RESETTING COM PORT NUMBER ASSIGNMENTS UNDER WINDOWS

XP and 2000

ISSUE

How can I reset the COM port assignments on my Windows computer?

RESOLUTION

Each time a USB device is plugged into a USB port, Windows "rediscovers" the device. This can lead to having many different COM port assignments, and cause hardware compatibility issues. Resetting the COM database may resolve these issues. Below is a procedure that I and others have used successfully in the past.

After repeated installations of various USB-serial converters, the assigned com ports continue to increase with the operating system reserving a COM number for every USB device that was ever installed. Even though it is possible to reassign a com number in the Device Manager, some vestige of the old assignments remain and may be polled as part of COM interaction with the application and the operating system.

CAUTION: This procedure requires editing the registry. See:

Article 322755

before proceeding.

1. Uninstall any USB-serial converter drivers or other com port add-in PC cards or PCI cards in the Device Manager. Do this by right clicking on the device in the Ports branch of Device Manager. If you have any kind of multiport serial adapters, uninstall those as well. After they are uninstalled, unplug the USB-serial converter(s)
2. Click **Start | Run**, type **RegEdit** and then click **OK**.
3. Navigate to the **HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Control\COM Name Arbiter** key.
4. Highlight **COM Name Arbiter**.

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5. Select **File | Export**.
6. Pick a suitable name and location to save this file. Note where you put it. In case of problems, you can restore exactly where you were with this branch by running **RegEdit** and clicking **File | Import** to import this file.
7. Right-click on the **ComDB** entry on the right side of the window, and then click **Modify**.
8. On the Edit Binary Data window, highlight all the values and delete them (set them to 0) by hitting the delete key on the keyboard. *Do not* delete the **ComDB** key, just clear the value data (set it to zero) and then click **OK**.
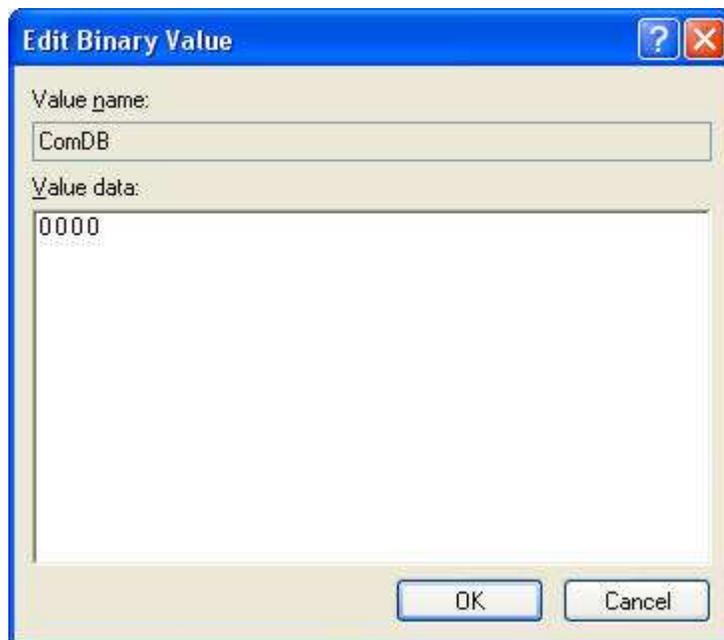
9. Click **File | Exit** to exit the Registry Editor and restart the computer.
10. All of your native COM ports will be discovered automatically.
11. Any serial-USB converters will need to be reinstalled but they should start with the first COM number after your native COM ports.

APPLIES TO

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Windows XP and Windows 2000 operating systems.

KEYWORDS

SBKB, Paramount, ME, connect, failure, erratic, slew, delay, timeout, serial port

Note: This is a general procedure. Exact steps and procedures may vary based on the laptop, the operating system, the meter software, and the Bluetooth radio or adapter. It is always wise to create a backup or a system restore point before changing the configuration of your PC. For more information see your laptop users guide, your Bluetooth installation guide or the Windows operating system guide.

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