



Your One Stop for Technology

Quatech USB and Ethernet Do you need Simple Powerful Comms?

Quatech is rapidly becoming the largest Ethernet, USB and Serial comms player in the US/World market. The company was sold by the founder in 1999 and the new owners have a business plan to push out to the front of the pack.

Quatech is well know for their Data Acquisition Systems and there versatile RS-232, 422 and 485 plug in boards. They were first to market with the new universal PCI comms board that runs in the new low profile multi voltage PCs.

In 2002, they came to market with a complete range of USB multi port comms hubs/boxes, RS-232 or 422/485. These boxes come in 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 ports, are PC/Laptop USB port powered for convenience, and work in DOS, Windows(XP yes), Linux and OS2. (Yes OS2 is still around in the financial sector, remember IBM).

In 2003, they are releasing a complete family of Ethernet to Serial Hubs/boxes. These boxes also come in 1, 2, 4, 8 and 16 ports, are PC/Laptop USB port powered for convenience, and work in DOS, Windows(XP yes), Linux and OS2 also.

So what makes these different than other companies similar products. Well, it is to do with ease of installation. Quatech have made it so easy. Open the box, take out the unit, plug in power, and the Ethernet, load the driver/Utility CD, do a little configuring and you will be running in 5-10 minutes. It is that easy.

Where will you use these Ethernet boxes versus say the USB.?

I see it this way:- USB is easy to understand. An example:- You need some localised RS-232/422/485 on a laptop or a desktop, then the USB is the way to go, you just plug in the Quatech USB box, pop in the CD, install and you have up to 16 RS232/422/485 ports in your PC or laptop.

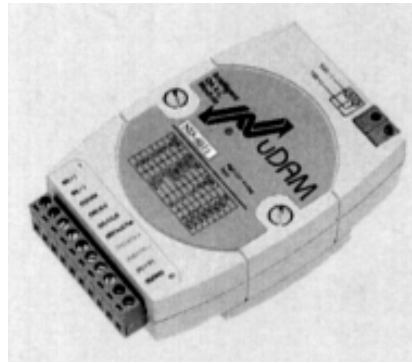
For Ethernet, let's say you have a whole host of serial based devices spread around a facility and you need to bring them back to a PC server. Well then, this is ethernet at its best, ethernet is the world's data pipeline inside business and now inside factory systems. So just purchase a few Quatech Ethernet hubs, connect the serial ends, plug in the Ethernet Hub to the Ethernet Switch, go back to your PC or Server systems, pop in your CD, install the software, set up the Ethernet paths and link the comms ports to your PC and you will have data pouring into and out of your PC.

MasTec is interested in assisting anyone who feels these new USB or Ethernet products will be useful to them.

Email to us info@mastec.co.nz or phone in for a discussion we can provide a full PDF Info pack.

ADAM Modules Ubiquitous Industrial I/O

Have you seen these little modules?



ADAM modules are a little bigger than a pack of cards.

They have been around for years, Advantech were the originally manufacturers.

What are they? They are distributed I/O modules, that use RS-485 to link analog, digital, timer, counter, power I/O back to a PC via RS-232 or USB..

Types of Interfaces:- Thermocouples, RTDs, 4-20mA, millivolts, volts, TTL digital I/O, small Relays, Solid State Relays, sophisticated timers and counters and large channel digital I/O, up to 28 lines per module.

Industrial Safe:- All modules are isolated and hence relatively safe in industrial areas and immune in most cases to high common mode noise.

What is cool about them:- They are low cost and user friendly, for example if you are doing Thermocouples, the readings come back to the PC in degrees C.

MasTec has made them cooler:- We have released a very nice library for the Adam modules for LabVIEW. The library covers most modules and works at a functional level,(you do not have to know the instructions, protocols or syntax) if you use this library that costs \$150 NZ.

Performance:- Typically they run at 10 samples/second which is fine for low speed systems.

Accuracy:- The analog modules all have 16 bit ADCs or DACs, so can resolve well, accuracy is fine for industrial systems. For lab systems they modules can have offsets and gains downloaded to make them very accurate.

Costs:- A system typically requires an RS-232 to 485 converter (4052, 6052, 9052) \$250, auto baud rate, auto 485 bus handling and 2500 VAC isolation, a 8 channel TC module \$500, and 16 channel DI/O \$320. All are DIN Rail mount. You can even get DIN Rail PC Controllers!

Multi sourced:- There are many manufacturers now so they are an industrial defacto part.

MasTec continues to hunt down the world's best manufacturers of Adam modules and we now distribute Topsy's range of RS-232/485 converters and SSR modules.

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