

## Re: USB question

**Source:** <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.arch.embedded/2004-08/0990.html>

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**From:** Jeff Nibler (*djnibler\_at\_spam-me-not-hotmail.com*)

**Date:** 08/10/04

Date: Tue, 10 Aug 2004 12:56:30 -0700

Thanks Robert!

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Jeff Nibler

"Robert Wessel" <robertwessel2@yahoo.com> wrote in message  
news:bea2590e.0408092234.47adddbc@posting.google.com...

> "Jeff Nibler" <djnibler@spam-me-not-hotmail.com> wrote in message  
news:<cf8plg012su@enews2.newsguy.com>...

> > Rob and Tim, thank you both for your replies. One follow-up question...

> > assume some strange external device has a serial port connector. That  
serial

> > port has an adapter connected to it which converts it to USB. That  
device is

> > then a USB compatible device (client-mode of course) correct? Meaning,  
if

> > you had a computer with USB host capability and a USB hub, you could  
connect

> > several of those external devices to your computer via USB, and your

> > computer would be able to read both of them correct?

>

>

> Short answer: Yes.

>

> Longer answer: There are many USB->Serial dongles on the market.

> These all require some sort of device driver on the host, thus one

> particular model might (or might not) have Mac or Linux (or...)

> support.

>

> In theory, you should be able to have several of these gadgets

> connected at once. In practice, the device drivers supplied with some

> of these makes that impossible (although the situation is better these

> days).

>

> Also, as compared to a "normal" serial port, the latency of control

> actions (flow control, for example) is usually quite high (there's a

> lot of buffering between the application and the serial port). So a

> device that drops DTR (or CTS, or whatever) and expects that data will

> stop flowing in one or two bytes may be sorely disappointed, and may

> generate an overrun or lose data. Likewise, if your application is

> doing a lot of very time specific control of the various control

> signals, you're going to have problems.

>

> In short (and as always), before you claim these capabilities to a

> customer, you ought test them, with the particular device and serial

> port dongle in question.