OpenEVSE
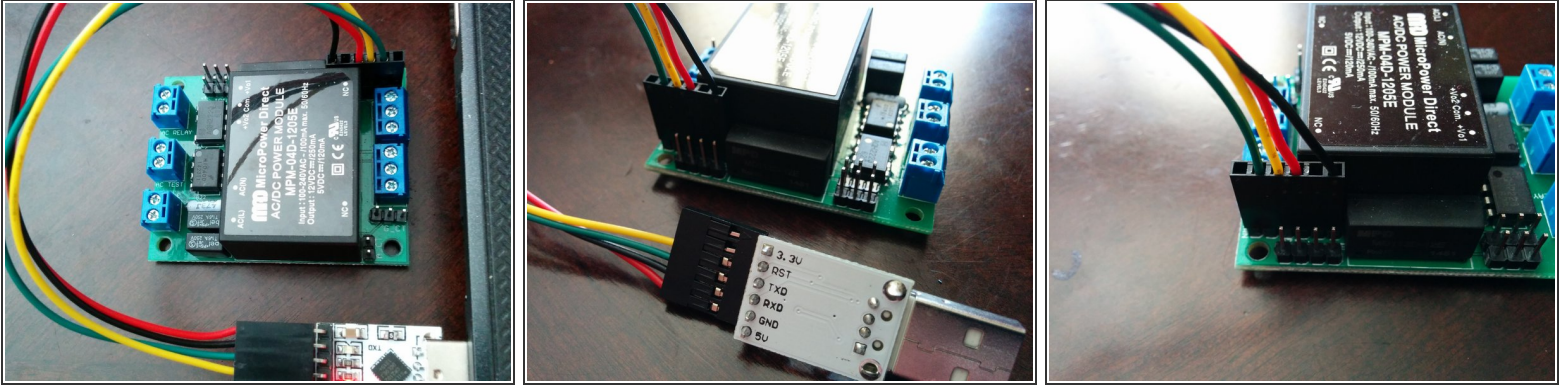
Serial Communications with OpenEVSE

OpenEVSE has included serial communications for the life of the project. Early versions of firmware supported a Command Line Interface (CLI) newer versions include a Remote API.

Written By: Christopher Howell

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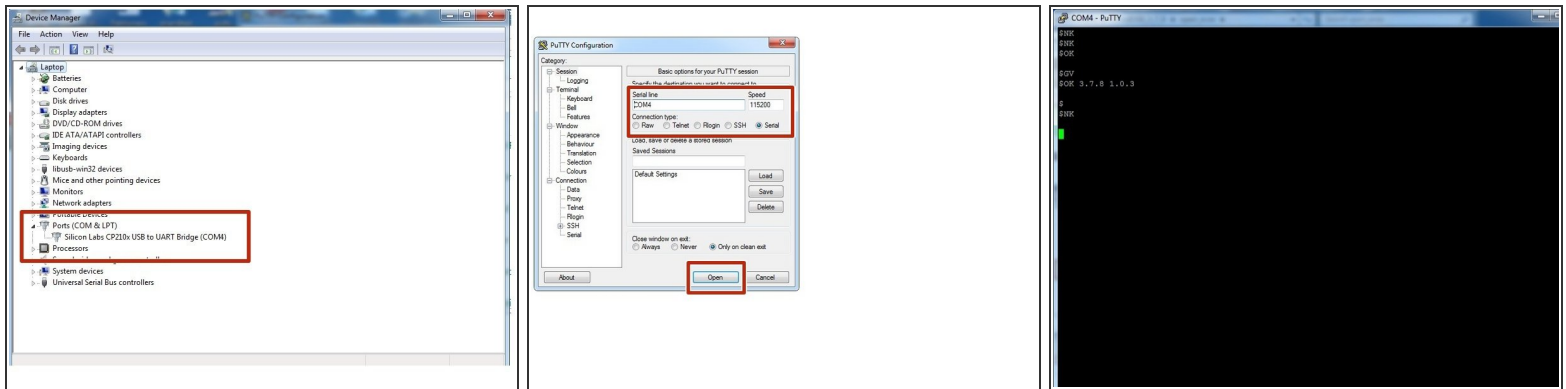
Step 1 — Hardware

- OpenEVSE supports many Serial TTL Devices at 5v on the 6 pin header.

- The header is the common FTDI format.

  - Pin 1 - Ground (Black)

  - Pin 2 - No Connection

  - Pin 3 - 5v (Red) - **75ma max** Higher power devices must use external power.

  - Pin 4 - Recieve (Yellow) connects to transmit on the remote device.

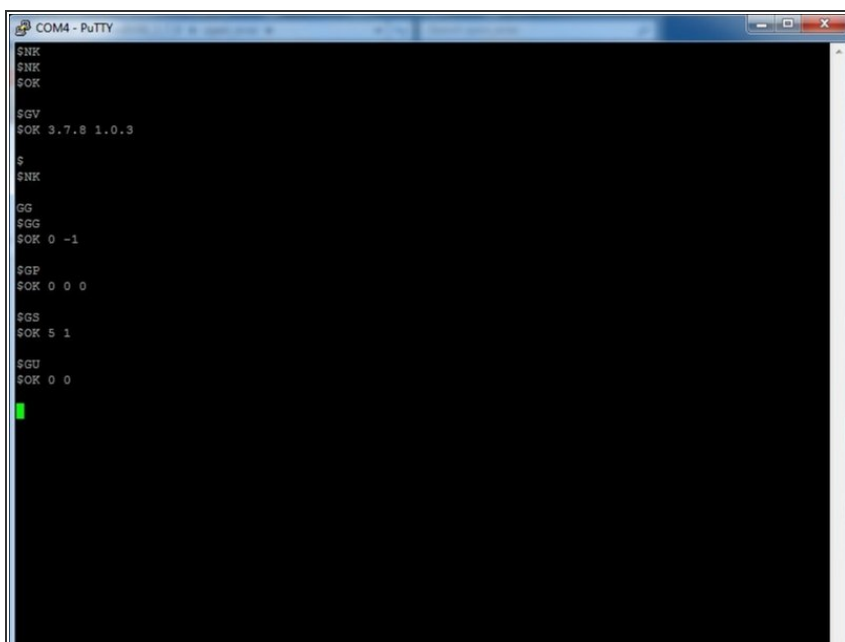 - Pin 5 - Transmit (Green) connects to receive on the remote device.

⚠ It is recommended to update the latest version of firmware. Many changes have been made over time. This guide was written with Firmware version 3.7.8.

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Step 2 — USB-TTL - Serial Console

- Insert the serial to USB adapt or and install the appropriate driver

  ⓘ The windows driver for the adaptor sold in the OpenEV store is here: [Windows Driver](#)

- Using a terminal console (PuTTY recommended) set the COMM port to the USB-TTL adapter and the baud rate to 115200. Then click Open.

  ⓘ If you do not know the comm port you can go into the Device manager and look under Ports.

- In the console window enter $ and press enter. You should receive a $NK response.

- Next enter $SE 1. This will turn on local echo so you can see what you send. The response should be $OK.

- Now enter the command $GV. The response should be $OK followed by the Firmware version and the Remote API version.
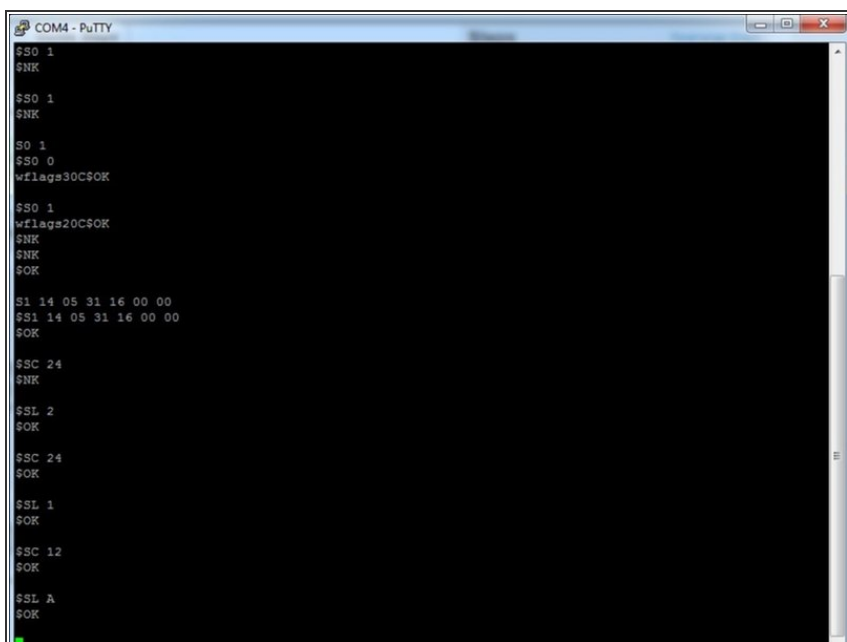
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Step 3 — Remote API Get commands

⚠️ Full documentation of the Remote API is located in the rapi_proc.h file in the OpenEVSE Source code. The file is located here: rapi_proc.h

- The Remote API is a very powerful tool for extending OpenEVSE, useful for information, configuration and external applications.

- Here are some interesting Get commands:
  - $GG - Get real time charging current. Returns $OK current voltage(future hardware)

  - $GP - Get real time Temprature values from RTC chip, MCP9808 and TMP007 IR sensors. Returns $OK RTC, MCP9808, TMP007 - 0 is returned if sensor is not found.

  - $GS - Get EVSE State. Returns the current state $OK State - 1 Not Connected - 2 Connected - 3 Charging - 4 Error - 5 Error.

  - $GU - Get usage statistics. Returns $OK Energy used last session and lifetime

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Step 4 — Remote API Set Commands

⚠ Full documentation of the Remote API is located in the rapi_proc.h file in the OpenEVSE Source code. The file is located here: rapi_proc.h

- The Remote API is a very powerful tool for extending OpenEVSE, useful for information, configuration and external applications.

- Here are some interesting Set commands:

  - $SC amp - Set current value in amps. Subject to Mix and Max for each setting min 6A Max 80A.

  - $SL 1 or 2 or A - set service level L1 /L2 / Auto

  - 📌 Tip you can set Service level 1 set current for L1 then set Service Level 2 and set current. Each has its own setting.

  - S1 yr mo day hr min sec - Set current time 2 digit value for each hour 24 hour value.

  - $S0 0 or 1 - Set LCD Type 0 = Monochrome 1 = RGB.

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Step 5 — External Communications

- OpenEVSE can be extended with many devices using 5v TTL (or 3.3v with level shifting).

⚠ External power is required if device draws more than 75ma at 5v.

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