
Subject: Re: serial port

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 19:58:21 GMT

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michele writes:

- > okay i try to explain better...
- >
- > i want to write a program that uses the gps and so i need to read and
- > write directly from the serial port.
- > on the idl web-site there is a zip file (under user-contributed site,
- > section dll and dlm files) that seems to provide what i need.
- >
- > if you unzip the file you get 4 files:
- > serial.dll and serial.dlm (to be put in a specified folder)
- > a readme file that is a bit like the help page that describes 4
- > functions
- > and a c-language source code (it doesn't have a main).
- >
- > my goal is to be able to use the functions described in the text file:
- > these functions are
- > comm_open
- > comm_read
- > comm_write
- > comm_close.
- >
- > all this stuff is achieved through dynamically linked modules, and in
- > this case it means that my idl program must be coupled with some piece
- > of C-language..
- >
- > what i did is just putting the dll and dlm files in the right folder,
- > and than trying to use the functions as normal idl functions.
- > but they are not recognized as functions.
- > moreover i didn't use the c source file in any way... but i think i
- > should use it.. if it contained a main i could try to spawn it from
- > the main idl module but i can't get an executable out of it becuse it
- > contains no main...

I don't know. It seemed to work for me. I downloaded the file. Extracted the DLL and DLM files to the appropriate place in my IDL distribution. Exited IDL. Started IDL and typed this:

```
IDL> DLM_LOAD, 'serial'
% Loaded DLM: SERIAL.
IDL> h=COMM_OPEN('com1')
IDL> ok = COMM_CLOSE(h)
```

Seems to work fine.

You are running this on a Windows machine, right? If not,
the C source code is so you can recompile it for your machine.

Cheers,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>
