



# TECHNICAL NOTE TNOI45

## Title: Use of CompactFlash® Cards

### Product(s): G3 HMIs, Modular Controllers, Data Stations

#### PROBLEM DESCRIPTIONS

1. Not all brands of CompactFlash® (CF) cards will function properly in Red Lion Controls (RLC) Interface products.
2. The recent introduction of SanDisk® Ultra CF cards, a brand RLC recommends, required an update to our software in order for the cards to be used.
3. Regardless of CF card capacity, RLC products can only access 2 gigabytes (GB) of storage capacity on the cards at this time.

#### CAUSE OF THE PROBLEMS

1. RLC Crimson software code is written to accommodate the published CF card specification. Subtle differences in brands can make certain cards incompatible with RLC Crimson databases.
2. SanDisk Ultra CF cards utilize a memory management system that differs from their previous CF card types.
3. RLC software is based on the FAT 16 file system. As a result, the use of memory cards is limited to 2 GB of data storage and retrieval. However, CF cards with a higher capacity can be used, but only 2 GB will be accessed. See below for more information on this.

#### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

1. RLC recommends the following CF card brands: SanDisk, Silicon Systems, SimpleTech or SMART® Modular. Not all of these manufacturers offer CompactFlash cards recognized to UL standards, which may be required for your application. UL listed SMART Modular CF cards are available from RLC.
2. RLC updated its Crimson 3 software to accommodate the SanDisk Ultra CompactFlash card. Crimson 3 build 599.000 or later must be used to have access to this update.
3. Although CF cards with a capacity higher than 2 GB can be used, they *must* be formatted to 2 GB and use the FAT 16 file system. It is recommended to format the CF card using the format utility from within Crimson.