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What Your Fez panda 2 Can Do? by [Ewan Fisher](#)

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The Fez panda 2 is a Microcontroller board that accepts Arduino Shield daughter boards “ enabling the developer to work with .Net Micro Framework and the free version of Microsoft’s Visual C# Express. The board may require drivers for some Arduino shields to work, though it is technically pin compatible with all of them.

Running at 72 MHz, the Fez panda 2 enables developers to program, run and debug loading their applications using a USB cable. Debugging capabilities of the Fez panda 2 include stepping in code and the inspection of variables.

Fans of the Fez Panda will find much that is familiar about the Fez panda 2. The Panda 2 is an expanded and enhanced version of the original Fez Panda, with extra IOs, a Real Time Clock and an on board microSD socket “ so you can do more things with the same basic platform. Most users choose to purchase the Panda 2 with the FEZ Ultimate Kit, which includes a Fez Touch; a Fez Connect Shield; an Infrared receiver; a light sensor; a piezo; and a group of blocks and connectors that form a great base for free thinking!

The Fez panda 2 comes with special built in libraries that enable the USB drive to configure emulation of all sorts of external operators “ thumb drives; mice; keyboards; and virtual COM to name but a few. In addition to 54 IO Ports, there are six 10 bit analogue inputs; and a 10 bit analogue output including WAV playback. There are 6 hardware PWM channels and the board supports Ethernet.

Supporting all kinds of open source drivers and sensors, the Fez panda 2 is generally used as the base controller from which new applications are grown. A touch screen is available “ and Fez also provides a nice line in enclosures to make the finished project look completely professional.

The open source nature of the Fez panda 2 encourages innovation, design and development across a range of industries. With the electronics industry as a whole becoming technically more open to open source ways of thinking, the movement is coming out of the hobbyist’s corner and into more mainstream arenas “ many of the new devices you’ll be enjoying over the next year or two are likely to have some open source development in their pedigree.

The Fez panda 2 is fitted with firmware, which may be erased to expose JTAG. With a FAT file system and XML support it is capable of becoming the heart of almost any hand held electronic device.

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