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Acorn

Using the Psion Series 3 Serial Link with the PC Emulator

This application note describes how to connect your Pocket Book/Psion Series 3 to your RISC OS computer via the PC Emulator and the Psion Series 3 PC Serial Link interface and software.

This is especially useful for users who already possess a Psion 3 Link but not the Acorn A-Link product.

Applicable Hardware : RISC OS based machine
Acorn Pocket Book
Psion Series 3

Related Application Notes: None

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Introduction

This application note describes how you can transfer files between an Acorn Pocket Book/Psion Series 3 and your RISC OS computer if you already possess the Psion Series 3 Serial Link interface and software.

The PC software that comes with the 3 Link does run under the emulator but is unable to communicate with the Pocket Book/Series 3 using the Serial Link lead, unless the lead is modified. As the lead connectors are sealed, a 9 pin 'D' - 9 pin 'D' type conversion lead is required. The following sections describe how to make this lead and also give brief instructions on its use. For more detailed instructions on file transfer, consult the 3 Link user guide.

Making the Conversion Lead

To make the 9 pin conversion lead, you will need to obtain the following parts :

Qty.	**Item**
1	9 pin Female 'D' type connector
1	9 pin Male 'D' type connector
2	Plastic/Metal 9 pin 'D' type covers
1	Length of screened 9 way RS232 type cable.

You will also need a soldering iron.

Wire up the conversion cable according to the following diagram:

1. *Cable wiring Instructions*

Attaching the conversion cable

The PC connector end of the conversion cable is attached to the 9 pin PC connector on the Psion Serial Link lead. The Archimedes end of the conversion cable plugs directly into the Archimedes Serial port.

Using the PC Serial Link software

The communications software (MCLINK.EXE) supplied on the Serial Lead disc can be run under the PC Emulator either from hard disc or from floppy disc.

If you are installing onto hard disc, create a directory called '3Link' and place the PC Serial Link software in this directory.

Connect the Serial Link (and conversion lead) to your computer and the Pocket Book/Series 3. Make sure that the Pocket Book/Series 3 is turned off while doing this.

Run the PC Emulator and from the C: or A: prompt, type:

MCLINK <Return>

and the Link software will run (Make sure that you are in the correct directory).

Switch on the Pocket Book/Series 3 and set the Remote Link to ON (leave the baud rate set at 9600). After several seconds, a message should be displayed in the status window on the screen informing you that a link has been established. If it doesn't, check that the Pocket Book/Series 3 is turned on and the Remote Link is on. Failing this, make sure that the conversion lead has been wired up correctly.

From this point you can either use the Pocket Book/Series 3 to transfer files to your local hard or floppy disc on your computer or vice versa.

File Transfer

This section provides some brief instructions on how to transfer files to your local hard or floppy disc, though detailed instructions are provided in the Series 3 Link manual and the ENGLISH.DOC file on the Link software disc.

Example: Copying a file from the Pocket Book/Series to local disc:

Press the SYSTEM /DESKTOP button on the Pocket Book/Series 3, and move the cursor highlight to any file listed below one of the application icons (e.g. Word/Write).

Press the TAB (file selector) button and the directory window will be shown. Select the 'Copy file' option from the file menu.

Move the highlight over the 'Disk' menu item (below To file: Name) and press the TAB button. A list of drives will appear on a submenu. The drives on the remote computer should also be listed too e.g. REM::A, REM::C etc..

Select REM::A (floppy disc) or REM::C (hard disc) depending upon whether you ran the MCLINK software from floppy or hard disc.

Move the highlight over the 'To file: Name' option and enter the file name e.g. 'TEST'.

The Copy file window should look something like this:

From file: Name	Write.Wrd (or whatever you chose)
Disk	Internal
To file: Name	Test
Disk	REM::C (or REM::A)
Subdirectories	No
Modified only	No

Press the Enter key and the file Write.Wrd should be copied from the Internal memory disc on the Pocket Book/Series 3 to your local computer hard/floppy disc. A status screen will be displayed on the PocketBook/Series 3 while this is in progress.

The above example can also be reversed, ie. copying a file from your computer floppy or hard disc to the Pocket Book/Series 3.

Further details can be found on pages 12-13 of the 3 Link manual.

Appendix

The PC Link software has been successfully tested with the following:

PC Emulator version 1.82 on an:

Archimedes A440 with RISC OS 2.0
Archimedes 400/1 series: RISC OS 2.0 and RISC OS 3.10
Acorn A5000 and A3010 with RISC OS 3.10

Acknowledgements:

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