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BeamBox:
PIF9501

Beam Box



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Introduction

The BeamBox from Black Box enables you to create a mini-network between two Pc's and a printer using just parallel printer cables.

It allows one PC to access another's resources such as it's disks, directories, CD drives etc.. The Beam Box even allows the client PC to share the host's LAN connection giving it full access to any peripherals on the LAN such as printers.

The BeamBox allows the connection of a printer via it's DB25 parallel port.

The Beam Box supports all of the following operating systems:

- Windows 3.X
- Windows 95
- Windows 98
- Windows NT



Hardware Installation

This section will take you through four easy to follow steps to allow you to install your BeamBox.

1. Before making any connections, make sure that all of your equipment is turned off.
2. Attach a parallel printer cable between the parallel port of each PC and an input of the BeamBox.
3. Attach a parallel printer cable between the BeamBox and your printer's parallel port.
4. Now, power up your PCs followed by your printer(The red indicator on the BeamBox lights showing its ready status.)

Notes:

- The BeamBox does not need any AC adapter.
- The BeamBox allows you to print even when the second attached PC is switched off.
- Use 25 conductor parallel cables.



Software Installation

This section explains how to load the system drivers onto your PCs.

This driver's installation is required on both computers running Windows 95 and/or 98.

1. Insert the included diskette into your diskette drive.
2. Click on the button Boot-up (Démarrer), then Execute (Exécuter). The Execute window appears.
3. Type A:\Lmbsetup.exe (or B:\lmbsetup.exe according to the drive allocation number where you have inserted the diskette) and click on OK. The LMB95 INSTALLATION window will now appear. Click on OK.

An icon will now appear on your desktop labelled "LMB95 Connection". This will be used to enable a connection to the BeamBox.



Installation Of The Direct Cable Connection Program

The following steps explain how to install the direct cable connection program; this software is required on both computers.

1. In the "Control Panel", double-click on "Add/Remove Programs". The Add/Remove Programs Features window appears.
2. Click on the tab "Windows Installation", then double-click on Communications. The communications window appears.
3. Select the option "Direct Cable Connection" (Connexion directe par câble) and click on OK.

Note:

If the option Remote network access is not yet installed in your computer, Windows will ask you to do so when you install the Direct cable connection. In this case, click on "Yes" when you are asked to do so by Windows.

4. In the Communications window click on OK.
5. In the "Add/Remove Programs" features window, click on OK.
(Insert the CD-ROM and reboot your computer when Windows asks you to do so.)
6. Follow the above instructions to install the program on the second computer.



Set-up Of A Direct Connection For Resource Sharing

Setting up the host computer (whose resources you wish to share)

1. Double-click on the LMB95 Connection icon located on the desk.

The Direct Cable Connection (Connexion directe par câble) window appears.

2. Click on “Modify”... (Modifier), then on “Host” (hôte) and finally on “Next” (suivant).

3. Click on Parallel Cable on LPT1 (Câble parallèle sur LPT1), then on “Next” (suivant) and on “Terminate” (Terminer).

The Direct Cable Connection (Connexion directe par câble) window appears.

The computer is expecting a connection with the guest (Invité) computer.

Notes:

- You can continue to use this host computer as normal.
- When performing the next connections, after double-clicking on the LMB95 Connection icon, you only need to click on the Listen (Ecouter) button.
- It is advisable not to use password protection at the first try. If everything is operating correctly you can return and select this item on the host (hôte) computer. (This can be done by going in to the LMB95 Connection icon and clicking on the “Modify button”).

Setting Up the guest computer (which wishes to access to the host computer’s resources)

1. Double-click on the LMB95 Connection icon located on the desk.

The Direct Cable Connection (Connexion directe par câble) window appears.

2. Click on “Modify”... (Modifier), then on “guest” (invité) and finally on “next” (suivant).

3. Click on “Parallel Cable” on LPT1 (Câble parallèle sur LPT1), then on “Next” (suivant) and on “Terminate” (Terminer).

The “Direct Cable Connection” (Connexion directe par câble) window appears. The computer will try to establish a link with the host computer.



A new window showing the host computer's shared resources appears on the screen. In order to access — if necessary—the host computer's network, double-click on the "Network vicinity" (Voisinage réseau) icon (in the explorer or on the desk).

The access type to these resources (read only or complete access) depends on the type you selected on the host computer (Features/Sharing [Propriétés/Partage]).

NOTES :

- You can continue to use this guest computer as normal.
- When performing the "next" connections, after double-clicking on the "LMB95 Connection" icon, you only need to click on the Connect (connecter) button.
- When the host computer is attached to a network, you can also access to the shared printers on the network (use the assistant Add printers under Workstation/Printers/Add printers).

Printer Sharing

The Beambox features automatic sharing of a printer between two computers, even without enabling the direct cable connection.

When the direct connection is enabled and the host computer is connected to a network, the guest computer can access to the shared printers on the network.



Print Job Troubleshooting

Problem: the document does not print correctly or doesn't print at all

- If you use a bi-directional driver, install it in unidirectional mode or install a driver available in the Windows selection list and compatible with your printer.
 - Make sure that there isn't a dongle connected to the parallel port used by the BeamBox. Otherwise, remove the dongle and retry printing. If the printing fault disappears, the best solution would be to install a second parallel port on your PC in order to attach the dongle to this port.
 - Check your parallel cables. They must be shielded, high quality, and not exceed 5 meters in length if they are standard cables.
 - Choose another mode for the parallel port in your computer's setup*. If the current mode is EPP, select the ECP or SPP mode (standard parallel port). Reboot Windows and reinstall the print driver.
- * You can access to your computer's Set-up by pressing one of several hotkeys (e.g. <F10> or or <ALT> <CTRL> «S»...) immediately after power-up. (Refer to the manufacturer's manual).
- In Windows 3.1 and 3.11, make sure that the item «Direct printing on the port» is not selected (you can access to this item by clicking on the "Control Panel", "Printers", "Connect"...).

Note:

If the printing problem persists after having checked the above points, call Black Box technical support.



Network Troubleshooting

Problem: the connection of the guest PC to the host PC fails

- Make sure that the printer is connected and powered on (the red indicator on the BeamBox is lit).
- Make sure that the computer connected to the network is configured as host and the other as guest. This can be checked by going into the LMB95 Connection icon and clicking the "Modify" button.
- Make sure you selected the item Parallel Cable on LPT1 (or, if necessary, LPT2) on both computers. This can be checked by going into the LMB95 Connection icon and clicking the "Modify" button.
- Make sure you activated the item File Sharing on the host computer.
 - In the Control Panel, double-click on "Network".
 - In the Network window, click on File and Printer sharing.
 - In the File and Printer sharing window, activate the item "Allow other users access to my files".
- Make sure you shared an element (directory, drive...) on the host computer.
 - In the Workstation window, click on the element you wish to share.
 - In the File menu, click on "Share..."
 - Click on "Share as". If the Share tab is not visible, you have to activate the file sharing services (see preceding point).
- Make sure that no other program is already using the Remote Network Access, e.g. a modem.
- Make sure that the parallel cables used have 25 conductors.

Note:

If the printing problem persists after having checked the preceding points, do not return the product but contact Black Box Technical Support.

