

Utilizing NIC's enhancements

A look at how driver software
needs to change when using
newer features of our hardware

'theory' versus 'practice'

- The engineering designs one encounters in computer hardware components can be observed to undergo an 'evolution' during successive iterations, from a scheme that embodies simplicity, purity, and symmetry at the outset, based upon what designers think will be the device's likely uses, to a conglomeration of disparate 'add-ons' as actual practices dictate accommodations

'backward compatibility'

- An historically important consideration in the marketing of computer hardware has been the need to maintain past functions in a 'transparent' manner – i.e., no change is needed to run older software on newer equipment, while offering enhancements as 'options' that can be selectively enabled