

Letting off some steam

A steam trap survey can help locate steam leaks and reduce costs.

Ultrasonics. Duke University Medical Center selected a consultant from Enercheck Systems to conduct a steam trap survey using the Ultraprobe 2000.

Steam can escape through external or internal leaks in fittings, valves, traps or particular control devices. Blowing or leaking traps may cause a high back pressure in condensate piping. Failed control valves may cause excessive condensate load. When control valves are oversized, they are forced to work in close tolerance to the disc and seat.

Fluids moving from the high-pressure side of a valve to the lower pressure side produce turbulence. This generates ultrasound, which an ultrasonic detector translates into an audible range for the human ear. The ultrasounds are heard through headphones and viewed as intensity increments on the handheld instrument's meter. High frequency tuning allows the user to adjust for differences in fluid viscosity and reduces interference from stray pipe noises.

Every aspect of the steam system throughout each building of the research facility was inspected comprehensively. At each site, the consultant found where the steam line entered the building and traced the system. The consultant checked to see if pressure was controlled correctly and whether relief valves were blowing steam through the roof. In the end, 2,100 steam traps were found.

The ultrasonics-based steam and maintenance program resulted in savings worth \$250,799 the first year it was used. This translates into 37 million pounds of steam saved when compared to the previous year.

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ALAN S. BARNES/ENERCHECK SYSTEMS, INC.

Ultraprobe 2000, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, N.C.



Security software

Funk Software. Odyssey Server v2.0 is a major upgrade to its 802.1 X-compliant RADIUS server. It is a RADIUS server designed to handle WLAN access control and security. RADIUS servers now can be used to manage all wired and wireless LAN access to enforce a unified security policy. User-based access policies can be set, accounting records can be logged or forwarded to a central accounting server, users who connect via EAP-TTLS can be monitored, and users connecting via PEAP can be authenticated.

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Photo ID system

Fargo Electronics. The CardJet 410 Photo ID System is a complete, integrated system for producing full-color, professional ID cards. The system includes Build-A-Badge software, an entry-level software package that allows users to create and store customized badge designs, data and photographs. It also includes a digital camera, the CardJet 410 printer and other supplies such as USB cable, ink cartridges, and CardJet Ink and Card cartridges, which feature SmartLoad technology.

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Switch technology

Nascom. Magnasphere switch technology was designed as a security device to eliminate the flaws of the reed switch. At the heart of the switch is a tiny magnetic ball that floats freely inside a small metal housing with two protruding wires. The switch remains closed only when a magnet is directly under it, so it can pull the magnetic ball into contact with the case and electrode, closing the switch. This design eliminates the possibility of magnetic tampering. The switch is virtually indestructible, and not damaged by the swelling and shifting of doors and windows.

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