

New web browser based sensor appliance

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MAMAC Systems Inc., a Minnesota manufacturer of sensors, transducers and control peripherals for HVAC automation and environmental controls, has introduced a compact, simple and inexpensive sensor appliance that puts remote building sensing, alarming and control within reach of every building owner. The tool is the Maverick IP Sensor Appliance.

'Our goal,' says S. Asim Gul, founder, president and ceo of MAMAC Systems, 'was to put the benefits of remote building sensing and control within the reach of everyone. Until now, building control systems have been complex, expensive and difficult to understand and use. The Maverick product is aimed at owners of small and medium sized buildings that desire to remotely monitor and control building climate conditions, but cannot justify the expenditure for a complex automation system, or the staffing to learn to use and maintain such systems.'

Access from any web browser

Monitoring and control can be done from any device utilising a web browser. The Maverick displays familiar and easy to navigate web pages. Because of the Maverick's unique ability to send email alerts to any computer, PDA or mobile phone, it can also be used to send instant alarms to owners upon deviations from preset building conditions. The Maverick appliance incorporates a web server, analogue/digital inputs, and relay outputs and can be powered with any 24 VAC transformer. The device is notable for its compact size – it is about the size of a programmable thermostat.

The Maverick can log the data of each input in a standard CSV file, which can be reviewed with Word, Excel or comparable software. The CSV file can be attached to the email alerts to show log history. The appliance can also display the logged data as an adjustable graph.

Plug and play

The unit is simply plugged into a hub or router and it is ready to relay information or accept control signals. Gul emphasises that a site connection through a computer is not required. 'The Maverick has its own on-board server and is ready to connect directly to the Internet. Access is through the default IP address provided. No custom software is required.'

Users can set up and utilise the Maverick appliance without special training or support in less than five minutes. It is designed as a low-cost solution for light commercial, residential and remote monitoring applications. The Maverick is available in two configurations: one with four sensor inputs and four relay

outputs, and one with eight sensor inputs. The relay outputs can be used for applications including fan or pump operation, starting standby heating or cooling equipment, or any other operation that can be initiated with a relay.

Fills gap not served by automation systems

Gul indicates that the goal is to fill the gap between complex building control systems and basic thermostats, with special attention to offering remote alarming and control capabilities. One key to this product is its affordability. 'It is finally possible for building owners to have a monitoring and control system with a couple of sensors plus the Maverick appliance for around \$500. This puts it within reach for many owners today. That has been our goal,' Gul states.

'The applications for the appliance are numerous and include hospitals, server rooms, temperature controlled warehouses, refrigerated coolers and many other building types.'

The Maverick IP Sensor Appliance is entirely manufactured at MAMAC's facility in Chanhassen, Minnesota. It does not require additional software and no licensing or royalty payments are required for users. Gul notes: 'Just plug it in and open any web browser.'

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