



Making Things Move

*Finding inappropriate uses
for scripting languages*

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Real Hackers Use Soldering Irons

Programmers usually limit themselves to doing things *inside* the (PC) box. Move some bits and bytes around in memory, change some pixels, maybe make some sounds.

Booooring!

Try to think *outside* the box. Literally. It's not as hard and scary as you may think.

But it *can* kill you if you're not careful!
I accept no responsibility for what you do with the information I'm about to provide ;-)



Getting Wired

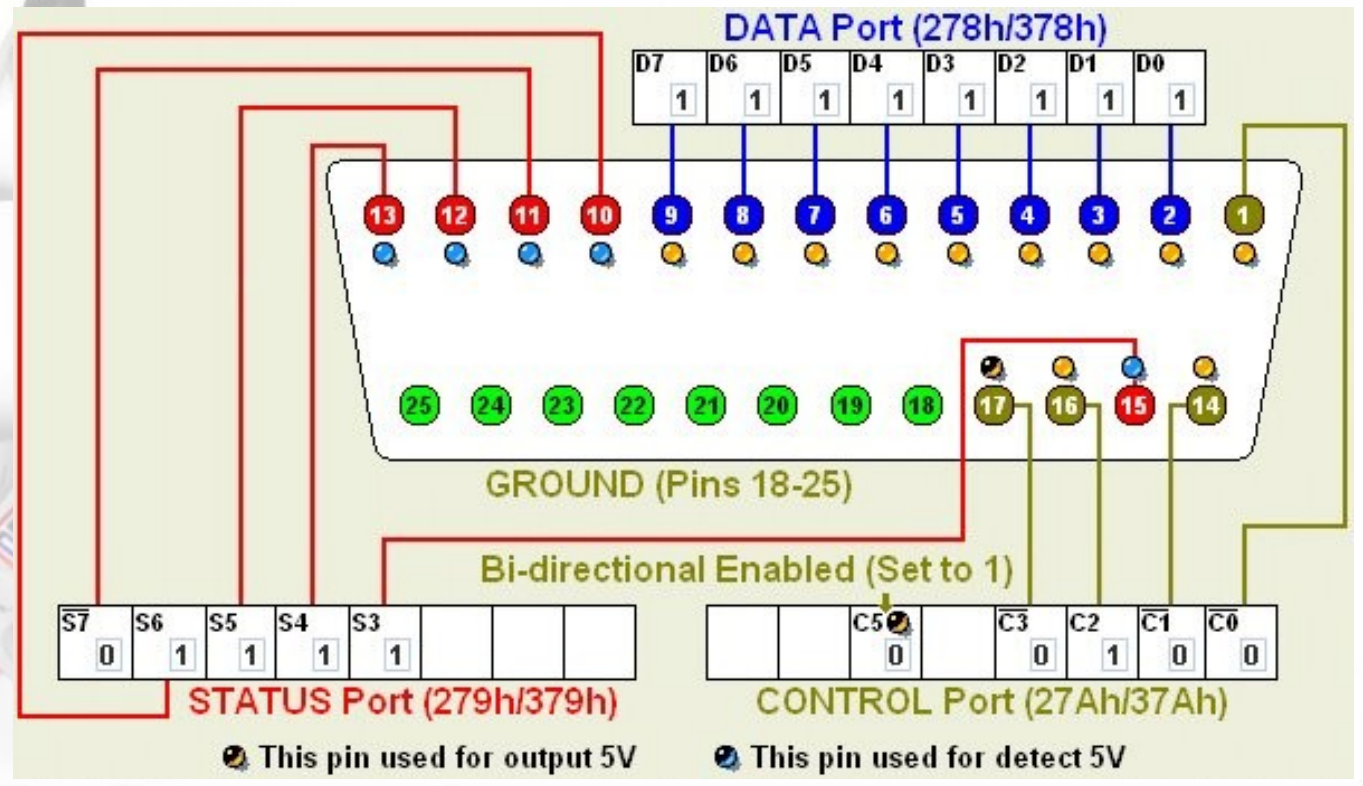
There are a bunch of interfaces you can play with, of varying degrees of difficulty and capability. Pick your poison:

- Parallel port
- Serial port
- PS2
- PCI bus
- USB
- IR

Parallel Port Basics

The parallel port is the best one to get started with because it's a “dumb” port. You don't need flow control, or a comms protocol, or anything else. Just turn stuff on and off.

Scripting languages don't have much low-level hardware support, but we can get around that using some trivial little helper programs written in C.



Ain't It Purty?



Not Just A Pretty Face



Who Goes There?



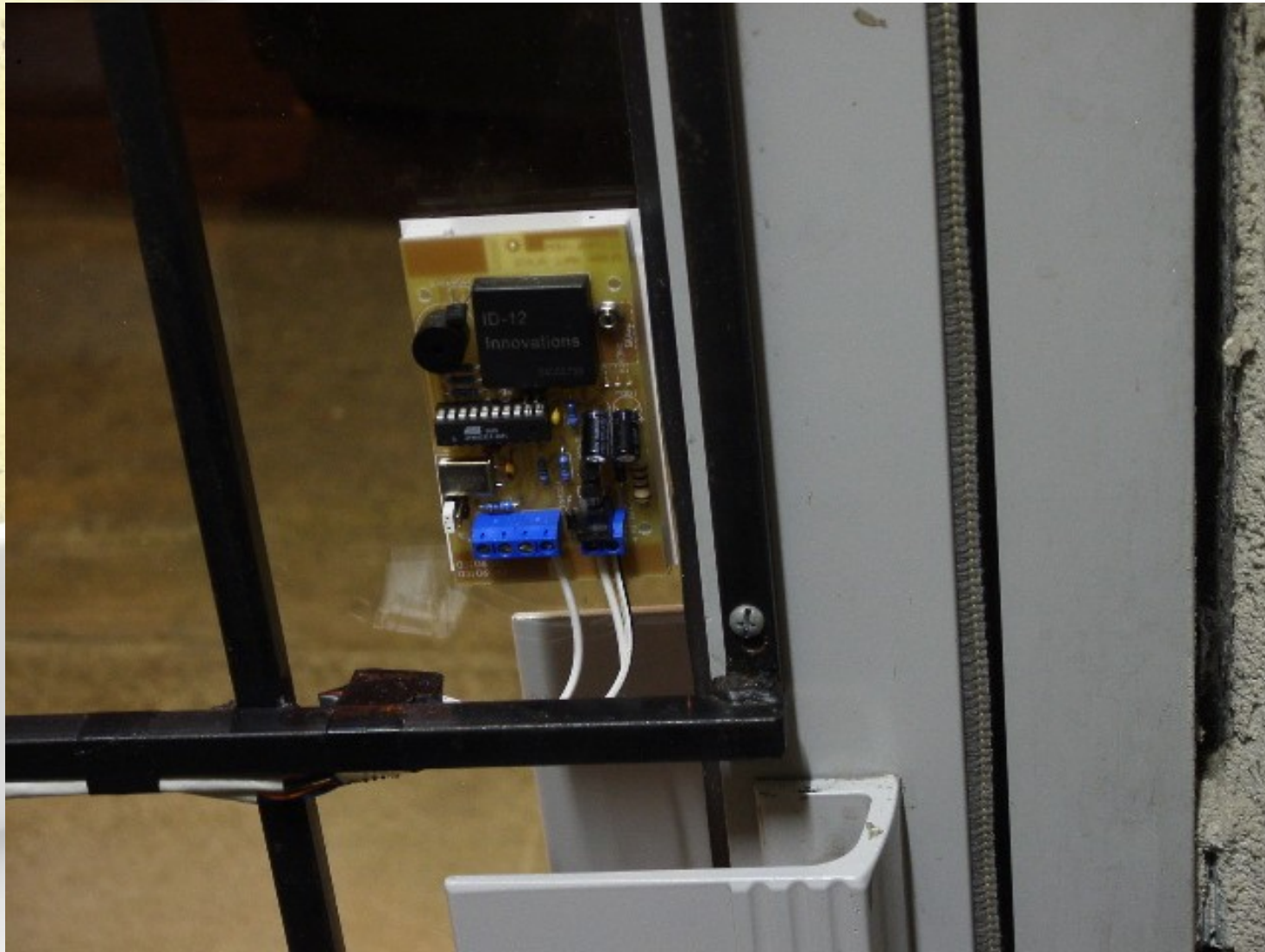
Let There Be Light



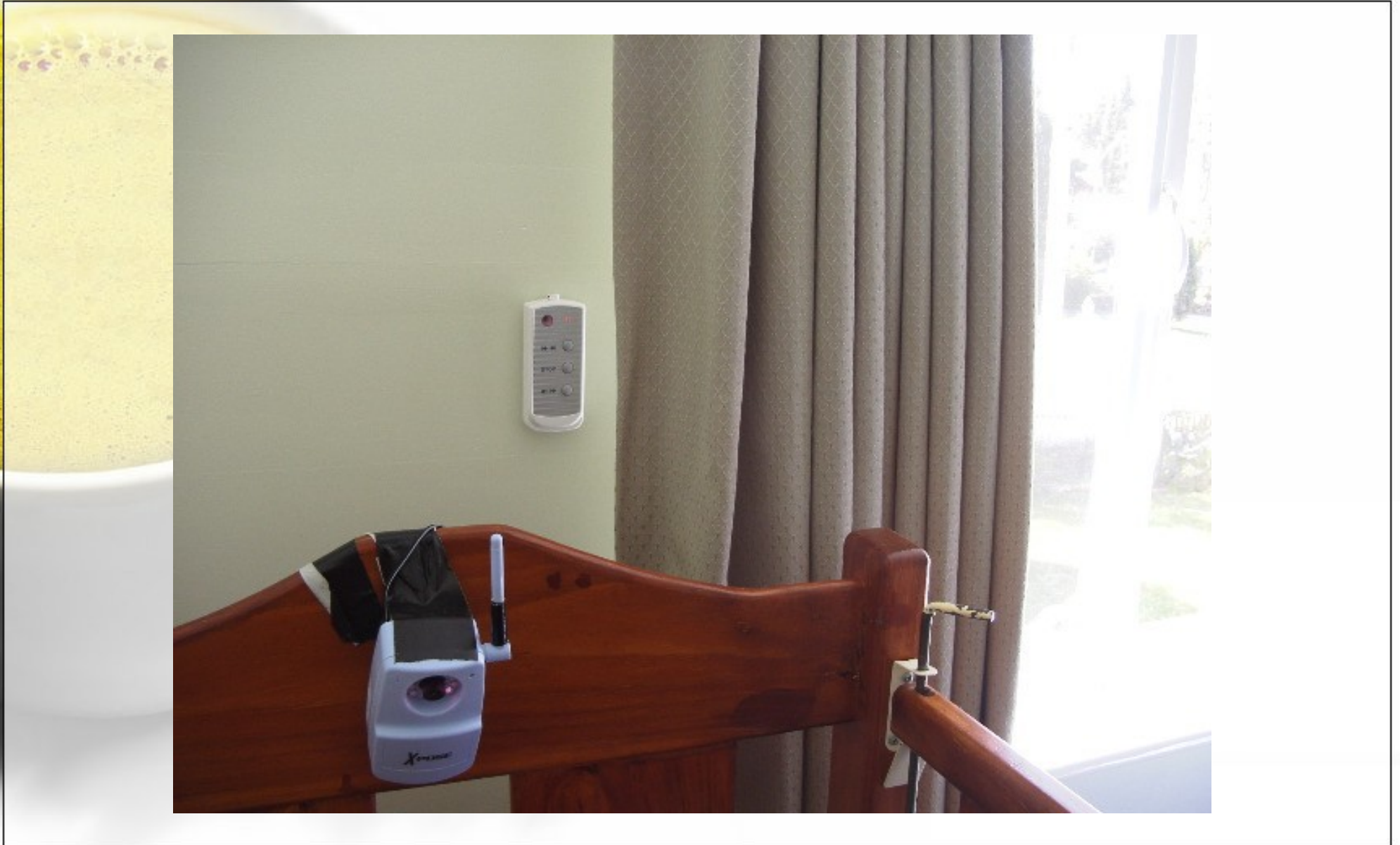
Magnet Power!



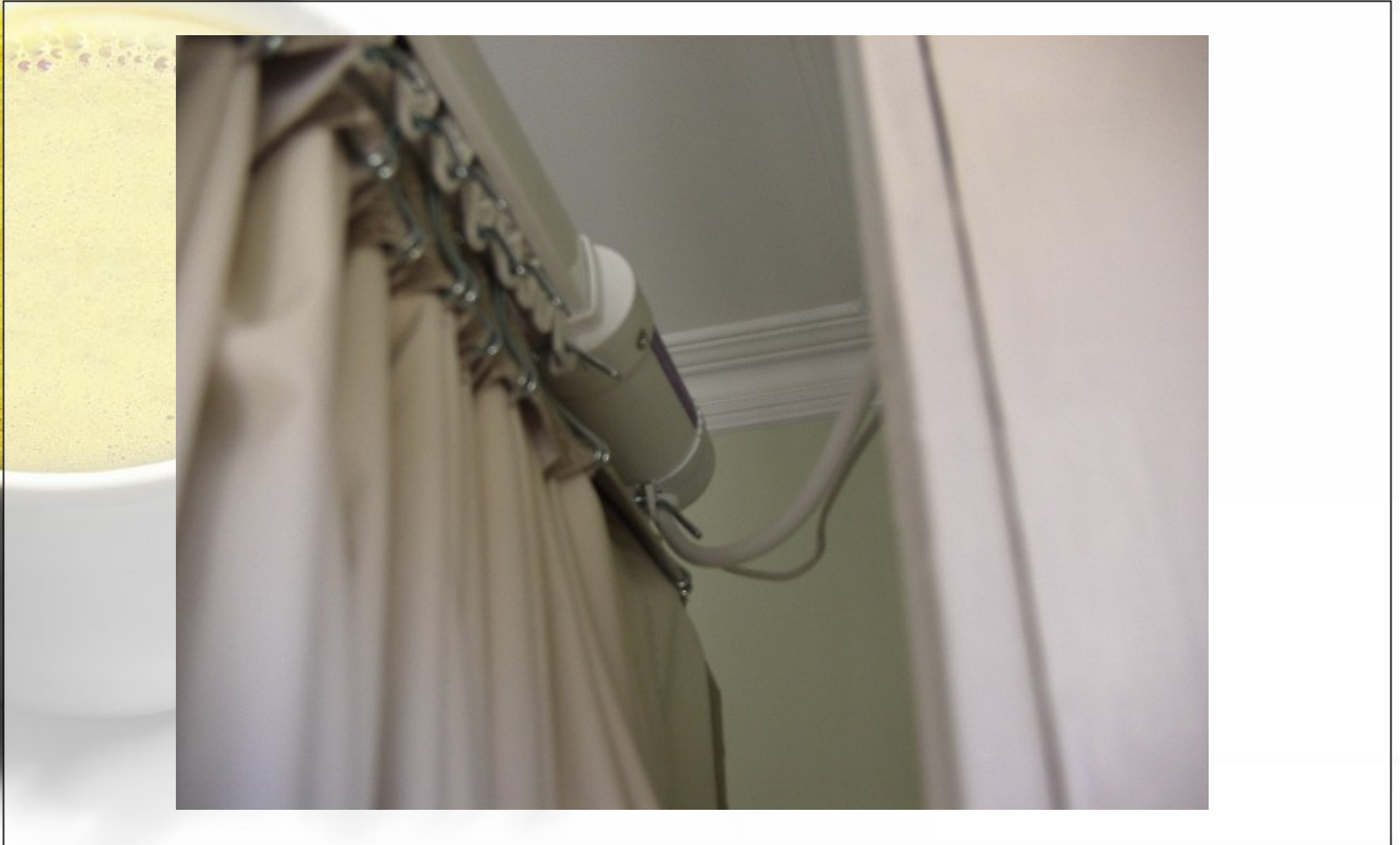
What Am I?



Curtains For Lazy People



Making It Move



PC Phone Home



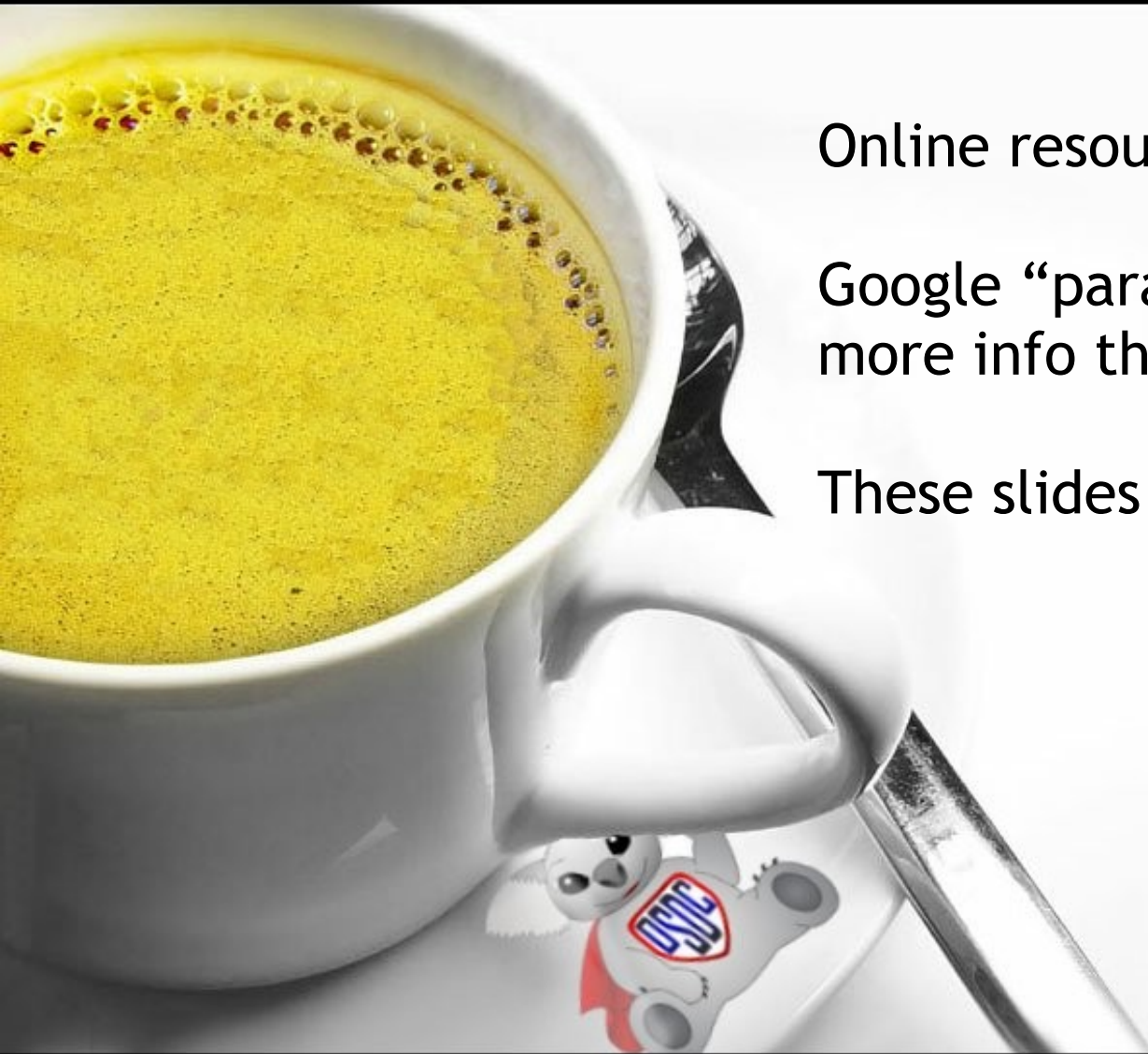
Price Check On Aisle 3!



Watering For Lazy People



More Information



Online resources: massive!

Google “parallel port control Linux” for more info than you can shake a stick at.

These slides are at jon.oxer.com.au/talks