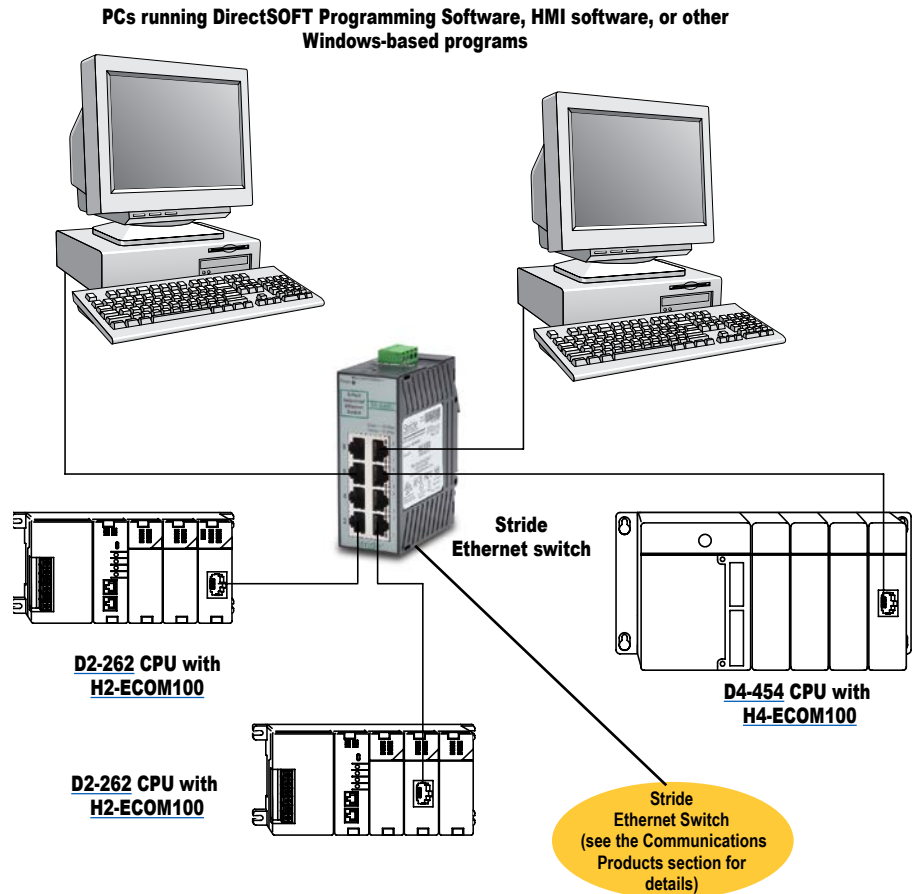# Need Additional Communications Ports?

Do you need communications ports in addition to the built-in CPU communications ports to connect to an operator interface or HMI? Would you like to connect to a network of other AutomationDirect products, or a Modbus RTU or Ethernet network? If yes, then choose between the H4-ECOM100 Ethernet communications module or the D4-DCM serial data communications module. Both modules' specifications and communications details are covered later in this section.

Note: The D4-454 CPU also supports a Modbus RTU Client module for connection to a Modbus RTU network. This module is listed later in this section.

Ethernet networking with the H4-ECOM100

All DL405 CPUs support the H4-ECOM100 module, which makes Ethernet networking a snap. The H4-ECOM100 module supports industry-standard 10/100Base-T networking with an RJ45 port. The ECOM100 module works with standard cables, switches and repeaters. A virtually unlimited number of PLCs can be connected to an Ethernet network using ECOM modules. This is the fastest data transfer rate we offer for your HMI or other Windows-based software. Use DirectSOFT to program any PLC on the network, and when monitoring your operating PLC, you will see much faster updates with Ethernet and the ECOM modules.

Serial networking with the D4-DCM

All DL405 CPUs support the D4-DCM Data Communications Module that can serve as a DirectNet Client/Server, DirectNet peer, or a Modbus RTU Server. The D4-DCM supports RS-232 and RS-422 communications. You can program the CPU through the DCM locally, or if a PC is the RS-422 Client, you can use DirectSOFT to program any PLC on the network.

NOTE: Any hardware with a date code less than 09X0 or with a first digit that is not 0, 1, or 2 may not work with the D4-454. We suggest that any hardware older than ten years and not currently sold on the AutomationDirect.com website be upgraded to a newer version.

PCs running DirectSOFT Programming Software, HMI software, or other Windows-based programs

Stride Ethernet switch

D2-262 CPU with H2-ECOM100

D2-262 CPU with H2-ECOM100

D4-454 CPU with H4-ECOM100

Stride Ethernet Switch (see the Communications Products section for details)

Client – Server Network

DL405 DCM as Client

Connect the DCM to our MDM-TEL serial modem (see the Communication Products section for details on the modem)

D2-262 Server

DCM Server

D3-350 Server

D4-454 CPU (lower port)