



SCON *Master Console Concentrators*

Expanding the Enterprise

Many companies are grappling with console management challenges in the New Mainframe Environment. Business and economic drivers demand the mainframe data center be responsive to this new environment in many ways. Data center consolidations, mergers and acquisitions, and outsourcing are forces fueling the trend towards increased consolidation of mainframe complexes and data centers.

As an answer to these growing issues, Visara International offers the SCON product family. The Visara SCON solutions were created to provide the data center long-term reliable connectivity options, prudent asset management of existing equipment, seamless integration, effortless routing of traffic, reduced floor space requirements and secure remote access to meet a wide variety of host environments.

Migration from Old to New

With the discontinuation of IBM's 3174 controller product family, companies are naturally hesitant before adopting a new standard solution. Visara International's SCON product family is a console consolidation and networking solution platform that meets the full range of New Mainframe console management requirements. While maintaining complete plug compatibility with the IBM 3174, the SCON family offers the connectivity and ease of configuration of the IBM 2074 and other PC-based software solutions.

Visara International's SCON solution for mainframe master console consolidation and networking is the industry's most complete, most versatile, and most migration-friendly console solution available to companies looking to address the console issues of the New Mainframe Environment. SCON goes beyond the capabilities of the three IBM console solutions, SMCS, the 2074 controller, and the IBM ICC OSA to provide a complete console implementation that delivers the benefits of console consolidation, coax device support and networking with total migration flexibility. In addition, of the third party offerings on the market, only Visara's SCON solution is based on a platform with mainframe class reliability and security and comes with a mainframe-class support program.

Scalable Solutions

The SCON Product Family has been developed to meet a wide variety of host environments, providing scalable solutions and price points. The two models

in the product family are the SCON-22L, supporting from 4 to 16 LPARs and the SCON-25L, supporting 16 or 32 LPARs.

One SCON can physically replace up to 32 of the 3174/3274 products. A pair of SCONs can provide full console redundancy for up to 32 LPARs. By configuring for extra LPARs, you can bring test LPARs online without bringing down the consoles for production LPARs. Imagine the ease of implementing a new LPAR, when you can configure your existing SCON to support the consoles rather than having to obtain additional console controllers. Dynamically connecting and disconnecting to a console without it rolling over to the Alternate console is a Hot Sessions feature of LINC8 8.2 in the SCON product suite. Also, with the flexibility of local and remote access, you can roam within the campus, or simply shut off your console and then reconnect it when you get home without operator intervention to vary the session back online. The multiple layers of security in the SCON family products confidently allow remote console operation.

The SCON suite comes standard with 10/100 MB Ethernet, telnet, TN3270E and TN3270 support as well as legacy coax device support on some models. Telnet and TN3270E provide dynamic LAN and remote console sessions. With a simple telnet client, you have up to 10 host sessions, screen prints to coax or LAN printers and complete management of the SCON platform—all the capabilities of a standard coax-attached display. Additionally, the 10 sessions can be configured for any of the LPARs and can function as a NIP console or a TSO session. LAN-attached printers, LPD or direct TCP sockets, are supported so that screen prints and 3270 host prints can go directly to any location. These rack mountable non-SNA SCON console concentrators are direct replacements for 3174 console controllers, work with EMIF and ESCON directors and support the StorageTek LMU and IBM 3290.

TN3270 Console Buffering enhances the TN3270 console operation by reducing LAN traffic, eliminates ESCON read timeout problems due to slow networks or client response time, and eliminates the need for the client to perform the NonSNA Command Chaining so that any TN3270 client can now do console operations. TN3270 Session Sharing allows up to 24 TN3270 clients to share a single Master Console Session.

Powerful Features

Each CUT display (including telnet) is capable of having up to 10 active sessions at one time on any of the configured LPARs. Hot keys move the users between sessions and a status line indicator alerts the user to activity in other sessions. Visara Thin Client products may be obtained to provide quad screen presentation of sessions across multiple LPARs and even multiple SCON platforms. Various levels of security are provided for LAN connections including connection password, IP address filtering, configurable TCP port assignments, and unique exchange between SCON and Visara thin clients to exclude all other LAN workstations if desired. If access across the Internet is needed, a VPN connection is recommended. Console commands can be awkward and repetitive. Record/Playback key sequences can be programmed into the SCON product to provide relief in this area. Each CUT mode display can have its own set of 24 recorded key sequences, plus a Global set that all users can share.

Using the unique Hot Session capability of the SCON, it is possible to configure a console session to remain active with the host and make it available for occasional use by programmers and remote administrators. Access is accomplished by connecting to the hot session from the network or from coax, without the need to vary the console active.

Powerful Multi-Function Platform

New technology is only of value if it solves a problem or improves a process. Visara International has created such technology and implemented it into the SCON product family. CPU technology over the past several years has evolved into a world of multiple CPUs with multiple partitions on each CPU. The need for dedicated consoles to manage each partition has not gone away, however. With the phenomenal increase in the number of partitions in use, finding and implementing the traditional console controllers for each LPAR is just not practical. Using a SCON platform, multiple CPU partitions can now communicate with both traditional coax displays as well as network-based workstations over one or two ESCON interfaces. Complete 3x74 controller 'farms' can be replaced with just a pair of SCON platforms, providing complete redundancy for up to 32 LPARs. And, the SCON products are not stingy on the number of sessions they can support. Up to 256 sessions per ESCON interface provide adequate console support, whatever your needs may be. With the SCON product in place, there is no need to sacrifice reliability for the new technology. Based on traditional computer room quality platforms, the SCON performs its service, day in and day out. An online, user-friendly configuration process allows for remote or local management of all of your SCON platforms and is compatible with the Visara eManager product.

The Enterprise Solution

The features and capabilities of the Visara SCON family provide a powerful and cost-effective solution for Master Console management. The SCON products have been designed for long-term use. Many of the earlier members of the family from which the SCON products developed have been in service for more than a decade. With the numerous features and integration capabilities inherent in this family of products, the SCON products can be deployed effectively as operations and requirements migrate to new environments and protocols. When reliable connectivity options are critical to company operations, you will not find a better enterprise solution. Bring the SCON product family into your environment by replacing the alternate console controllers with a SCON product and you will quickly discover the almost effortless management, the flexibility, and the ease of configuration in Visara International's SCON product family.

Std (Max)	SCON 22L	SCON 25L
Protocol	Non-SNA	Non-SNA
ESCON Channel Adapters	1	1 (2)
LPARs	4 (16)	16 (32)
Maximum Sessions Supported	256	256 (512)
Telnet	32	32 (256)
TN3270	32 (256)	32 (512)
Ethernet	10/100 Mbps	10/100 Mbps
Coax Devices	16 (32)	32 (128)
Total Cut Devices (Coax and Telnet)	64	64 (128)
Network Terminal and Printer Support	Yes	Yes
eManager Support (remote management)	Yes	Yes
Table Top/Rack Mount	Yes	Yes