

Re: RS232 Datalogging and Control

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.design/2006-06/msg03832.html>

- *From:* "Andy" <andrewpreece@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 18 Jun 2006 02:42:58 +0100
-

"budgie" <me@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:jdr692pg53oo4befcg4cgc4na7plu6sqe7@xxxxxxxxxx

On Sat, 17 Jun 2006 01:04:04 +0100, "Andy" <andrewpreece@xxxxxxxxxx>
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Unfortunately my expertise in this area is somewhat out of date.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?

I'm not aware of any freeware for the task, but that doesn't mean it isn't out there.

What platform are you using? If an NT-based Windows O/S you will probably need to go to a VB-type solution. Learning curve if you haven't been there. But from your reference to hyperterm I assume you've been around pooters a while. If your platform is non-NT-based Windoze, QBasic will provide a suitable

Re: RS232 Datalogging and Control

quick'n'dirty environto do your bidding. Surely you have programmed in (Q)Basic? That's what I'd be using. (Win98SE)

Yes, command line programming in HP QBasic to control an I/O device from a dedicated microcontroller (computer with an integrated screen, keyboard and GPIB connector on the back) about 12 years ago! I didn't like to mention it as I thought it was rather old hat nowadays and I'd be laughed for solving the problem like that! Maybe not! I'm using Windows '98 btw.

Andy.

.