

The CircuitWerkes Sicon-8 Compared to Similar Products

Fill in the Brand B answers for any other products that you are considering.

Category: Hardware Platform	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
8 channels of metering and status included	YES		
Has a raise relay and a lower relay for each channel (16 total relays)	YES		
Relay ratings	5A		Sicon-8's extra heavy relays are designed to last for many years.
Number of DPDT relays available	2		DPDT relays rated @ 1amp
Meters can accept inverted inputs (negative voltages)	YES		Handy for monitoring some phase meters
Maximum input sample voltage	15V		
Includes dedicated silence detector	YES		
Standard Metering input can be used to detect silence	YES		
Has built-in precision reference calibration standard for low drift accuracy	YES		
Includes temperature sensor	YES		
Audio can be monitored via telephone	YES		
10 bit A/D	YES		
Auto-ranging & Self-re-calibrating metering inputs for best accuracy & ultra-low drift	YES		
Can calculate indirect readings in hardware	YES		
Modular construction for inexpensive & easy field replacement of parts	YES		Sicon-8 has replaceable telephone interface, relay board, Web server/USB board and voice codec board. Most other ICs are in sockets for field repair.
Has onboard microphone for listening to room noise	NO		

Category: Integrated Web Server Functions	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Web applet notifies the user if the network connection fails	YES		With some products, you could lose control & never know. That's ridiculous! If you're relying on a Web connection, make sure the product you select will let you know if the network fails.
Web server applet attempts to reconnect if the connection fails	YES		Sicon-8 tells you and then tries to fix it!
Web Server supports either DHCP or a static IP	YES		
Number of open ports required to display a Web page	1		Some Web products require 4, or more, ports to work.
Web Server Applet Loads in under 10 seconds	YES		
Web Server supports Mobile/ PDA with specially formatted page	YES		
Relay "On" indicators show actual feedback from relay actions	YES		Sicon-8 indicators don't just show a button press, they are confirmation of actual closures.
Latching relays operate via Web server	YES		Some products with latching relays only work via DTMF.
Relays close on "Mouse down"	YES		Some products close on mouse-up.
Momentary relays stay closed proportional to the mouse-down time	YES		2-sec max for Sicon. Some products close on Mouse-Up instead of down and they have a fixed close time, too.
Maximum meter/status update speed	1.3secs		Some products take 10 secs typical. Sicon-8 = 2 secs typical.

Category: Clock & Scheduler	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Has a real-time clock function	YES		
Clock works without an active connection to a network time server.	YES		Some products will not keep time without an active network connection.
Clock is battery backed and keeps time when unpowered	YES		For better accuracy, the Sicon-8 uses a true RTC, not a timing loop.
Clock can be set by NTP server	NO		Sicon-8 will accept external GPI for sync.(see below)
Clock can be set by sync to software	YES		
Clock can be set by external contact closure from master clock	YES		
Number of Actions that can be performed, in sequence, by an scheduled event	7		
Event Scheduler supports Daylight Savings time	YES		
Event Scheduler supports annually repeating functions (like pattern changes)	YES		
Event Scheduler supports single events (one-time events)	YES		
Event Scheduler supports repeating events with defined ends	YES		
Category: Upgrades & Expansion	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Firmware can be field upgraded when new features are added or bugs are fixed.	YES		
Can add more channels with inexpensive expander chassis	YES		Sicon-8: up to 32 chans., in blocks of 8

Category: Operation	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
All main control/monitoring functions available via DTMF or Web server	YES		
All main control/monitoring functions available via serial port using software	YES		
Has multi-site monitoring & control interface included	YES		Monitor several sites from one software tool.
Administrator can use special code to exit from local mode to remote mode	YES		Can save trips to remote sites
Has user-defined validation timers for alarms and other operational parameters	YES		
Write your own multi-step actions that can include multiple sites using software scripts	YES		Turn off sites, check interlocks, etc.
Has a Push-to-Talk relay function for use over radio links	YES		
Administrator can restrict controller's use of individual relays	YES		
User can define meter scales	YES		Software only in Sicon-8
User can define status indicator colors	YES		Software only in Sicon-8
User can define text labels for status on and status off	YES		
User can define text labels for "raise" and "lower" relays	YES		
Linear metering calibration mode	YES		
Power metering calibration mode	YES		Provides better tracking of power meters
Log metering calibration mode	YES		Provides better tracking of RF Amp meters
Direct Voltmeter Mode	YES		
Audio is trimmed to exact length for more natural sounding audio without pauses	YES		
Supports simultaneous multiple users (telco, Web, local serial/USB)	YES		

Category: Programming & Setup	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Includes setup & control software	YES		Makes setup fast & easy
Configuration data can be saved locally for setup of multiple units or reprogramming	YES		Local saving is a Huge timesaver
If the hardware is reset or replaced, settings can be uploaded quickly	YES		Some products have no way to save configuration data, so if the unit is scrambled or reset, you have to start over. from scratch.
Spoken labels can be configured using software	YES		
Unit is fully resettable to factory defaults	YES		Some of Brand B's configuration cannot be reset, only overwritten
Web server address can be set by software instead of logging in to the Web server	YES		No network connection is required to setup our Web Server's address.
Web server address can be set by DTMF (Telephone)	YES		We give you many ways to find or set your IP address
Web server address can be found by dedicated software (if the IP address range is already known)	YES		
Web server address can be found by operational software	YES		
Web server address can be found by DTMF	YES		
Web server's address can be found even if the IP address range is unknown	YES		
All main setup function duplicated in via DTMF or serial data connection	YES		If you don't have a PC, you can still configure the Sicon-8
Event scheduler is programmable via software or via DTMF	YES		
Audio words and phrases can be recorded / changed	YES		
Changes/additions can be recorded via analog process (via telephone)	YES		
Digital audio (wav or mp3) can be uploaded directly in digital format	YES		Record your audio in studio and upload digitally with ease.
Audio uploads can be sent in batches	YES		Applies to digital uploads only

Category: Alarm Handling	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Once triggered, identical alarms don't call you unless the first has been cleared.	True		Lets you sleep at night
Critical alarms can notify you via telephone call	YES		
Critical alarms can notify you via e-mail	YES*		* Sicon-8 requires PC software
Non-critical alarms can take automatic corrective actions like closing relays	YES		
E-mail notifications are done on hardware	NO		Sicon-8's e-mail via external software
E-mail & SMS notifications can use authentication	YES		
E-mailing & SMS can use third party software for SSH and non-standard mail protocols	YES		
Shows out-of-tolerance conditions, even if alarms haven't yet occurred or have been acknowledged	YES		
Category: Logging	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Has hardware based logging capabilities	YES		
Has software logging with user defined formatting (HTML, CSV, TXT, etc.)	YES		
Logs can be e-mailed	YES**		** requires our free software
Older Logs are automatically archived	YES		Software only function
Category: cost	Sicon-8	Brand_B	Comments
Cheaper?			