

D2X product family cyber security FAQs

The purpose of this document is to answer commonly asked questions pertaining to the features supported by the D20M, D20M+, D20M++, and D20ME series of substation automation products. Users of GE Digital Energy D2X equipment (including D20*, D200*, D25*, and iBOX*) may require this information for the purposes of assessment and implementation of NERC-CIP processes.

1. Is the D2X series of substation gateways NERC CIP compliant?

No technology or device can be NERC CIP “compliant” as this is an organizational standard and no certifying authority exists that would allow GE to put devices through conformance testing to allow GE Digital Energy (or any other device manufacturer) to make such statements.

Devices can be designed with NERC CIP requirements in mind in terms of security features. These devices may offer features and options to better facilitate an organization’s compliance program, but this is the extent of what can be done from a technology perspective. GE can only provide answers to specific security questions that have to do with operational features which we outline in our product manuals and other officially published materials.

2. Is the D20 NERC CIP compliant?

In terms of NERC CIP compliance, please see the answer to Question 1 above. The D2X series of substation automation controllers are not designed with NERC CIP or any modern cyber security requirements in mind. As with most IEDs, it must be protected by an adequate electronic security perimeter (ESP) and security processes in order to meet the requirements of any security program.

3. What anti-malware features exist in the D2x?

GE Digital Energy D2X series substation controllers and IEDs are embedded computers that run on a proprietary, real-time operating system that is not common to any desktop or server class platform (for example, Microsoft® Windows®, Unix®, Linux®, etc.). It is designed to not load software or execute arbitrary third party programs during runtime operation. It is not required and technically not feasible to provide any type of anti-malware or anti-virus software for it.

4. Does the D20 support individual users, roles, and groups?

The D20 does support user-attributable accounts. D20 does not support roles or groups. For additional information on access control features, refer to the WESMAINT II Configuration Guide (GE part no. B014-1CG, version 5.20).

5. Does the D20 support NERC CIP requirements for password complexity?

The D20 M+, D20M++, D20ME, and D20ME II series of D20 substation data concentrators support password complexity as per NERC-CIP requirements. For additional information on passwords, refer to the WESMAINT II Configuration Guide (GE part no. B014-1CG, version 5.20).



6. Does the D20 log dial-up accesses?

The D20 logs successful dial-up and Ethernet access connections. The D2X series of products do not support download of access logs or alarming of access attempts.

7. Do D2X products support a dial back feature?

Yes, dial back is available through the WESMAINT interface in the D2X series as a standard feature. For additional information on the dial back feature, refer to the WESMAINT II Configuration Guide (GE part no. B014-1CG, version 5.20).

8. Does the D20 product line roadmap include development of security features or vulnerability fixes as the need arises?

GE will offer new cyber security and substation automation features in the 6th generation series of D20 substation gateways (called the D20MX*) and scheduled for commercial release in Q1 of 2011. There are no plans to develop additional cyber security features in previous generation D20 products due to limitations in the hardware and software platforms. Please contact your local sales representative for additional information on next generation D20 products.

Product Support

If you need help with any aspect of your GE Energy product, you have a few options.

Search Technical Support

The GE Energy Web site provides fast access to technical information, such as manuals, release notes and knowledge base topics. Visit us on the Web at:

www.ge.com/energy

Contact Customer Service

The GE Energy Customer Service Center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for you to talk directly to a GE representative.

In the U.S. and Canada, call toll-free: 1.800.361.3652

International customers, please call: + 1 403.214.4600

Or e-mail to ge4service@ge.com

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