Our Ref. 180516DM

REF: versadac™ Scalable Data Recorder enhanced for Cybersecurity Robustness

Dear Customer,

Cybersecurity is no longer a secondary requirement in the industrial control's world. Eurotherm considers cybersecurity to be as important as safety or high availability.

Industrial Control Systems (ICS) based on computer technology and industrial-grade networks have been in use for decades. Earlier control system architectures were developed with proprietary technology and were isolated from the outside world, thus making attacks more difficult. In many cases, physical perimeter security was deemed adequate and cybersecurity was not a primary concern.

Today, many control systems use open or standardized technologies such as Ethernet TCP/IP to reduce costs and improve performance. Many systems also employ direct communications between control and business systems to improve operational efficiency and manage production assets more cost effectively. This technical evolution exposes control systems to vulnerabilities previously thought to affect only office and business computers. Control systems are now vulnerable to cyberattacks from both inside and outside of the industrial control system network.

Consequently, many industrial control users are embarking on cybersecurity initiatives. Meanwhile, governments around the world are under pressure to address the ever increasing cybersecurity threat and there is an increasing demand for governments to introduce regulation.

For further information about cybersecurity, please refer to HA032968 – Cybersecurity Good Practices Guide.

What's new in the versadac Scalable Data recorder?

- New Instruments

From Sept 2020, all units shipped will come with revision V2.41 Units with either serial or Ethernet communications enabled, will power up with the communications in lockdown mode.

After initial setup and enabling of the communications port, (serial or Ethernet) the versadac Scalable Data Recorder will illuminate the "Error" LED, prompting the user to configure the password for the Engineer via iTools Engineering Studio V9.84. Note: This action only needs to be performed the first time communications is enabled. Once set, the unit will operate as normal.

- Upgrading an existing unit

When the versadac is upgraded, accounts without passwords, typically Operator, will be disabled until a password is added.

- Cold starting

When the versadac is cold started all users, with the exception of Engineer, will have their passwords reset to none, disabling them, requiring the Engineer to activate the accounts as required.

- Cloning

After the clone file is restored, the communications configuration password will be restored only if the following is true:

- The password is not the default of '1234567890' AND
- The password is a minimum of 8 characters

In the event the above criteria are not met, the account will be disabled until a new password is configured via iTools Engineer Studio V9.84.

- Default and Recovery Passwords

In all instruments with V2.41 or higher, the ability to log in to the versadac Scalable Data Recorder with a recovery password will be disabled. In the event of loss of password, please contact your local Eurotherm office.

iTools Engineering Studio
iTools Engineering Studio V9.84 has been released to support versadac Scalable Data Recorder V2.41 or earlier.

How can I get technical support?
For Technical Support or advice, either by telephone or email, please contact your local Eurotherm Helpdesk