

Re: Interfacing to parallel port dongle via USB adapter

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- *From:* Joerg <notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:36:02 -0700
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Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:16:18 -0700, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jim Thompson wrote:

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 16:01:45 GMT, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

mrdarrett@xxxxxxxx wrote:

On Apr 2, 2:36 pm, "Paul E.
Schoen"
<pst...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have
software
(PADS
Layout) that
requires a
parallel port
dongle, and
it
works fine
on my
present
(fairly old)
computer,
which has a
native
parallel
port. But
newer
computers,
particularly

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laptops, do not have these legacy ports and instead use USB to Parallel (or USB to Serial) converters. They generally work well for printers, but I have heard that they do not work for dongles. The usual solution is to obtain a USB dongle from the software vendor (www.mentor.com), but they require the user to be on "maintenance" in order to get a USB dongle, and they impose outrageous penalties and payment of back (unused) support in order to be reinstated.

Newer DESKTOP computers, to my amazement, often still have parallel ports.

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My department is upgrading computers this month – the lease is up for our current computers – and the newer, 2GB HP machines have... a parallel port! I expressed my amazement to the IT staff, and they looked at me like I was on drugs...

True, to save space, newer laptops likely won't have them.

Any particular reason you can't maintain an older machine to run "legacy" applications? Sounds cheaper.

The bridge chips on main boards almost all support LPT. Sometimes there is a pin header or at least the empty position for one. On my latest Dell there ain't. The bridge chip supports LPT and all other legacy stuff but they took LPT out of the layout. They even removed the 2nd floppy support from the BIOS :-(

Harumph. Grumble.

So why did you buy Dell?

Because they have been good to me and most of the other name brands didn't have legacy ports either. Before the purchase I found out that they use a particular Foxconn MoBo in there and that had all the header positions. Turns out Foxconn made a slightly modified one for them, taking all those out :-(

Another reason was because the Dell business section offered XP. Vista is not acceptable to me. Anyhow, you can order this particular PC with LPT if you wanted to. I guess then they stick a PCI card in there, which I can always do later.

I don't buy "name brand" PC's. My local PC Club churns out anything I want... cheaply. I also don't buy Intel, I buy AMD. AMD processors

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run circles around Intel chips when it comes to simulators. I also bought a bunch of batch of XP for future use... just in case I can't get it, though it looks like demand will keep XP there, at least for awhile.

My experience with wrench shop PCs isn't that great. And yeah, AMD chips are good for math intense stuff but nowadays the processor isn't the pacing item in a PC. This one has an Intel dual core and it's faster than I'll ever need. Also, my real simulator is a DSO and a Weller :-)

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Regards, Joerg

<http://www.analogconsultants.com/>

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