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How to setup the UART on Raspberry Pi 3

RASPBERRY PI

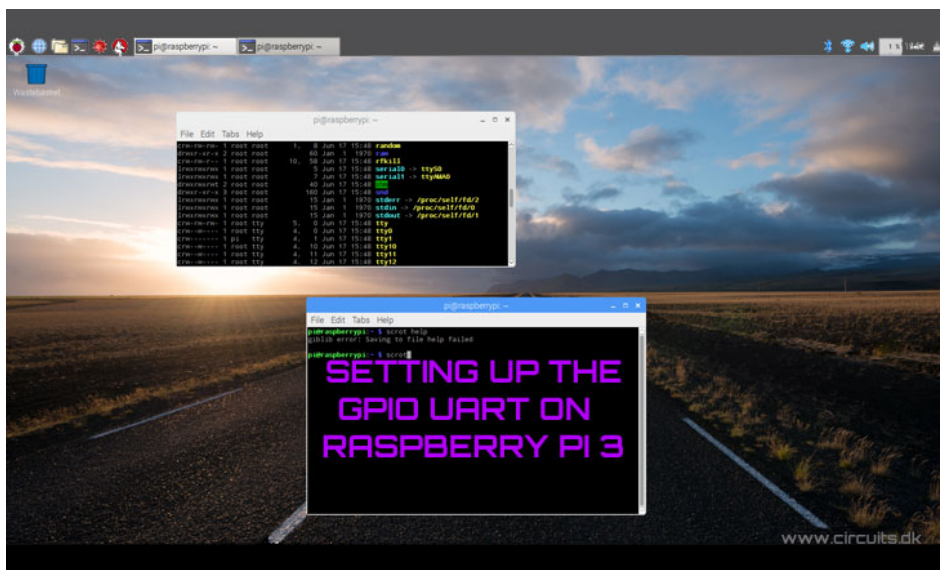
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In this article we will try to setup the UART on the Raspberry Pi 3 and Raspberry Pi Zero W running the Raspbian OS. This used to be pretty easy on the previous versions of the Raspbian OS, but on the Raspberry Pi 3 model it is a little bit different.

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Raspbian OS has 2 UARTs (as did its predecessors), however to support the L011 UART was moved from the header pins to the Bluetooth header pins 8 and 10. Hence, the miniUART is now available on the Raspberry Pi 3. The miniUART channel /dev/ttyAMA0 which on previous models was /dev/ttyS0. The serial interface used for the Bluetooth is named /dev/ttyAMA0 and the serial interface on the GPIO connector J8 is named /dev/ttyS0.

Unfortunately there are a number of other consequences:

The mini UART is a secondary low throughput UART intended to be used as a console.

Please note that the mini UART has the following features:

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- 7 or 8 bit operation

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- Baudrate derived from system clock.

CTS.

enable FIFO level.

There is no support for parity and the throughput is limited, but the latter should not affect most uses.

Before beginning, there is usually wise to update your installation to the latest version of the debian "jessy":

First, update your system's package list by entering the following command:

```
sudo apt-get update
```

Next, upgrade all your installed packages to their latest versions with the command:

```
sudo apt-get dist-upgrade
```

Generally speaking, doing this regularly will keep your installation up to date.

Also be aware that downloaded package files (.deb files) are kept in /var/cache/apt/archives. You can remove these in order to free up space with `sudo apt-get clean`.

To find the kernel version and distribution version, run:

Kernel version:

```
uname -a
```

Distribution version:

```
cat /etc/os-release
```

Some issues:

There is an issue with some of the releases of jessy which makes the UART work not as intended in some situations:

See post on raspi.org [here](#).

And follow up post on git [here](#).



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