

Re: RS232 Datalogging and Control

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I would say take a look at National Instruments. I used them several years back to control an environmental test chamber using a combination of GPIB and RS-232. It was great! They have a lot of expertise in data acquisition and control software. The learning curve is a bit high but if you can afford it their software cuts these kinds of tasks down by 2/3rds. They have a kind of Graphical based programming language which makes it fairly easy to program. Also, if you must, you can write your own code...I think you can write it in C but I'm not sure.

you can find them at www.ni.com

GOOD LUCK!

Andy wrote:

I've been handed the task of controlling a thermal cycling oven and a digital voltmeter, both RS232 enabled, so as to control the oven from a computer (automatically send commands) and log data from the voltmeter.

Unfortunately my expertise in this area is somewhat out of date. MS Hyperterminal doesn't look capable enough, OK for logging data but no programmable capability.

My question is, is there a datalogging program available that also allows ascii characters to be sent to addressable instruments, in order to (a) control the oven and (b) log data from the DVM without programming?

I imagine writing a program in some language, possibly Visual Basic, is the way to go but that'll get me bogged down in learning a software language. However, if I can't buy in suitable software I'll just have to learn VB, but does anyone know of such software?

thanks,

Andy.

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