

Re: Why are laptops no longer made with serial ports?

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"David Lee" <davidlee_malvern@dont.use.this.bit.hotmail.com> wrote in message news:<[cbupbt\\$mcd\\$1@hamble.qinetiq.com](mailto:cbupbtmcd1@hamble.qinetiq.com)>...

> Dale DePriest wrote...

>>

>> *One thing that bugs me is that most laptops still have parallel ports. I*

>> *have much more use for a serial port than a parallel port so how is it*

>> *that one port is gone and the bigger port is still there. Perhaps*

>> *someone will write a driver for serial devices plugged into the parallel*
>> *port.*

>>

>

> *The parallel port is still very useful for other things apart from printers.*

> *There are still programs that use parallel port 'dongles' as licence keys.*

> *It is also an easily hacked interface for DIY projects needing faster*

> *throughput than you can get with RS232.*

>

> *AFAIK there were serial/parallel interfaces available for driving centronics*

> *printers from serial ports and vice versa.*

Companies like <http://www.blackbox.com> have a ton of options for doing this (interface converters).

> *The big advantage of RS232 and parallel ports is it's very easy to get at*

> *the raw signal data with a minimum of driver overhead.*

2,3,7,20 Simple (usually ;)

And in the Unix world it's nice, like when you lose a console, to be able to quickly hook a dumb terminal up on a serial port.

> *David*

Reading some of the replies in this thread, it's amazing how narrow some folk's view of the world is, restricted to "leading edge or die."

We do work for many companies and countries. There are plenty of our

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international sponsors out there still using X.25, for example, to link WANs carrying mission-critical aviation related data.

If you wait an infinite amount of time, you'll have the perfect solution.

It's a big world out there folks, and it doesn't just revolve around a marketing weenie's or web geek's myopic view of what the 'next best thing' is. If some of our sponsors, whose project's life cycles are > 12 months, didn't lock down requirements at some point - because someone also had the 'next best thing' for them to consider - we'd never deploy.

I'm not saying, don't progress. Far from it. We're working with a high performance 32-CPU SGI box for doing some rather complex modelling simulations that on super geek's latest and greatest, 64-bit whatever box with a USB/firewire/shpredoinkle interface port, take around 10 hours ;)

So.... I guess it's time to pull out the only comeback I know, the old tired and true "One Up"... Of course, geekoid will claim this one is old and thus legacy. Oh well, sometimes the old ones are the best ;) Some of you will enjoy it, and isn't that's what it's supposed to be about?

ok:

===== CUT HERE =====

I found the following in newsgroup conversation that got out of hand.

One guy made a sarcastic comment (the first on this list) and then the rest started one-upping. Each paragraph is _apparently_ from a different person but since I didn't excerpt this, I can't verify it. A professor at MIT compiled and posted the result for everyone to stare at.

... ===== HERE GOES =====

Right! I run System V on my VIC-20!

Hmmmm...well, I am getting SVR4 for my HP 48Sx.....

HA! _I'm_ just finishing up a port of VMS for my Timex Sinclair! Top THAT!

I'm running NextStep on Atari 2600 Video Game System.

Just last night I was able to get Windows to boot on my Sears PONG game.

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I am replying to this message with my built-in VAX Mailer on my Game-Boy.

I just installed a 10 Gigabyte Drive to handle all the replies!
However, it only runs at 230,000 Baud due to the large drive slowing it down.

I fear I will not be getting news any longer... The batteries on my calculator watch are running out.

My calculator watch is Solar... And if I turned off the lights, NO ONE would be getting news...

Feh. I'm so slick NASA just awarded ME the TERADATA contract to run on my TV remote! They liked my proposal mainly because I'm ALSO able to shoehorn in the TEXAS SUPERCOLLIDER computations between commercials! Beat THAT!

Well, well, well. SSC calculations, huh. I built a system out of 2 inches of wire, 3 pennies and a AA battery that does realtime calculations of particle vectors during the Big Bang. A complete simulation of the first 2 years of the life of the universe accurate to the theoretical limit, takes about 5 seconds.

And you guys think you are so great. I just spent the last half hour getting X11 to run on my slide rule. I am still having problem connecting it to the net around here, but I would welcome any suggestions.

So what!!! I'm running Xinitrc, TWMRC, Internet, and 27 muds off of a paper clip. Not to mention the fact that I am designing a new form of television with 7000 pixels based off a piece of tissue paper. Next!!!

Man, that's baby stuff. I'm running a particle accelerator utilizing matter-antimatter reactions in my doorknob, and calculating everything in the fourth dimension using a single dip switch and a large glass of water.

Chilld's play, I have an old piece of cheese that is, at this very moment, raytracing an actual model of the universe five hours from now, while at the

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same time calculating the heat produced from the new Pentium.

And you people think that you are hackers! I'm currently engaged in a project which involves simultaneous simulation of multiple universes (To see what would happen if various constants change. Pi-8.4 is an interesting one.) My hardware consists of a single wooden pencil (no paper, With it, I can do real-time simulations of 2^{32} universes in parallel.

You guys are wimps!! I've just finished converting a microwave oven into a paradimensional teleportation device., The problem I'm having so far is that my breakfast bagel keeps disappearing!! May have to eat it raw . . .

Sorry, that's my fault. I'm afraid that the high energy laser-pumped negentropic vortex generator I made from my own nostril hair, which is currently cranking out entire new universes at the rate of 7.6 per picosecond, was breaking the FCC emissions limits and gronking your microwave's control panel. It should work properly now. Also, my cat Arthur was FTPing hundreds of terabytes of PD software from Epsilon Eridani in the year 4741 A.D over the faster-than-light Ethernet interface I built for him, and this may have been loading the Net a little yesterday. My sincere apologies to everyone who noticed any performance degradation.

I am bribing that cat with sardines. My next project will use sophisticated software from 4741 A.D. to autogenerate trashy science fiction novels from my coffee cup. I'm almost there.... it works as well as Windows 3.0

:)

===== CUT HERE =====

Regards,
Jon

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