GCOM Protocol Appliance 2G Series

Portable Personality Module Guidelines

Gcom's innovative Portable Personality Module™ (PPM™) - a Compact Flash card that stores critical product identification and configuration information - offers an easy, reliable way to replace a Gcom® appliance in case of failure.

Labels and Copies – Gcom labels every PPM in the following manner:

Label	Meaning
SYNC	This PPM functions only in a GPA 2G unit with a synchronous serial adapter.
T1/E1	This PPM functions only in a GPA 2G unit with a T1/E1 adapter.
NOBOARD	This PPM functions only in a GPA 2G unit with no adapter.

CAUTION
If you purchase GPA 2G units with different adapters, make sure you keep each PPM/adapter type with the corresponding GPA 2G unit/adapter type.

After you configure a GPA 2G unit, update the PPM label with the unit's position in your network topology. For example: Write the unit's IP address on the PPM label. Then make a copy of the PPM, label it the same way as the original PPM, and store the copy in a secure location.

Removal – When you remove a PPM from a GPA 2G unit functioning within your network, the GPA 2G unit immediately stops performing network functions and sounds a 30-second alert. Do not remove a PPM unless you are:

- Prompted to do so (such as when the GPA 2G keyboard/monitor interface prompts you to remove a PPM during the PPM copy process)
- In a failure situation and need to transfer a configuration from a failed unit to a replacement unit

Recovery Recommendations and Procedures – The GPA 2G does not provide failover capability. You must install and implement the necessary hardware (including all primary, secondary, and spare GPA 2G units), cabling, and customer-supplied software to achieve automatic or semi-automatic failover.

If Downtime	Recommended GPA 2G Units	Recommended Recovery Procedure
Does not critically impact your operation	• 1 GPA 2G unit • 1 spare GPA 2G unit	Simply swap the failed unit with the spare unit. To the network, the following procedure looks like a power cycle: 1. Power off the failed unit. 2. Unplug the cables from the failed unit. 3. Remove the PPM from the failed unit. 4. Replace the failed unit with the spare unit. 5. Plug the cables into the spare unit. 6. Insert the PPM from the failed unit into the spare unit. 7. Power on the spare unit.
Critically impacts your operation	• 1 primary GPA 2G unit • 1 secondary GPA 2G unit • 1 spare GPA 2G unit	1. Implement your customer-supplied failover software/procedure to reroute traffic from the primary unit to the secondary unit. 2. Follow the steps above to replace the failed unit with the spare unit.

Developers and integrators – A large partition on the PPM is reserved for use with custom applications. Take advantage of it to store application-specific information.