



**OSGi<sup>TM</sup>**  
**Alliance**

## **RFC 213 - Serial Device Service**

Final

34 Pages

### **Abstract**

This document defines the Java API to communicate with Serial devices on the OSGi platform.

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# 0 Document Information

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## 0.3 Feedback

This document can be downloaded from the OSGi Alliance design repository at <https://github.com/osgi/design>  
The public can provide feedback about this document by opening a bug at <https://www.osgi.org/bugzilla/>.

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## 0.5 Terminology and Document Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY" and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in 1.

Source code is shown in this typeface.

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## 0.6 Revision History

The last named individual in this history is currently responsible for this document.

Revision	Date	Comments
Initial	August 22, 2014	Initial version Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
v0.2	August 26, 2014	Revised version Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
v0.3	August 26, 2014	Added the RFC number Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
v0.4	Sept. 10, 2014	- Modified based on ML comments - Edited some parts Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
v0.5	Nov. 6, 2014	- Removed USB properties - Changed design based on ML discussion Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
v0.6	Dec. 15, 2014	- Changed design based on review comments (Use a DTO for the configuration. Add an event listener.) - Removed mention the Service Factory - Add note for the USB-Serial use case Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp
final	Dec. 25, 2014	- Finalized to vote Yukio Koike, NTT Corporation, koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp

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# 1 Introduction

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OSGi Device Access Specification defines a unified and sophisticated way to handle devices attached to residential gateways or devices found in the home network by using various protocols such as USB, Zigbee, ZWave, KNX, and UPnP etc. OSGi Device Access Specification clearly declares that Device Category must be defined outside of OSGi Device Access Specification.

Recently, OSGi is gaining popularity as an enabling technology for building embedded system in residential market. It is expected that USB devices attached to residential gateways on OSGi has been processed since USB interfaces have been introduced into such gateways.

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# 2 Application Domain

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Currently there are several standardization bodies such as OSGi Alliance, HGI, and BBF which deal with the deployment of services in an infrastructure based on the usage of residential gateways running OSGi as Execution Platform.

In order to realize the services which access not only IP devices but also non-IP devices connected to the residential gateway, various protocols for home networks, such as ZigBee, Z-Wave, KNX/EHS, and ECHONET-LITE etc, have to be properly taken care of. While some residential gateways originally support those protocols, others do not. Such issue can be solved when such gateways can support USB interfaces and there exist USB dongles which support those protocols. As shown in Fig. 1, the residential gateway with USB dongles can handle various protocols by the way of “add-on”. The point is that such USB dongles can be usually controlled through Serial Communication.

The existing OSGi specifications which address related topics are:

- Device Access Specification - focuses on the dynamic discovery of the proper driver when a new device is attached/connected to the residential gateway

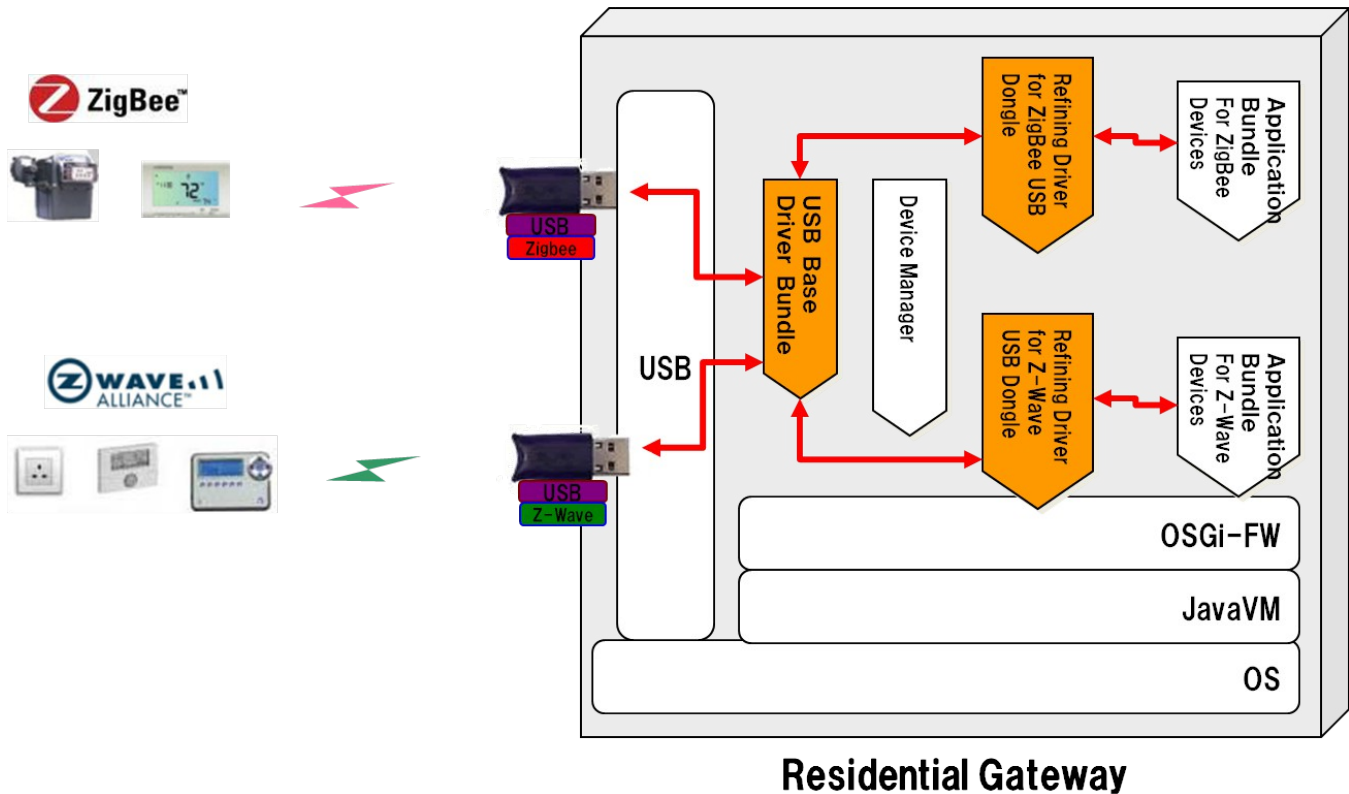


Fig 1 USB Dongles and Residential gateway

## 2.1 Terminology + Abbreviations

- Base Drivers: see "103.4.2.1" in OSGi Device Access Specification [3].
- Refining Drivers: see "103.4.2.2" in OSGi Device Access Specification [3].
- Match value: the value `match()` method of a Driver service registered by the refining driver bundle returns. Matching is explained in "103.7.2 The Device Attachment Algorithm" in OSGi Device Access Specification [3].
- Device Descriptor: see "9.6.1" in Universal Serial Bus Specification[4].

## 3 Problem Description

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The existing OSGi Device Access Specification provides the unified way to installation and activation of driver bundles. However, the OSGi Device Access Specification declares the device category for specific devices must be defined outside of itself. Currently, no device category for USB devices has been defined yet.

The lack of the device category for USB devices causes the following problems.

[Problem 1] The developer of a refining driver bundle, which registers a Driver service at its activation, cannot design and implement `Driver#attach(ServiceReference)` method without knowledge of service properties set to the Device service registered by a USB base driver.

[Problem 2] The developer of a refining driver bundle, which registers a Driver service at its activation, cannot design and implement `Driver#match(ServiceReference)` method without knowledge of service properties set to the Device service registered by a USB base driver and without the definition of match values to be returned.

In other words, without the device category for USB devices, a refining driver bundle developed by developer A can cooperate with the USB base driver bundle developed by the same developer A but cannot cooperate with the USB base driver bundles developed by the different developer B.

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## 4 Requirements

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[REQ\_1] The solution **MUST** be compatible with OSGi Device Access Specification.

[REQ\_2] The solution **MUST** define the details of the registration of a Device service by a USB base driver bundle when a USB device is attached.

[REQ\_2-1] The solution **MUST** define the service interface under which the Device service is registered.

[REQ\_2-2] The solution **MUST** define the service properties with which the Device service is registered: A set of service properties, their data types, and semantics, each of which must be declared as either **MANDATORY** or **OPTIONAL**.

[REQ\_3] The solution **MUST** define the way how a driver bundle controls an attached USB device which can be controlled through Serial communication.

[REQ\_4] The solution **MAY** define a range of match values specific to this device category.

[REQ\_5] The range of match values **MUST** be sufficient to describe the required range of native serial drivers specified by the HGI, especially the following ones:

- Class drivers for Human Interface Device (HID) and Communications Device Class (CDC) <sup>1</sup>
- Drivers for FTDI Virtual Com Ports with a variable list of supported USB Vendor Identifiers and Product Identifiers<sup>2</sup>.
- Drivers for Silicon Labs CP210x USB to UART bridge and CP2110 HID USB to UART bridge<sup>3</sup>.
- USB drivers for Prolific PL-2303 USB to Serial Bridge Controller<sup>4</sup>.

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## 5 Technical Solution

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### 5.1 Introduction

RFP 149 “USB Device Category” describes the requirements regarding what to be defined as an OSGi Specification when handling USB devices with OSGi. Among various use cases described in this RFP, we would like to focus on such a typical use case as USB-Serial dongle that can be controlled through Serial Communication.

Such communication can be implemented by means of serial connection when using non-IP devices based on ZigBee and Z-wave protocols. The most typical case arises when a USB dongle that supports such protocols is connected to the USB port in the devices such as residential gateways. OS on the gateways will recognize the dongle as a virtual serial device, and initiate a serial communication with the application process.

In order to realize such a case on OSGi platform, this RFC defines a device category and a service for Serial devices. This document explains specifications required for establishing communication between OSGi bundle and serial devices.

RFC 202 “USB Information Device Category” defines a device category for USB devices. Therefore RFC 202 and this RFC are the solution for RFP 149.

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1 [http://www.usb.org/developers/devclass\\_docs#approved](http://www.usb.org/developers/devclass_docs#approved) for details of USB device classes

2 <http://www.ftdichip.com/Drivers/VCP.htm>

3 <http://www.silabs.com/products/mcu/pages/usbtouartbridgevcpdrivers.aspx>.

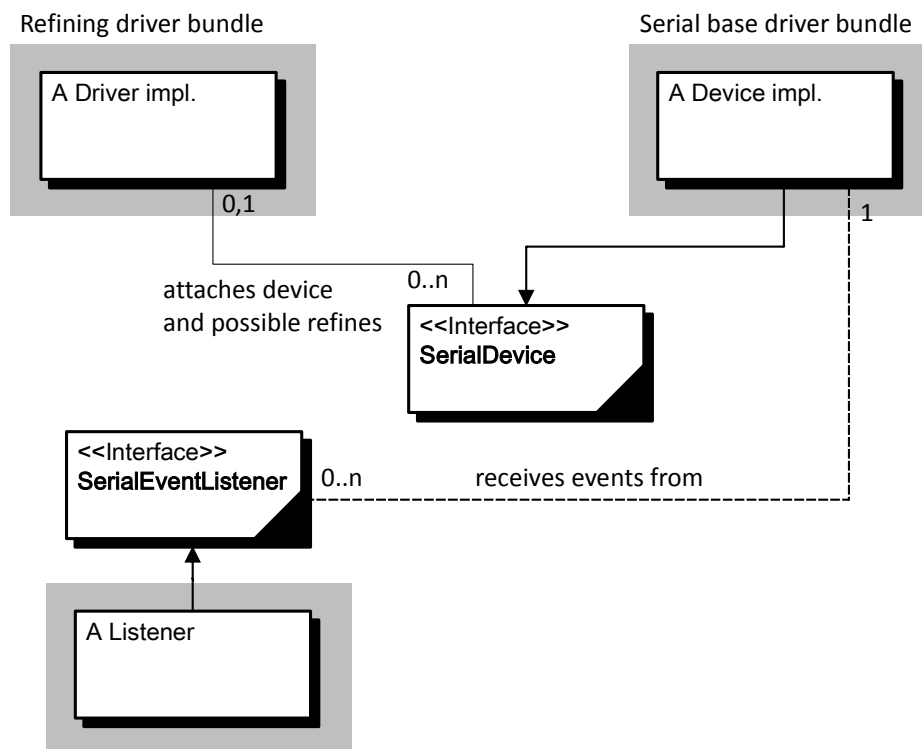
4 <http://www.prolific.com.tw>



## 5.2 Entities

- **SerialDevice:** This is an OSGi service that is used to represent a serial device. This OSGi service stores information regarding serial device and its status as a service property and provides communication function with the device.
- **SerialEventListener:** A listener to events coming from Serial devices.
- **Serial base driver bundle:** The bundle that implements **SerialDevice**. Serial base driver bundle registers **SerialDevice** services with the Framework. It provides communication function with the (physical) serial devices.
- **Refining driver bundle:** Refining drivers provide a refined view of a physical device that is already represented by another Device service registered with the Framework (see the details for Device Access Specification).

Figure 2 shows a class diagram of Serial Device Service.



*Fig 2: Serial Device Service class diagram*

## 5.3 Assumptions

When a serial device is connected to the gateway, it is mapped to a COM port automatically by native libraries in OS. Those libraries are installed.

## 5.4 Operation Summary

### 5.4.1 Serial base driver bundle

A Serial base driver is tracking OS events. Native device driver such as kernel modules in Linux can detect a serial device, communicate with it and allocate it to the corresponding device file (COM port).

When a serial device is connected, native device drivers allocate the device to /dev/ttyS0. Subsequently the serial base driver catches event and gets information about the device. Then the Serial base driver registers a `SerialDevice` service with service properties.

When the serial device is disconnected, the Serial base driver catches the event and unregisters the `SerialDevice` service.

If the device is USB-Serial device, then it is recommended that the base driver implements `org.osgi.service.usbinfo.USBInfo` and `SerialDevice` concurrently, and registers the service under `USBInfo` and `SerialDevice` interfaces (call `registerService(String[] clazzes, service, props)`).

### 5.4.2 Refining driver bundle

The refining driver bundle determines which `SerialDevice` service is suitable to establish a communication based on service properties. This process is carried out by the device manager based on device access specifications.

The refining driver bundle will get the `SerialDevice` service. The bundle executes the necessary settings to the `SerialDevice`. After this execution, it will acquire the communication stream using `SerialDevice#getInputStream()`, and/or the `SerialDevice#getOutputStream()` and initiate a communication with the serial device.

## 5.5 SerialDevice Service

`SerialDevice` is the interface expressing a serial device. It maintains information and state of the serial device as a service property. It provides the communication facility with the serial device. Each `SerialDevice` expresses each serial device.

`SerialDevice` service is registered with the service repository with service properties as shown in the following table.

*Table 1: Service properties of SerialDevice Service*

The key of service property	M/O	Description
DEVICE_CATEGORY	M	Constant for the value of the service property <code>DEVICE_CATEGORY</code> used for all Serial devices. Value is "Serial".
serial.comport	M	Represents the name of the port. The value is String. Example1: "/dev/ttyUSB0" Example2: "COM5" Example3: "/dev/tty.usbserial-XXXXXX"

## 5.6 SerialEventListener Service

Serial events are sent using the whiteboard model, in which a bundle interested in receiving the Serial events registers an object implementing the `SerialEventListener` interface. A COM port name can be set to limit the events for which a bundle is notified.

## 6 Data Transfer Objects

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This RFC does not provide Data Transfer Objects.

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## 7 Javadoc

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## OSGi Javadoc

12/15/14 5:27 PM

Package Summary		Page
<a href="#">org.osgi.service.serial</a>	Serial Device Service Specification Package Version 1.0.	13

## Package org.osgi.service.serial

Serial Device Service Specification Package Version 1.0.

See:

[Description](#)

Interface Summary		Page
<a href="#">SerialDevice</a>	SerialDevice is an interface to express a device performing serial communication.	22
<a href="#">SerialEventListener</a>	Serial events are sent using the whiteboard model, in which a bundle interested in receiving the Serial events registers an object implementing the SerialEventListener interface.	28

Class Summary		Page
<a href="#">BaudRate</a>		14
<a href="#">DataBits</a>		16
<a href="#">FlowControl</a>		18
<a href="#">Parity</a>		20
<a href="#">SerialEvent</a>		27
<a href="#">SerialPortDTO</a>	An object represents the Serial port configuration	29
<a href="#">StopBits</a>		31

Exception Summary		Page
<a href="#">SerialDeviceException</a>		26

## Package org.osgi.service.serial Description

Serial Device Service Specification Package Version 1.0.

Bundles wishing to use this package must list the package in the Import-Package header of the bundle's manifest. This package has two types of users: the consumers that use the API in this package and the providers that implement the API in this package.

Example import for consumers using the API in this package:

```
Import-Package: org.osgi.service.serial; version="[1.0,2.0)"
```

# Class BaudRate

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.BaudRate
```

```
public class BaudRate
extends Object
```

Field Summary		Page
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_115200</a>	15
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_14400</a>	14
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_19200</a>	14
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_38400</a>	14
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_57600</a>	15
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_9600</a>	14
static int	<a href="#">BAUD_AUTO</a>	14

Constructor Summary		Page
<a href="#">BaudRate</a>	( )	15

## Field Detail

### BAUD\_AUTO

```
public static final int BAUD_AUTO = -1
```

### BAUD\_9600

```
public static final int BAUD_9600 = 9600
```

### BAUD\_14400

```
public static final int BAUD_14400 = 14400
```

### BAUD\_19200

```
public static final int BAUD_19200 = 19200
```

### BAUD\_38400

```
public static final int BAUD_38400 = 38400
```

## **BAUD\_57600**

```
public static final int BAUD_57600 = 57600
```

---

## **BAUD\_115200**

```
public static final int BAUD_115200 = 115200
```

## **Constructor Detail**

### **BaudRate**

```
public BaudRate()
```

## Class DataBits

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.DataBits
```

---

```
public class DataBits
extends Object
```

---

Field Summary		Page
static int	<a href="#">EIGHT</a> Data bits: 8.	16
static int	<a href="#">FIVE</a> Data bits: 5.	16
static int	<a href="#">SEVEN</a> Data bits: 7.	16
static int	<a href="#">SIX</a> Data bits: 6.	16

Constructor Summary	Page
<a href="#">DataBits()</a>	17

### Field Detail

#### FIVE

```
public static final int FIVE = 5
```

Data bits: 5.

---

#### SIX

```
public static final int SIX = 6
```

Data bits: 6.

---

#### SEVEN

```
public static final int SEVEN = 7
```

Data bits: 7.

---

#### EIGHT

```
public static final int EIGHT = 8
```



Data bits: 8.

## Constructor Detail

### DataBits

```
public DataBits()
```

## Class FlowControl

[org.osgi.service.serial](http://org.osgi.service.serial)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.FlowControl
```

```
public class FlowControl
extends Object
```

### Field Summary

		Page
static int	<a href="#">NONE</a> Flow control: None.	18
static int	<a href="#">RTSCTS_IN</a> Flow control: RTS/CTS on input.	18
static int	<a href="#">RTSCTS_OUT</a> Flow control: RTS/CTS on output.	18
static int	<a href="#">XONXOFF_IN</a> Flow control: XON/XOFF on input.	19
static int	<a href="#">XONXOFF_OUT</a> Flow control: XON/XOFF on output.	19

### Constructor Summary

	Page
<a href="#">FlowControl</a> ()	19

### Field Detail

#### NONE

```
public static final int NONE = 0
```

Flow control: None.

#### RTSCTS\_IN

```
public static final int RTSCTS_IN = 1
```

Flow control: RTS/CTS on input.

#### RTSCTS\_OUT

```
public static final int RTSCTS_OUT = 2
```

Flow control: RTS/CTS on output.

## **XONXOFF\_IN**

```
public static final int XONXOFF_IN = 4
```

Flow control: XON/XOFF on input.

---

## **XONXOFF\_OUT**

```
public static final int XONXOFF_OUT = 8
```

Flow control: XON/XOFF on output.

## **Constructor Detail**

### **FlowControl**

```
public FlowControl()
```

## Class Parity

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.Parity
```

```
public class Parity
extends Object
```

### Field Summary

		Page
static int	<a href="#">EVEN</a> Parity: Even.	20
static int	<a href="#">MARK</a> Parity: Mark.	21
static int	<a href="#">NONE</a> Parity: None.	20
static int	<a href="#">ODD</a> Parity: Odd.	20
static int	<a href="#">SPACE</a> Parity: Space.	21

### Constructor Summary

	Page
<a href="#">Parity</a> ()	21

### Field Detail

#### NONE

```
public static final int NONE = 0
```

Parity: None.

#### ODD

```
public static final int ODD = 1
```

Parity: Odd.

#### EVEN

```
public static final int EVEN = 2
```

Parity: Even.

## MARK

```
public static final int MARK = 3
```

Parity: Mark.

---

## SPACE

```
public static final int SPACE = 4
```

Parity: Space.

## Constructor Detail

### Parity

```
public Parity()
```

## Interface SerialDevice

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
public interface SerialDevice
```

SerialDevice is an interface to express a device performing serial communication.

Field Summary		Page
String	<a href="#">DEVICE_CATEGORY</a> Constant for the value of the service property <code>DEVICE_CATEGORY</code> used for all Serial devices.	23
String	<a href="#">SERIAL_COMPORT</a> The key string of name "serial.comport" service property. Represents the value of the port. The String. Example1: "/dev/ttyUSB0" Example2: "COM5" Example3: "/dev/tty.usbserial-XXXXXX"	23

Method Summary		Page
<a href="#">SerialPortDTO</a>	<a href="#">getConfiguration()</a> Gets the Serial port configuration.	23
<a href="#">InputStream</a>	<a href="#">getInputStream()</a> Returns an input stream.	23
<a href="#">OutputStream</a>	<a href="#">getOutputStream()</a> Returns an output stream.	23
boolean	<a href="#">isCTS()</a> Gets the CTS state.	25
boolean	<a href="#">isDSR()</a> Gets the DSR state.	24
boolean	<a href="#">isDTR()</a> Gets the DTR state.	24
boolean	<a href="#">isRTS()</a> Gets the RTS state.	24
void	<a href="#">setConfiguration(<a href="#">SerialPortDTO</a> dto)</a> Sets the Serial port configuration.	24
void	<a href="#">setDTR(boolean dtr)</a> Sets the DTR state.	25
void	<a href="#">setRTS(boolean rts)</a> Sets the RTS state.	25

Field Detail

DEVICE\_CATEGORY

```
public static final String DEVICE_CATEGORY = "Serial"
```

Constant for the value of the service property `DEVICE_CATEGORY` used for all Serial devices. Value is "Serial".

SERIAL\_COMPORT

```
public static final String SERIAL_COMPORT = "serial.comport"
```

The key	string of	"serial.comport"	service	property.
Represents	the	name	the	port.
The	value	is		String.
Example1:				"/dev/ttyUSB0"
Example2:				"COM5"
Example3:				"/dev/tty.usbserial-XXXXXX"

Method Detail

getInputStream

```
InputStream getInputStream()  
throws IOException
```

Returns an input stream.

Returns:  
an input stream  
Throws:  
IOException - if an I/O error occurred

getOutputStream

```
OutputStream getOutputStream()  
throws IOException
```

Returns an output stream.

Returns:  
an output stream  
Throws:  
IOException - if an I/O error occurred

getConfiguration

```
SerialPortDTO getConfiguration()
```

Gets the Serial port configuration.

**Returns:**  
SerialPortDTO object represents the configuration

---

## setConfiguration

```
void setConfiguration(SerialPortDTO dto)
    throws SerialDeviceException
```

Sets the Serial port configuration.

**Parameters:**  
dto - SerialPortDTO object represents the configuration

**Throws:**  
[SerialDeviceException](#) - if the parameter is specified incorrectly or the parameter is not supported.

---

## isDTR

```
boolean isDTR()
```

Gets the DTR state.

**Returns:**  
the DTR state

---

## isRTS

```
boolean isRTS()
```

Gets the RTS state.

**Returns:**  
the RTS state

---

## isDSR

```
boolean isDSR()
```

Gets the DSR state.

**Returns:**  
the DSR state

---



## isCTS

```
boolean isCTS()
```

Gets the CTS state.

**Returns:**  
the CTS state

---

## setDTR

```
void setDTR(boolean dtr)  
throws SerialDeviceException
```

Sets the DTR state.

**Parameters:**

dtr -

- true on DTR
- false off DTR

**Throws:**  
[SerialDeviceException](#) - if the parameter is specified incorrectly or the parameter is not supported.

---

## setRTS

```
void setRTS(boolean rts)  
throws SerialDeviceException
```

Sets the RTS state.

**Parameters:**

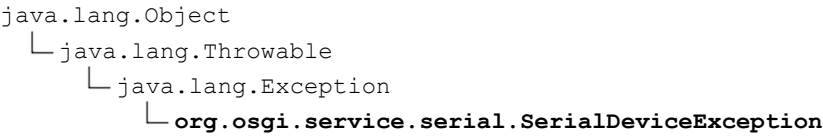
rts -

- true on RTS
- false off RTS

**Throws:**  
[SerialDeviceException](#) - if the parameter is specified incorrectly or the parameter is not supported.

# Class SerialDeviceException

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)



All Implemented Interfaces:  
Serializable

```
public class SerialDeviceException
extends Exception
```

Constructor Summary	Page
<a href="#">SerialDeviceException</a> (String message)	26

## Constructor Detail

### SerialDeviceException

```
public SerialDeviceException(String message)
```

# Class SerialEvent

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.SerialEvent
```

```
public class SerialEvent
extends Object
```

Field Summary		Page
static int	<a href="#">DATA_AVAILABLE</a>	27
int	<a href="#">dataType</a>	27

Constructor Summary	Page
<a href="#">SerialEvent</a> ()	27

## Field Detail

### DATA\_AVAILABLE

```
public static final int DATA_AVAILABLE = 1
```

### dataType

```
public int dataType
```

## Constructor Detail

### SerialEvent

```
public SerialEvent ()
```

# Interface SerialEventListener

[org.osgi.service.serial](http://org.osgi.service.serial)

```
public interface SerialEventListener
```

Serial events are sent using the whiteboard model, in which a bundle interested in receiving the Serial events registers an object implementing the SerialEventListener interface. A COM port name can be set to limit the events for which a bundle is notified.

Field Summary		Pag e
String	<a href="#">SERIAL_COMPORT</a> Key for a service property that is used to limit received events.	28

Method Summary		Pag e
void	<a href="#">notifyEvent</a> ( <a href="#">SerialEvent</a> event)	28

## Field Detail

### SERIAL\_COMPORT

```
public static final String SERIAL_COMPORT = "serial.comport"
```

Key for a service property that is used to limit received events.

## Method Detail

### notifyEvent

```
void notifyEvent(SerialEvent event)
```

## Class `SerialPortDTO`

[org.osgi.service.serial](http://org.osgi.service.serial)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.SerialPortDTO
```

---

```
public class SerialPortDTO
    extends Object
```

An object represents the Serial port configuration

---

Field Summary		Pag e
int	<a href="#">baudRate</a>	29
int	<a href="#">dataBits</a>	29
int	<a href="#">flowControl</a>	29
int	<a href="#">parity</a>	29
int	<a href="#">stopBits</a>	29

Constructor Summary	Pag e
<a href="#">SerialPortDTO()</a>	30

### Field Detail

#### **baudRate**

```
public int baudRate
```

---

#### **dataBits**

```
public int dataBits
```

---

#### **flowControl**

```
public int flowControl
```

---

#### **parity**

```
public int parity
```

---

#### **stopBits**

```
public int stopBits
```

## Constructor Detail

### SerialPortDTO

```
public SerialPortDTO()
```

## Class StopBits

[org.osgi.service.serial](#)

```
java.lang.Object
└─ org.osgi.service.serial.StopBits
```

```
public class StopBits
extends Object
```

### Field Summary

		Pag e
static int	<a href="#">ONE</a> Stop bits: 1.	31
static int	<a href="#">ONE_AND_HALF</a> Stop bits: 1.5.	31
static int	<a href="#">TWO</a> Stop bits: 2.	31

### Constructor Summary

	Pag e
<a href="#">StopBits</a> ()	31

### Field Detail

#### ONE

```
public static final int ONE = 1

    Stop bits: 1.
```

#### TWO

```
public static final int TWO = 2

    Stop bits: 2.
```

#### ONE\_AND\_HALF

```
public static final int ONE_AND_HALF = 3

    Stop bits: 1.5.
```

### Constructor Detail

#### StopBits

```
public StopBits()
```

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## 8 Considered Alternatives

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## 9 Security Considerations

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ServicePermission is needed when a bundle get SerialDevice service.

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## 10 Document Support

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### 10.1 References

- [1]. Bradner, S., Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels, RFC2119, March 1997.
- [2]. Software Requirements & Specifications. Michael Jackson. ISBN 0-201-87712-0
- [3]. OSGi Service Platform Service Compendium Release 4, Version 4.3 Device Access Specification, Version 1.1
- [4]. Universal Serial Bus Specification Revision 1.1, September 23, 1998.

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### 10.2 Author's Address

Name	Yukio Koike
Company	NTT Corporation
Address	1-1, Hikari-no-oka, Yokosuka-shi, 239-0847, Kanagawa, Japan
Voice	+81 46 859 5142
e-mail	koike.yukio@lab.ntt.co.jp

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## **10.3 Acronyms and Abbreviations**

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## **10.4 End of Document**

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