**Special Properties**

If a property’s name begins with “ro.”, then this property is treated as a read-only property. Once set, the value of the property can’t be changed.

If a property’s name begins with “persist.”, then when setting this property, the value will be written to /data/property, too.

If a property’s name begins with “net.”, when when setting this property, the “net.change” property will be set automatically to contain the name of the last updated property. (It’s tricky. The netresolve module uses this property to track if there is any change on the net.\* properties.)

The property “ctrl.start” and “ctrl.stop” is used to start and stop a service. Every service must be defined in /init.rc. On system startup, the init daemon will parse the init.rc and start the Property Service. Once received a request to set the property of “ctrl.start”, the Property Service will use the property value as the service name to find the service and then start the service. The service starting result is then put to the property “init.svc.<service name>”. The client application can poll the value of that property to determine the result.

The Android toolbox provides two applets: setprop and getprop to get and set properties. The usage is:

getprop <property name>  
setprop <property name> <property value>