

# A Driver for the NS16550 DUART Which Runs on an NS32GX32 CPU

National Semiconductor  
Application Note 660  
Coby Hanoch  
December 1989



A Driver for the NS16550 DUART Which Runs on an NS32GX32 CPU

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This application note supplies a software program which serves as a driver for the NS16550 DUART. The driver runs on the NS32GX32 CPU, and should run with no modifications on all other Embedded System Processors.

The driver is useful for anyone who is writing a monitor or system kernel which will run on a system with an NS32GX32 and NS16550. It is well documented and can be modified according to the user's needs.

Drivers of this sort are hard to develop, since they are very hard to debug. In order to debug such a driver there needs to be some sort of a communication line to the developed system. This line is used in order to load the driver into the memory of the developed system. But, in this case the communication line is controlled by the NS16550, which doesn't have a driver yet.

The NS16550 is a popular standard DUART which has 2 communication ports and is useful for serial I/O operations. It also contains a FIFO on each port allowing synchronous communication without losing data.

The driver has the following features:

- It controls both ports of the DUART.
- It can be told to echo its input, and if CR should be echoed as CRLF. Echoing is a required feature by many systems.
- It can be told to ignore echo of its output, and if CR is echoed as CRLF.
- It can be told to treat 'S (XOFF), 'Q (XON) and 'H (Backspace). These control characters are the standard communication signals to pause and restart communication ('S and 'Q respectively), and to erase the last character sent ('H).
- It can be told to wait until input arrives or only till a specified timeout has passed. These are the two popular modes of operation in communication systems.
- It can read/write a single character or a whole line.
- It can be told to read a specified number of characters or till a CR (and return the length).

The driver is designed for synchronous communication.

The driver is written in a very portable way so that it can be transported to other Embedded System Processors with no modifications.

It is compiled and linked by the GNX package supplied by NSC.

## 2.0 USAGE

The driver consists of 3 files:

1. An assembler source file containing the initialization routine (int\_16550).
2. A C source file containing the functions to read/write from/to the DUART.

3. A CPP include file used by both source files, defining global constants. These constants define the addresses of the DUART on the board and the requested baud rate.

In addition the driver's makefile (for UNIX systems) is supplied, and a demo program which runs it.

The user should perform the following steps in order to use the driver:

1. The user should include the file to define the DUART address on his board. These are the lines:

```
#define USART_0_ADDR <address of port 0>
#define USART_1_ADDR <address of port 1>
```

2. Modify the include file to define the baud rate on his board. The baud rate is defined according to the NS16550 data sheet. For example: 12 signals 9600 baud at 1.8432 MHz crystal. This is the line:

```
#define BAUD_RATE <baud rate>
```

3. Modify the include file to define the timeout constant according to his needs. The read operations can be instructed to wait for input. This constant defines the number of times a read will be attempted before a failure is reported in this mode. This is the line:

```
#define IO_TIMEOUT <number of attempts>
```

4. In his program he should add a call for the init\_16550 routine as one of the first things it does. This must, of course, come before any attempt to read or write from the NS16550.

5. The driver uses 4 global variables which should be initialized:

world\_echo— Specifies if the world (the hardware on the other side of the communication line) echoes what it receives.

world\_crlf— Specifies if the world echoes a CR as CRLF.

board\_echo— Specifies if the board (on which the driver and the NS16550 reside) should echo what it receives.

board\_crlf— Specifies if the board should echo CR as CRLF.

Each of these variables is a 2 element array, whose first element refers to port 0 and the second to port 1. A value of 0 specifies FALSE and a value of 1 specifies TRUE.

Example: world\_echo[0] = 0;

This instruction informs the driver that the world echoes any character it receives from port 0.

6. The user can call the following functions from his program: read\_line, write\_line, read\_char, write\_char. They are defined in the next section.

7. Compile the driver (no special switches needed) and link it to his program.

**Note:** If the user calls the init\_16550 function from a reset function (when there is still no confidence that the memory is operative), the function can be jumped to, and passed the return address in a register. The ret instruction at the end of the function should be replaced by a jump 0(r7) for example.

### 3.0 INTERFACE

The interface to the driver is done via calls to a set of functions. Following is a description of each of these functions and its parameters.

**Note:** The type 'str' is defined to be 'char\*'

1. void read\_\_line (port, line, len, err);

```
int    port;
str    line, err;
unsigned *len;
```

Description: Reads a line from a port.

Parameters: port—The port number (0 or 1) to be read from.

line—A pointer to a character array in which the line read will be returned.

len—The number of characters to be read. 0 specifies to read until a CR.

err—Contains an error message, if an error occurred during the read. If it is null, no error occurred.

2. void write\_\_line (port, line);

```
int port;
str line;
```

Description: Writes a line to a port.

Parameters: port—The port number (0 or 1) to be written to.

line—A pointer to a character array in which the line to be written is placed. The line should end with a CR.

3. void read\_\_char (port, ch, wait, err);

```
int    port;
char   *ch;
boolean wait;
str    err;
```

Description: Reads a character from a port.

Parameters: port—The port number (0 or 1) to be read from.

ch—A pointer to a character in which the character read will be returned.

wait— If TRUE, will wait until a character arrives (if one is not present in the FIFO already). If FALSE, will attempt to read IO\_TIMEOUT times before giving up and returning an error.

err—Contains an error message, if an error occurred during the read. If it is null, no error occurred.

4. void write\_\_char (port, ch);

```
int    port;
char   ch;
```

Description: Writes a character to a port.

Parameters: port—The port number (0 or 1) to be read from.

ch—A pointer to a character in which the character to be written is at.

#### 4.0 THE FILES

Attached are the source files.

#### 4.1 16550.h—The CPP Include File

```
/* *****  
 *  
 *                               16550 definitions  
 *  
 * This module contains the CPP constants definitions for the 16550 driver.  
 *  
 * *****/  
  
/*  
 * Useful characters  
 */  
  
#define CR          '\r'  
#define LF          '\n'  
#define CTRL_Q      '\021'  
#define CTRL_S      '\023'  
#define CTRL_H      '\010'  
  
/*  
 * Maximum line size  
 */  
  
#define LINE_SIZE      270  
  
/*  
 * The USART addresses on the board.  
 * NOTE: These addresses should be modified by the user to the addresses on  
 *       the tested board.  
 */  
  
#define USART_0_ADDR    0xF00000  
#define USART_1_ADDR    0xF00008  
  
/*  
 * The maximum time to wait for character read (number of tries).  
 */  
  
#define IO_TIMEOUT      ((int) 0x90000)  
  
/*  
 * The baud rate as defined in the NS16550 data sheet.  
 * (12 signals 9600 baud at 1.8432 MHz crystal)  
 * NOTE: The baud rate should be modified by the user to fit his needs.  
 */  
  
#define BAUD_RATE      12
```

TL/EE/10601-1

## 4.2 16550\_asm.s—The Assembly File

```
*****
#
#                               16550_asm.s
#
# This file contains the init_16550 routine.
#
# Note that comment lines must begin with a blank so cpp will disregard
# them.
#
*****

#include "16550.h"

        .set      usrt0,   USART_0_ADDR   # usrt0 start address
        .set      usrt1,   USART_1_ADDR   # usrt1 start address
        .set      ier,     1               # interrupt enable register (IER)
        .set      ffc,     2               # fifo control register (FCR)
        .set      com,     3               # usrt line control register (LCR)
        .set      modem,   4               # modem control register (MCR)
        .set      ck,      0               # baud rate counter (DLL, DLM)

        .set      cke,     0x80            # clock enable(dlab=1)
        .set      modr1,   0x3             # async, 8bits, no parity, 1 stop bit
        .set      modr2,   0x3             # activate receive, transmit signals

        .set      baud,    BAUD_RATE       # the baud rate

#-----
#
#                               Init_16550
#
# This is the init routine for the NS16550 UART.
# This routine must be written in assembly. It doesn't use the RAM (or stack
# since it is still RAM), since it is usually called by the diagnostics
# routine. For this reason you would usually like to jump to it directly
# and have it jump back. A register can be used to contain the return address.
# The baud rate (in the format requested by the UART) can be passed as a
# parameter in R6 instead of being loaded directly.
# The only register used by this routine is R6.
#
#-----

_init_16550::
        movb      $cke,@usrt0+com         # enable clock divisor access
        movb      $cke,@usrt1+com         # same for usrt1
        movw      $baud,@usrt0+ck        # set baud rate
        movw      $baud,@usrt1+ck
        movw      @usrt0+ck,r6
        movb      $modr1,@usrt0+com       # init line mode register
        movb      $modr1,@usrt1+com
        movqb     0,@usrt0+ier            # disable interrupts
        movqb     0,@usrt1+ier
        movqb     3,@usrt0+ffc           # clear fifo
        movqb     3,@usrt1+ffc
        movqb     1,@usrt0+ffc           # enable fifo
        movqb     1,@usrt1+ffc
        movb      $modr2,@usrt0+modem    # activate receive transmit
        movb      $modr2,@usrt1+modem
        ret      0
#        jump     0(r7)                   # suggested return via register
```

TL/EE/10601-2

### 4.3 16550.c—The Driver Itself

```
/*
 *
 *          16550_driver
 *
 * This module contains a serial I/O driver for the NS16550.
 * Throughout this source, "world" refers to the outer world, "board" refers to
 * the board running this program.
 *
 */

#include <strings.h>
#include "16550.h"

/*-----
 *
 *          Constants definition
 *
 *-----*/

/*
 * Bit macros
 */

#define BIT_ON(bit, reg)  ((boolean) (((reg) & (unsigned) (1 << (bit))) != 0))
#define BIT_OFF(bit, reg) ((boolean) (((reg) & (unsigned) (1 << (bit))) == 0))

/*
 * Boolean operators
 */

#define NOT    !
#define AND    &&
#define OR     ||

/*-----
 *
 *          Types definition
 *
 *-----*/

typedef unsigned char  byte;
typedef char *str;
typedef char l_str[LINE_SIZE];

typedef enum {
    FALSE,
    TRUE
} boolean;
```

TL/EE/10601-3

```

/*-----
*
*                               Variables definition
*-----*/

/*
* Communications control boolean variables, per port.
*/

char world_echo[2],           /* The world echoes what it receives */
world_crlf[2],              /* The world echoes a CR as CRLF */
board_echo[2],              /* The board should echo what it receives */
board_crlf[2];              /* The board should echo CR as CRLF */

/*
* The structure of the NS16550 register file. Note that in case of a collision
* between two registers, the first register is defined here and the second
* register is defined to be the same.
*/

typedef volatile struct {
    byte iop;                /* Receive/Transmit register      (RBR, THR) */
    byte ier;                /* Interrupt enable register      (IER) */
    byte fcr;                /* Fifo control register         (FCR) */
    byte lcr;                /* Line control register         (LCR) */
    byte mcr;                /* Modem control register        (MCR) */
    byte lsr;                /* Line status register          (LSR) */
    byte msr;                /* Modem status register         (MSR) */
    byte scr;                /* Scratch register              (SCR) */
} uart_regs_type;

#define iir    fcr           /* Interrupt ident register      (IIR) */
#define dll    iop           /* Divisor latch LSB (dlab=1)   (DLL) */
#define dlm    ier           /* Divisor latch MSB (dlab=1)   (DLM) */

/*
* Frequently used bits of different registers.
*/

#define OUT_READY    5       /* Transmit ready bit of LSRx    */
#define IN_READY     0       /* Receive ready bit of LSRx     */

#define PORT_0_STATUS    uart_0_regs->lsr
#define PORT_0_IO        uart_0_regs->iop
#define PORT_1_STATUS    uart_1_regs->lsr
#define PORT_1_IO        uart_1_regs->iop

/*
* The USART registers are memory mapped to structures.
*/

static uart_regs_type *uart_0_regs = (uart_regs_type *) USART_0_ADDR;
static uart_regs_type *uart_1_regs = (uart_regs_type *) USART_1_ADDR;

```

TL/EE/10601-4

```

*-----*
*
*                               Functions definition
*-----*/

void read_line  (/* port, line, len, err */);
void write_line (/* port, line */);
void read_char  (/* port, ch, wait, err */);
void write_char (/* port, ch */);
static boolean get_char(/* ch, status, io_port, wait, err */);
static void get_line  (/* port, line, len, err */);

/*-----*/
*
*                               Read_char(port, ch, wait, err)
*
* This function reads one character from the port specified.
* ^S and ^Q will be treated appropriately.
* If wait is FALSE an error will be signaled if a character doesn't arrive
* before timeout.
* If the board should echo the input, this function does it.
*-----*/

void read_char(port, ch, wait, err)
int      port;
char     *ch;
boolean  wait;
str      err;
{
    boolean ch_ok;
    volatile byte *status, *io_port;

    /*
     * Set pointers according to port
     */

    if (port == 0) {
        status = @PORT_0_STATUS;
        io_port = @PORT_0_IO;
    }
    else {
        status = @PORT_1_STATUS;
        io_port = @PORT_1_IO;
    }

    /*
     * Loop until we have a good character
     */

    ch_ok = FALSE;
    while (NOT ch_ok) {
        ch_ok = get_char(ch, status, io_port, wait, err);
        if (err[0] != '\0') {
            return;
        }
    }
}

```

TL/EE/10601-5

```

/*
 * Echo the character if needed.
 */

if (board_echo[port]) {
    write_char(port, *ch);
    if ((*ch == CR) AND (board_crlf[port])) {
        write_char(port, LF);
    }
}

} /* read_char */

/*-----
 *
 *          Get_char(ch, status, io_port, wait, err)
 *
 * This function reads and processes a character. The ports status register
 * and io_port are used.
 * The function returns TRUE if the character is ok.
 *-----*/

static boolean get_char(ch, status, io_port, wait, err)
volatile byte *status, *io_port;
char *ch;
boolean wait;
str err;
{
    int i;

    /*
     * Wait until we are flagged that a character arrived.
     */

    if (wait) {
        while (BIT_OFF(IN_READY, *status)) {
        }
    }
    else {
        for (i = 0; i < IO_TIMEOUT; i++) {
            if (BIT_ON(IN_READY, *status)) {
                break;
            }
        }
        if (i == IO_TIMEOUT) {
            strcpy(err, "ERR TIMEOUT");
            return(FALSE);
        }
    }

    /*
     * Read the character.
     */

    *ch = *io_port;

```

TL/EE/10601-6



```

/*
 * If it is a ^Q, ignore it.
 */

if (*ch == CTRL_Q) {
    return(FALSE);
}

/*
 * If the character is a ^S, keep reading until a ^Q arrives.
 * Ignore timeout.
 * If the character is not a ^S, signal that it is ok.
 */

if (*ch == CTRL_S) {
    while (*ch != CTRL_Q) {
        while (BIT_OFF(IN_READY, *status)) {
        }
        *ch = *io_port;
    }
    return(FALSE);
}

return(TRUE);
} /* get_char */

/*-----
 *
 *          Write_char(port, ch)
 *
 * This function writes one character to the port specified.
 * If the world echoes the characters, this function rereads the character.
 *
 *-----*/

void write_char(port, ch)
int port;
char ch;
{
    volatile byte *status, *io_port;
    char temp;
    l_str temp_message;

    /*
     * Set pointers according to port
     */

    if (port == 0) {
        status = @PORT_0_STATUS;
        io_port = @PORT_0_IO;
    }
    else {
        status = @PORT_1_STATUS;
        io_port = @PORT_1_IO;
    }
}

```

TL/EE/10601-7

```

/*
 * Check if there is a character waiting on the input port.
 * If there is, and it is a ^S, keep reading until a ^Q is read.
 * Otherwise, ignore it.
 */

if (BIT_ON(IN_READY, *status)) {
    temp = *io_port;
    if (temp == CTRL_S) {
        while (temp != CTRL_Q) {
            while (BIT_OFF(IN_READY, *status)) {
            }
            temp = *io_port;
        }
    }
}

/*
 * Write the character.
 */

while (BIT_OFF(OUT_READY, *status)) {
}
*io_port = ch;

/*
 * If the world echoes the character, reread it.
 */

if (world_echo[port]) {
    read_char(port, &temp, FALSE, temp_message);
    if ((ch == CR) AND (world_crlf)) {
        read_char(port, &temp, FALSE, temp_message);
    }
}

} /* write_char */

/*-----
 *
 *          Read_line(port, line, len, err)
 *
 * This function controls the reading of a line from the requested port.
 * len = 0 specifies that the reading should continue till a CR is reached.
 * It returns the line and the port from which the command was read.
 *-----*/

void read_line(port, line, len, err)
int      port;
str      line, err;
unsigned *len;
{

    err[0] = '\0';

```

TL/EE/10601-8

```

/*
 * Keep trying to read a line, until success.
 */

get_line(port, line, len, err);

while (err[0] != '\0') {
    write_line(port, err);
    get_line(port, line, len, err);
}

} /* read_line */

/*-----
 *
 *           Get_line(port, line, len, err)
 *
 * This function reads a line from the port specified.
 * Length = 0 specifies that read should continue to a CR.
 * In any case, no more characters than the size of line are read.
 * Upon return, length will contain the number of characters read.
 *-----*/

static void get_line(port, line, len, err)
    int     port;
    str     line, err;
    unsigned *len;
{
    boolean stop_on_cr, wait;
    char    ch;
    int     i;

    /*
     * Check the length specified.
     */

    stop_on_cr = FALSE;
    if (*len == 0) {
        stop_on_cr = TRUE;
        *len       = LINE_SIZE;
    }

    /*
     * Read the line. Treat backspace (^H) on the way.
     */

```

TL/EE/10601-9

```

line[0] = '\0';
for (i = 0; i < *len ; i++) {
    if (i == 0) {
        wait = TRUE;
    }
    else {
        wait = FALSE;
    }
    read_char(port, &ch, wait, err);
    if (err[0] != '\0') {
        *len = i;
        return;
    }
    if (ch == CTRL_H) {
        if (i > 0) {
            i -= 2;
            if (board_echo[port]) {
                write_char(port, ch);
                write_char(port, ' ');
                write_char(port, ch);
            }
            continue;
        }
        continue;
    }
    if ((ch == CR) AND (stop_on_cr)) {
        line[i] = '\0';
        *len = i;
        return;
    }
    line[i] = ch;
}
} /* get_line */

/*-----
*
*                               Write_line(port, line)
*
* This function writes a line to the requested communication port.
*-----*/

void write_line(port, line)

    int port;
    str line;
{
    int i;

    for (i = 0; i < strlen(line); i++) {
        write_char(port, line[i]);
    }

    write_char(port, CR);
} /* write_line */

```

TL/EE/10601-10

#### 4.4 demo.c—The Demo Program

```
/******  
*  
*                               16550_demo  
*  
* This module contains an example of how to use the driver for the NS16550.  
* Throughout this source, "world" refers to the outer world, "board" refers to  
* the board running this program.  
*  
*****/  
  
/*  
* Include the 16550 include file.  
*/  
  
#include "16550.h"  
  
/*  
* Declare the used functions and global variables in the driver.  
*/  
  
void read_line (/* port, line, len, response */);  
void write_line(/* port, line */);  
  
char board_echo[2],           /* The board should echo what it receives */  
      board_crlf[2];         /* The board should echo CR as CRLF */  
  
main () {  
  
    static char    ln[LINE_SIZE], /* The line read/written */  
                 resp[LINE_SIZE]; /* The response (error message) */  
    static unsigned len=0;        /* The length of the line to be read */  
  
    /*  
     * Call the drivers init routine and initialize.  
     */  
  
    init_16550();  
    board_echo[0] = 0;  
    board_crlf[0] = 0;  
    board_echo[1] = 0;  
    board_crlf[1] = 0;  
  
    /*  
     * Write messages to port 0.  
     */  
  
    write_line(0, "hello world\n");  
    write_line(0, "This is the 16550 driver test\n");  
  
}
```

TL/EE/10601-11

```

/*
 * Read a line from port 0, until a CR.
 */

read_line(0, ln, &len, resp);
if (resp[0] != '\0') exit(1);
write_line(0, "line received\n");
write_line(0, ln);

/*
 * Ask the driver to echo all its input from port 0, and echo CR as CRLF.
 */

board_echo[0] = 1;
board_crlf[0] = 1;

/*
 * Read a line from port 0. Note that len contains the number of characters
 * read previously (and not 0), so the read will read the same number of
 * characters without regarding CR.
 */

read_line(0, ln, &len, resp);
if (resp[0] != '\0') exit(1);

/*
 * Ask the driver to stop echoing CR as CRLF in port 0, and read a line
 * until a CR.
 */

board_crlf[0] = 0;
len = 0;
read_line(0, ln, &len, resp);
if (resp[0] != '\0') exit(1);

/*
 * Write a line to port 1, and read an answer.
 */

write_line(1, "hello port 1\n");
len = 0;
read_line(0, ln, &len, resp);
if (resp[0] != '\0') exit(1);
}

```

TL/EE/10601-12

#### 4.5 makefile—The Makefile

```
#
# This makefile compiles the 16550 driver with the demo program.
# Type "make" to produce the executable called "16550".
#

OBJS    = demo.o 16550.o

SOURCES = demo.c 16550.c

H_DIR   = .

CC      = nmcc
AS      = nasm -c
CFLAGS = -KCGX32 -g

16550: 16550_asm.o $(OBJS) 16550.h
        $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o 16550 16550_asm.o $(OBJS)

demo.o: demo.c

16550.o: 16550.c

16550_asm.o: 16550_asm.s 16550.h
        $(AS) -o 16550_asm.o $(AS_FLAGS) 16550_asm.s
```

TL/EE/10601-13

**LIFE SUPPORT POLICY**

NATIONAL'S PRODUCTS ARE NOT AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS CRITICAL COMPONENTS IN LIFE SUPPORT DEVICES OR SYSTEMS WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR CORPORATION. As used herein:

1. Life support devices or systems are devices or systems which, (a) are intended for surgical implant into the body, or (b) support or sustain life, and whose failure to perform, when properly used in accordance with instructions for use provided in the labeling, can be reasonably expected to result in a significant injury to the user.
2. A critical component is any component of a life support device or system whose failure to perform can be reasonably expected to cause the failure of the life support device or system, or to affect its safety or effectiveness.



**National Semiconductor Corporation**  
 2900 Semiconductor Drive  
 P.O. Box 58090  
 Santa Clara, CA 95052-8090  
 Tel: 1(800) 272-9959  
 TWX: (910) 339-9240

**National Semiconductor GmbH**  
 Livny-Gargan-Str. 10  
 D-82256 Fürstenfeldbruck  
 Germany  
 Tel: (81-41) 35-0  
 Telex: 527849  
 Fax: (81-41) 35-1

**National Semiconductor Japan Ltd.**  
 Sumitomo Chemical  
 Engineering Center  
 Bldg. 7F  
 1-7-1, Nakase, Mihama-Ku  
 Chiba-City,  
 Ciba Prefecture 261  
 Tel: (043) 299-2300  
 Fax: (043) 299-2500

**National Semiconductor Hong Kong Ltd.**  
 13th Floor, Straight Block,  
 Ocean Centre, 5 Canton Rd.  
 Tsimshatsui, Kowloon  
 Hong Kong  
 Tel: (852) 2737-1600  
 Fax: (852) 2736-9960

**National Semicondutores Do Brazil Ltda.**  
 Rue Deputado Lacorda Franco  
 120-3A  
 Sao Paulo-SP  
 Brazil 05418-000  
 Tel: (55-11) 212-5066  
 Telex: 391-1131931 NSBR BR  
 Fax: (55-11) 212-1181

**National Semiconductor (Australia) Pty, Ltd.**  
 Building 16  
 Business Park Drive  
 Monash Business Park  
 Nottingham, Melbourne  
 Victoria 3168 Australia  
 Tel: (3) 558-9999  
 Fax: (3) 558-9998

National does not assume any responsibility for use of any circuitry described, no circuit patent licenses are implied and National reserves the right at any time without notice to change said circuitry and specifications.