

DICKSON **insights**

Summer 2014 • CD278



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Have It Your Way

Introducing the Reporting Suite.

MATT MC NAMARA • DICKSONONE PRODUCT MANAGER

Hello! If you follow our blog, have given us a call, or visited our website, you've probably seen and heard quite a bit about DicksonOne, our cloud-based temperature and humidity monitoring platform. If you're a DicksonOne user you've regularly received emails from me regarding updates and new features.

Sometimes the fixes are minor; like bug fixes or changes to the logic we use for triggering an alarm. Other times we release large items; like the ability to acknowledge and annotate an alarm that occurred, our iPhone app, or our recently released Reporting Suite!

Many of our readers may have heard us say, "Dickson means data." We believe that ultimately our customers are interested in collecting and using their data (for reports, audits, etc.) the way they want to.

Our new Reporting Suite is a useful tool that speaks directly to this mantra. It allows DicksonOne users to create customized reports with the following options:

- Select individual loggers, multiple loggers, an entire location, or even multiple locations to report on
- Decide how often you'll receive the reports
- Determine who receives the report
- Configure how the report is delivered: automatically via email or PDF download

We believe the Reporting Suite is better for you. As a bonus, the Reporting Suite is included at no additional cost to DicksonOne users.

The Reporting Suite is a direct result of customer feedback. We're always seeking input from users about what features they need to make the system that much more valuable. If you have any questions, comments, or suggestions, feel free to email me at: matt@dicksonone.com.



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An Introduction:

The Vaccines For Children Program



The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program is a federally funded program, overseen by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC), created to provide children with affordable vaccines. The CDC buys and distributes vaccines to state and local health agencies, who give them to VFC registered local physicians' offices and clinics, who in turn distribute those vaccines to qualifying children.

If that all seems like a good thing to you, you're not alone. However, the VFC program is not without its share of challenges. Since its inception, the VFC program has struggled to keep vaccines stored at proper temperatures, so much so, that the Inspector General performed an investigation of the program, and in its report, stated, "VFC vaccines stored by 76 percent of the 45 selected providers were exposed to inappropriate temperatures for at least 5 cumulative hours during that period [2 weeks]."

If that seems like a bad thing, you're correct. Extreme temperatures negatively influence a vaccine's potency. Vaccines that aren't as potent don't protect those who are vaccinated (it seems contradictory, but trust us and science on this).

"How hard is this?" you may ask. "How hard is it to keep vaccines cold?" Actually, kind of tough.

Just sticking vaccines in a fridge isn't enough. Why? First, you have to prove that the fridge is cold enough. Do you know the temperature of your fridge at home? What's cold enough? How do you prove your fridge was cold? What about transportation? More on that later.

This is an introduction to Dickson's series of blog posts on the VFC program in the United States. We've written 5 blog posts on all things VFC, from acceptable fridges, to thermometer calibrations, to the backup vaccine coordinator requirements. Whether you're a VFC provider, pediatrician, a nurse who works in a large hospital, or just someone generally interested in vaccine safety, you will find useful information in these posts, along with our own analysis of the practices pertaining to the VFC program.

We invite you to visit our blog, **Blog.DicksonData.com** to read more about this disputed and ever changing subject.

DICKSON VACCINE MONITORING PRODUCTS



DicksonOne Wireless, real-time monitoring. Automatically calculates mean kinetic temperature.



Touchscreens All your data at the touch of a finger. Glycol-encased Replaceable Sensor. Perfect for VFC monitoring.

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Page 8

Data Resolution Explained

Chart Recorder Spotlight

When talking about temperature recording devices, data resolution is a concept that is, with the demise of chart recorders, slowly dying out. It's important to consider that adverb, "slowly." While yes, data loggers are the future, and more and more the present of environmental monitoring, chart recorders still have their place, and will continue to have their place as long as those monitoring love the immediate physical readout of their data. Thus, we'd love to take this topic head-on.

To fully answer the question posed in the title of this article, we need to start with a few more questions: What is the difference between a small chart recorder, and a large chart recorder? When shopping for a chart recorder, why in the world would you pay 2X as much for an 8 inch chart recorder as you would for a small 3 inch chart recorder? There are many reasons (alarms, relays, multiple variables), and one of those reasons is data resolution. Data resolution is the amount of data you can physically view, and the precision of that data on your chart recorder. When you use an 8 inch chart recorder, you can see more of your data than a 3 inch chart recorder. How? See **FIGURE 1**.

On the left, we have the temperature readings of an 8 inch chart recorder. This chart recorder measured and recorded the temperatures inside a warehouse over the course of 7 days. The 3 inch chart recorder, while in a different warehouse, also recorded temperatures over the course of the week.

Which chart is easier to read?

Obviously, the 8 inch chart. Now what does that mean? It means you can be more accurate. It sounds silly, but the 3 inch chart (even when you are looking over it with a magnifying glass) can only really show temperature trends, not specific data points. You can try all you want, but if I asked you to tell me what temperature the 3 inch chart recorder was at

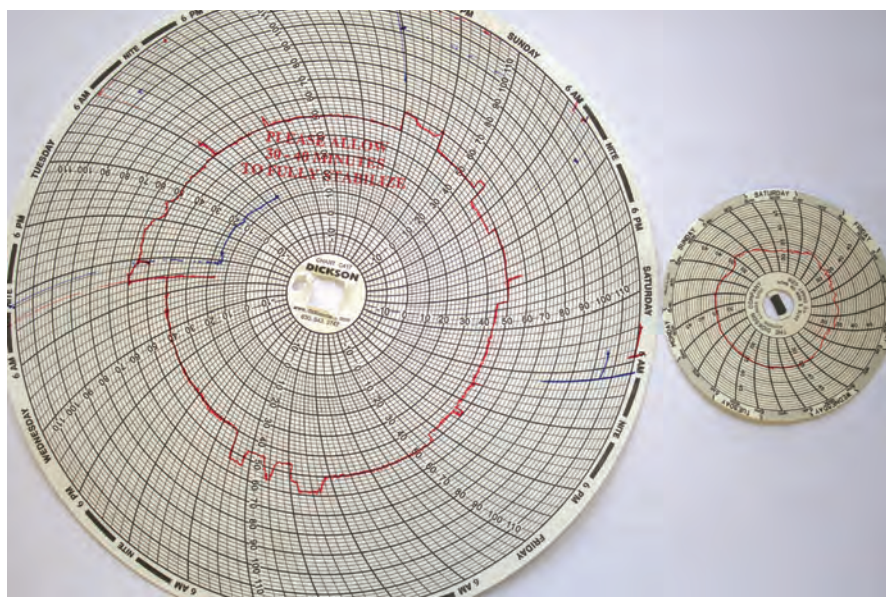


FIGURE 1. An 8 inch chart at left and a 3 inch chart at right. Which one is easier to read?

from 12:30AM-1:00AM on Saturday, you could only say somewhere between 33-34F. For some companies and applications, that is just fine. For others, specifically those audited by agencies concerned about the temperature of the materials or goods they are storing or producing, that isn't enough.

What the 8 inch chart gives you is a greater ability to see real data points, or at the minimum, to see more detailed trends of your data. Also, as you see in the photo above, the 8 inch chart, because it is bigger, gives you the ability to monitor over a wider temperature range. That 3 inch chart is only monitoring temperatures from 25-50F. The 8 inch chart shows data from 5-115F.

Data Loggers

In bringing up data loggers, it's easy to make everything I wrote above obsolete. While 8 inch chart recorders are better than 3 inch chart recorders for viewing and analyzing your tem-

perature data, they are no substitute for data loggers. Data loggers graph your data, sure. But they also provide you with actual data points, taken at specific sample intervals that you control, which is shown (usually) in some kind of tabular format.



Want more information on data resolution? Check out our **YouTube Channel**.

www.youtube.com/dicksondata

The Science of Calibration

More Frequently Asked Questions

A few months ago, we answered four of our customers most frequently asked questions about temperature calibrations. We realized that only answering the four most common questions we've received doesn't stop the confusion that comes with calibration and its many nuances. So, here are four more FAQ's (and their answers, of course) taken directly from our interactions with our customers.

1. What is a 1-point calibration?

We get this question, in conjunction with the next question, a lot. Many calibration labs, Dickson's included, offer 1-point calibrations. A 1-point calibration works like this: You send your temperature sensor into a lab for calibration. They check the device's accuracy by comparing it with a standard (a temperature sensor that has been certified by NIST) in a controlled environment. Then, after checking the device's accuracy at a specific point (usually chosen by you, or at a predetermined temperature point by the calibrating lab) they adjust the device's temperature readings to the correct temperature.

If you're a little lost, this might help to clear things up. Calibration and Adjustment are two separate terms, often used interchangeably to a fault by calibration labs. "Point" is a loose term used to define a specific temperature reading. For example, 32.7F is a point, and -5C is a point.

An example: A calibration lab determines that a device is reading 24F as 26F after comparing it to a standard. So, the calibration lab adjusts the device two degrees, so that it now reads 24F. However, unless the calibration lab does a span adjustment, that device is adjusted down two degrees at 112F as well. This is also called a zero adjustment: it adjusts the readings of your temperature sensor by the same number of degrees across the entire scale.



2. What is a 3-point calibration?

A 3-point calibration is a 1-point calibration three times. These are sometimes called span adjustments, and they are more tedious, yet make a device more accurate across a wider range of temperatures than a 1-point calibration. Instead of adjusting at only say, 2F at 72F, the calibration lab will adjust your temperature readings at for example: 12F, 72F, and 112F by however much their calibration team determines the device is out of range at those temperatures.

3. Which type of calibration should I get?

Depends on what you are monitoring. If you are monitoring a wide range of temperatures, you will want the 3-point adjustment. Applications that usually monitor over a wide-range of temperatures include: food manufacturing, transportation, materials manufacturing, medical device manufacturing, and some warehouses. However, if you know that your environment will only vary a couple of degrees, a 1-point calibration may be all you need.

4. When does my calibration expire?

It depends. I know that is an imprecise answer, but it really does. What does it depend on? Your environment. After reading this, get up and go look at your data logger or chart recorder, and the environment around it. If your unit is in a "harsher" environment, you need to recalibrate more often. Dust, dirt, moisture, and air particles all contribute to a device needing to be recalibrated more often. Also if you drop, kick, bump, or damage your device, it will need to be recalibrated more often. At Dickson, we say ALL devices should be recalibrated within 1 year of their last calibration. If you are in a harsher environment, you may want to calibrate more frequently than that.

**GOT QUESTIONS?
ASK AN EXPERT!**

630.543.3747

Dickson Replaceable Sensors

Recalibration Made Easy

THE OLD WAY

1.

Call or order a recalibration online.
2.

Acquire a Return Authorization Code from a Dickson Representative.
3.

Take unit and probe out of their environment.
4.

Shut down production/storage area if necessary.
5.

Install backup system.
6.

Box unit up.
7.

Ship it to Dickson.
8.

Dickson recalibrates the unit and ships it back.
9.

Receive the unit.
10.

Reinstall system.

Total Down Time: 7-10 Days

THE NEW WAY

1.

Call or order a Replaceable Sensor online.
2.

Receive Replaceable Sensor.
3.

Take old sensor off, put new sensor on.

Total Down Time: 0 Days



MODEL	PROBE TYPE	TEMPERATURE RANGES	ACCURACY	PRICE
TEMPERATURE/HUMIDITY				
R200	Digital Sensor	-40° to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	\$69
R250	Digital Straight Sensor	-40° to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	\$69
TEMPERATURE				
R300	Digital Sensor	-22° to 122°F (-30° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	\$49
R350	Digital Straight Sensor	-22° to 122°F (-30° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, 20 to 120°F (±0.44°C, -6.67 to 48.89°C)	\$49
R400	K-Thermocouple	300° to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, -22 to 122°F (±1°C, -30 to -50°C)	\$49
R500	Thermistor in Glycol Bottle	-58° to 158°F (-50° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, -58 to 68°F (±0.5°C, -50 to 20°C)	\$69
R525	Stainless Steel Thermistor	-40° to 300°F (-40° to 149°C)	±0.8°F, -20 to 176°F (±0.44°C, -28 to 80°C)	\$69
R600	Platinum RTD	-148° to 350°F (-100° to 176°C)	±0.5°F, -148 to 350°F (±0.3°C, -100 to 176°C)	\$199
R700	Dual K-Thermocouple	300° to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, -22 to 122°F (±1°C, -30 to -50°C)	\$99
R800	Dual Thermistor in Glycol Bottles	-58° to 158°F (-50° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, -58 to 68°F (±0.5°C, -50 to 20°C)	\$69

Environmental Monitoring For Every Application

1. Report Logger

We decided to make the best compact data logger on the market, our **RL200**. With a new outer case, user selectable logging times, and redesigned PC interface, it's exactly what you need.



2. Touchscreen Handheld Indicator

TC700/TH700 Instant temperature or temperature/humidity data. No-slip silicone cover. Battery powered.

299 \$

3. Waterproof High Temperature Data Logger

HT300 Waterproof, High Temperature Data Logger. HACCP and FDA Compliant. USB Download. IP68 Rating. Temperature Range -40° to 257°F (-40° to 125°C).

349 \$



TOUCHSCREEN DATA LOGGERS

Full Control At Your Fingertips.

No running back to your PC to view your data. Jumbo 4.9" x 6.4" touchscreens. Zoom and scroll with the touch of a finger. Audible/visual alarms. USB and FLASH card data download. Rechargeable Backup Battery. Optional Display Lock. Replaceable Sensor Compatible.



MODEL	REMOTE PROBE	PROBE TYPE	TEMPERATURE RANGES	ACCURACY	RELAYS	PRICE
TEMPERATURE/HUMIDITY						
FH625	Optional	Temp/RH PCS*	-40°F to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C	▪	\$489
FH635	Optional	Temp/RH PCS*	-40°F to 185°F (-40° to 85°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C		\$529
TEMPERATURE						
FT600	Optional	Temp PCS*	0 to 122°F (-17° to 50°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C	▪	\$399
FT620	1	KT/C	-300°F to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, ±1°C		\$449
FT630	2	KT/C	-300°F to 2000°F (-184° to 1093°C)	±1.8°F, ±1°C		\$499
FT625	▪	Thermistor	-40°F to 300°F (-40° to 148°C)	±0.8°F, ±0.45°C		\$449
FT640	1	Thermistor/Glycol	-40°F to 158°F (-40° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, ±0.5°C		\$469
FT645	2	Thermistor/Glycol	-40°F to 158°F (-40° to 70°C)	±0.9°F, ±0.5°C		\$489
FT660	▪	RTD	-148°F to 350°F (-100° to 176°C)	±0.5°F, ±0.28°C		\$549

*Pre-Calibrated Sensor

Temperature and Temperature/Humidity Data Logging Solutions

Data loggers are cost effective solutions for monitoring countless applications. With solutions for the food, pharma, manufacturing and dozens of other industries, Dickson's data loggers get you your data how you want it.



1



2



3



4

- 1 **SM300 \$249** Temperature Logger. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C. Accuracy $\pm 0.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.44^\circ\text{C}$.
SM320* \$299 Temperature Logger. Remote Probe. Range with Probe -300 to 2000°F, -184 to 1093°C. Accuracy $\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 1.0^\circ\text{C}$.
SM325* \$399 Temperature Logger. Two Remote Probes. Range with Probe -300 to 2000°F, -184 to 1093°C. Accuracy $\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 1.0^\circ\text{C}$.
SM420 \$499 Temperature Logger. Remote Probe. Range with Probe -50 to 350°F, -45 to 176°C. Accuracy $\pm 0.5^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.28^\circ\text{C}$.
TM320 \$299 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C. Accuracy $\pm 0.8^\circ\text{F}$.
TM325 \$399 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Remote Probe. Range -40 to 185°F, -40 to 85°C. Accuracy $\pm 0.8^\circ\text{F}$.
- 2 **SP125 \$119** Temperature Logger. Accuracy $\pm 1.2^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.67^\circ\text{C}$. Range -10 to 176°F, -23 to 80°C.
SP175 \$229 Temperature Logger with Thermo-couple Probe. Accuracy $\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.1^\circ\text{C}$. Range -300 to 2000°F, -30 to 50°C. A203 Probe required for +500°F.
TP125 \$199 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Accuracy $\pm 0.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.45^\circ\text{C}$. Range -10 to 176°F, -23 to 80°C.
- 3 **SP425 \$159** Temperature Logger. Digital Display. Accuracy $\pm 1.2^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.67^\circ\text{C}$. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.
TP425 \$249 Temperature and Humidity Logger. Digital Display. Accuracy $\pm 0.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 0.45^\circ\text{C}$. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.
- 4 **SK550 \$699** Temperature. Pack of twelve. Accuracy $\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. Range -4 to 158°F, -20 to 70°C.
TK550 \$999 Temperature & Humidity. Pack of twelve. Accuracy $\pm 1.8^\circ\text{F}$, $\pm 1^\circ\text{C}$. Ranges -4 to +158°F, -20 to +70°C.

Software required and sold separately. For software and other accessories, visit Page 15, call **630.543.3747** or go to www.DicksonData.com.

Connect With Us

Dickson Social Media Accounts



@DicksonData



Channel:
DicksonData



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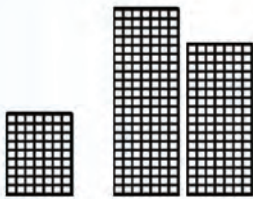
Search
"Dickson Data Loggers"

DicksonOne



Temperature and Humidity Monitoring. Re-imagined.

DicksonOne is a wireless temperature and humidity monitoring system that automatically collects your data and delivers it to wherever you are. No more changing charts, no more downloading data.



MULTI-LOCATION How many points will you be monitoring? 1, 5, 100, 1000? From small cheese factories to multi-location healthcare distributors, DicksonOne is up for the task. Monitoring an additional location is as simple as buying another logger.



ALARMS When temperatures get too hot or cold, your power goes out, or your probe is unplugged, DicksonOne can call, text, or email you to alert you of the mishap. Throw away less products, and ensure the safety of your environment, even when you're not there.



INFINITE STORAGE We don't run out of space, and you never have to worry about hard drives or file folders. We've got you covered.

WHY DID WE MAKE IT?

DicksonOne is the direct result of customer feedback like this:

1. We want to monitor **multiple locations** with one system.
2. We're spending too many **personnel** hours changing charts and pens.
3. We want an **easier way** to share our data.
4. We need **more robust** alarming capabilities.
5. I need to view **my data** from anywhere.

DICKSONONE HARDWARE

DicksonOne Data Loggers are robust and reliable. With battery backup, your choice of Ethernet or Wi-Fi communication, and a digital display, these loggers provide the security and convenience your application needs.



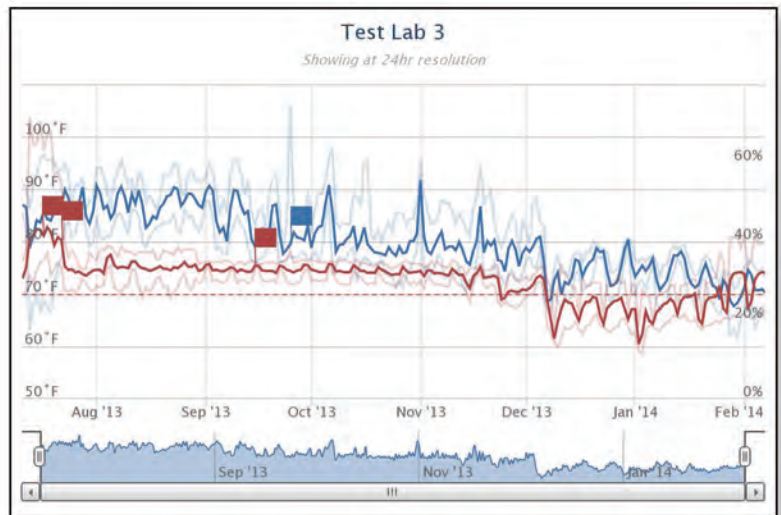
DICKSONONE SOFTWARE

DicksonOne is a SaaS (Software as a Service) platform that automatically stores your data and makes it accessible anywhere.

The software is the real key to DicksonOne. We believe it rises above the competition in usability, security, and scalability. The interface is easy to navigate for everybody, from your IT team to the end-user working with the product you're trying to keep safe. DicksonOne is 21CFR11 compliant, and all data is backed up redundantly, perfect for showing an audit trail. We've had a jump on all other environmental monitoring systems for over a year, and we've kept it that way. We continually improve the system and add new features based on customer feedback. Seriously, someone is working to make it better right now.

The list of features in DicksonOne is endless. Instead of listing them all, we invite you to see for yourself.

Start your free trial at www.DicksonOne.com



DicksonOne Hardware Pricing

MODEL	REMOTE PROBE	PRICE
WFH20/ENH20	Digital Temperature and Humidity Replaceable Sensor	\$499
WFT20/ENT20	Digital Temperature Sensor	\$499
WFT21/ENT21	Thermistor Temperature Sensor with Glycol Bottle	\$479
WFT23/ENT23	K-Thermocouple Temperature Sensor	\$479
WFT25/ENT25	Platinum RTD Temperature Sensor	\$599



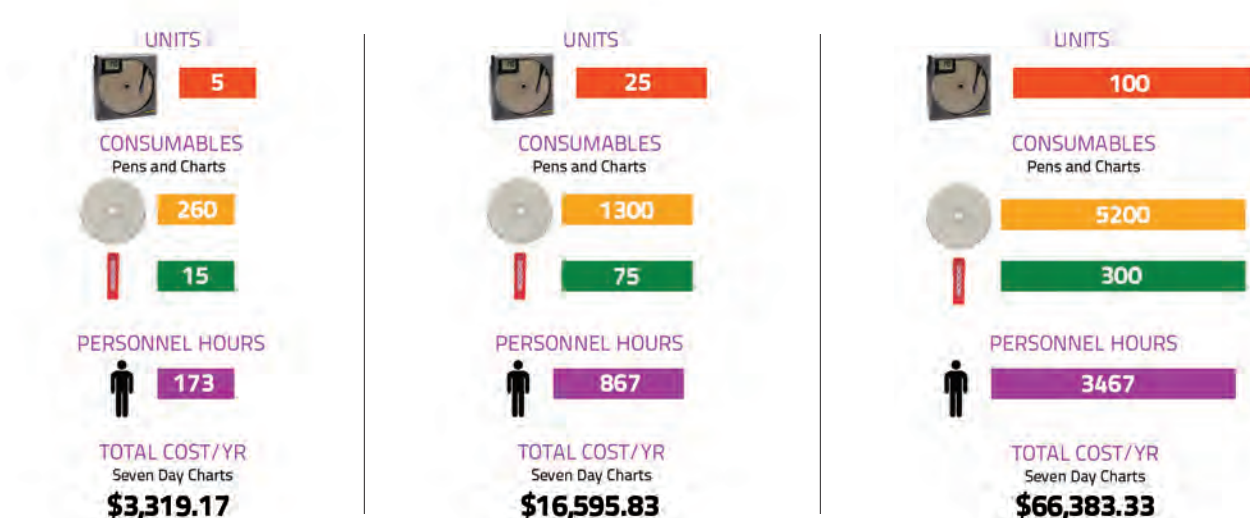
DicksonOne Software Pricing

DEVICES	FEATURES	PRICE
1 to 5	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	\$119/year
6 to 20	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	\$359/year
21 to 50	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	\$1199/year
51 +	Unlimited Data, Multiple Sample Rates, API Access, Email, Phone, and Text Alarms	Call for Quote

* Dickson offers a Basic Plan, with 30 Day Data Deletion, and 1 hour sample rates for unlimited loggers at no cost.

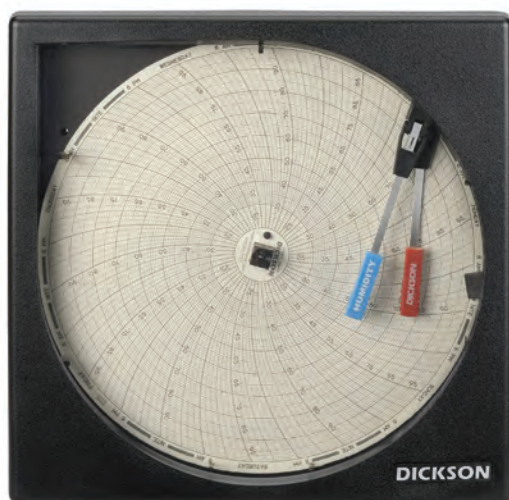


Consider The Cost Of That Old Chart Recorder...



Temperature and Temperature/Humidity Chart Recorders

Want a physical readout right where you are monitoring? Our Chart Recorders have you covered. For ninety years we've built the best chart recorders in the business. Check out our models below.



8 and 6 Inch Models

Eight and Six Inch Chart Recorders display detailed temperature and humidity values.

MODELS AND FEATURES

KT6	6 Inch Temperature	Starting at \$369
KT8	8 Inch Temperature	Starting at \$419
TH6	6 Inch Temperature and Humidity	Starting at \$489
TH8P	6 Inch Temperature and Humidity	Starting at \$489



4 and 3 Inch Models

Four and Three Inch Temperature Chart Recorders designed to fit any application.

MODELS AND FEATURES

SL4350	4 Inch	\$239
SL4100	4 Inch	\$239
SC3 Series	3 Inch	\$239

Charts sold separately. For charts and accessories, visit Page 15, call **630.543.3747** or go to www.DicksonData.com.

PRESSURE DATA LOGGERS



Pressure Data Logger One second sampling rate. User replaceable battery. Optional delayed start. USB connectivity. Pressure sensor includes built-in diaphragm seal.

PR125	\$499	0-100 PSI
PR325	\$499	0-300 PSI
PR525	\$599	0-500 PSI



Rugged Utility Pressure Data Logger Water resistant case. 3 year battery. Unobtrusive design. Fits easily in a toolbox. USB Connection.

PR150	\$499	0-100 PSI
PR350	\$499	0-300 PSI

PRESSURE CHART RECORDERS



4 and 8 Inch Models

Four and Eight Inch Chart Recorders to meet your needs.
Single AA battery powered. Rugged low-maintenance design features. 7-day or 24-hour recording times. 1/4 inch NPT Connector.

MODELS AND FEATURES

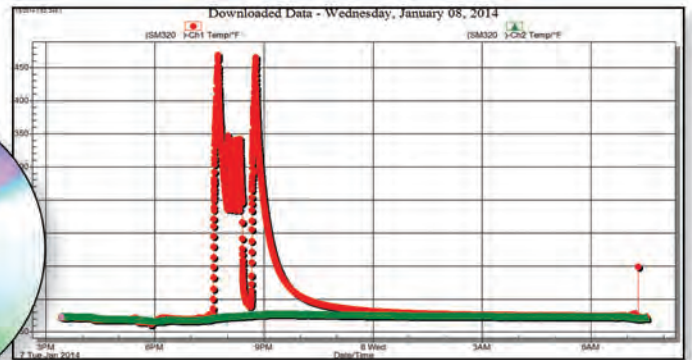
0-100 PSI	PW860/1 \$629	PW470 \$449
0-200 PSI	PW864/5 \$629	PW474 \$449
0-300 PSI	PW866/7 \$629	PW476 \$449
0-500 PSI		PW479 \$629
0-1000 PSI	PW875 \$749	

Charts sold separately. For charts and accessories, visit Page 15, call 630.543.3747 or go to www.DicksonData.com.

DicksonWare

DicksonWare Software was designed with you in mind.
Easy installation. Painless logger setup and data downloads.
Data visualization through populated graphs
and tables.

Learn more at www.DicksonData.com



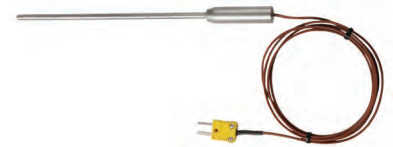
PROBE ACCESSORIES



D617 \$52 10' K-TC Straight Extension Cable



D605 \$79 4" Piercing Probe

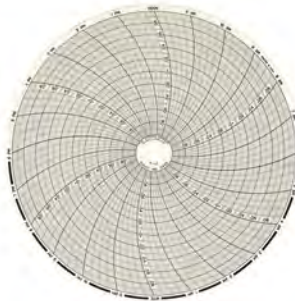


A203 \$125 6" High Temperature Immersion Probe

CHARTS AND PENS

We make reordering charts and pens a cinch.

Only authentic Dickson charts and pens guarantee the accuracy of your temperature, humidity, and pressure data. Fortunately we've made the process of reordering charts and pens fast and easy. Simply go to www.DicksonData.com, click 'Charts and Pens' at the top, choose your device, and easily reorder to the exact specifications you desire. Or give us a call.



Go to DicksonData.com
Or call **630-543-3747**



Five Tools Every Manufacturing Supervisor Needs.

1. Customized Spreadsheets

This may seem like both an oddly specific and much too broad tool for the manufacturing supervisor's world. However, you need some way to generate reports of what you're producing, the materials used, the labor involved, your production schedule, and everything in between: whether you gather and report data through an ERP system, small business software, or just a few excel sheets you've created.

2. Calculator

Yup. You need a calculator. Whether on your iPhone, computer, or your desk, you need one. While many simple processes have been automated, having something handy to do the occasional addition and long division is essential.

3. Pen and Paper

Another "well duh" tool. You probably already have pen and paper at your desk, but do you carry it around the facility with you? We think you should, or at least carry something around to jot down notes, requests, and ideas while you are on the move.

4. GoToMeeting, Google Hangout, Skype, or Video Conferencing Medium

While many in the manufacturing world are preaching "globalization," that isn't really the point of this tool. Video conferencing helps global companies stay in touch across multiple oceans, but it's also useful for the person on a business trip only a few hundred miles away, or for the remote employee spending the day working from his couch. Video conferencing allows for face-to-face conversations and meetings when those things may not be possible. Suppliers overseas have never been so easy to contact, and neither has the salesperson next door.

5. 10 Minutes Every Week

When is the last time you spent 10 minutes to walk around your facility to ask your employees about their work and what could be improved? You may ask, "Who has 10 minutes a week?" Or, "Why would I want to give employees the chance to complain to me?" Don't think like this. You do have 10 minutes a week. Often complaints aren't complaints, but ways to improve processes and increase efficiency. So walk through your facility, there may be some simple solutions to problems your employees have been dealing with for much too long.

Temperature and Humidity Data Loggers for Museum and Archival Storage

At Dickson, we don't make lasers to safeguard rare artifacts against the greatest thieves in the world. Instead, we make data loggers and chart recorders that measure and record temperature, humidity, and water pressure. While not nearly as sexy or cool, it's quite possibly more important.

Works on Paper

While I thought long and hard about inserting a photo from National Treasure, starring Nicolas Cage, for this section, I didn't (the ending of National Treasure 2 forced my hand). In that movie, Nicolas Cage tries, and succeeds in stealing the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence is currently housed in a bullet proof case in Washington D.C., and that case is both temperature controlled and filled with argon gas to guard against decomposition.

Let's consider that last sentence a bit. Over time, paper decomposes. Next time you are in your basement or attic, take a look and see if you can find any old paperback books lying around. The pages are yellow, right? This happens to paper over time, specifically if it is stored in an unstable environment.

While the Declaration of Independence, United States Constitution, Magna Carta, and the Mona Lisa are extreme cases of document preservation, there are countless museums and archives around the world housing documents that they want to preserve for a long time.

The key to achieving this is temperature and humidity control. Those two things, above all else, will help shape a rare document's life in a museum or archive. The Library of Congress offers this advice:

"Good storage significantly prolongs the preservation of paper materials and includes:

A cool (room temperature or below), relatively dry (about 35% relative humidity), clean and stable environment (avoid attics, basements, and other locations with high risk of leaks and environmental extremes)."



And that is where data loggers come in. Data loggers, temperature sensors, and temperature alarms help museums and archives across the world store their documents safely. Here are a few examples:

1. When a traveling art exhibition moves from one museum to the next, the owners of that art want to be sure that it is kept out of environmental extremes. Data loggers help the hosting museums prove to the owners that their works of art were kept at safe temperatures and humidity levels.

2. In case of an emergency, data loggers are your cheapest insurance policy. When a heater or air conditioning unit fails, wireless data loggers can send you text, email, and phone call alerts as soon the environment your documents are stored in is above a certain threshold.

Be on the lookout for more information from us on museum and archival storage in future issues!

Crowd Chatter:

What Do All Great Manufacturing Supervisors Have In Common?

We posed this question to an online community of manufacturing supervisors, trying to start a fun discussion on essential skills, tricks, and processes that the best manufacturing supervisors have. The responses poured in. We had over thirty replies to our original question. Due to the sheer amount of initial interest on this topic, we posted it in other groups and communities in the manufacturing world. After the chatter had died down, we went back, organized and analyzed the responses, and found a few common themes to what the individuals involved in operations, quality assurance, production, and process control, had to say to about our question.

So what makes a great manufacturing supervisor? Here are the responses, ranked in order of the number of times mentioned.

1. People Skills

Associated terms (presence, approachable, mentor, coach, motivate, listen)

We found more people mention things often placed under “people skills” than any other category that we created. “Effective communicator, ability to motivate, genuine listener” were all mentioned. Thus, if you made us pick what the greatest attribute for a manufacturing supervisor was, we’d say the ability to talk to those around you.

2. Integrity

Associated terms (honesty, respect, trust, service)

You can’t have one without having some of two. “Integrity,” and its synonyms, were almost always used in conjunction with the skills nested under “people skills.” From our research, the manufacturing community firmly believes that supervisors and managers should not only exhibit integrity, but instill integrity in their employees by leading by example. I suppose “understanding” could be labeled under here as well. Understanding what is right and what is wrong and serving the people you supervise on a daily basis are all obvious traits we want in a supervisor, but when a supervisor can exhibit such qualities on a day-to-day basis, he/she is a real gem.

3. Open-Mindedness and Recognition

Our last big theme is a combination of two traits: the open mind to accept ideas from your production floor, and the recognition of when an idea is beneficial to your processes. Respondents wrote that supervisors need to prove to their employees (the ones they serve!) each team member has value to the company, that they are not just a cog in the machine. Allow ideas to start from anywhere, and recognize when they are really golden.



CUSTOMER PROFILE

Camelicious Camel Milk Dubai, United Arab Emirates

BY MATT MC NAMARA

For the last two years I've had the privilege of travelling to Dubai to visit a loyal and valuable distributor of Dickson's products. Dubai is an interesting and intriguing place, but in my travels, the camel milk operation that has been established at Camelicious may take the cake for "most interesting." In addition to being a business in an industry not too common in the states, Camelicious also happens to be one of our distributor's customers.

Milking camels is not a new thing. Making camel milk a commercially available product however, is relatively new. If you've seen the movie Salmon Fishing in the Yemen, the endeavor is quite analogous. Camel Milking is a project that succeeds because someone or a group has both the tenacity and the resources to complete the project.

Camelicious was one of the earliest companies to implement a DicksonOne temperature and humidity monitoring system into their facility and for the past year have been using it to monitor their production environment. The company has a clear dedication to safety.

The Application

Camelicious is a dairy production facility much like those you would see for a cow... except they're milking camels. The facility has everything from milking stalls to cleaning/pasteurizing equipment to a full bottling and production line.

The Challenge

Camelicious was a customer before DicksonOne existed, but the previous generations of data loggers they used didn't simplify their process, nor aid in meeting their temperature and humidity monitoring requirements.



Specifically, retrieving data from traditional, non-networked loggers is a pain. Having to collect loggers daily and download them is a waste of time and money.

The Solution

Camelicious chose to go with DicksonOne. DicksonOne was a perfect solution because it offers wireless, automated downloading of their data, the ability to receive email, text, and phone call alarms, and it is completely scalable. Camelicious has set up DicksonOne Data Loggers to measure the ambient air conditions within their facilities, both refrigerated and non-refrigerated.

Just like on the home shopping network, there's more. Camelicious has also set up temperature and humidity dashboards in their facility using large HD screens and the DicksonOne software. These dashboards allow Camelicious to see real-time alarms and temperature and humidity conditions within their facility.



Overall, my journey to Dubai and to Camelicious was pretty incredible, and pretty tasty as well.

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