Connecting to the Black Box

What do you need ?

To be able to communicate with a Black Box unit through a computer, you would need a serial cable.
The so called RS232 protocol makes use of a COM port, hooked up over the serial connection.
On unix based systems this would be something like /dev/ttyS0

Modern systems

USB ⇔ Serial

In some cases, when the host system no longer has a physical COM
port, an USB to serial converter is used.

With Linux you would get something resembling: /dev/ttyUSB0)

The interface:

Over the command prompt you can send out commands by means of a PHP script.
This way you can use the following features:

You can:

- Create the MySQL database and tables

- Scan for units

- Read data from the PDUs and have this stored in the database

- Check whether all units are still present on the bus

- Read the current status of the outlets

- Switch outlets on or off

- Reset the Kwh meters to 0