June 26, 2012

To: GE Intelligent Platforms customers  
Reference: Antivirus support on GE IP controllers

Thank you for your inquiry on the support of antivirus software that could be used on the GE Intelligent Platform controllers and Ethernet modules. The VersaMax, Series 90-30 and Series 90-70 controllers and Ethernet modules operate on either a proprietary operating system or a customized real-time embedded operating system and are not capable of running commercial antivirus or other anti-malware software.

GE Intelligent Platforms recommends that customers take a defense-in-depth approach to security. Customers should carefully consider the following security best practices for deployed control systems:

- Deploy and configure firewalls to limit the exposure of control system networks to other networks such as internal business networks and the Internet. If a control system requires external connectivity, care must be taken to control, limit and monitor all access. Examples of techniques to consider include the use of virtual private networks (VPN) and DMZ architectures.

- Harden system configurations by disabling unnecessary ports, services, and network file shares on control system assets.

- Apply all of the latest Microsoft Windows security patches to control systems PCs.

- Apply the latest GE Intelligent Platforms Software Improvement Modules (SIMs), firmware, and other product updates to ensure your GE Intelligent Platforms software is up-to-date.

Regards,

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