your interface connected via USB, and your PC connected to the Internet, connect your interface to car, then start VCDS, click [Applications] and click on [Start SFD Session].



Enter your password and click [Start SFD Session]. This will launch the SFD-Helper version of VCIconfig. Please ensure you do not already have another instance of VCIconfig open, and please be patient; it will take a moment or two, but there's a progress bar.



This will verify and authorize your interface for SFD unlocking of modules for a limited period of time.

Once the SFD session has been started successfully, it should look like this:

VCDS: Start SFD Session Image Copyright (C) Ross-Tech, LLC

Account and service

Serial # H10- Service status: SFD Enthusiast, active
Remaining days: 314 (2027.01.31)
Remaining session time: 30 min

Password

Start Ross-Tech SFD Session

By clicking Start SFD Session, you agree to Ross-Tech's [SFD Terms of Service](#)

Start SFD Session

SFD session start successful.
You may now use the SFD function when connected to an SFD-locked controller.

[Learn about Ross-Tech's SFD Implementation](#)
[Activate/purchase SFD service](#)

Go Back

Note that if your interface is rebooted (by removal from power via USB and DLC), it will lose this authorization and you will have to repeat the [Start SFD Session] step.
Once your SFD session is active, you can click on [Go Back] to get back to the Applications screen where you can click [Done, Go Back] to get back to the Main Screen.

B) Unlocking SFD-protected modules:

Connect to a car with the ignition on. Click [Select] then for example [19-CAN Gateway]. If the module has SFD (most cars have some modules with SFD and some without) you should see an SFD Status on top right, with for example "SFD: Locked" in dark red.

VCDS: 19-CAN Gateway, Open Controller Image Copyright (C) Ross-Tech, LLC

Comm Status
Latency=4 ms
Protocol: UDS

VCDS
Open Controller

SFD Status
SFD: locked

Controller Info

VAG Number: 5WA 907 530 L Component: GW2020 High 778 7103

Soft. Coding: Long Coding Shop #:

Extra: I

Extra:

Basic Functions These are "Safe"

Advanced Functions Refer to Service Manual!

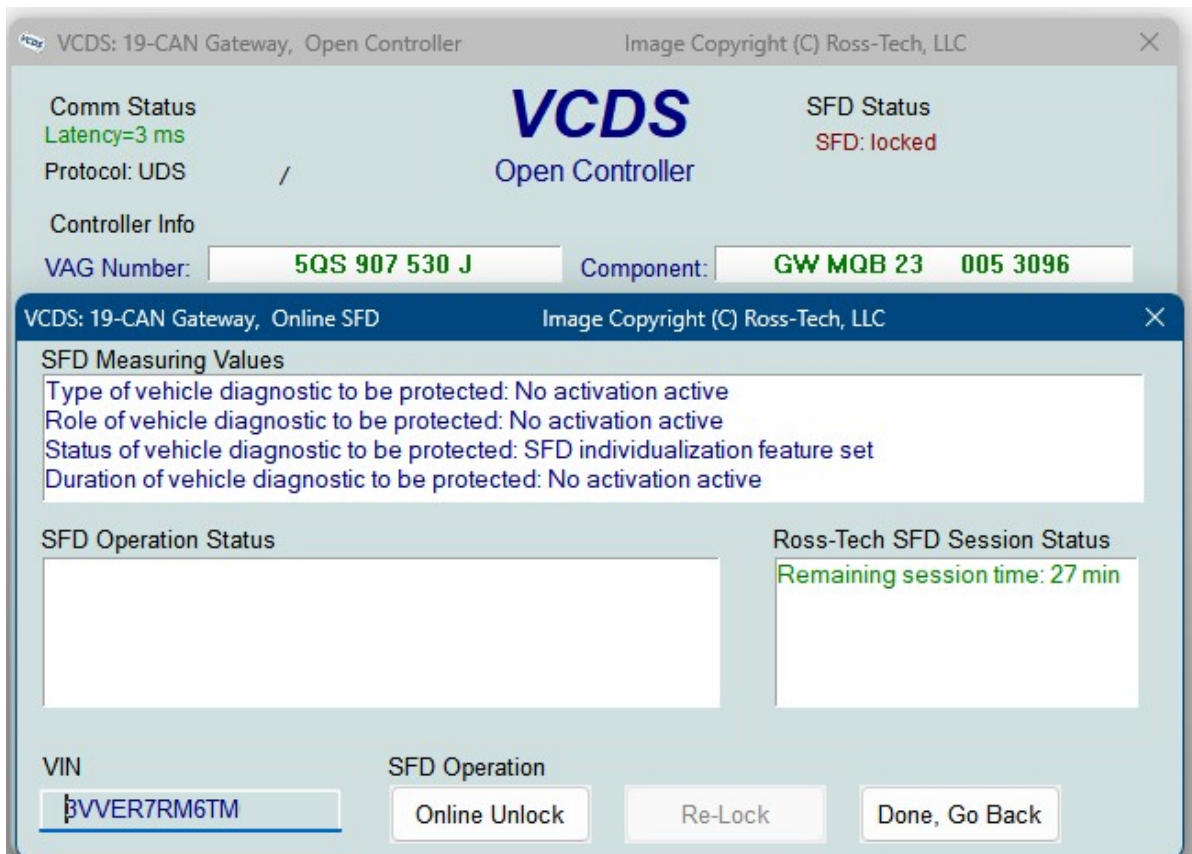
Fault Codes - 02 Readiness - 15 SFD Coding - 07

Meas. Blocks - 08 Advanced ID - 1A Basic Settings - 04 Adaptation - 10

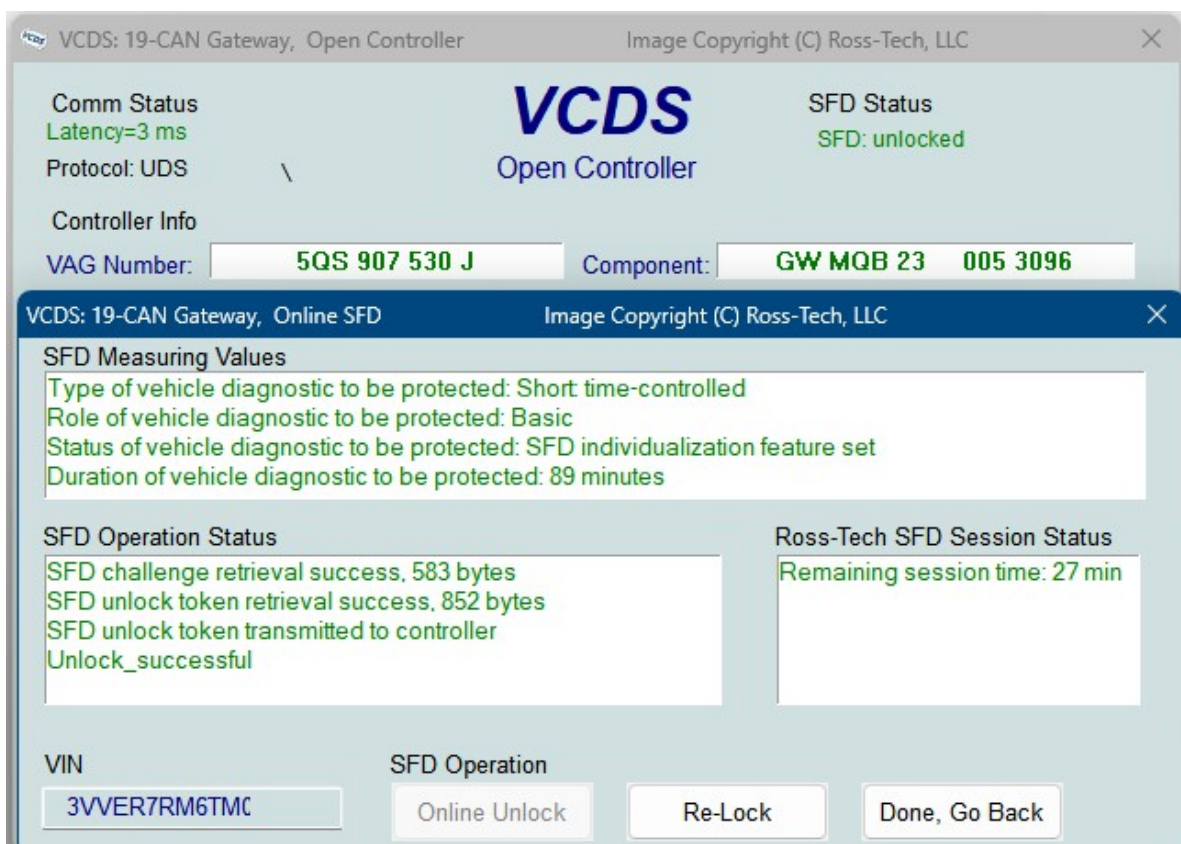
Supp. Codes - 18 Adv. Meas. Values Output Tests - 03 Security Access - 16

Close Controller, Go Back - 06 Installation List

Click on [SFD] to bring up the Online SFD window which shows three text fields: "SFD Measuring Values", "SFD Operation Status" and "Ross-Tech SFD Session Status".



If you didn't previously start it in the Applications screen you can click the [Start SFD Session] here as well. Assuming the SFD Session Status shows green Remaining session time you can now click [Online Unlock]. You should see the SFD Operation Status get populated and the background the Open Controller screen should show SFD Status change to a green "SFD: unlocked".



Once unlocked, most modules will remain unlocked for 90 minutes.

NOTE that if you have a car where scans are normally running in -R ("Restricted or Read-Only) Mode (most 2024 and newer models), the first module you need to unlock is 19-CAN Gateway. Once the Gateway is unlocked, go to [Adaptation] and use the [Turn filter off] button:

VCDS: 19-CAN Gateway, Open Controller

Image Copyright (C) Ross-Tech, LLC

Comm Status
Latency=3 ms
Protocol: UDS /

SFD Status
SFD: unlocked

VCDS
Open Controller

Controller Info
VAG Number: 5QS 907 530 J Component: GW MQB 23 005 3096

VCDS: 19-CAN Gateway, UDS Adaptation

Image Copyright (C) Ross-Tech, LLC

Channel (1B)
IDE16811-Diagnosis filter: temporary deactivation

Stored value
not active

New value

Search
Clear

Turn filter off

☐ Write WSC ☐ Soft reset Do It! Go Back Add to Log

Once the Filter has been turned off (Stored value = "not active"), the rest of the modules in the car will be accessible in Standard rather than Restricted diagnostic mode, and this is a pre-requisite for unlocking other modules in cars that have this type of Filter in their Gateway.

This all sounds complicated and intimidating, right?

We understand that it may appear to be so at first, and indeed the Initial Setup steps 1) through 4) are a bit of a pain, with some inevitable delays while real human beings at Ross-Tech process the verifications that VW requires of us. But once that's done, you'll only need the two Regular Process steps A) and B), which are really just a few extra clicks to start an SFD session and unlock modules. Once you've done this a few times, we think it will become second-nature. :)

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