
Subject: Serial Port access

Posted by [Richard Tyc](#) on Mon, 05 Feb 2001 16:24:52 GMT

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Anybody have any libraries, DLL's, , CALL_EXTERNAL code examples which provides an IDL application with the ability to read the serial port on Windows NT machines (Intel). I am trying to get my IDL app to link to a fiberoptic thermometer via RS232 to read data continuously.

Just don't want to reinvent the wheel. Not to mention, I have never written code to access the serial port on a NT box.

BTW, I am referring to the standard COM1/COM2 port on the motherboard not external PCI/ISA interface cards.

Thanks

Rich

Subject: Re: Serial Port access

Posted by [ngls](#) on Mon, 12 Feb 2001 12:58:33 GMT

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Hmmm - well I don't have anything attached on my com ports, but I've managed to write to my printer port (LPT1:) with the following code and get a page out of the printer.

As for using READU, you'll probably have to create a small string to start with so IDL knows when to stop reading (as in the online help example).

Hope this helps,

Justin

```
IDL> print, !version  
{ x86 Win32 Windows 5.3.1 Feb 23 2000}
```

```
PRO test_print
```

```
OPENW, u, "LPT1:", /GET_LUN
```

```
    ;Create some text, followed by form feed  
    txt = "Testing from IDL" + (STRING(12B))[0]
```

```
WRITEU, u, txt
```

FLUSH, u

HELP, FSTAT(u), /str ;Show debug info

FREE_LUN, u ;Close and free lun

PRINT, "Done"

END

Richard_Tyc@sbr.umanitoba.ca (Richard Tyc) wrote in
<95pns1\$fiu\$1@canopus.cc.umanitoba.ca>:

> Thanks....

>

> Tried just opening 'COM1:' like your example states.

>

> Do not see any data on a writeu get to my device. On a readu, IDL

> completely hangs up and can only be killed by the task manager ?? I

> know the device spits out 60 byte messages every second so it cannot be
> waiting for data.

>

> I am not too confident with the concept of 'OPEN, COM1' in IDL.

> Anyone else know if this is possible ??

>

> Using IDL 5.4 on Win NT 4.0 SP5

>

> Rich

>

Subject: Re: Serial Port access

Posted by [ngls](#) on Mon, 12 Feb 2001 14:16:20 GMT

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Apologies for replying to my own post but...

I just connected my Palm to my com port (uses it for sync'ing) and managed to read 20 bytes - admittedly I couldn't tell if what I was reading was garbage but I got something out with the following code:

PRO test_com_read

OPENR, u, "COM1:", /GET_LUN

txt = BYTARR(20) ;Only read in 20 bytes

```
READU, u, txt

HELP, FSTAT(U), /str ;Show debug info

FREE_LUN, u ;Close and free lun

PRINT, STRING(txt) :Display what was read in as a string

PRINT, "Done"

END
```

ngls@bigfoot.com (Justin) wrote in
<9046820ABltbyltbmltbouts@155.198.199.181>:

```
>
> Hmmm - well I don't have anything attached on my com ports, but I've
> managed to write to my printer port (LPT1:) with the following code and
> get a page out of the printer.
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> start with so IDL knows when to stop reading (as in the online help
> example).
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> Justin
>
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>
> PRO test_print
>
>   OPENW, u, "LPT1:", /GET_LUN
>
>   ;Create some text, followed by form feed
>   txt = "Testing from IDL" + (STRING(12B))[0]
>
>   WRITEU, u, txt
>
>   FLUSH, u
>
>   HELP, FSTAT(u), /str ;Show debug info
>
>   FREE_LUN, u ;Close and free lun
```

```
>
>   PRINT, "Done"
>
> END
>
>
> Richard_Tyc@sbrc.umanitoba.ca (Richard Tyc) wrote in
> <95pns1$fiu$1@canopus.cc.umanitoba.ca>:
>
>> Thanks....
>>
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>>
>> Rich
>>
>
```
