

USB Console Port Driver Information



Applicable files

- USB-Console-Info-Aug2013.pdf (this file)
- USB-Console-Installer-Win32bit.EXE
- USB-Console-Installer-Win64bit.EXE
- USB-Console-Disable-Serial-Num.reg

Supported platforms

The USB console port has been tested with 32 and 64-bit versions of Windows XP (SP3 or later), Windows Vista (SP2 or later), Windows 7 (SP1 or later), and Windows 8.

Preparing the PC

There are two ways to prepare a PC to use the switch's USB console port.

- 1) A PC connected to the Internet can allow Windows to automatically download the driver from Microsoft (the PC must be configured to accept updates/drivers from Windows Update). When the switch's USB console port is plugged into a PC for the first time, the Windows operating system will detect an "HPN serial port". Windows will then ask if it should search the web for the driver or have you provide a location.
- 2) The other option is to use the executable driver files in the zip package. Install the driver before connecting the switch's USB console port to the PC. If you already connected the USB console port to the PC, unplug it, install the driver on the PC, then reconnect the switch's USB console port to the PC.
 - a. Two drivers are provided in the zip package, one for 32-bit and one for 64-bit operating systems.
 - b. Copy the appropriate driver (.EXE file) onto the Windows system. The drivers are self-extracting files. Double-click on the driver to install it on the PC (requires Windows Administrator rights).

How to find the assigned COM port

Windows has a deterministic method for assigning COM port numbers to USB serial ports. Use Device Manager to see what was assigned. One path is:

Control Panel --> Administrative Tools --> Computer Management --> Device Manager --> Ports

Optional registry setting

Windows systems normally assign a different COM port each time a USB serial port on the PC is connected to a different switch, due to the unique serial number of the switch's USB port. Also, Windows has a limit of 256 COM ports. For some users these Windows behaviors may be problematic. If you want Windows to use the same COM port number when a PC is connected to different switches, follow these steps to disable the serial number check when the PC's USB port is connected to a switch.

- a. Disconnect the switch's USB console port from the PC.
- b. Copy the USB-Console-Disable-Serial-Num.reg file onto the Windows system. Double-click on the file to modify the PC registry setting (requires Windows Administrator rights).

Notes:

- i. This registry setting affects each USB port individually, so use the same USB port if you want the same COM port number.
- ii. This registry setting affects only HP Networking USB console ports and does not affect other USB devices.

Terminal emulator caveat

When the PC's USB port is connected to the switch's USB console port, the PC's USB port acts as an RS-232 serial port. However, when the PC's USB port is unplugged from the switch, the PC's USB port once again acts as a standard USB port.

If the PC is reconnected to the switch's USB console port without first closing the terminal emulator, the USB console port will not respond. To restore communication, unplug the USB console port, close the terminal emulator, then reconnect the USB console port and launch a new terminal emulator session.

RJ-45 console port is active by default

By default, the RJ-45 console port is active (accepts input). To activate the USB console port, connect it to a live PC. If the USB console session is closed by the inactivity timer, the RJ-45 console port becomes active again, to allow remote access via a terminal server. To reactivate the USB console port, unplug it, then reconnect it to a live PC.

How to find the USB console port drivers

USB console drivers are available at www.hp.com/networking/support. On that web site, follow these steps:

- a. Type a product model (for example, **2530** or **2920**) or product number in the **Auto Search** text box.
- b. Select one of the switches from the dropdown list, and click the **Display selected** button.
- c. From the options that appear, select **Software downloads** (on the right-hand side). Then, download the "USB Console Port Drivers and Information".