

A **DWORD** is a 32-bit unsigned integer (range: 0 through 4294967295 decimal). Because a **DWORD** is unsigned, its first bit (Most Significant Bit (MSB)) is not reserved for signing.

## COMMTIMEOUTS Structure

Contains the time-out parameters for a communications device. The parameters determine the behavior of [ReadFile](#), [WriteFile](#), [ReadFileEx](#), and [WriteFileEx](#) operations on the device.

## GetCommTimeouts function

Retrieves the time-out parameters for all read and write operations on a specified communications device.

## SetCommTimeouts function

Sets the time-out parameters for all read and write operations on a specified communications device.

## DCB

Defines the control setting for a serial communications device.

```
typedef struct _DCB {
    DWORD DCBlength;
    DWORD BaudRate;
    DWORD fBinary :1;
    DWORD fParity :1;
    DWORD fOutxCtsFlow :1;
    DWORD fOutxDsrFlow :1;
    DWORD fDtrControl :2;
    DWORD fDsrSensitivity :1;
    DWORD fTXContinueOnXoff :1;
    DWORD fOutX :1;
    DWORD fInX :1;
    DWORD fErrorChar :1;
    DWORD fNull :1;
    DWORD fRtsControl :2;
    DWORD fAbortOnError :1;
    DWORD fDummy2 :17;
    WORD wReserved;
    WORD XonLim;
    WORD XoffLim;
    BYTE ByteSize;
    BYTE Parity;
    BYTE StopBits;
    char XonChar;
    char XoffChar;
    char ErrorChar;
    char EofChar;
    char EvtChar;
    WORD wReserved1;
} DCB, *LPDCB;
```

## GetCommState function

Retrieves the current control settings for a specified communications device.

## BuildCommDCB function

Fills a specified [DCB](#) structure with values specified in a device-control string. The device-control string uses the syntax of the **mode** command.