

The USB/Serial adapter that has been tested with is a KeySpan USA-19HS

<http://www.keyspan.com/products/usb/USA19HS/>

It is a single port USB/Serial adapter. You will also need a serial port extension cable. It is

A straight through DB9M to DB9F serial extension cable not a null modem or file transfer/crossover cable.

They also make a 4 port version.

<http://www.keyspan.com/products/usb/USA49w/>

Basically it configures a "virtual COM port" on the system that is mapped through the USB port. Older programs may not be able to access the virtual COM ports because of memory address or IRQ configuration issues even if the COM port is mapped to COM 4 or below. The virtual COM port is not assigned memory address ranges or IRQ resources like the physical COM ports on the motherboard or add in cards.

Due to the advanced method that the PowerMaster PC software is accessing the COM ports this is not going to be an issue. As long as the virtual COM port is mapped to COM 16 or below and is available the Powermaster software should be able to access it. It may work up to COM 256 but I'd have to test that to verify it.

Also 1,000,000 packet network server/client test was conducted with the USB/Serial adapter inline.

Once the USB adapter software is installed (always has to be done before the first time the device is attached) and the USB/Serial adapter is attached to the systems USB port there should be nothing more to configure than the COM port assignment in the PowerMaster software.

We have tested the USB/Serial adapter on Windows 98SE, Windows 2000 Pro, and Windows XP Pro with equal success on each platform.

There are other brands of USB/Serial adapters on the market but they may not all perform equally. KeySpan is the brand of USB/Serial adapter that I have heard good things about and the brand I chose to test with. No issues whatsoever with their software or the way the device works. Results may vary!

For more help email davidk@arraysolutions.com