

PC/SC DEVELOPMENT TECHNIQUES

A Java applet for smartcard-aware web pages

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Abstract :
This document aims to help you in programming inside a web page a program to connect to your PC/SC reader and communicate with a card; the graphics part of this program being defined in the HTML page and the communication functions being managed in a Java

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. ABSTRACT

The **Java Smartcard I/O API** has been defined by JSR 268 and introduced in version 6 of the platform. It implements communication with smartcards using ISO 7816-4 APDUs, to allow Java applications to interact with the smartcard's application.

The **Java Smartcard I/O API** runs on top of a PC/SC subsystem (Microsoft' PC/SC middleware on Windows, open source PCSC-Lite middleware on Linux and MacOS X). Therefore, this API ensures access to **SpringCard PC/SC readers** (Prox'N'Roll PC/SC, CSB6, CrazyWriter, EasyFinger, etc) from Java applications and applets.

This document provides an introduction to the **Java Smartcard I/O API** and explains how to build a smartcard-aware web page thanks to a Java applet.

1.2. AUDIENCE

This manual is designed for use by application developers. It assumes that the reader has expert knowledge of the Java language and platform.

1.3. PREREQUISITES

First step is to have a working Java SDK (JDK) and a working runtime (JRE) on your computer, supporting the version 6 of the platform.

Go to <http://java.sun.com/javase/downloads> to download and install the latest Java SE environment.

1.4. SUPPORT AND UPDATES

Interesting related materials (product datasheets, application notes, sample software, HOWTOs and FAQs...) are available at SpringCard's web site:

www.springcard.com

Updated versions of this document and others will be posted on this web site as soon as they are made available.

For technical support enquiries, please refer to SpringCard support page, on the web at address www.springcard.com/support .

2. JAVA SMARTCARD I/O API AT A GLANCE

2.1. IDENTIFICATION AND DOCUMENTATION

The **Java Smartcard I/O API** is implemented in `javax.smartcardio`.

The documentation is available online at

<http://java.sun.com/javase/6/docs/jre/api/security/smartcardio/spec/javax/smartcardio/package-summary.html>

2.2. OVERVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLE CLASSES AND METHODS

2.2.1. CardTerminals

The `javax.smartcardio.CardTerminals` class provides access to the list of available PC/SC readers.

2.2.2. CardTerminal

The `javax.smartcardio.CardTerminal` class is the representation of a PC/SC smartcard reader¹.

The method `isCardPresent` tells whether or not there's a card in the reader.

The method `waitForCardPresent` blocks until a card is inserted.

2.2.3. Card

The `javax.smartcardio.Card` class is the representation of a smartcard, inserted in a PC/SC reader.

The `getATR` method returns the ATR of the card.

Once the card is connected, communication is done through a `CardChannel` object.

2.2.4. CardChannel, CommandAPDU, ResponseAPDU.

Exchanges with the smartcard at APDU level are performed through the `javax.smartcardio.CardChannel` class.

The `transmit` method implements the exchange. A `CommandAPDU` object is passed to the reader down to the card, and the response of the card is returned by the reader in a `ResponseADPU` object.

¹ Some SpringCard readers provide more than one physical smartcard slot (CrazyWriter with its contactless slot plus SAM slots, CSB6 with its contactless slot, a ISO 7816 contact slot plus SAM slots, etc). In this case, they are seen as multiple PC/SC smartcard readers, and therefore as multiple `CardTerminal` instances under Java.

2.3. A TRIVIAL EXAMPLE

```
/* Get the list of readers */
CardTerminals terminalList;

TerminalFactory factory = TerminalFactory.getDefault();
terminalList = factory.terminals();

/* Choose a reader knowing its name */
CardTerminal MyReader = terminalList.getTerminal(ReaderName);

/* Connect to the card currently in the reader */
Card card = MyReader.connect("*");

/* Exchange APDUS with the card */
CardChannel channel = card.getBasicChannel();

byte[] ApduArray = {
    (byte) 0xFF,
    (byte) 0xCA,
    (byte) 0x00,
    (byte) 0x00,
    (byte) 0x00
};

CommandAPDU GetData = new CommandAPDU(ApduArray);
ResponseAPDU CardApduResponse = channel.transmit(GetData);

/* Disconnect */
card.disconnect(true);
```

3. JAVA SMARTCARD I/O IN AN APPLET

3.1. BACKGROUND

A **Java applet** is a small application, designed to be distributed through Internet and to run in a web browser.

An applet's main class inherits from `JApplet` :

```
import javax.swing.JApplet;
public class my_applet extends JApplet
{
    // ...
}
```

3.2. SIGNING THE APPLET

3.2.1. Why the PC/SC applet has to be signed?

To protect both computer's security and user's privacy, Java applets running in a web browser only have a very limited access to the computer's resources (*sandbox* principle). For instance, they are allowed to list the readers connected to the system, but are **not allowed** to connect to the smartcards themselves.

Therefore, only a signed applet could be given sufficient privileges to communicate with the smartcards.

3.2.2. Applet signing HOWTO

Before signing an applet, we need a signing key, to be created using `keytool`. Then we'll have to invoke `jarsigner` to sign the applet with our key, after every build.

3.2.3. Creation of the signing key

Use **Keytool** to generate a public-private key pair.

```
keytool -genkey -alias KeyName
```

`-genkey` flag means you are about to generate a key,

`-alias` flag allows you to name your key; provide a friendly name to identify your key.

Keytool asks to provide information during the process:

- *A Password*, to protect the private key,
- *First Name* and your *Last Name*,
- *Organisation Name*,
- *City*,

- *Country* and your *Country Code*.

Try to be as accurate as possible when entering these settings as they will be displayed every time a user will download your applet for the first time.

Once the key is generated, remember its *KeyName* and *Password* to be able to sign your projects.

3.2.4. Creation of the .jar file

After every build, the applet has to be packaged in a .jar file. It is the .jar file (and not the applet itself) that will be signed.

3.2.5. Signature

Once your applet has been built and your .jar file created, use **JarSigner** to sign it:

```
jarsigner -verbose my_applet.jar KeyName
```

Use the `-verbose` flag to have the different steps of the operation displayed.

`my_applet.jar` is the name of your JAR file.

KeyName is the name of the key created in 3.2.3. You will be prompted for the *Password*.

You may also provide the flag `-storepass Password` to specify this password on the command line.

3.3. WRITING A SCRIPTABLE APPLLET

3.3.1. Why the applet shall be scriptable?

A **scriptable applet** is an applet whose methods may be accessed by the parent web page (from JavaScript typically).

We aim to develop a smartcard-aware web page, so the Java applet has to be scriptable. The GUI will be implemented in HTML, and the 'logic' in JavaScript. The applet is only an entry-point to the PC/SC subsystem.

3.3.2. Constraints on the JavaScript

When working with a signed applet, the JavaScript file should be signed too, to be able to call restricted functions (functions not allowed in the sandbox).

We want to avoid that, as signed JavaScript files are not easy to work with when developing and prototyping a web application.

The solution is to add code into the applet itself, to specify that the extended security privileges (gained by the applet's signature) shall be transmitted to the JavaScript code, too. This is done using an `AccessController.doPrivileged` block:

```
try
{
    AccessController.doPrivileged(
        new PrivilegedExceptionAction<Integer>()
        {
            public Integer run()
            {
                // Your code here
                return null;
            }
        });
} catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
{
    // catch block
    e.printStackTrace();
}
```

3.3.3. Passing parameters from the web page to the applet

An applet's method may receive input parameters from the JavaScript. The parameters could not be used 'as is' inside an `AccessController.doPrivileged` block. They must be copied into local `final` variables as follow:

```
public String TransmitArray(byte[] ApduIn)
{
    final byte[] ApduCmd = ApduIn;
    try
    {
        AccessController.doPrivileged(
            new PrivilegedExceptionAction<Boolean>()
            {
                public Boolean run()
                {
                    CommandAPDU getData = new
                        CommandAPDU(ApduCmd);

                    // ... transmit the C-APDU

                }
            });
    }
    // ... return the R-APDU
}
```

3.3.4. Returning a value from the applet to the web page

The return variable has to be a 'global' variable of the applet. It will be modified in the privileged area of the code, and returned outside the privileged block.

```
boolean CardIsPresent; // class-level variable

public boolean IsCardPresent()
{
    try
    {
        AccessController.doPrivileged(
            new PrivilegedExceptionAction<Boolean>()
            {
                public Boolean run()
                {
                    try
                    {
                        CardIsPresent =
                            MyReader.isCardPresent();
                    } catch (CardException e)
                    {
                        e.printStackTrace();
                    }
                    return true;
                }
            });
    } catch (PrivilegedActionException e)
    {
        e.printStackTrace();
    }

    return CardIsPresent; // this is the value returned
                          // to the web page
}
```

3.3.5. Invoking JavaScript functions from the applet

The applet may call JavaScript functions, for instance to update the GUI when an external event occurs (card inserted, card removed, ...).

This is done through the JSobject package:

Import the following packages:

```
import netscape.javascript.JSException;  
import netscape.javascript.JSObject;
```

Declare and initialize a JSObject:

```
private JSObject jso;  
try  
{  
    jso = JSObject.getWindow(this);  
} catch (JSException e)  
{  
    e.printStackTrace();  
}
```

Invoke the JavaScript function as follow:

```
jso.call("AJSFunction");
```

Parameters could be transmitted to the JavaScript function:

```
jso.call("AnotherJSFunction",  
        new String[] {"a string parameter"});
```

3.4. USING THE APPLLET IN A WEB PAGE

3.4.1. Inserting the applet in the HTML code

Use the following tag to insert your applet in your web page:

```
<object
  classid="clsid:8AD9C840-044E-11D1-B3E9-00805F499D93"
  codebase="http://java.sun.com/products/plugin/1.3/jinstall-13-
  win32.cab#Version=1,3,0,0">

  <param name="CODE" value="my_applet_main_class.class">
  <param name="ARCHIVE" value="my_applet.jar">
  <param name="type" value="application/x-java-applet;version=1.3">
  <param name="scriptable" value="true">

  <comment></comment>

  <embed type="application/x-java-applet;version=1.3" hidden="true"
  code="my_applet_main_class.class" archive="my_applet.jar"
  scriptable="true"
  pluginspage="http://java.sun.com/products/plugin/1.3/plugin-
  install.html" MAYSCRIPT>
</object>
```

Of course change the bold items to reflect the name of your applet and the name of its .jar file.

The *MAYSCRIPT* attribute makes it possible to use JavaScript within the applet,

The *scriptable* attribute specifies that the applet is scriptable.

3.4.2. Invoking the applet's methods from JavaScript

You can call your applet function in your Javascript code like this:

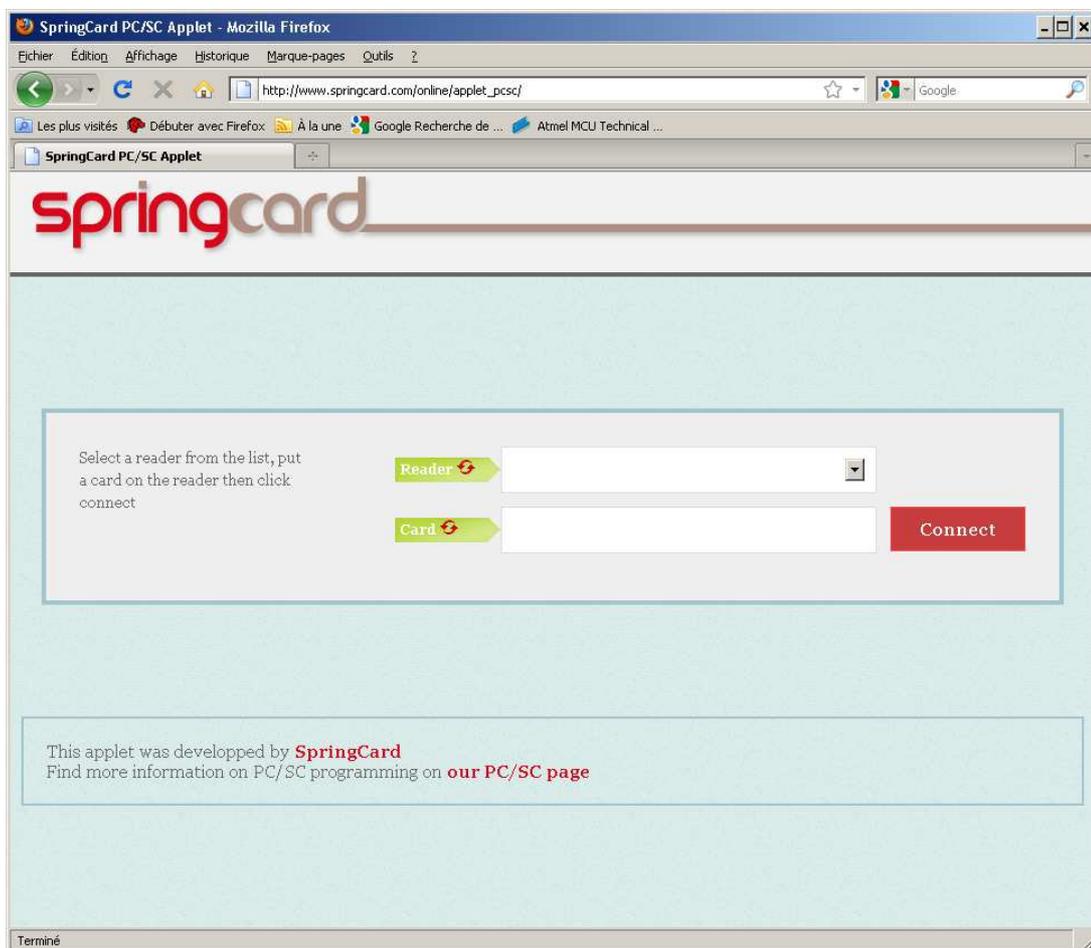
```
var retVal = document.embeds[0].AnAppletFunction(AParameter);
```

4. A WORKED DEMO WITH CODE

Open your web browser and navigate to URL

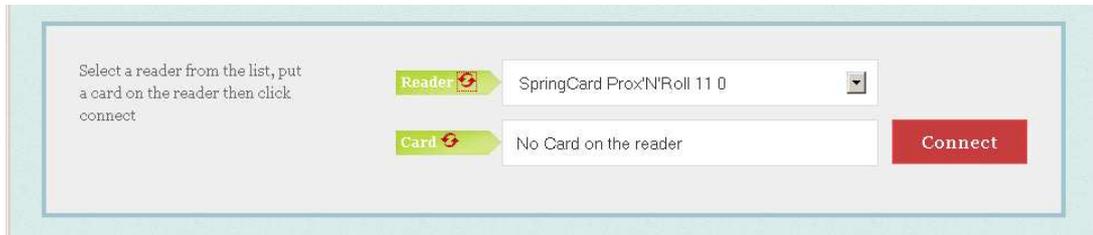
www.springcard.com/online/applet_pcsc/ .

Your browser will warn you about the applet's signature. Our applet has been signed with a self-signed certificate named 'www.springcard.com'; confirm that you accept it.



4.1. LIVE DEMO

The page lists the PC/SC reader(s) that are connected to your computer (click the 'Refresh' icon in the 'Reader' button to update the list).



Select a reader from the list, put a card on the reader then click connect

Reader  SpringCard Prox'N'Roll 11 0

Card  No Card on the reader

Connect

Once a card is present in² the selected reader, the 'Card' box says 'Card present'. Click 'Connect' to open a communication channel with it.



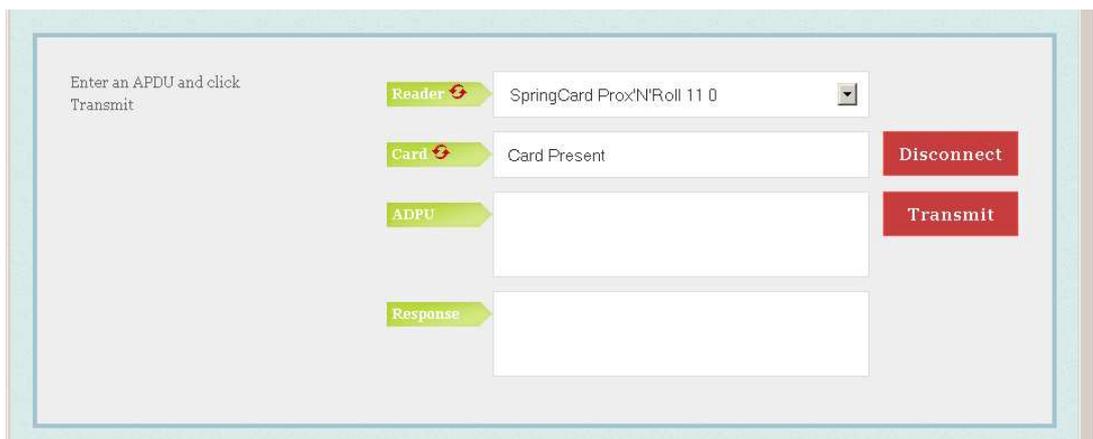
Card present on the reader, click Connect

Reader  SpringCard Prox'N'Roll 11 0

Card  Card Present

Connect

Once connected, the page displays 2 new text boxes.



Enter an APDU and click Transmit

Reader  SpringCard Prox'N'Roll 11 0

Card  Card Present

ADPU

Response

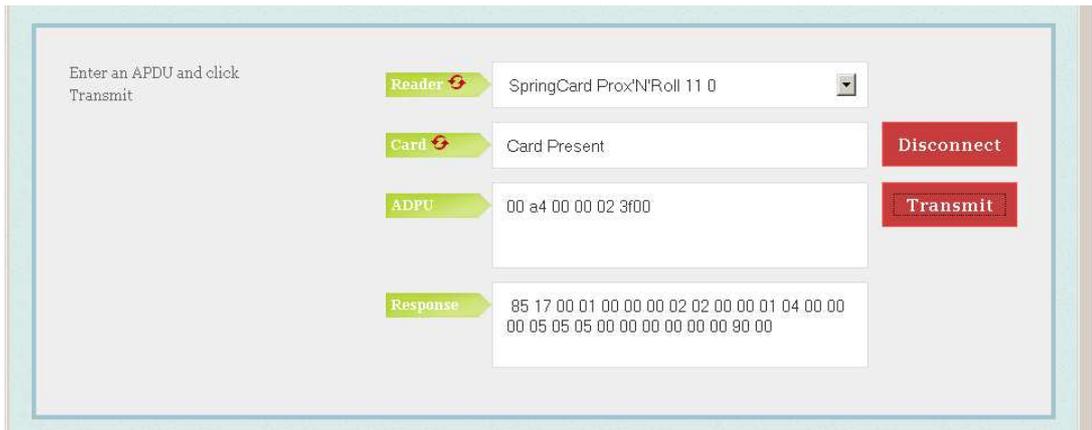
Disconnect

Transmit

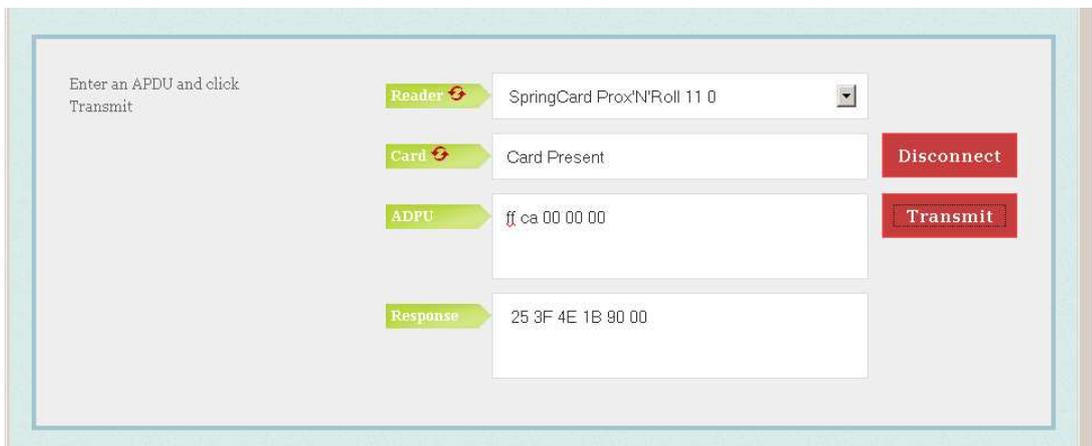
² Or on, in case of a contactless reader.

Enter a valid Command APDU, and click 'Transmit'. Card's Response is displayed in the box at the bottom.

In this first example, we send 'Select Master File' according to ISO 7816-4. The card answers with the FCI (File Control Information) and 'OK' as Status Word (90 00).

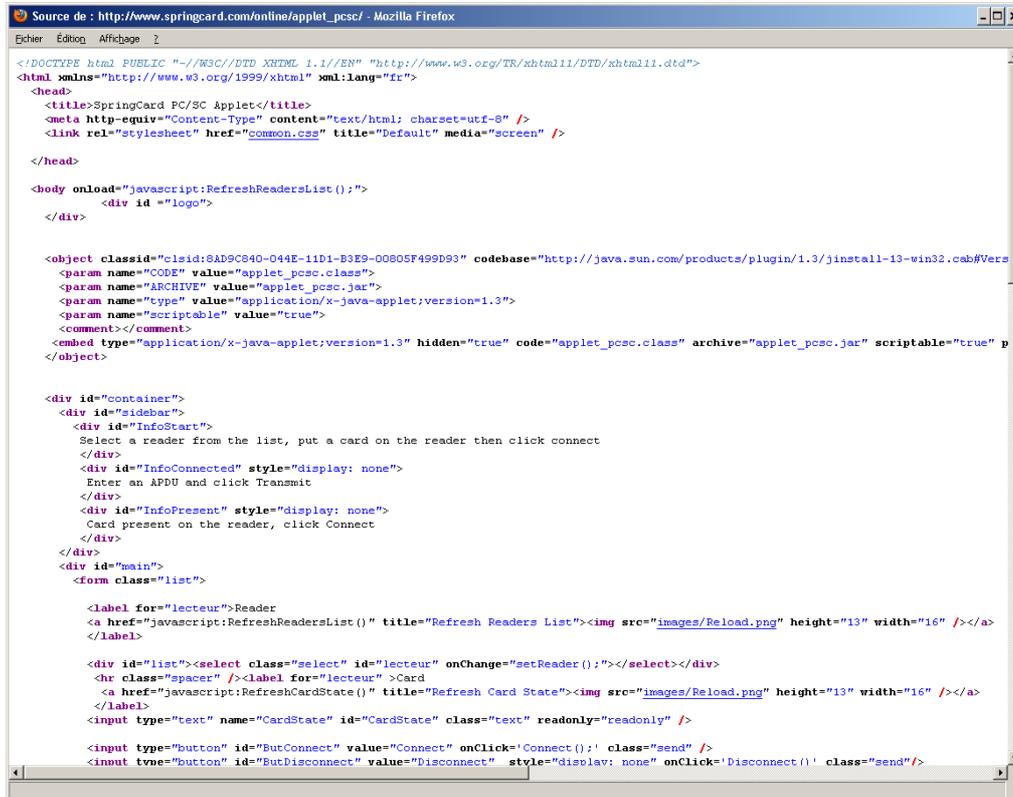


In this second example, we send 'Get Card UID' according to PC/SC v2, chapter 3. The reader (not the card) returns the card's serial number and 'OK' as Status Word (90 00).



4.2. SOURCE CODE

Use your web browser to display the source of the page.



```

Source de : http://www.springcard.com/online/applet_pcsc/ - Mozilla Firefox
Fichier  Edition  Affichage  2
<?DOCTYPE html PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD XHTML 1.1//EN" "http://www.w3.org/TR/xhtml11/DTD/xhtml11.dtd">
<html xmlns="http://www.w3.org/1999/xhtml" xml:lang="fr">
<head>
<title>SpringCard PC/SC Applet</title>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=utf-8" />
<link rel="stylesheet" href="common.css" title="Default" media="screen" />
</head>
<body onload="javascript:RefreshReadersList();" >
<div id="logo">
</div>
<object classid="clsid:8AD9C840-044E-11D1-B3E9-00805F499D93" codebase="http://java.sun.com/products/plugin/1.3/jinstall-13-win32.cab#Vers
<param name="CODE" value="applet_pcsc.class">
<param name="ARCHIVE" value="applet_pcsc.jar">
<param name="type" value="application/x-java-applet;version=1.3">
<param name="scriptable" value="true">
<comment></comment>
<embed type="application/x-java-applet;version=1.3" hidden="true" code="applet_pcsc.class" archive="applet_pcsc.jar" scriptable="true" p
</object>
<div id="container">
<div id="sidebar">
<div id="InfoStart">
Select a reader from the list, put a card on the reader then click connect
</div>
<div id="InfoConnected" style="display: none">
Enter an APDU and click Transmit
</div>
<div id="InfoPresent" style="display: none">
Card present on the reader, click Connect
</div>
</div>
<div id="main">
<form class="list">
<label for="lecteur">Reader
<a href="javascript:RefreshReadersList()" title="Refresh Readers List"></a>
</label>
<div id="list"><select class="select" id="lecteur" onChange="setReader()"/></select></div>
<hr class="spacer" /><label for="lecteur" >Card
<a href="javascript:RefreshCardState()" title="Refresh Card State"></a>
</label>
<input type="text" name="CardState" id="CardState" class="text" readonly="readonly" />
<input type="button" id="ButConnect" value="Connect" onClick='Connect();' class="send" />
<input type="button" id="ButDisconnect" value="Disconnect" style="display: none" onClick='Disconnect();' class="send"/>
    
```

There are only 6 very short JavaScript functions to drive the applet:

- RefreshReadersList
- setReader
- RefreshCardState
- Connect
- SendApdu
- Disconnect

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