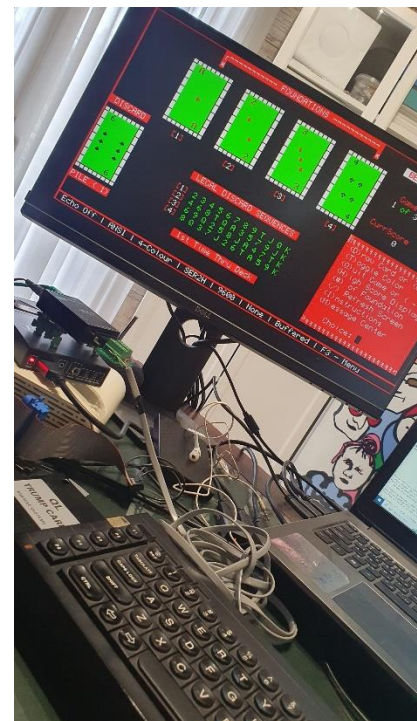


Sinclair QL connected to internet-telnet based BBS using MOXA Nport

GUIDE (how to)



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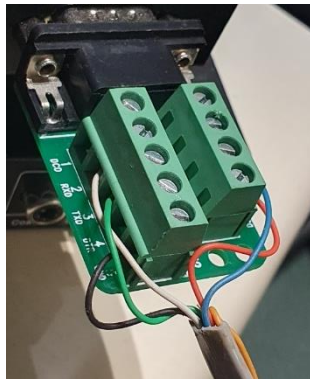
Prepare Sinclair QL (Cable)

Prepare a cable which supports handshake (TX, RX, RTS, CTS).

I have followed this pin assignment and connected this to SER2:

QL SER2	QL CABLE COLOUR	DIRECTION	PC SIGNAL	PC 9-PIN D
pin 2 TxD	white	-->	RxD	pin 2
pin 3 RxD	green	<--	TxD	pin 3
pin 4 DTR (=RTS)	blue	-->	CTS	pin 8
pin 5 CTS	red	<--	RTS	pin 7
pin 1	black	---	GND	pin 5
N/A	-	-	DSR	pin 6
N/A	-	-	DTR	pin 4

Photo:



I have preferred a DB9 plug with screw inputs for easy testing. Later on these can be soldered to a normal plug.

Note: MOXA has a MALE DB9 socket. So you need a FEMALE DB9 plug.

The other end of cable is connected to QL SER2:



This is all you need regarding the QL cable (QL hardware).

Prepare the MOXA Nport 5150A (Configuration)

- Connect MOXA to your laptop directly and make sure the IP address of your laptop is in the same IP range with the MOXA default IP (192.168.127.254)
- Login (admin, moxa) (by default)
- Check the MOXA running FW and upgrade if necessary (get latest FW from MOXA site)

■ Firmware

- 1.6 Build 20101317

This is the latest FW for this device at 17/03/2024

- After login you reach to this:

- NPort 5150A	■ IP	- 192.168.1.254	■ MAC Address
- NP5150A_4938	■ Serial NO.	- 4938	■ Firmware

❖ Welcome to NPort web console

Model	NPort 5150A
Name	NP5150A_4938
Serial NO.	4938
Firmware	1.6 Build 20101317
IP	192.168.1.254
Mac Address	00:90:E8:74:DE:13
Up Time	0 days 01h:05m:39s
Serial Port 1	9600,None,8,1

(Similar).

You will need to :

- SET NETWORK settings
- Serial Settings
- Operating Settings.

Like for example:

Network Settings

Network Settings

IP address	<input type="text" value="192.168.1.254"/>
Netmask	<input type="text" value="255.255.255.0"/>
Gateway	<input type="text" value="192.168.1.1"/>
IP configuration	<input type="text" value="Static"/>
DNS server 1	<input type="text" value="192.168.1.1"/>
DNS server 2	<input type="text" value=""/>

IP Address Report

Auto report to IP	<input type="text" value=""/>
Auto report to UDP port	<input type="text" value="4002"/>
Auto report period	<input type="text" value="10"/> (0~99 secs)

LLDP Settings

LLDP	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Enable <input type="radio"/> Disable
Message Transmit Interval	<input type="text" value="30"/> (5~32768 secs)

In this example:

LAN IP of MOXA is set to 192.168.1.254

Gateway to 192.168.1.1 (Do not forget this. This is the IP address of our home router)

IP configuration is Static

And DNS server is 192.168.1.1 (our router here)

Remember: By changing the default LAN IP address of MOXA, the laptop will lose it. Connect MOXA and laptop to the same LAN with the home router from now on.

Serial Settings

Port 1

Port alias

Sinclair

Serial Settings

Baud rate

9600 ▼

Data bits

8 ▼

Stop bits

1 ▼

Parity

None ▼

Flow control

RTS/CTS ▼

FIFO

☒ Enable

☐ Disable

Interface

RS-232 ▼

Submit

Serial settings are:

1. Baud rate: 9600
2. Data bits: 8
3. Stop bits: 1
4. Parity: None
5. Flow Control: RTS/CTS
6. Interface: RS-232

Operation Modes

Port 1

Operation mode	TCP Client	
TCP alive check time	7	(0 - 99 min)
Inactivity time	0	(0 - 65535 ms)
Ignore jammed IP	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Yes	
Destination IP address 1	bbs.magnum.uk.net	Port 23
Destination IP address 2		Port 0
Destination IP address 3		Port 0
Destination IP address 4		Port 0
Designated local port 1	5011	
Designated local port 2	5012	
Designated local port 3	5013	
Designated local port 4	5014	
Connection control	Any Character/None	

Data Packing

Packing length	0	(0 - 1024)
Delimiter 1	00	(Hex) <input type="checkbox"/> Enable
Delimiter 2	00	(Hex) <input type="checkbox"/> Enable
Delimiter process	Do Nothing	(Processed only when packing length is 0)
Force transmit	0	(0 - 65535 ms)

Submit

Select Operation Modes settings as above.

Make sure that Operation Mode is: TCP Client

Destination IP address 1: Is the telnet address of the BBS you would like to access. Port is always 23

Connection control: Any Character/None

Backup/Restore

Pre-shared Key

Cipher key for encrypting the configuration file (max: 16 characters)

Submit


Configuration Import

Select configuration file No file chosen

IP configuration ☐ Import all configurations including IP configurations.

Import

Configuration Export

 **Export**

Save the MOXA configuration from Backup/Restore Menu. Do the same for every different BBS you would like to access. Then with the Import selection you can import the different configurations and change the BBS you would like to connect.

Connect the MOXA to the home network and the QL to the MOXA.



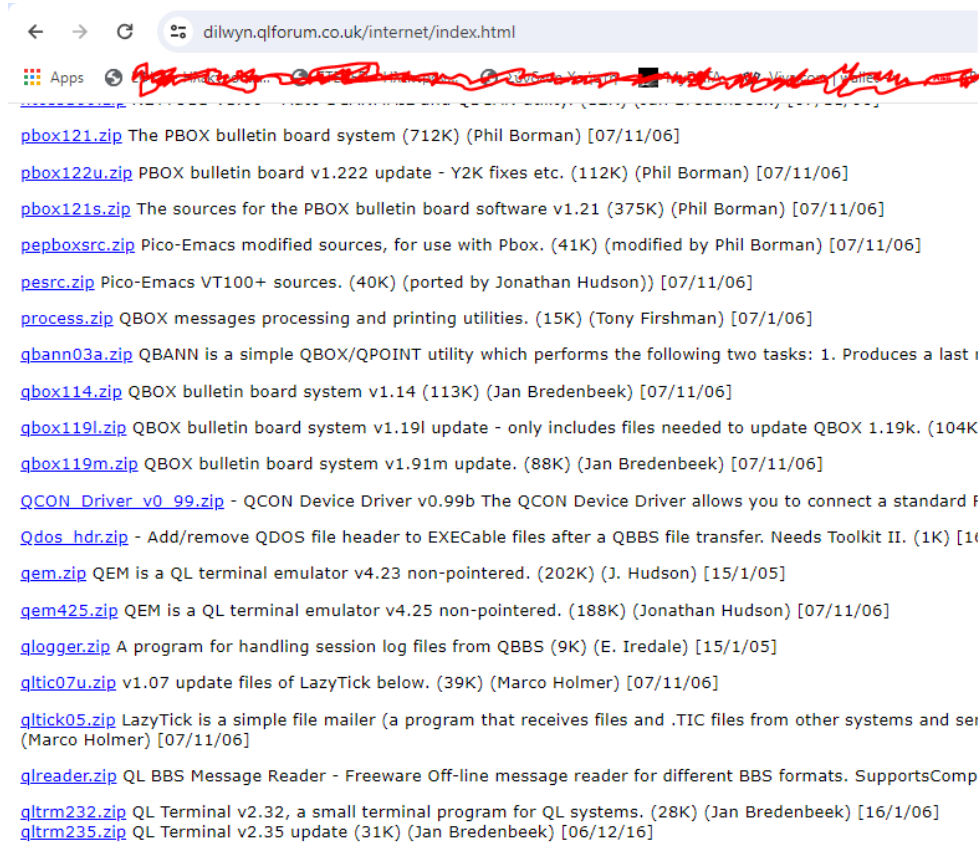
(LAN = One free LAN port of our home router)
(QL = SER2 of Sinclair QL)

Configure the Sinclair QL software and begin!



Load Tk2 (not necessary but nice) and execute QLTERM software (by Jan Bredenbeek)

NOTE: QLTERM software v2.35 is the latest one and must be used. Can be found in Dilwyn's page



Press F3 for Menu and "I" for interface and set:

- Echo Off
- Modem Type: Buffered
- Port: SER2H (because we need to use Handshake)
- Baud: 9600 (Same like in MOXA)
- Parity: None (same like in MOXA)
- We keep ANSI, 4-colour

By doing all above and by pressing ENTER several times we are connected to the BBS which requests login credentials (Select New user when connected for the first time)

Communication is smooth. Like this:

```
Last few callers:
1 6433 Geokonst Athens, Greece 15:15 Row 2
1 6434 Geokonst Athens, Greece 15:38 Row 3
1 6435 Geokonst Athens, Greece 16:33 Row 4
2 6436 Geokonst Athens, Greece 16:47 Row 5

Auto message by: Keyop #1 on Mon Feb 22 2021 20:16:10
> Latest updates to Magnum BBS can be found in the message area:
> Local - Sysop Notices
> Select [J] from the main menu to change message area

System      : >>> Magnum BBS <<<(8x19 > 80x11
User #290    : Geokonst
Logons Today : 6      (Max 50)
Time on Today : 74     (Max 480)
Mail Waiting : 1      (Unread 1)
Sysop is     : Available

[?] Read your mail now? [Yes] No

Echo Off | ANSI | 4-Colour | SER2H | 9600 | None | Buffered | F3 - Menu
```

And here you are.
Surf and enjoy...

Connect by setting the Nport as Ethernet Mode

You can connect to TELNET based BBSes by another Nport mode also:

Ethernet Modem

Advantages:

- Easier configuration
- You do not need to stay connected to Nport via PC when you need to change the BBS to access

Prepare Cable for this connection

For this operation mode we need one more signal for the Nport. Nport actually needs to get something on its DSR line. And therefore, we will cable pin6 of QL (+12V) to the DSR input of Nport.

This cable is works fine with previous mode also.

Therefore, cable to prepare is:

QL SER2	QL CABLE COLOUR	DIRECTION	PC SIGNAL	PC 9-PIN D
pin 2 TxD	white	-->	RxD	pin 2
pin 3 RxD	green	<--	TxD	pin 3
pin 4 DTR (=RTS)	blue	-->	CTS	pin 8
pin 5 CTS	red	<--	RTS	pin 7
pin 1	black	---	GND	pin 5
Pin 6 +12V	yellow	-->	DSR	pin 6
N/A	-	-	DTR	pin 4

(Same cable can be used also for the Nport TCP Client connection)

Nport configuration for Ethernet Modem mode

Very easy.

The Serial configuration remains the same.

Serial Settings

Port 1	
Port alias	<input type="text" value="Sinclair"/>
Serial Settings	
Baud rate	<input type="text" value="9600"/>
Data bits	<input type="text" value="8"/>
Stop bits	<input type="text" value="2"/>
Parity	<input type="text" value="None"/>
Flow control	<input type="text" value="RTS/CTS"/>
FIFO	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Enable <input type="radio"/> Disable
Interface	<input type="text" value="RS-232"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

(In this example I set 2 stop bits, but in QL there is no need to setup something differently. It is better to avoid 1 stop bit at 9600 baud because in QLs with the original IPC, 1 stop bit at 9600 baud is not supported)

The Operating settings are extremely simple:

Operation Modes

Port 1	
Operation mode	<input type="text" value="Ethernet Modem"/>
TCP alive check time	<input type="text" value="7"/> (0 - 99 min)
Local TCP port	<input type="text" value="23"/>
<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	

Connect to QL software and begin again!

Just start QLTERM software with the same settings as before and you can immediately send AT commands to the NPort Modem:

```
QLTERM Version 2.35  Release 09/11/16
Copyright © 1987-2016 by Jan Bredenbeek
Colour mode: 4-colour
at
OK

Echo Off | ANSI | 4-Colour | SER2H | 9600 | None | Buffered | F3 - Menu
```

```
QLTERM Version 2.35  Release 09/11/16
Copyright © 1987-2016 by Jan Bredenbeek
Colour mode: 4-colour
at
OK
ati
NPort 5150A ver1.6
OK

Echo Off | ANSI | 4-Colour | SER2H | 9600 | None | Buffered | F3 - Menu
```

In order to connect to a BBS you need to know its IP address.

In the list of BBSes that will be presented in next chapter, the IP address is always there.


For example, for QL Dump we see:

Search Results for: ql dump

★ Added Within Last 30 Days

★ BBS INFO

QL Dump



Telnet:	86.12.24.168
Software:	Synchronet
Connection:	Telnet

[MORE...](#)

The IP address is therefore: 86.12.24.168

In case there is no IP address mentioned, then use a ping command to the url address and get the IP address. Here:

```
C:\Users\gekon>ping bbs.dmine.net

Pinging bbs.dmine.net [70.109.57.175] with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 70.109.57.175: Destination host unreachable.
Reply from 70.109.57.175: Destination host unreachable.
Reply from 70.109.57.175: Destination host unreachable.
Reply from 70.109.57.175: Destination host unreachable.

Ping statistics for 70.109.57.175:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
```

IP address is 70.109.57.175 for bbs.dmine.net

And in order to connect with the use of QLTERM we just issue the command:

atd xx.yy.zz.cc:23

Here:

```
QLTERM Version 2.35 Release 09/11/16
Copyright © 1987-2016 by Jan Bredenbeek
Colour mode: 4-colour
atd 86.12.24.168:23
```

```
Synchronet BBS for Linux Version 3.18 Copyright 2020 Rob Swindell
```

=====

CLIENT CONN: Raw
ADDR: ppp046103007073.access.hol.gr [46.103.7.73]
TERM: 80x20 ANSI

SERVER NAME: QL DUMP
ADDR: 001english-eu.no-ip.biz
NODE: 1 (of 10) - Linux 4.19.0-26-amd64 x86_64
TIME: Sat Mar 30 2024 15:28:13 WET
ADMN: jobdone

If you are a new user to the system, type "New" now.
Otherwise, enter your user name or number now.

Enter User Name or Number or 'New'
Login:

Echo Off | ANSI | 4-Colour | SER2H | 9600 | None | Buffered | F3 - Menu

Voila!

Really very easy.

Where can I find BBS to connect?

This is easy. There are a lot of Telnet connection BBS. Follow this link and check:

<https://www.telnetbbsguide.com/bbs/list/detail/>

In this way you will have Sinclair QL surfing internet-based BBS in 2024.

Thanks for watching!

Take care

Georgios Konstantopoulos.