

KVM TRIVIA Vol.1



What is PS/2 keyboard/mouse emulation?

Hello! My name is “Masked Writer K.” I work in ATEN as the writer of this column. For this issue, I’ll discuss a KVM technology that you may have overlooked while working in the server room.

When speaking of KVM technology, I must begin by discussing Emulation, specifically “PS/2 Emulation” which is an integral part of KVM. Starting with this basic concept makes it easier for you to understand the development of KVM technology.

① PS/2 mini-DIN 6 pin



PS/2 has very familiar colors of PC99, but it has not been seen much lately...

KVM works the same way as switches from a long time ago, particularly using the same dial mechanism for switching circuits. Simply put, a KVM switch is a machine that switches electrical circuits.

However, computers cannot share PS/2 interface devices, such as keyboards and mice, by simply switching the circuit. Why? This is because the keyboards and mice must be hot plugged. Hot plugging means being able to plug or unplug devices to/from the computer without the computer being powered off. Since PS/2 keyboards or mice do not support hot plugging, a computer will fail or hang when the circuit is suddenly switched off. This is why a KVM switch needs to send emulation signals to the computer/s so that the computer recognizes that a keyboard is still connected. This process is referred to as PS/2 emulation.

② Keyboard emulation by KVM switch

Because only one keyboard is connected, a KVM switch sends keyboard signals to a computer.

