
Subject: Re: serial.dll for serial port under IDL
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 22 Oct 2008 16:10:46 GMT
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peter.thejll@gmail.com wrote:

> Hi, Thanks for your suggestions.
>
> On Oct 20, 8:19 pm, Rick Towler <rick.towler@noaa.gov> wrote:
>> Are you sure the serial dlm isn't working?
>
> No.
>
>> Isolate the issue by doing a
>> loopback test. Simply short pins 2 and 3 of the DB9 connector as
>> described here:
>>
>> <http://zone.ni.com/devzone/cda/tut/p/id/3450>
>>
>> Then write a simple program in IDL that sends some data then reads it.
>> Once you can send data to yourself then connect up the external devices
>> and try to communicate with them.
>
> Good idea! I am not much for soldering though - is the cable you
> describe a 'null-modem cable'? I have one of those.

No soldering required. You can use a paper clip :). That null modem cable should have female connectors at both ends so you can plug one end into your computer then short pins 2-3 at the other end of the cable.

Use Hyperterm to test your cable as described on that same webpage I linked above. Once you know your cable is working then you can try IDL.

The test in IDL will be as simple as this:

```
IDL> h=comm_open('COM1',BAUD=9600,DATA=8,MODE=3,PARITY='N',STOP=1 )
IDL> b=comm_write(h,'This is a test')
IDL> data=comm_read(h)
IDL> print, data
 84 104 105 115 32 105 115 32 97 32 116 101 115 116
IDL> print, string(data)
This is a test
```

It looks as if the original .dll was built for IDL 5.6. I just recompiled it for 6.4 for the test above. The issue might simply be that you need to recompile. I know you're working with 6.3, but I'll send you the .dll I just compiled and you can try that.

-Rick
