zawodny@arbd0.larc.nasa.gov (Joseph M Zawodny) writes:

> I am not too pleased with this either. What happens if I have a
> printer printer plugged into the parallel port already and the PC sits
> inaccessibly underneath my desk. Do I have to Run IDL, Unplug HASP,
> Plug in printer, Print plot, Unplug printer, Plug in HASP, Run IDL
> some more,... If so this may push us over the edge. All of this
> paranoid software security seems so unneccesary.

If it's like other dongles I've seen in the past, it sits between the computer
and the printer. You plug it into the computer, and the printer into it. As I
recall, it looked a lot like the sex changes we used to have to use with RS232
connections. It's been years since I last saw one, so my memory may be a
little hazy.

> There may be a better way. Lower the price of the initial software so
> that the primary source of corporate income shifts from initial
> purchases to a larger base (which arises from the lower initial price)
> of software maintanence fees and require that all new versions (except
> for major bug fixes) require a new license. This seems to work for
> the bulk of PC software companies - they make the majority of their
> bucks from upgrade fees.

Hear, hear!

Bill Thompson