

Chapter 1 Getting Started

Welcome

Congratulations on your purchase of Raritan Computer's MasterConsole MX⁴.

Introduction

Raritan's keyboard/video/mouse (KVM) switches are engineered to provide reliable, cost-effective, central control of multiple computers. This eliminates the cost and clutter of unnecessary equipment, reclaims space, and improves productivity for a host of applications.

MX⁴ is a matrix KVM switch that allows up to four simultaneous users to select and operate connected computers. Each user will have exclusive control of any selected computer. The MX⁴ can be configured to allow sharing of videos among users.

Each user is provided with an on-screen user interface (OSUI) menu to facilitate operation. A LCD display on the MX⁴ front panel continuously displays the status of the system, and front-panel control buttons enable the administrator to perform maintenance functions and define system operation parameters. The firmware control program can be upgraded via a built-in communication port.

Raritan's unique emulation technology dedicates a keyboard and mouse emulator for each computer to ensure that each computer always "sees" its own keyboard and mouse.

Features

- Offering models to connect 8 or 16 computers and 4 user consoles
- Ability to cascade units to control up to 256 computers
- Locate computers, cascaded units, or user consoles (keyboard, monitor, mouse) up to 325 feet away from the MX⁴ with or up to 650 feet away using Cat5 Reach
- Easy to install tangle proof, double-shielded coaxial cable in lengths of 2, 6.5, 13, 20, and 30 feet
- Built in dedicated keyboard and mouse emulators for flawless operation
- Includes Keep-alive design to ensure non-stop computer operation in case of power loss to the switch
- Supports high-resolution video to 1600 x 1280
- Allows a mix PCs, Macs, Suns, Alphas, RS/6000s, HP9000s, and SGIs
- Contains a powerful on-screen user interface for simple operation and system management
- Assigns meaningful names to connected computers and select from pop-up, on-screen menus
- Stores up to 60 user names, each with personalized operating profile and optional password for security

- Contains individual user-controlled functions to AutoSkip inactive channels and to AutoScan computers at variable rates
- Engineered with multilevel security to ensure authorized access to each computer by each user
- Expand capabilities by cascading MX⁴ units using 1, 2, 3, or 4 ports, with unused ports available for local user consoles
- Offers PublicView video sharing features with several options for users to share video with follow along and camp-on actions
- OSUI supports French and German keyboard layouts
- Has a front panel LCD display status of user ports
- Available on-site firmware upgrades via built-in RJ11 administration port
- Is compatible with MasterConsole C Model, S Model, X Model, and P Model
- Add on optional 19" rack mount brackets
- OverView—an optional PC Windows feature—facilitates on-line, real-time monitoring, tracking, system administration, as well as reporting from an industry standard PC (see Appendix D: OverView Program)

Quick Installation and Test

Chapter 4 specifies a detailed installation procedure. For a quick installation and test of MX⁴, perform the following:

1. Unwrap the MX⁴ unit from the packing box.
2. Plug the power cord into the MX⁴, and turn the power switch to ON.
3. Observe the LCD display on the front panel as the MX⁴ goes through a power-on self-test. When the LCD displays a circulating “**Raritan MX48: Base MX48**” message, the unit is ready.
4. Unwrap a user console cable—CCPnnF. Plug the DB25 connector to a user port on the back panel of the MX⁴ unit.
5. Plug a user console-keyboard, monitor, and mouse-into the connectors at the other end of the user cable.
6. **Login Menu** will now be displayed on the monitor. The keyboard’s **<Scroll Lock>** LED will be blinking.
7. Enter *usera* as user name, and press **<Enter>**. A **Selection Menu** will be displayed on the monitor.
8. Unwrap a universal cable—CCPnnU. Plug the DB25 connector into a channel on the back panel of the MX⁴ unit.
9. Plug the other end of the cable to a PC’s keyboard/mouse/VGA ports.
10. Power on the PC.
11. The PC channel on the **Selection Menu** will turn green.

12. Use the keyboard <↑> and <↓> keys to select the green line, and press <Enter>.
13. You will now be able to operate the PC connected to MX⁴.

Congratulations! This quick test is complete.

- ☞ ¹To go back to the MX⁴ selection menu, press the <Scroll Lock> key twice rapidly. This activates the on-screen user interface. The <Scroll Lock> LED on the user console keyboard blinks, indicating the on-screen user interface has been activated.

MX⁴ On-Screen User Interface

The MX⁴ on-screen user interface (OSUI) consists of a simple hierarchy of menus and screens. Each menu (except Login Menu) contains the following sections (Figure 1):

- Title Line
- Menu/Screen Body (for text and fields)
- Help Messages
- Status Line (displays Skip/Scan status, OSUI activator, and P-View indicator if appropriate)

Function keys F1, F2, F4, and F5 switch between different first-level menus.

- ☞ Pressing <F1> while the on-screen user interface is active invokes the Help Screen, which details all options available to the user.
- ☞ Whenever the on-screen user interface is activated on a user console, that console keyboard's <Scroll Lock> LED indicator blinks.

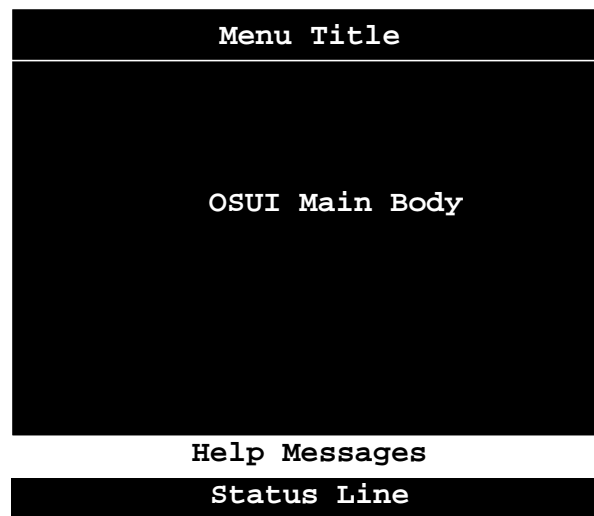


Figure 1 OSUI Menu Structure

¹ The symbol ☞ provides hints and tips.