



Belkin Secure KVM: Frequently Asked Questions (June 2011)

1. NIAP & NSA-Related Information

Is the “Belkin Secure KVM” NSA-certified?

All of Belkin’s Secure KVMs undergo a formal evaluation process with the National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) to validate that the products meet the security requirements defined by the Common Criteria Protection Profiles. NIAP is operated by the NSA.

To what EAL levels are Belkin’s Secure KVM products validated?

For products validated before October 2009 (models F1DN102U, F1DN104U, F1DN108U, F1DN102D, F1DN104D), Belkin’s Secure KVMs are validated to EAL 4+, with Peripheral Sharing Switch Protection Profile v1.2. For products validated after October 2009 (models F1DN102B, F1DN102C, F1DN104B, F1DN104C, F1DN104E, F1DN104F), Belkin’s Secure KVMs are validated to EAL 2+, with Peripheral Sharing Switch Protection Profile v2.1.

Why EAL 2 and not EAL 4?

In October 2009, NIAP announced a new strategy for the Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme (CCEVS). Within this strategy, all peripheral switches (like KVMs) were designated as verifiable to EAL 2, with an updated Peripheral Sharing Switch Protection Profile v2.1. Although the EAL level scheme changed from level 4 to level 2, the Protection Profile was upgraded to v2.1. This is important because the Protection Profile defines requirements to meet higher security standards. Version 2.1 is the highest Protection Profile available at time of print.

From the NIAP U.S. Government Approved Protection Profiles website
<http://www.niap-ccevs.org/pp/>:

Peripheral Switch	Validated Protection Profile - Peripheral Sharing Switch for Human Interface Devices Protection Profile, Version 2.1	EAL2 Augmented	3.1	pp_psshid_v2.1	NSA	2010-09-07
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From the NIAP Products and Protection Profiles in Evaluation website
http://www.niap-ccevs.org/in_evaluation/:

Belkin Secure KVM Switch (Models F1DN102B, F1DN104B, F1DN102C, F1DN104C, F1DN104E, F1DN104F)	10455 Peripheral Switch	2011-04-20	2011-07-31	EAL2 Augmented with ALC_FLR.3 ■ PP_PSSHID_V2.1	Belkin International, Inc. Carlos del Toro 310-751-2717 carlosd@belkin.com
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Is the Belkin EAL 2 product less secure than the existing EAL 4 products?

No. Belkin’s new Secure DVI-I KVMs are validated to a higher Protection Profile v2.1, which has stricter information assurance (IA) requirements. In addition, the new Secure DVI-I KVM incorporates additional security features such as unidirectional optical diodes, display plug-and-play data protection, active anti-tamper sensors, and enhanced usability to reduce user error, all of which are not included in Protection Profile v2.1.

What is NIAP?

(derived from www.niap-ccevs.org)

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Security Agency (NSA) have established a program under the National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) to evaluate IT product conformance to international standards. The program, officially known as the NIAP Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme for IT Security (CCEVS) is a partnership between the public and private sectors. This program is being implemented to help consumers and government agencies select commercial off-the-shelf information technology (IT) products that meet their security requirements and to help manufacturers of those products gain acceptance in the global marketplace.



What are EAL and Common Criteria?

(derived from www.niap-ccevs.org)

The Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation (CC), ISO/IEC 15408 Standard, defines general concepts and principles of IT security evaluation and presents a general model of evaluation. It presents constructs for expressing IT security objectives, for selecting and defining IT security requirements, and for writing high-level specifications for products and systems. It specifies information security functional requirements and predefined assurance packages, known as Evaluated Assurance Levels (EALs), against which products' functions are tested and evaluated. EALs provide both the vendor and user with flexibility to define functional and assurance requirements that are unique to their operating environments and to obtain an evaluated product best suited to those needs.

What is the Protection Profile?

(derived from www.niap-ccevs.org)

A Protection Profile is the specification document used by a consumer, consumer group, vendor, or any consortium to specify what functional requirements they would like to have in commercial information assurance (IA) products, and to document to what assurance level(s) they would like to have the product tested. Protection Profiles serve two purposes:

- Provide customers with the ability to specify security requirements for their given environment (levels of concern/robustness); and
- Serve to identify, for vendors, known markets for products that meet specified customer requirements.

What is CCEVS? What is its purpose?

(derived from www.niap-ccevs.org)

The Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme (CCEVS) is a program under the NIAP to meet the security evaluation needs of both IT/IA product producers and users. Its purpose is to evaluate COTS IA and IA-enabled products (e.g., a firewall or an operating system) in accordance with the International Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation (generally referred to as the "Common Criteria"). It accomplishes this through the use of U.S.-government-accredited Common Criteria testing laboratories.

2. Other Questions

Are Secure KVMs validated to the same levels equally as secure?

No. Although two Secure KVMs are listed as validated to the same Common Criteria level, they may not be equal. Manufacturers of Secure KVMs can add other features that may not be covered by current Protection Profile requirements. Belkin's new Secure KVM is a good example. Refer to your Belkin Sales representative or visit www.belkin.com/kvm/secure for additional details.

Are Belkin's Secure KVMs TAA-compliant and GSA-listed?

Yes. Belkin's Secure KVMs are manufactured in the United States in California and GSA-listed under contract #GS-35F-0085U.

How do I know if the KVM will be compatible with my new equipment?

Belkin prides itself on 15 years of experience designing desktop KVMs. We perform rigorous compatibility testing on equipment used by Secure KVM customers. In the rare event of a compatibility issue, Belkin's dedicated Secure KVM support team can be contacted to provide quick assistance by phone or in person, even to secure locations.

I have new systems next to legacy systems. Do you have a product to support both?

Yes. Belkin has developed specialized cables with built-in electronics that convert DVI-D to VGA, VGA to DVI-D, and USB to PS2. These cables do not require external power supplies, and integrate easily with the Belkin Secure KVMs.