

Introduction Q&A

Keyspan USB Server

Connections for your Computer

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KEYSPAN

New!



Part # US-4A
MSRP: \$129

Patent Pending

www.keyspan.com

Q: Let's start with the obvious question.... I know about a USB Card and a USB Hub, but have not heard of a USB Server. What is a USB Server?

A: Our USB Server is a new concept. It is a way of connecting to USB devices over a LAN. Just plug the USB Server into your Ethernet network and then plug USB devices into the USB Server. This makes the USB Devices available to PCs and Macs on the network.

Q: How does a USB Server work?

A: The USB Server includes an embedded USB host controller. When used with software drivers that we have written, the USB Server appears as an additional USB host controller on each client PC. This allows the client PC to access USB devices attached to the Server.

Q: Do I need to install anything on the client PC?

A: Yes. Keyspan USB Server client software must be installed on each PC or Mac.

Q: Can I use a USB Server with any USB device?

A: No. We support most USB devices -- including printers, scanners, storage devices, PDAs, digital cameras and more -- but we do not support all USB devices. For example, we do not currently support USB audio products (i.e. speakers) or USB video products (i.e. web cams). Our web site provides a compatibility list that is the best source of information on this topic.

Q: Can all PCs on the network access a USB device that is connected to the Server?

A: Yes, the USB device may be used by any client PC -- on a "one at a time" basis. If you do not want to make the USB Server accessible to all client PCs, you may configure the USB Server in order to limit access.

Q: A USB Server sounds a lot like a print server.

A: In general, that's true. A USB Server is similar to a print server in that it allows USB printers to be accessed and shared over a network. However a USB Server supports devices such as a multi-function printer or a scanner -- devices that a print server can not handle. These other USB devices are accessed by client PCs on a "one user at a time" basis. This is conceptually different than a print server.

Q: So who are the people that are likely to benefit from using a USB Server?

A: Small work groups. To us that means a home office, a small business or a classroom. These are all environments where you might have a small number of PCs on a LAN and a desire to share a USB peripheral such as a printer, a multi-function printer or a scanner.

Q: All of the environments that you mentioned are rapidly adopting wireless networks. How does the USB Server fit into the Wi-Fi trend?

A: It fits very well. Someone using a Wi-Fi based laptop does not want to have to physically plug a USB cable into their laptop each time that they want to print. Once a USB Server is installed on the wired part of the network -- perhaps near the Wi-Fi base station -- then it is easy to print to a USB printer via Wi-Fi.

Q: What's next?

A: Look for us to release a Hi-Speed USB 2.0 version of the USB Server in late 2006 or early 2007. Though this will have minimal impact on use of printers and scanners, support for Hi-Speed USB will make it more practical to use storage devices on a USB Server.