Portable Fibre Channel Tester

What is Fibre Channel?

Fibre Channel (FC) is the general name of an integrated set of standards being developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). FC defines a new protocol for flexible information transfer. Fibre Channel, a switched protocol, allowing concurrent communications among mainframes workstations, supercomputers, data storage devices and other peripherals, provides a total network bandwidth on the order of a terabit per second. Fibre Channel is 10 to 250 times faster than existing networks. It is able to transfer data:

- in duplex serial mode
- at speeds exceeding 1 Gbit/s
- over distances of up to 10 km
- at BER of 10^{-12}
- via optical and copper cables

Existing protocols such as **IP, SCSI, HIPPI, IPI and ATM** can be transported over Fibre Channel.

Product Overview

The Portable Fibre Channel Tester is an FC-1, FC-2 and FC-4 level test and analyzer system. It supports the Fibre Channel Standard (FCS) version 4.3. The tester can help to indicate and to analyze the byte, word, frame, protocol and upper level protocol problems and errors. It is also able to monitor the data transfer between two FC devices.

The tester has a wide range of different working modes from the simplest Signal Generator mode up to the most complex Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) mode. The easy to use graphical interfaces and the symbolic frame editors allow a successful work with the tester for users not having a deep knowledge about the Fibre Channel Standard.

The tester is controlled by MS DOS PC or laptop via PCMCIA. Up to 4 test modules can be integrated into a test setup under a single PC control.

Applications

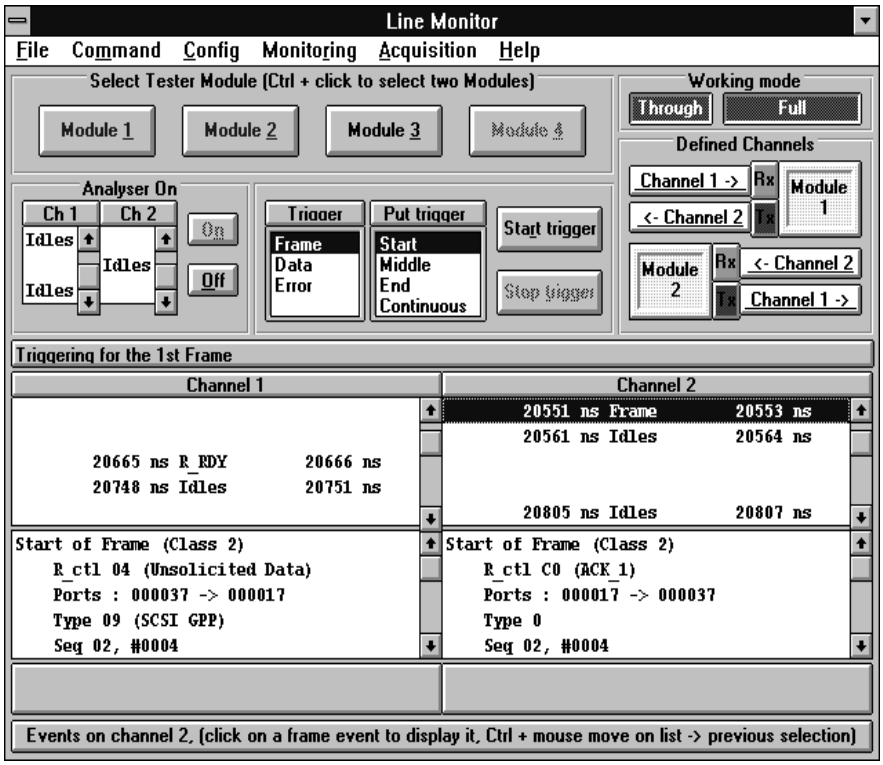
The tester can be used for hardware and software development of Fibre Channel Adapters and Fabrics. The tester also can operate as Automatic Test Equipment (ATE) for the manufacturing of FC devices. It is also an effective tool for the service and maintenance of FC devices and networks

Hardware Features

- FC-1, FC-2 and FC-4 level test system
- Up to 2 test modules in a testbox
- Up to 4 test modules can be integrated to a test system controlled by a single PC or laptop
- 266 Mbit/s data rate
- Different ELC/OLC options
- Synchronized time stamps for the outgoing and incoming events
- Controlled via PCMCIA
- Output for Logic Analyzer

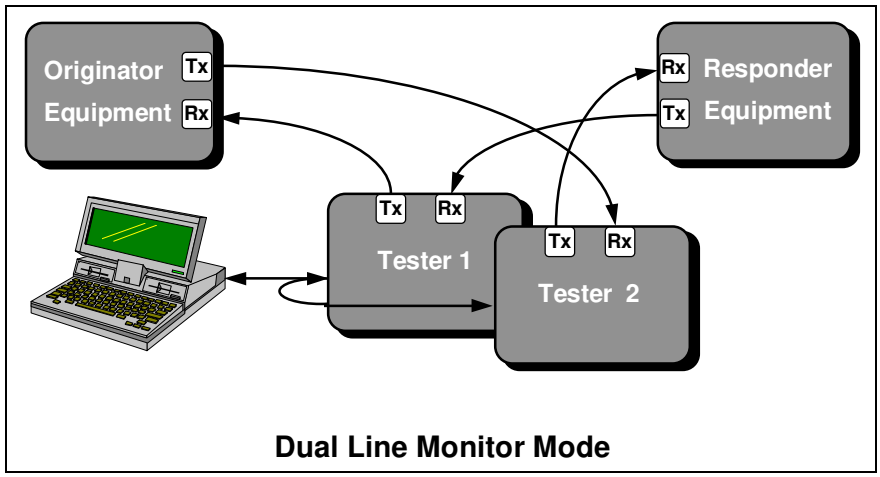
Software Features

- MS Windows environment
- Easy to use user interfaces controlled by mouse and hot keys
- Independent graphical user interfaces for each working modes
- Structured and low level data display
- Symbolic 8B and 10B frame editors
- Generation and indication of normal and corrupted bytes, words, frames and protocols
- Easy to use environment for creating complex automatic tests
- Expandable test procedure library with a predefined set
- Test data archiving capability
- Support of different upper level protocols (SCSI, TCP/IP, etc.) (Q2/95)



Working Modes

- Signal generator
- Programmable automatic tester
- Line monitor
- N_Port emulator
- Fabric tester and emulator (Q2/95)



Dual Line Monitor Mode

Ordering Information

Fibre Channel testbox with one test module: FCT 01.04.01
Fibre Channel testbox with two test modules: FCT 01.04.02

The FCT 01.04.0X Fibre Channel tester is the result of a joint development of Hewlett Packard, European Laboratory for Particle Physics (CERN) and Research Institute for Particle and Nuclear Physics (Budapest).

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