

## Software FIFO for Serial Port

The version 5650 of the SUNIX PCI card driver for Windows 2000 and Windows XP supports a Software FIFO for the serial port. This FIFO is used to buffer data on the receive path. The size of the FIFO can be configured in the Advanced property page of the driver. The page allows settings between 128 bytes and 128 kilo bytes (see picture below). The setting of the software FIFO size can be chosen individually for each port. The selected value is the lower limit which is used. If the application selects a larger FIFO size with a call of the function SetupComm() the larger size is used. If an application selects a smaller FIFO size with a call of the function SetupComm() the size of the Advanced property page setting is used.

The selected Software FIFO size is allocated from kernel memory. This memory cannot be used by different application. If a lot of serial ports are used on a system with a small memory the selection of a large Software FIFO Size may cause problems. Increase the size of the physical memory of the PC in this case.

The new Software FIFO may help to make the data transfer on the serial port more reliable.

