

Re: Interfacing to parallel port dongle via USB adapter

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- *From:* Jim Thompson <~~To-Email-Use-The-Envelope-Icon~~@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 03 Apr 2008 10:53:48 -0700
-

On Thu, 03 Apr 2008 09:36:02 -0700, Joerg
<notthisjoergsch@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jim Thompson wrote:

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

Jim Thompson wrote:

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

mrdarrett@xxxxxxxxxx
wrote:

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

I
have
software
(PADS
Layout)
that
requires
a
parallel
port
dongle,

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and
it
works
fine
on
my
present
(fairly
old)
computer,
which
has
a
native
parallel
port.
But
newer
computers,
particularly
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

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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.

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

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

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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 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

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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 :-)

I, and a number of lurkers here, have run benchmarks of simulators on Intel vs AMD. AMD is generally 2X faster.

And, knock on wood, my "wrench shop" PC's outlast the steps in technology. Actually all I've _ever_ had fail over the years is hard drives.

...Jim Thompson

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America: Land of the Free, Because of the Brave

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