

Frequently Asked Questions

MasterConsole[®] CAT



Question	Answer
<i>What is the MasterConsole CAT?</i>	<p>MasterConsole CAT (MCCAT) is a Cat5 KVM switch that allows control of 8 or 16 servers from a single keyboard, monitor and mouse. Servers connect to the MCCAT using Computer Interface Modules (MCIMs) and standard Category 5 (Cat5), unshielded, twisted-pair (UTP) cables. The MCCAT can be cascaded to control up to 256 servers. MCCAT features front panel channel buttons for easy server access and a user-friendly, on-screen interface for simple system configuration.</p> <p>The MCCAT18 and MCCAT116 support a single user, while the MCCAT28 and MCCAT216 support two simultaneous KVM sessions. A User Station is required for the second user to access the switch.</p>
<i>What is the size of the MCCAT?</i>	<p>The MCCAT is only 1U in height and fits in a standard 19" rack.</p>
<i>What are the MCCAT components?</i>	<p>MCCAT consists of two components: the matrix switch (MCCAT18/116 or MCCAT28/216) and Computer Interface Modules (MCIMs). The MCIMs connect to the keyboard, video and mouse ports of each server (PS/2 or USB) and provide failsafe server access with Raritan's dedicated keyboard/mouse emulation.</p> <p>The MCCAT28/216 also supports a user station to connect the second user.</p>
<i>What interfaces does the MCCAT support?</i>	<p>MCCAT supports USB and PS/2 keyboards and mice interfaces.</p> <p>The two-user model (MCCAT28/216) also supports Macintosh[®] AND Sun[®] Solaris[™] servers.</p>
<i>How does a second user connect to the MCCAT28 and 216?</i>	<p>The second user is connected via a MasterConsole User Station or a Paragon[®] II Enhanced User Station and a Cat5 cable.</p>
<i>What is the benefit of a user station?</i>	<p>User stations allow the work station of the second user (or "user B") to be placed at a greater distance from the MasterConsole switch – even outside the server room itself. This is beneficial to anyone who would like "lights-out" access to the server room.</p>

Question	Answer
<i>What is the maximum distance that I can place a user station?</i>	The MCCAT User Station (MCCAT-UST) can be placed up to 100 feet (30m) away from the MCCAT switch. For greater distances, the MCCAT supports the Paragon II Enhanced User Station (P2-EUST), which can be placed up to 650 feet (198m) away from the switch.
<i>What types of servers does MCCAT support?</i>	<p>MCCAT18 and 116: MS-DOS, Windows® 2000/2003/NT/Me/XP/Vista®, Linux® (Red Hat, Novell® Suse) and SCO UNIX®.</p> <p>MCCAT28 and 216: Supports the above servers, plus Macintosh OS9, OSX and Sun Solaris.</p>
<i>Can Dominion® CIMs work with MCCAT?</i>	Yes, most Dominion CIMs work with MCCAT. Only the D2CIMs are not supported.
<i>Does MCCAT support USB keyboards with USB hub function such as Sun type 7 keyboards or Mac wired keyboards?</i>	MCCAT does not support USB keyboards with USB hub functions.
<i>Is there an alternative and economic way to connect to servers besides using CIMs?</i>	Yes, you can instead use the industry's first and only CAT5 cable with integrated CIM, the MCUTP, if the servers and MCCAT are located at the same rack or within a distance of 20 feet.
<i>What is an MCUTP cable?</i>	<p>The MCUTP cable is a brand new cable for MCCAT 2-user models. It integrates Raritan's CIM and UTP cables together as one single cable.</p> <p>The installation is much easier than using CIMs. It is also easy for cabling and maintenance purposes.</p>
<i>Can I use an MCUTP cable on the MCCAT18 and MCCAT116?</i>	MCUTP cable only supports MCCAT 2-user models – MCCAT28 and MCCAT216. It also supports direct connections to an MCCAT-UST.
<i>How many types of interfaces does an MCUTP cable have?</i>	There are three different interfaces (PS/2, USB and Sun USB) on the MCUTP cable and four different lengths (2 feet, 6 feet, 13 feet and 20 feet) of cables to choose from.
<i>Can I use an MCUTP cable to cascade MCCAT 1-user models?</i>	<p>MCUTP cannot be used to cascade MCCAT 1-user models.</p> <p>For this configuration, only MCIM-PS2 can be used.</p>
<i>I don't want to use the Scroll Lock key as my hot key. What are my options?</i>	The hot key can be easily changed to the Num Lock or Caps Lock, or other keys. When in hot-key mode, touch the desired new hot-key activator followed by the enter key.