

Serial Programming/termios

* Introduction

⇒ termios is the newer Unix API for terminal I/O.

⇒ The anatomy of a program performing serial I/O with the help of termios is as follows:

→ Open serial device with standard Unix system call open(2).

→ Configure communication parameters and other interface properties with the help of termios functions and data structures.

→ Use standard Unix system calls read(2) and write(2) for reading from & writing to the serial interface.

→ Close device with the standard Unix system call close(2) when done.

⇒ The necessary declarations and constants for termios can be found in the header file <termios.h>

→ Some other functions and declarations can also be found in the <stdio.h>, <fcntl.h> and <unistd.h> header files.

⇒ The `termios` I/O API supports two different modes :-

→ Canonical mode { Default }

This is most useful when dealing with serial terminals, or devices that provide line-by-line communication.

→ Non-canonical mode

In this mode, no special processing is done, and the terminal driver returns individual characters.

⇒ Configuration is done using the `struct termios` data structure, defined in the `termios.h`.

`struct termios` {

`tcflag_t c_iflag` /* Input specific flag (bitmask) */

`tcflag_t c_oflag` /* Output specific flag (bitmask) */

`tcflag_t c_cflag` /* Control flag (bitmask) */

`tcflag_t c_lflag` /* Local flags (bitmask) */

`cc_t c_cc[NCCS]` /* Special characters */

};

⇒ There are more than 45 different flags that can be set with the help of the `struct termios`.

*Opening/Closing a Serial Device

Open(2)

→ Decision must be taken about
Should the device be opened for:

- reading only
- writing only
- both reading and writing
- blocking or non-blocking (I/O)

↓
(recommended)

Example

```
const char *device = "/dev/ttyS0";  
fd = open(device, O_RDWR | O_NOCTTY  
          | O_NDELAY);
```

```
if (fd == -1) {  
    printf("failed to open port\n");  
}
```

fd ⇒ The returned file handle for the device.
-1 if error occurred.

O_RDWR ⇒ Open port for reading and writing.

O_NOCTTY ⇒ The port never becomes the
controlling terminal of the process.

O_NONDELAY \Rightarrow Use non-blocking I/O

Close(2)

Give an open file handle `fd` you can close it with the following system call.

`close(fd);`

* Basic configuration of a Serial Interface

\Rightarrow After a serial device has been opened, it is typical that its default configuration, like baud rate or line discipline needs to be overwritten with the desired parameters.

\rightarrow This is done with a complex data structure, and the `tcgetattr(3)` and `tcsetattr(3)` functions.

Example

`ICANON` \Rightarrow Enable ~~on~~ Canonical mode or Non-Canonical mode.

`ECHO` \Rightarrow Controls whether input is immediately re-echoed as output.

$\{$ both in local mode $\}$