



Product news

Reference: **FTD0032**

Date: **November 2008**

USB to RS232 converter cable aids interfacing to legacy applications

Electronica, Munich, 11th November 2008. Future Technology Devices International Limited (FTDI) announced today the availability of its USB-RS232-WE cable that provides easy interfacing of USB to RS232-based devices. The 1.8m cable has a small PCB encapsulated into the USB connector that contains an FTDI FT232R serial UART IC interface plus a RS232 level shifter to provide true RS232 voltage levels. The integrated electronics also include Tx and Rx LEDs giving a visual indication of traffic on the cable via the transparent USB connector.

The RS232 signal end of the cable comes with tinned wire connections as standard. The cable can be customised on request by adding a user defined connectors as required.

The electronics within the cable are USB powered and fully USB 2.0 full speed compliant. Data transfer rates up to 1 Mbaud are supported. Each cable supports the FTDI-Chip-ID feature by having a unique USB serial number programmed into the FT232R device. Using this feature, designers can incorporate security or

password protected file transfer. Further information on this feature can be found at

<http://www.ftdichip.com/Projects/FTDICHip-ID.htm>

The USB-RS232 cable requires a USB driver. These are available free of charge at <http://www.ftdichip.com/FTDrivers.htm>. Using these drivers the cable can be made to appear as a virtual COM port (VCP). In this way, the user can communicate with the USB interface via a standard PC serial emulation port (TTY). Another FTDI USB driver, D2XX, allows a users application software to directly access the FT232R IC on the cable through a DLL.

The FT232R device datasheet is available from

<http://www.ftdichip.com/FTProducts.htm#FT232R>

The cables are FCC, CE and RoHS compliant.

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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>