

Frequently Asked Questions

MasterConsole[®] CAT



Question	Answer
What is the MasterConsole CAT?	<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>
What is the size of the MCCAT?	The MCCAT is only 1U in height and fits in a standard 19" rack.
What are the MCCAT components?	<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>
What interfaces does the MCCAT support?	<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>
How does a second user connect to the MCCAT28 and 216?	The second user is connected via a MasterConsole User Station or a Paragon II Enhanced User Station and a Cat5 cable.
What is the benefit of a user station?	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.
What is the maximum distance that I can place a user station?	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 195 meters away from the switch.

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What types of servers does MCCAT support?	<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>
Can Dominion® CIMs work with MCCAT?	Yes, most Dominion CIMs work with MCCAT. Only the D2CIMs are not supported.
Does MCCAT support USB keyboards with USB hub function such as Sun type 7 keyboards or Mac wired keyboards?	MCCAT does not support USB keyboards with USB hub functions.
Is there an alternative and economic way to connect to servers besides using CIMs?	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 6 meters.
What is an MCUTP cable?	<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>
Can I use an MCUTP cable on the MCCAT18 and MCCAT116?	MCUTP cable only supports MCCAT 2-user models – MCCAT28 and MCCAT216. It also supports direct connections to an MCCAT-UST.
How many types of interfaces does an MCUTP cable have?	There are three different interfaces (PS/2, USB and Sun USB) on the MCUTP cable and four different lengths (0.6 meters, 2 meters, 4 meters and 6 meters) of cables to choose from.
Can I use an MCUTP cable to cascade MCCAT 1-user models?	<p>MCUTP cannot be used to cascade MCCAT 1-user models.</p> <p>For this configuration, only MCIM-PS2 can be used.</p>
I don't want to use the Scroll Lock key as my hot key. What are my options?	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.