1. Virtual Instrumentation Software Architecture (VISA)

2. 256 instruments? (from NI-VISA User Manual)

VXI and GPIB Platforms

NI-VISA supports all existing National Instruments GPIB, VXI, and Serial controllers for the operating systems on which NI-VISA exists. For VXI, this includes, but is not limited to, MXI-1, MXI-2, VXI-834x, VXI-1394,

GPIB-VXI, and the line of embedded VXIpc computers. For GPIB, this includes, but is not limited to, PCI-GPIB, GPIB-USB-A, AT-GPIB/TNT, PCMCIA-GPIB, and the GPIB-ENET and GPIB-ENET/100 boxes, which you can use to remotely control GPIB devices. With the GPIB-ENET and GPIB-ENET/100 boxes, you can even remotely control VXI devices when using a GPIB-VXI controller.

Serial Port Support

The maximum number of serial ports that NI-VISA currently supports on any platform is 256. The default numbering of serial ports is system dependent, as shown in Table 10-2.

3. SCPI: OUTPUT ON
   Python: print(power_supply.write("OUTPUT ON"))

4. SCPI: OUTPUT OFF
   Python: print(power_supply.write("OUTPUT OFF"))