

Frequently Asked Questions

Dominion® KSX II



Question	Answer
<i>What is the Dominion KSX II?</i>	The Dominion KSX II is an integrated remote access and control appliance that provides secure, out-of-band KVM-over-IP, serial access and power control for IT assets in remote and branch offices.
<i>What is the typical application of the KSX II?</i>	The Dominion KSX II is targeted at centralized, remote management of IT devices at branch and remote offices. This enables IT administrators to remotely access, control and manage hundreds or even thousands of sites.
<i>What types of IT equipment can the KSX II manage?</i>	KSX II can manage KVM- and serially-controlled equipment, including computer servers and equipment, telecommunications gear and networking devices. KSX II can perform remote power control using the optional Dominion PX™ rack-based power distribution units (PDUs).
<i>What type of remote management functions are supported?</i>	<p>The KSX II provides complete, out-of-band, remote management. This includes BIOS-level KVM-over-IP control, remote serial console access, remote power control and remote virtual media.</p> <p>KSX II provides complete remote management, regardless of the target device's state. You can enter at the BIOS level, run hardware diagnostics, reboot a hung server, install software from DVDs and even re-image a server.</p>
<i>Can you describe a typical remote office customer?</i>	The typical customer is a company with IT assets in multiple branch offices, looking for centralized remote management of those devices. Customers increasingly have dispersed IT assets, but do not have IT staff at these facilities. Examples of customers are: banks with multiple branches, retail chains with multiple stores and brokerage firms with multiple offices.
<i>Any other customer types?</i>	<p>Another class of customer has multiple types of equipment in a rack, lab or office (or even a closet) and would like to manage these diverse devices remotely with a single secure appliance.</p> <p>By replacing two devices (KVM switch and serial console server) with a single appliance, customers will: (1) save money, (2) reduce rack space and cabling, (3) decrease energy usage and (4) increase productivity through anytime/anywhere remote access.</p>

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<i>What is the KSX II's value proposition?</i>	<p>The KSX II's value proposition is based on anytime/anywhere, centralized, remote access and control of geographically dispersed equipment.</p> <p>KSX II customers benefit from: (1) reduced travel expenses, (2) increased IT productivity, (3) decreased mean time to repair and (4) higher service quality.</p>
Technical Features	
<i>In a nutshell, what is the KSX II?</i>	<p>The Dominion KSX II is a combination of the Dominion KX II KVM-over-IP switch and features from the Dominion SX Secure Console Server. It provides world-class KVM-over-IP, serial-over-IP and remote power control in a single appliance.</p>
<i>What KSX II models are available?</i>	<p>The Dominion KSX II is available in two secure hardware appliances. The DKSX-144 features four KVM-over-IP ports, four serial ports, two power control ports and a local port for direct access.</p> <p>The DKSX-188 features eight KVM-over-IP ports, eight serial ports, two power control ports and a local port for direct access.</p>
<i>How does the Dominion KSX II compare to the Dominion KX II?</i>	<p>Built on a foundation of the award-winning Dominion KX II, the Dominion KSX II provides virtually all of the KX II's KVM-over-IP software features as of Release 2.3. Note that the tiering (cascading) feature is one of the few exceptions. See the Dominion KX II Features and Benefits document for the complete KX II KVM-over-IP software features.</p> <p>In terms of hardware features, the KSX II has four or eight KVM-over-IP ports, four or eight dedicated serial ports, a single power supply, dual gigabit Ethernet LAN ports, local port, admin port, a built-in modem and two dedicated power control ports.</p> <p>The KSX II supports a single KVM-over-IP remote connection, an independent local port KVM connection and either four or eight serial port connections.</p>
<i>How are remote power control strips connected to the KSX II?</i>	<p>Dominion PX PDUs are connected via Cat5 cable to the two power ports on the KSX II. No CIMs are required.</p>
<i>Does the KSX II have a modem port?</i>	<p>Actually, the KSX II has a built-in modem for emergency use if the primary network is down.</p>

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<i>What are some sample Dominion KX II features?</i>	<p>Some sample Dominion KX II features available in the KSX II are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual media • Absolute Mouse Synchronization™ • Common HTML remote and local user interface • Blade server support • Dual Stack IPv6/IPv4 • FIPS 140-2 encryption module • Smart card/CAC support • 1080p HD remote video resolution <p>See the Dominion KX II Features and Benefits document for more information.</p>
<i>Is the Dominion KSX II FIPS 140-2-certified?</i>	<p>The Dominion KSX II uses a FIPS 140-2-certified encryption module for both serial and KVM sessions. The KSX II also supports DoD Common Access Card, Secure Login Banner and IPv6 – three other features of interest to government and military customers.</p>
<i>How does the Dominion KSX II compare to the Dominion SX?</i>	<p>Like the Dominion SX, the KSX II supports true serial connections with dedicated serial ports and SX-like functionality. Select Dominion SX II features are supported by the KSX II, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True, remote serial access and control • Access via Raritan Serial Client, SSH and Telnet • Key logging and history • Cut and paste • Keyword monitoring and alerting • Serial session disconnect commands • Secure chat • Direct port access
<i>Is a CIM (dongle) required to access serial devices?</i>	<p>A CIM is <u>not</u> required for the KSX II as it provides a true serial connection – no serial converter or external power adapter is required. However, like the Dominion SX, an inexpensive serial adapter may be required based on the exact pin-out of the serial device.</p>
<i>What is virtual media?</i>	<p>Virtual media is a powerful feature that enables a user to mount drives and media from the user's desktop to remote servers during a KVM connection. This is ideal to install software, run hardware diagnostics, transfer files and even remotely reimage a server.</p>
<i>What types of virtual media does the Dominion KSX II support?</i>	<p>Dominion KSX II supports the following types of virtual media: internal and USB-connected CD/DVD drives, USB mass storage devices, PC hard drives and local and remote ISO images.</p>
<i>Is virtual media secure?</i>	<p>Yes. Virtual media sessions are secured using up to 256-bit AES or 128-bit RC4 encryption.</p>
<i>Does the KSX II support the D2CIM-DVUSB?</i>	<p>Yes. With release 2.3, KSX II supports the dual USB virtual media CIM (and USB profile feature) which enable expanded BIOS use of virtual media drives to the broadest range of servers and BIOS versions.</p>

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<i>Does the Dominion KSX II provide an integrated interface that gives a view of all connected devices?</i>	Yes. Dominion KSX II provides a single, consolidated view of all KVM and serial devices via one sign-on. A single IP address gives access to all connected serial devices. For CLI connectivity, any Java™-enabled Web browser provides VT100/ANSI terminal emulation.
<i>Can I access serial devices from the KSX II's local port?</i>	Yes. From the KSX II's consolidated VGA-based local port, you can access both KVM – and serially managed devices. Serial devices can also be accessed via the serial admin port of the KSX II.
<i>What is Absolute Mouse Synchronization?</i>	This is a technology developed by Raritan in which mouse cursors stay in synch right out of the box. It eliminates the need to manually change the mouse settings on each target server. It is a feature supported by USB 2.0-enabled servers.
<i>Is the Dominion KSX II Sun® "break-safe"?</i>	Yes. The Dominion KSX II units are Sun "break-safe" for use with Sun Solaris™.
<i>What type of remote power control capabilities does the Dominion KSX II offer?</i>	The Dominion KSX II has two dedicated power control ports in which Raritan's Dominion PX power strips can be connected. After a simple one-time configuration step, just right click on the server name to power on, off or recycle a hung server. Note that a hard reboot provides the physical equivalent of unplugging the server from the AC power line and reinserting the plug.
<i>Does the KSX II have a CLI?</i>	Yes. A comprehensive Command Line Interface is available via SSH, Telnet or the local serial port. With the CLI, the user can configure, maintain and troubleshoot the KSX II, as well as access serial devices.
<i>Can the KSX II be managed by CommandCenter® Secure Gateway (CC-SG)?</i>	Yes. With CC-SG, customers can access and manage hundreds or even thousands of devices spread across the country, or even the world.