



Linux on Dreamcast

Experimenting with
embedded Linux on SH4

Hardware specs

- 200MHz Hitachi SH4 (SH7750) CPU
 - 360 MIPS, 1.4 GFLOPS
- PowerVR2 CLX2 graphics (640x480)
- Yamaha AICA SPU w/ ARM7 RISC
- Yamaha 12x GD-ROM

Linux kernel supports

- Keyboard, mouse, joystick over maple (M-BUS) ports
- Modem, LAN over G2 bus (PCI-bridge)
- Read/write VMU via joystick ports
- Serial slave



Isn't Dreamcast ... dead?

- Active homebrew software and hardware development community.
- FOSS development tools and games.
- Most hardware well documented (serial/bus pin-outs available).
- Homebrew replacement BIOS.
- Linux got Dreamcast-specific updates only 13 days ago (SH4 frequent updates).

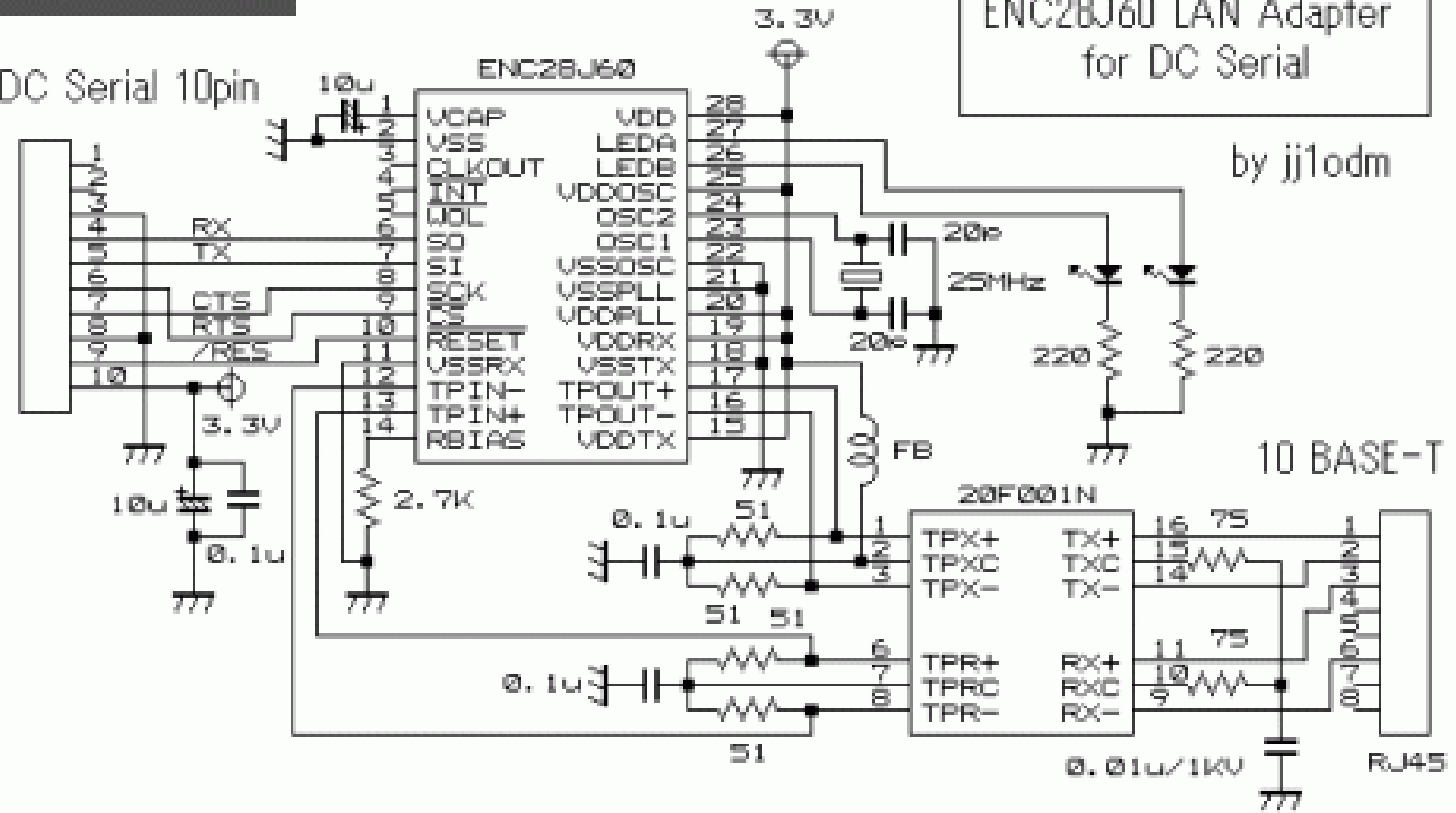
Costs of getting involved

- Widely available on Taobao for 150 yuan or less.
- Optional mouse/keyboard less than 80 yuan, or build your own PS/2 adapter.
- Command over network using open serial Ethernet port.
- Open serial SD card interface built for less than 15 yuan: pre-made for 33 yuan.

ENC28J60 LAN Adapter for DC Serial

by jj1odm

DC Serial 10pin

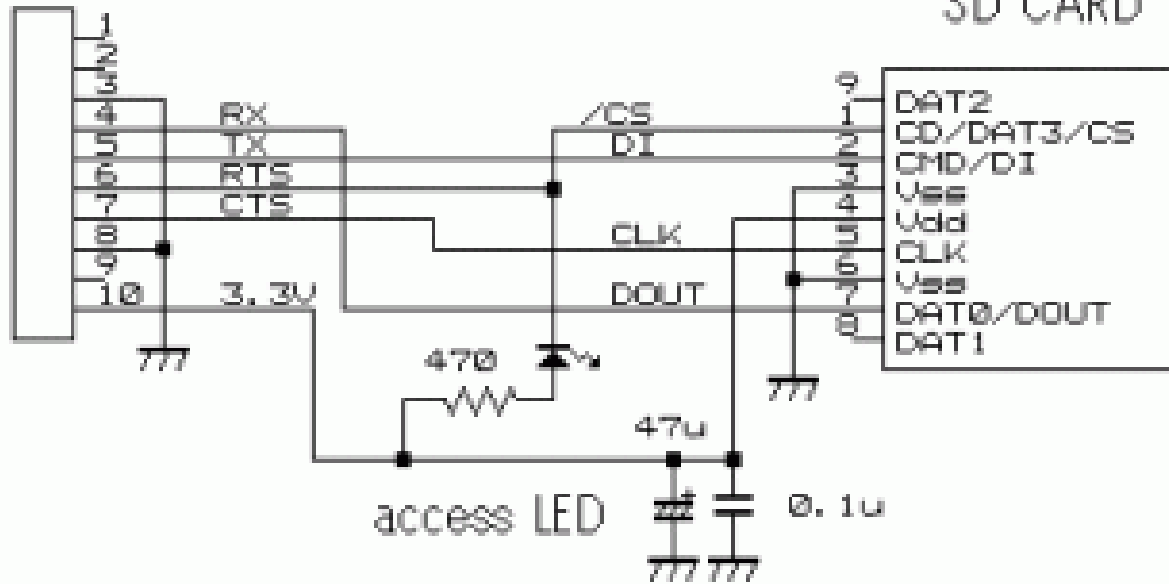


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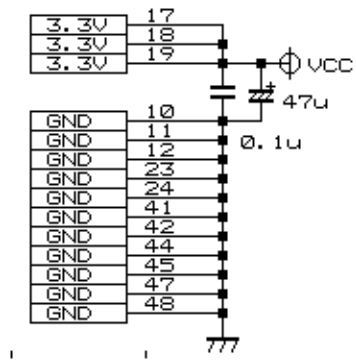
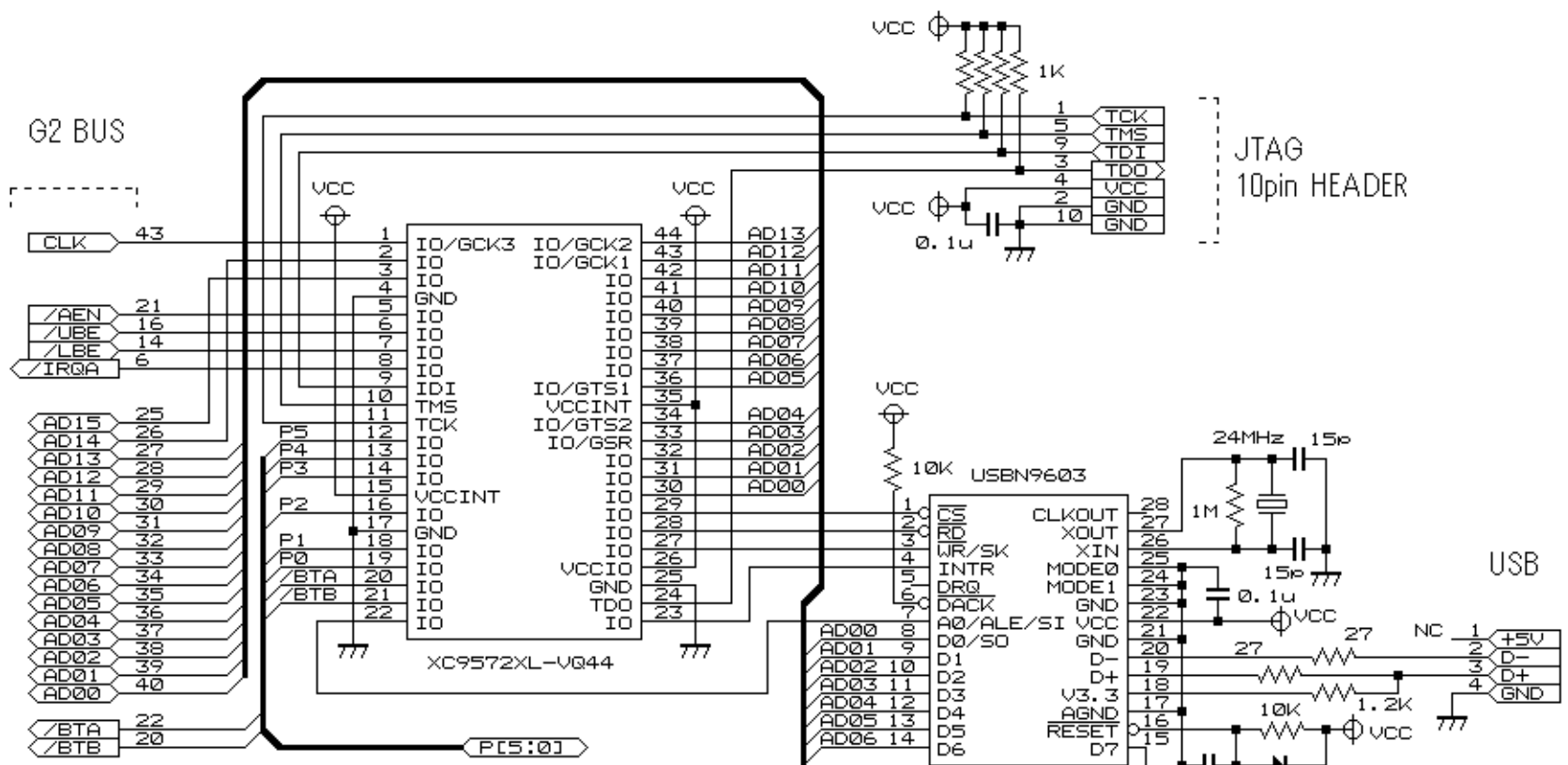
DC-SERIAL 10pin

SD CARD



Dreamcast Serial <=> SD Card Interface 2

Date 2008/10/27 Designed by jj1odm



GPIO PORT : P5 - P0
(pull-up 10K)

DEVICE ADDRESS: (PHYSICAL ADDRESS 0x1400000x)

USBN9603 DATA REGISTER : 0xB4000000
 USBN9603 ADRS REGISTER : 0xB4000002
 GPIO PORT REGISTER : 0xB4000001
 CONTROL REGISTER : 0xB4000003

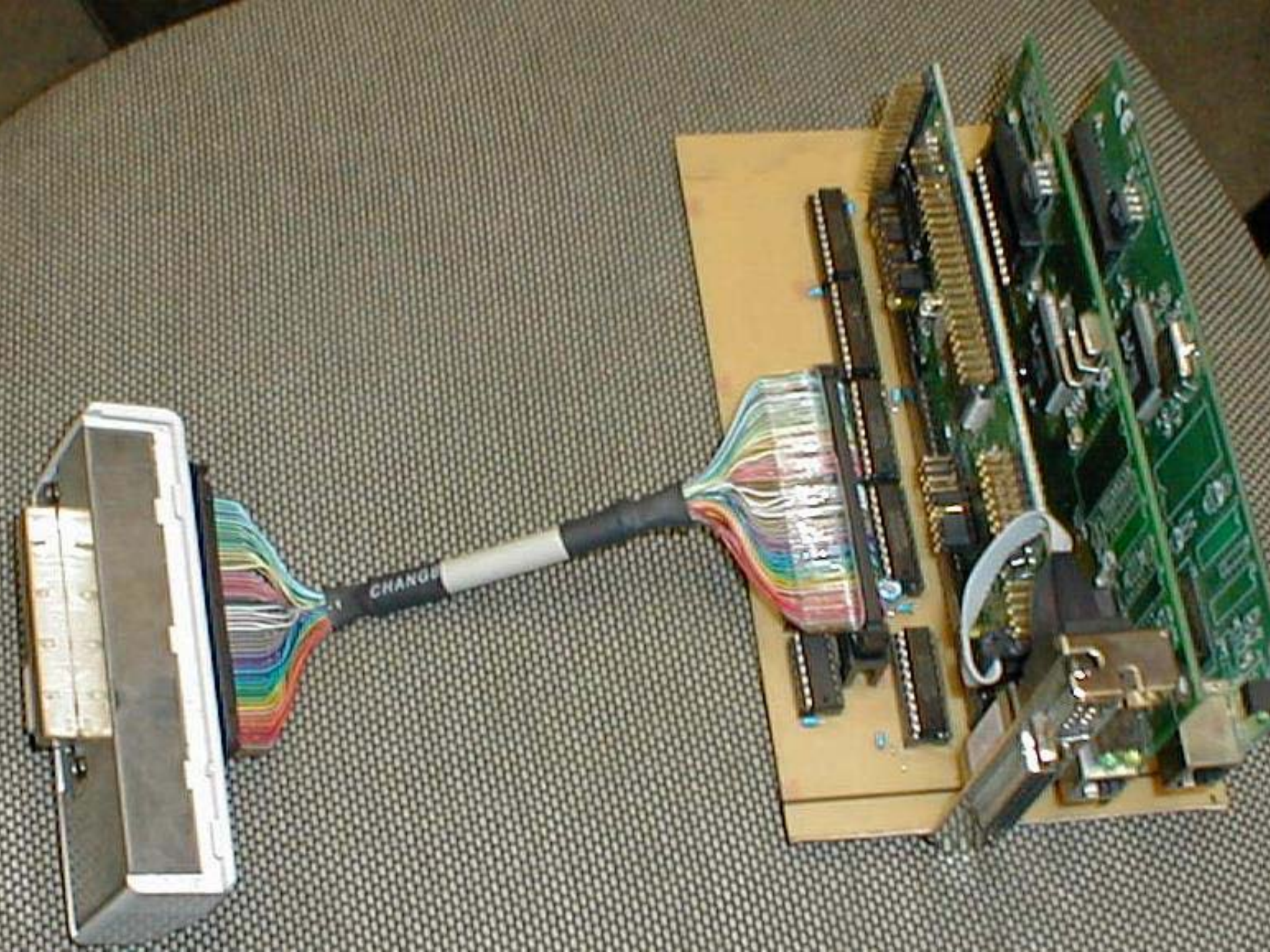
CONTROL REGISTER:
 BIT7 : IRQ ENABLE (READ/WRITE)
 BIT6 : INT (READ)
 BIT5-0 : GPIO DIR (READ/WRITE)
 GPIO DIR: 1:IN / 0:OUT (init all IN)

G2 BUS <=> USBN9603 INTERFACE 3 FOR DREAMCAST

USBN9603 PARALLEL INTERFACE (mode 0)
 version 3:
 USBN9603 DATA BUS TO DIRECT G2 BUS
 ACCESS TIME CONTROL (use /BTA /BTB)
 ADD GPIO PORT (6BIT)

DATE 2006/10/28 DESIGNED BY JJ10DM







I have a
Dreamcast!



Project goals

- Write Linux kernel drivers to support open serial-based SD and Ethernet.
- Create an updated Dreamcast toolchain and LiveCD.
- Build a kernel with compiled in serial-SD support to boot an r+w Linux installation off an SD card.

More information

- Debian on SH4: wiki.debian.org/SH4
- Unofficial DebianSH: tinyurl.com/debiansh
- PowerVR GPU info: powervr.com
- Ready-made SD: xckdiy.taobao.com
- Open homebrew hardware: dc-swat.ru
- SD card hack w/ pictures:
tinyurl.com/chinese-dc-forum
- Hacking of G2 bus: tinyurl.com/re-g2-bus