
Subject: Serial Port

Posted by [Bernard Puc](#) on Thu, 28 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Is there anybody who has written any IDL code to access the serial port on a PC or UNIX platform? I'd be interested in seeing implementations.

Thanks.

--

Bernard Puc

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Subject: Re: Serial Port

Posted by [ashmall](#) on Fri, 29 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT

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Apologies for following up to my article but...

If you're not reading a fixed amount of bytes from the port, to terminate the transmission I think you have to send byte value 4, something like:

```
get_lun, u
openw, u, "COM1:"
text = "Hello Mum"
writeu, u, text + string(4b)
close, u
free_lun, u
```

Justin

In article <78s43i\$pec\$1@jura.cc.ic.ac.uk>, ashmall@my-dejanews.com (Justin Ashmall) wrote:

```
> We've done this under NT4. We just open a file as normal with OPENR or OPENW
> (for reading or writing to the port), but in the place of the file name use
> COM1: or COM2: (not forgetting the colons). The only problem is if you try to
> read from the port and it gets no data - it either hangs or has a very long
> time out.
> If you're having trouble email me at justin@ic.ac.uk and I'll dig out the
> code for you.
```

```
>
```

```
> Justin
```

```
>
```

```
>
```

```
> In article <36B0B2B5.1C0A2FB7@va.aetc.com>, bpuc@va.aetc.com wrote:
```

>> Is there anybody who has written any IDL code to access the serial
>> port on a PC or UNIX platform? I'd be interested in seeing
>> implementations.
>> Thanks.
>>
>>

Subject: Re: Serial Port
Posted by [ashmall](#) on Fri, 29 Jan 1999 08:00:00 GMT
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We've done this under NT4. We just open a file as normal with OPENR or OPENW (for reading or writing to the port), but in the place of the file name use COM1: or COM2: (not forgetting the colons). The only problem is if you try to read from the port and it gets no data - it either hangs or has a very long time out.

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Justin

In article <36B0B2B5.1C0A2FB7@va.aetc.com>, bpuc@va.aetc.com wrote:

> Is there anybody who has written any IDL code to access the serial
> port on a PC or UNIX platform? I'd be interested in seeing
> implementations.
> Thanks.
>
>

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 14:50:55 GMT
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michele writes:

> dear all..
> it's always the serial port..
> i downloaded the software from the rsi website (code contributed kind
> of thing), i placed the .dll and .dlm files in the right folders, and
> tried to use the functions as described in the readme file..
>
> the functions are not recognized as such.
>
> moreover what do i have to do with the c code source file (included in

> the downloaded archive)?
>
> could you please give me any tip to integrate the dlm in the main
> application?

It's like that Johnny Carson sketch where he used
to divine the answer to the question that was sealed
in the envelope. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [gnarlo](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 18:00:56 GMT
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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...

thanks in advance

michael

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [btt](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 19:41:00 GMT
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michele wrote:

> okay i try to explain better...
>

Hi,

Although you know the DLM is not working, you can confirm that it is (or is not)
in you DLM path by...

HELP, /DLM

which will spit out all of the currently accessible DLMs (whether loaded or
not). If it doesn't show up in the listing produced by the call to help, then
check your DLM path to make sure it includes the place you put the serial DLM.

PRINT, !DLM_PATH

Of course, you probably know already that the serial DLM is for Windows only.

Ben

> i want to write a program that uses the gps and so i need to read and
> write directly from the serial port.
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> section dll and dlm files) that seems to provide what i need.
>
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> this case it means that my idl program must be coupled with some piece
> of C-language..
>
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> 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...
>
> thanks in advance
>
> michael

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
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> comm_close.
>
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> this case it means that my idl program must be coupled with some piece
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> 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

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.
Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Mon, 02 Aug 2004 20:54:36 GMT
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David Fanning wrote:

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

<Ed McMahon>

A long sting of compiler errors.

</Ed McMahon>

<Carnac the Magnificent>

What is the error message Michele will see when he tries to compile this
on a non-windows machine?

</Carnac the Magnificent>

;)

-Rick

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [gnarlo](#) on Tue, 03 Aug 2004 12:24:30 GMT
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First thanks to all.. everything has been really useful

second, yes, i work on a windows machine

third

if i give as input

print, !dlm_path
the output is exactly the folder where my serial.dll and serial.dlm
are...

but if i do
help, /dlm
the serial.dll doesn't appear among the available modules...

i tried all this again on another machine (windows xp professional
with idl 6.0 full licensed)
and everything works...

the problem is that i would like this to work also on the first machine
(which is my laptop with windows xp home with idl 5.6 only demo mode).
maybe the demo mode doesn't allow to add further dlls and dlms ??

cheers
michael

Subject: Re: serial port
Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 03 Aug 2004 12:50:35 GMT
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michele writes:

> the problem is that i would like this to work also on the first
> machine
> (which is my laptop with windows xp home with idl 5.6 only demo mode).
> maybe the demo mode doesn't allow to add further dlls and dlms ??

I think that is likely. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

David Fanning, Ph.D.
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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Subject: Re: Serial Port
Posted by [Haje Korth](#) on Tue, 30 Nov 2004 23:04:54 GMT
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Have you tried the serial port dlm that is offered in the user contrib section of the RSI web page?

Haje

"Patrick Dillmann" <patrick.dillmann@gmx.de> wrote in message
news:c10d9338.0411300705.7915ac22@posting.google.com...

> Hi,

>

> I have a problem if I try to read a serial port on a Win 2000 PC. If I

> only send a message to a device everything works fine. But when I use
> the following Code to get an answer IDL hangs up:
>
> val=bytarr(34)
> port='COM1:'
> get_lun, u
> openu, u, port
> text = 'DATA?'+string(13B)
> writeu, u, text
> readu,u,val
> close, u
> free_lun, u
>
> Due to the fact that this code works as expected even for getting an
> answer if I first start and close the Hyper Terminal for this port, I
> believe that I must send some port settings (e.g bits per second,..)
> before sending my code.
>
> If this is the case, how can I initialize a serial port with IDL? Are
> there other possibilities to communicate with a device via a serial
> port?
>
> Thanks,
> Patrick
