Product news

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USB cables provide RS-422 and RS-485 interface support

Future Technology Devices International (FTDI) today announced the availability of two serial interface converter cables that incorporate transceivers to facilitate connecting RS-422 or RS-485 based peripherals to a PC's USB port. Using FTDI's FT232RQ USB to asynchronous serial interface IC, the USB-RS485-WE converter cable includes an RS-485 transceiver while the USB-RS422-WE cable utilises a RS-422 transceiver. The far end of the 1.8m cables are wire ended (no connector).

With the electronics encapsulated in the USB connector, these cables provide a quick, easy and completely transparent method of supporting these serial interface standards. With the complete USB protocol being managed within the FT232RQ device, there is no requirement for designers or end-customers to concern themselves with how to implement the USB standard. Additionally, royalty-free device drivers for the FT232RQ are available to download free from

http://www.ftdichip.com/FTDrivers.htm. Both VCP and D2XX drivers are available

for most popular operating systems such as Microsoft Windows, MAC OS X and

Linux.

A feature of the FT2232RQ provides a user writeable EEPROM area. This allows

the cables USB interface to be customised using FTDI's MPROG, available from

http://www.ftdichip.com/Resources/Utilities.htm. The internal EEPROM can be

programmed in-circuit over the USB interface without any additional voltage

requirements.

The converter cables are ideal for a broad range of industrial applications such as

instrumentation, machine control and data collection.

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About FTDI

Future Technology Devices International (FTDI) specialise in the design and supply of silicon and software solutions for the Universal Serial Bus (USB). FTDI offer a simple route to USB migration by combining easy to implement IC devices with proven, ready to use, royalty-free USB firmware and driver software. The company's single and multi-channel USB peripheral devices come with an easy to use UART or FIFO interface. These popular devices can be used in legacy USB to RS232/RS422 converter applications or to quickly interface an MCU, PLD, or FPGA to USB. A wide range of evaluation kits and modules are available to evaluate FTDI's silicon prior to design-in.

Vinculum is FTDI's brand name for a range of USB Host / Slave Controller ICs that provide easy implementation of USB host controller functionality within products, and utilise FTDI's tried and tested embedded firmware to significantly reduce development costs and time to market.

FTDI is a fabless semiconductor company headquartered in Glasgow, UK, and has regional offices in Oregon, USA, and Taipei, Taiwan. More information is available at http://www.ftdichip.com