

Getting started with Phidgets in Standard C\C++ (Linux, Mac OS X, and Windows)

Environment and Libraries

First, we need to set up the proper environment and get the necessary files off the Phidgets website. Visit the drivers section at www.phidgets.com and get the latest Phidget driver for your system.

We also recommend that you download the following reference materials from the programming section:

- C API Manual
- Programming Manual
- The Product Manual for your device
- Standard C/C++ code samples

The C API manual contains calls and events for every type of Phidget and can be used as a reference. You can find a high level discussion about programming with Phidgets in general in the Programming Manual. The Product manual for your device also contains an API section that describes limitations, defaults, and implementation details specific to your Phidget. You may want to have these manuals open while working through these instructions.

Coding For Your Phidget

Before you can use the Phidget, the library header must be referenced.

```
#include <phidget21.h>
```

Afterwards, the Phidget object will need to be declared and then initialized. For example, we can declare a PhidgetInterfaceKit inside our main function with:

```
int main(int argc, char* argv[])
{
    CPhidgetInterfaceKitHandle ifKit = 0;
    CPhidgetInterfaceKit_create(&ifKit);

    return 0;
}
```

The object name for any type of Phidget is listed in the API manual. Every type of Phidget also inherits functionality from the Phidget base class.

Connecting to the Phidget

Next, the program needs to try and connect to the Phidget through an open call. The open will tell the program to continuously try to connect to a Phidget, based on the parameters given, even trying to reconnect if it gets disconnected. This means that simply calling open does not guarantee you can use the Phidget immediately. We can handle this by using event driven programming and tracking the AttachEvents and DetachEvents, or by calling waitForAttachment. WaitForAttachment will block indefinitely until a connection is made to the Phidget, or an optional timeout is exceeded.

```
CPhidget_open((CPhidgetHandle)ifKit, -1);  
CPhidget_waitForAttachment((CPhidgetHandle)ifKit, 10000);
```

The different types of open can be used with parameters to try and get the first device it can find, open based on its serial number, or even open across the network. The API manual lists all of the available modes that open provides. One important thing to remember is that when working with Phidgets, a local connection will reserve the device until closed. This prevents any other instances from retrieving data from the Phidget, including other programs. The one connection per device limit does not apply when exclusively using the Phidget Webservice.

At the end of your program, don't forget to call close to free any locks on the Phidget.

```
CPhidget_close((CPhidgetHandle)ifKit);  
CPhidget_delete((CPhidgetHandle)ifKit);
```

Event Driven Programming

We recommend the use of event driven programming when working with Phidgets. In C/C++, we hook an event handler with the following code:

```
CPhidgetInterfaceKit_set_OnSensorChange_Handler (ifKit, SensorChangeHandler, NULL);  
  
int SensorChangeHandler(CPhidgetInterfaceKitHandle IFK, void *usrptr, int  
Index, int Value)  
{  
printf("Sensor: %d > Value: %d\n", Index, Value);  
return 0;  
}
```

With this function, the code inside SensorChangedHandler will get executed every time the PhidgetInterfaceKit reports a change on one of its analog inputs.

Some events such as Attach and Detach belong to the base Phidget object and thus are common to all types of Phidgets. Please refer to the API manual for a full list of events and their usage.

Note: In Windows environments, the `__stdcall` calling convention is needed. For example,

```
int __stdcall SensorChangeHandler(CPhidgetInterfaceKitHandle IFK, void *usrptr, int
Index, int Value)
{
printf("Sensor: %d > Value: %d\n", Index, Value);
return 0;
}
```

Working directly with the Phidget

Some values can be read and sent directly to the Phidget. Simply use the C API functions such as `CPhidgetInterfaceKit_getSensorValue()` for `PhidgetInterfaceKits`.

```
int val, i;
for (i = 0; i < 10; i++) {
    CPhidgetInterfaceKit_getSensorValue(phid, 0, &val);
    printf("Value: %d\n", val);
}
```

The functions can be used inside a polling loop as an alternative to event driven programming. Above, a sensor attached to the `PhidgetInterfaceKit` is read and its value is displayed to screen.

Working with multiple Phidgets

Multiple Phidgets of the same type can easily be run inside the same program. In our case, it requires another `PhidgetInterfaceKit` instance to be defined and initialized. The new instance can then be set up, opened and used in the same process as the previous one.

If the application needs to distinguish between the devices, `open` can be called with the serial number of a specific Phidget.

Other Phidgets

The design given in this document can also be followed for almost all Phidgets. For example, if you were using a `PhidgetRFID` instead of an `PhidgetInterfacekit`, you would call `CPhidgetRFID_create` instead of `CPhidgetInterfaceKit_create`. The functions and events available would change but they can be accessed in a similar manner.

Working in a Windows Environment

As an alternative to programming in Visual Studios C/C++, GCC can be used with tools such as MinGW or Cygwin. Borland C++ can be used as well.

Compiling Your Program

Compiling and linking against the Phidgets Library will differ depending on the compiler and

environment:

- **Linux**

```
gcc example.c -lphidget21
```

- **Mac OS X**

```
gcc example.c -I/Library/Frameworks/Phidget21.framework/Headers -framework phidget21
```

- **Windows-Borland C++**

```
bcc32 -I"C:\Program Files\Phidgets" -L"C:\Program Files\Phidgets" phidget21bcc.lib  
example.c
```

- **Windows-MinGW**

```
gcc example.c -I"C:\Program Files\Phidgets" -L"C:\Program Files\Phidgets"  
-lphidget21
```

- **Windows-Cygwin**

```
gcc example.c -I"/cygdrive/c/Program Files/Phidgets" -L"/cygdrive/c/Program Files/  
Phidgets" -lphidget21
```

Note: For the Windows environments, it is assumed that the Phidgets framework is installed in the C:\Program Files\Phidgets directory.