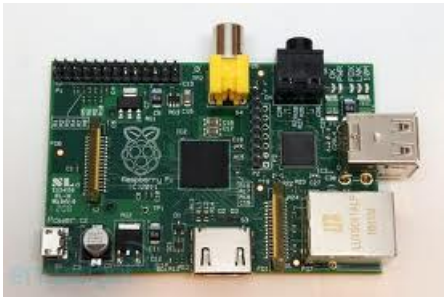
Ladybridge Systems

QM on the Raspberry Pi

After a delivery delay of over three months caused by the huge backlog of orders, our Raspberry Pi has finally arrived. Porting QM to this device was trivial and it was successfully running our pre-release test suite within a few hours.

So, just what is the Raspberry Pi and why is it causing so much excitement?

The Raspberry Pi is a credit card sized computer with a price tag of under £25 (US$35) for the model B device. It uses a 700MHz ARM11 processor with 512Mb RAM and an SD memory card in place of a hard disk (though it is possible to add a USB hard disk if required). There are two USB ports, a GPU providing HDMI and RCA video, stereo audio output and an Ethernet connection. Not bad for the price or size!



The Raspberry Pi was launched in February 2012 by the not for profit Raspberry Pi Foundation as an educational tool to allow students in schools and colleges to learn about real "nuts and bolts" programming rather than the more usual lessons in how to use a spreadsheet or word processor. Enthusiasts around the world have purchased these devices as fast as they can be manufactured and are using them in projects as widely varied as controlling the production of home brewed beer to construction of a "super computer" by linking 64 units together.

Porting QM to the Raspberry Pi is seen as a valuable contribution to the process of increasing knowledge of multivalue database technology. By doing this before students have been indoctrinated in the relational model as the only way to construct databases, it is hoped that they will appreciate the well established benefits of the multivalue model and be in a position to make reasoned decisions about the architecture that is most appropriate for future projects.

Understandably, the Raspberry Pi is not a high performance device but it is impressive for the price and more than adequate to run relatively simple QM applications, including multi-user access.

A five user copy of the Raspberry Pi version of QM is available free of charge to genuine educational establishments. Potential users should email sales@openqm.com.

For more information on the Raspberry Pi, visit www.raspberrypi.org.

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