

Education Centre > Tutorials & Application Notes > Getting Started > Installing the javax.comm serial package

Installing the javax.comm serial package



Possibly the single biggest problem people have getting started with muvium is installing the javax.comm serial package. This Java TIP shows you how to navigate the installation tricks of this common stumbling block.

 [PDF Version](#)

Installing the javax.comm serial package

by James Caska
March 6, 2005

Unfortunately, serial port communication is not part of the sun platform. Rather it is supported as a standard extension by the way of the javax.comm package. Unfortunately, because it is not supported as part of the platform sun appear to have somewhat neglected this important package and the installation instructions can be somewhat confusing. This Java TIP is only an installation guide. More complete information about javax.comm can be found at suns web portal here - <http://java.sun.com/products/javacomm/>

Step 1: Download the javax.comm installation

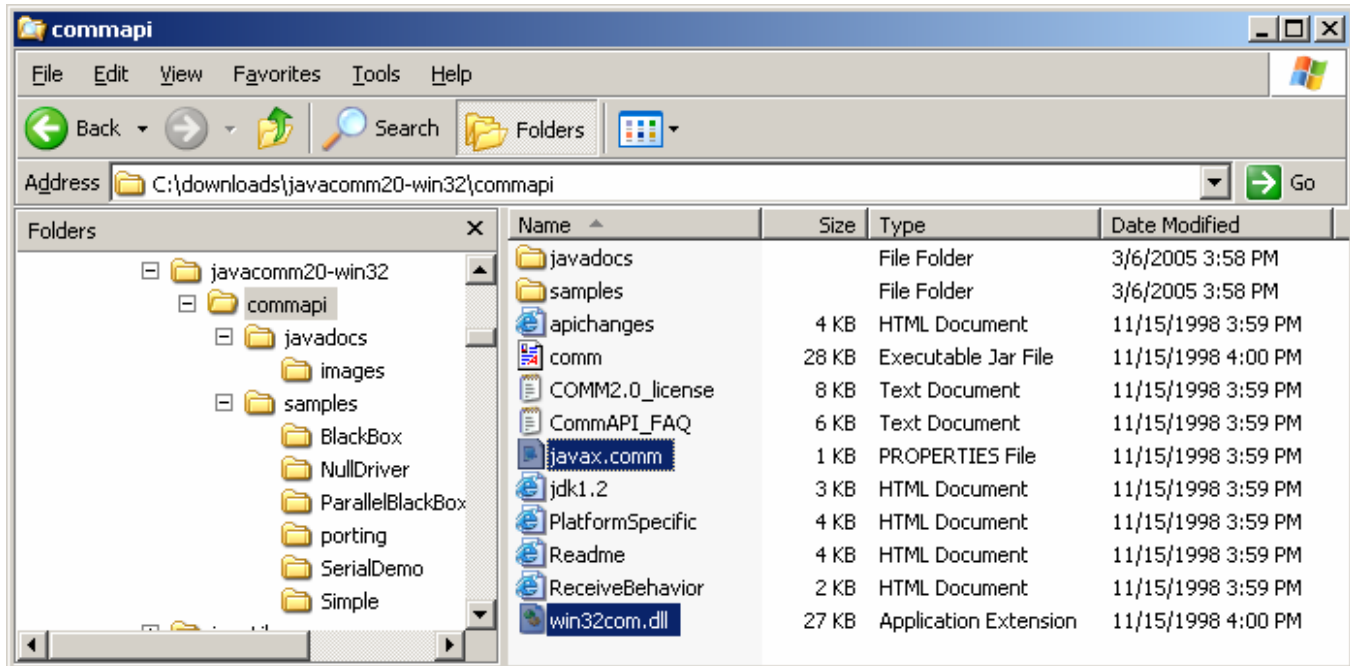
The javax.comm package is contained in a separate download which can be downloaded from the sun javax.comm download site

<http://java.sun.com/products/javacomm/downloads/index.html>

Only the windows version, javacomm20-win32.zip, is covered in this Java TIP.

Step 2: Unzip javacomm20-win32.zip into a temporary directory

The javacomm20-win32.zip contains several files and test files. However there are only 2 files of interest, the javax.comm PROPERTIES file and the win32com.dll file



Step 3: Installing the javax.comm and win32com.dll files into each JVM

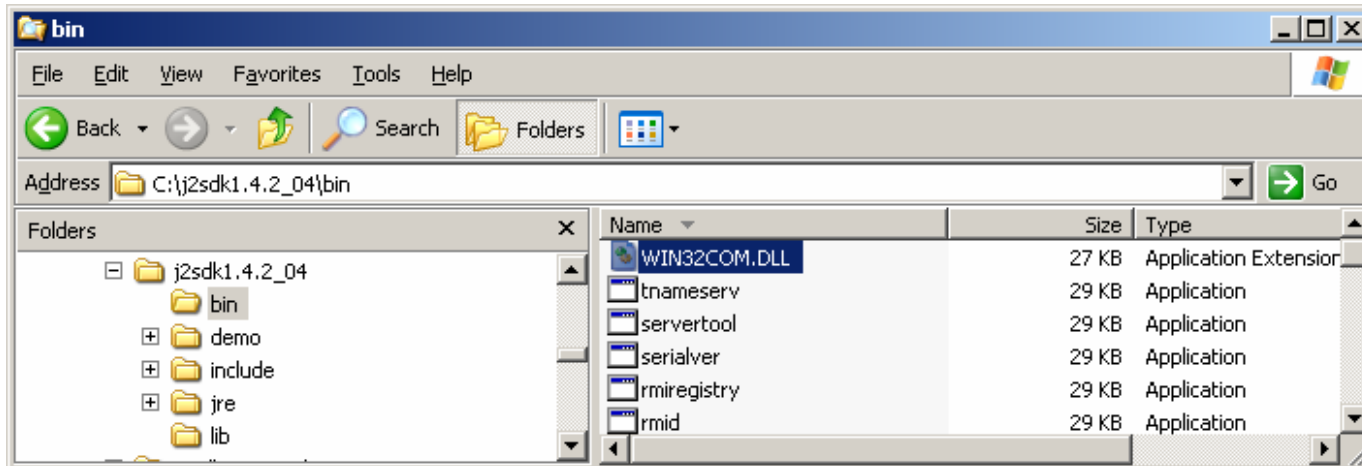
Now here is the installation trick. There is usually more than 1 JVM being used on your PC and you need to install the javax.comm and win32com.dll files into each of them. The documentation that comes with javax.comm package instructs you how to install the files into the JDK version of the JVM however often it is in fact the JRT runtime version of the JVM that is used. Which is used depends on the environmental variables configured in your system, however I recommend simply installing javax.comm in all JVM instances to save confusion.

Locating and installing javax.comm and win32com.dll files into the JDK JVM

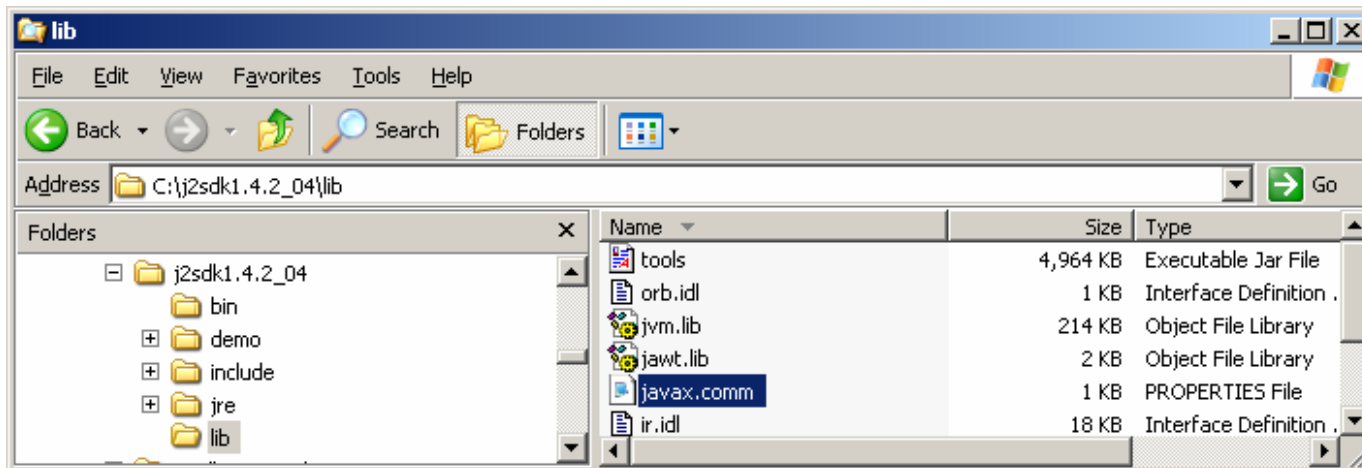
The JDK JVM is the most visible JVM. It is typically in the default JDK installation location eg. c:\j2sdk1.4.2_04\

Say JDK Directory = c:\j2sdk1.4.2_04\

Copy win32com.dll into the JDK/bin directory



Copy javax.comm into the JDK/lib directory



Locating and installing javax.comm and win32com.dll files into the JRT JVM

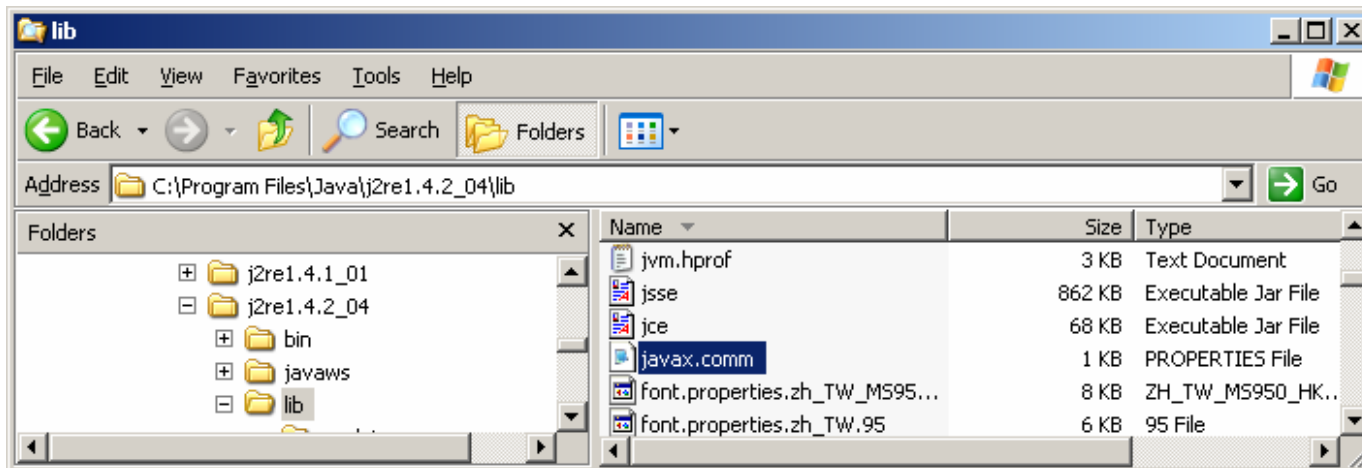
The JRT JVM is the somewhat invisible JVM and failing to install the javax.comm and win32com.dll files into the JRT JVM is the most common stumbling block because the instructions that come with the javacomm20-win32.zip download don't instruct how to do this. The JRT JVM is typically located in the program files directory eg. c:\Program Files\Java\j2sdk1.4.2_04\

Say JRT Directory = c:\Program Files\Java\j2sdk1.4.2_04\

Copy win32com.dll into the JRT/bin directory



Copy javax.comm into the JRT/lib directory



Step 4: Done! You are ready to use the movium bootloader programming tools

The uVMDK ships with the comm.jar so there is nothing more to do. You should be able to use the javax.comm serial port package to program applications using the movium tools. This Java TIP has covered the installation of the javax.comm package from the point of view of being able to use it. If you want to develop using javax.comm you can review the documentation and examples that ship with the javacomm20-win32.zip download.