

Re: S-parameter test sets

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2005-06/msg04181.html>

- *From:* "Joel Kolstad" <JKolstad71HatesSpam@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 29 Jun 2005 11:41:50 -0700
-

"Rich Grise" <richgrise@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:pan.2005.06.29.18.25.15.857356@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
> Of course, it's been some years since I've used a modem – I presume
> that the 100MBPS ethernet cards don't depend on the CPU for their
> signal processing, although, we all know what ass-u-me means. ;-)

Not directly, but there's plenty of time spent digesting TCP/IP packets. In fact, from what I've heard, the TCP/IP stacks are relatively complex in that some "starightforward" implementation would be dog slow and bring the CPU to its knees, so they have "fast path" code (for when all the packet come in the correct order, there are no errors, etc.) as well as "special needs" code (dog slow, but shouldn't be called that often). Apparently this is sophisticated enough that people write journal papers about it!

There are such things as hardware level TCP/IP routers out there, but the \$25 wireless routers one finds at Fry's don't fall into that category. :-) Still, it's absolutely astonishing that for \$25 you get a fully functional, 54mbps 2.4GHz radio, a router, firewall, etc., all in a little box no bigge