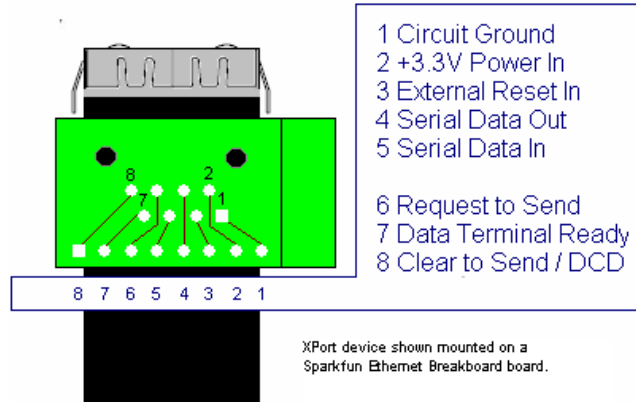ALL THIS AND INTERNET TOO: EXPERIMENTING WITH THE XPORT

One of the most expensive add-ons I've purchased for my Protoboard is the Xport from Lantronix. This $100 device is essentially a UDS10/100 built into a single Ethernet connector.   It interconnects between a serial connection (to the Propeller) and an Ethernet connection.   Recently, Uncommon projects built something called yBox TV, which is a Propeller based device that connects between the Internet and your TV.   There is source code to do everything from display time/weather to displaying images from the Internet on your Prop.   yBox is simple to duplicate if you have an Xport handy.

Since I tend to breadboard projects like this one, I purchased an Ethernet breakout connector from Sparkfun. This board fits the Xport, allowing you to solder a male pin header for easy experimenter access. (Be aware of the possibility of shorting the top of the pin header against the Xport casing when building this project)

1 Circuit Ground
2 +3.3V Power In
3 External Reset In
4 Serial Data Out
5 Serial Data In

6 Request to Send
7 Data Terminal Ready
8 Clear to Send / DCD

XPort device shown mounted on a
Sparkfun Ethernet Breakboard board.

http://www.yBox.com

A few things to note: First of all, the Xport draws a lot of current, about 200ma. This is more than your entire Protoboard does with all the other add-ons I've mentioned. You may want to heatsink the voltage regulators on your Protoboard if you intend to use this long-term. Also, the documentation for Xport recommends that it be attached to an inch of copper. (on the perf board) The Sparkfun ethernet breakout isn't designed with extra copper, so a heatsink on the Xport might not be a bad idea either.   In spite of a little heat, I had no problems with the unit being hooked up for a couple hours without issue.

This add-on opens some interesting possibilities. Now you have the ability to receive boatloads of SPAM on your Propeller, and perhaps surf the web in text. (Someone want to write a text browser for the prop?) How about a Propeller-based old fashion BBS system that runs on a Propeller, which can be called by other Propboards over the Internet?

Dreaming?   It's been done with 8bit micros..

My own example of possible Xport
connection to a Parallax Propeller chip.