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Vocality Password Protection

1: Overview

This Application Note describes the password protection strategy employed in Vocality software versions 2_01.16 and later.

Access to the supervisor and teletype interfaces had now been password protected to allow users to secure their equipment against tampering. Three levels of protection are offered, giving read-only access, read-write access and superuser access.

2: How it Works

The serial number is used in the password mechanism. By default, the units have no passwords configured, and there is no password required to access the supervisor port. The user can configure two levels of password through the SYSTEM menu. The first is for read-only (RO) access - the second is for read-write (RW) access. Once a RW password has been configured then any future access to the supervisor port (either local or remote) will encounter a request for a password before allowing access. If the RW password is entered, then the supervisor port works as before with full management functionality. If the RO password is entered, then the menu system is presented, but any changes made to the configuration will not be saved - also access to the debug menus and debug mode (and other shortcuts) are prevented. The RO password is only effective once the RW password is entered.

2.1 Password formats

Password entry is in a conventional format, with the entry being asterisked out and password setting requiring re-entry for confirmation. **The password is case-sensitive.** If the user forgets their configured password there is a backdoor mechanism to get them back into their units. This backdoor is a "superuser" password - it is unique for each Vocality, and is an encrypted key based on the serial number. Once entered, the user is given normal read-write privileges to allow him/her to set the RW password to something that they can remember! A superuser password can only be supplied by Vocality International on the following telephone number:

+44 1483 813120

Please be prepared to supply your name, company name and the serial number of the unit.

Summary:

Status	Action	Access rights
No password or default	None	Full access to menus, terminal and debug mode
RO password entered	Prompt for password	Full access to menus but no configs can be changed - no access to terminal and debug modes.
RW or superuser password entered	Prompt for password	Full access to menus, terminal and debug mode

2.2 FLASH Programming

The FLASH loader utility – FLASH.EXE - will not work straight away if a RO or RW password has been configured. The FLASH loader has been updated to request the user for a password. If no

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password has been configured, or we are programming an older revision of software that does not support passwords, then leaving the password field blank will allow programming to work as before. The utility presents separate fields for local and remote passwords to fully support remote unit downloading.

2.3 Useful Notes

Some extra notes about the password scheme:

- Users are encouraged to log off from their management consoles on locally attached terminals to make it effective - there is no auto-logout.
- Once a password has been entered it is effective until that session is completed with a CTRL-E command - i.e. a CTRL-E to escape to the top-level menu will require the user to re-enter the password (if configured) to continue.
- In read-only access mode, the lines which divide the menu screens are composed of the tilde "~" character. (In default or read-write mode they use the hyphen "-").