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Parallel Port – ECP Mode

Introduction:

The Parallel Port is a commonly used port for interfacing to external devices, in particular printers. This port will allow the input of up to 9 bits or the output of 12 bits at any one given time, thus requiring minimal external circuitry to implement many simpler tasks. The port is composed of 4 control lines, 5 status lines and 8 data lines. It's found commonly on the back of your PC as a D-Type 25 Pin female connector.

Newer Parallel Port's are standardized under the IEEE 1284 standard first released in 1994. This standard defines 5 modes of operation which are as follows:

- 1. Compatibility Mode.
- 2. Nibble Mode. (Protocol not Described in this Document)
- 3. Byte Mode. (Protocol not Described in this Document)
- 4. EPP Mode (Enhanced Parallel Port).
- 5. ECP Mode (Extended Capabilities Port).

EPP/ECP (Enhanced Parallel Port/Enhanced Capability Port) is a standard signaling method for bidirectional parallel communication between a computer and peripheral devices that offers the potential for much higher rates of data transfer than the original parallel signaling methods. EPP is for non-printer peripherals. ECP is for printers and scanners. EPP/ECP Modes are part of IEEE Standard 1284. April 1, 2011

Verify the parallel ports settings in Windows with this method:

- 1. Start -> Settings -> Control Panel
- 2. Click on the 'System' icon to get the System Properties Window.



3. Click on the Hardware Tab.

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4. Click on the 'Device Manager'



5. Click the '+' next to 'Ports (COM & LPT)' to expand the tree.

6. The printer port (LPT) should be listed with a description of the type of printer port. ie "ECP Printer Port (LPT1)"

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7. If the parallel port mode is not in the description right mouse click the printer port and select properties to review the available parallel settings. Below is an example:

neral	Port Settings	Parallel Settings	Driver Details Resources
Parall	el Port Mode:		
OA	uto Detect		
Os	PP Mode		
OE	PP Mode		
O	CP Mode		
OF	S2 Mode		
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ECP is the desired printer port type for communicating with printers.

EPP is the desired parallel port type for communicating with storage devices.