

Re: DFPORT

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Fortran/comp.lang.fortran/2006-08/msg00385.html>

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daniela

I am new to Fortran and I appologize in advance for any trivia I might ask.
I am trying to compile some example code written in Fortran77 that uses
DFPORT, i.e. :
USE DFPORT

What is this library and where can I get it from?
I work on a Windows XP platform.

I researched this subject as best I could over about a six month
period.

My company markets software since 1972, just one program unit of which
reads and writes aynchronous devices through the RS323C ports and which
worked on MS DOS, Windows command lines under Windows on all Intel 286,
386 and pentium computers with all the MS operating systems from DOS.
through Windows 3.1, 95, and up to XP, where it refused to work on only
XP operation systems (so far).

We normally use F77 Fortran and for this one problematic program we
re-wrote the program in F90 and used the CVF (DVF) libraries to bring
in the necessary relationship with the MS API's, using the SPORT
routines provided. These are also available on the Intel version 9
compiler

Note: you HAVE to use F90 or above if you want to refer to a
communications library with the USE instruction.

We found that these routines would not work as WE needed, but they
reportedly do work in other cases cases.

Because we found we could not set some parameters as we required, by
the normal port initialization routine in the SPORT modules, (it
appeared they did not change) we tried to use the MODE command
internally to the program to achieve the same effect. We used the
SYSTEM call to request the MODE command to set up the needed parameters
(baud rate, frame size, number of data and stop bits, parity,time-out

Re: DFPORT

times, etcetera).

We found some port parameters COULD be changed with the MODE command used internally, others could NOT be changed.

The command seemed to work externally correctly, but internal querying of the parameters did not give the same values as we set them.

Since we also have the Intel Fortran compiler, we also had a lot of help from that source (and with the CVF 6.6 compiler). But we were not able to resolve our problem, to this day.

Note: we COULD communicate between an XP and a 2000 computer, but we could not change any parameter successfully beyond baud rate, and still get communication. Especially we never got any time-out indications on disconnecting the cables. On some parity settings there were no electrical signals on the intergace.

We never got our new program to work on XP operating systems with any Windows Fortran comper (with appropriate libraries). So our clients still use a DOS environment for their data collection (using one dedicated W98 or DOS machine).

The devices our clients want to control are hardware devices where only certain combinations of signalling parameters were valid for the equipment.

The manufactures had to come out with a USB-connected device at over 3 times the old price in order to work on windows (and supplied their own very limited data format Windows XP software for the data collection, which was unsuitable for our clients).

If you want to work under Windows I think you might have a problem if the parameters to be used ara unusual. Ours were odd parity, 7 bits, and 2 stop at any baud rate from 9600 up.

If you have a problem and you are prepared to use DOS mode on an earlier operating system than XP we can contribute the libraries and calling conventions for compiling your F77 code.

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Terence Wright

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