Subject: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by Kim W. on Sat, 20 Jan 2018 11:12:26 GMT
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Hi All.
I have been in a world of pain over the last few weeks.
Had a Gigabyte mobo with four pci slots and four EDS's running sweet as a nut for several years, with WIN 7 64 bit, and Mike's drivers.
Just hoping for some feedback from users that have purchased the EXSYS EX-35 expansion backplane and PCI-X host card. (Still available from Germany).
Is it stable?
I cannot find a newer mobo with four PCI slots.
Hoping for some advice. (Mike??)
As Far as I know, the EXSYS is the same product as the Virtua Via.
Cheers,
Kim W.

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by Will The Weirdo on Sun, 21 Jan 2018 07:04:23 GMT
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I'm building up my PARIS rig again, I decided against a new MB/CPU as it is way past overkill, so I'm picking up a used Gigabyte GA-P75-D3 motherboard with 4 PCI slots and a NOS Intel i5 3470 Quad Core CPU for under $200 for both on Ebay. I'll report back in a few months when I get it all together.

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by SummingStrange on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 05:50:35 GMT
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What CPU and socket are you using? I thought you might be on Generation 4 - Haswell? Would be nice to be able to re-use your CPU.

The Jetway NAF93 industrial mobo is still in production and it has 4 PCI slots native off the Q77 chipset (or Platform Controller Hub in Intel's language).

Only problem is that mobo is Gen 2/3 - Sandy/Ivy bridge, so this means Core i7-2600 or i7-3770 etc.

You can still find new Ivy Bridge CPUs and a few Sandy Bridge i5s.

I'm (still) about to commence my Jetway NAF93 build with a Core i7-2600K. Apologies for the fact that I can't guarantee the compatibility of the mobo - delays are due to renovations on the house; I have nowhere to set up my gear until they're finished.

The way things are looking though, the external chassis looks like the best way to go for the future. A chassis connected using an x4 or x8 PCIe slot would be ideal, as I don't know if the 250Mb/sec (theoretical) x1 lane would end up being a bottleneck with multiple cards.

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by SummingStrange on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 06:13:34 GMT
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Update: There is a Jetway NAF95 mobo that takes a Haswell CPU and it has four PCI slots.

However, these PCI slots are not native to the chipset (Q87) on this mobo, so it uses an Asmedia bridge chip to convert parallel PCI to serial PCIe. There were problems with some bridge chips early on with certain audio software - people were unable to run more than 4 "Masterverbs" on a mix without digital breakup when previously they had been running 12 or more with native PCI.

I have no clue what these "Masterverbs" are, but it was enough for me to understand that there was a bottleneck with audio throughput when using bridged PCI. That is why I went for the specific board with native PCI. But there's plenty of people using bridged PCI now, unfortunately no documented users with multiple EDS cards running Paris.

The Q77 chipset was the last one to offer a native PCI bus on the actual chip. Intel have ceased all support for PCI now.

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by Kim W. on Tue, 23 Jan 2018 07:32:21 GMT
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Thanks all.
I am leaning toward the Exsys expansion backplane for futureproofing purposes. I have a newer AMD mobo (can't remember the model offhand, and a quad core AMD Phenom processor.
It only has two PCI slots, which is not enough. It has a couple of 16x PCIe slots, however. This may be the way to go, but will look into the mobo suggestions above.
Cheers,
Kim

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by story on Wed, 24 Jan 2018 15:19:08 GMT
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I also plan to get the Exsys like Wayne did. He seems to be alright with it. So let's see.

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by Wayne on Sat, 03 Feb 2018 20:00:37 GMT

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Hi Kim,

Just returned from vacation.

My SWD EX-1035, EX1094 and EX1095 are working great using and old gutted comp box as the expansion chassis running 3 cards. Studio 1 has a Win7-64 with Mike's PARIS and drivers. Studio 2 has an XP box with Mike's earlier PARIS and drivers. Chassis is moved back and forth where-ever it's needed.

See my posts back in 2015. Search SWD and filter Wayne and you'll find them.

Wayne

Subject: Re: Need four PCI slots. My system is dead.
Posted by Kim W. on Sat, 03 Feb 2018 22:35:05 GMT

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Thanks, Wayne.
Good to know you have had success with this combo.
Cheers,
Kim