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Prolific USB-to-Serial Fix (Official Solution to 'Code 10 error')

Posted by Alex E. on 11 March 2016 10:37 PM



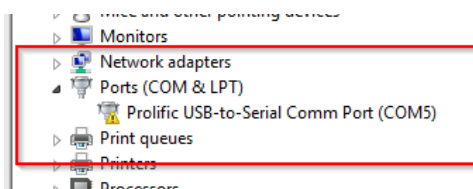
Article credit goes to: ifamilysoftware.com

Purpose of this article is to guide you on how to FIX the **"Prolific USB-to-Serial"** driver issue with common cheap units.

In summary, this article is for: Windows XP, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1 and Windows 10. Works on 32/64-bit.

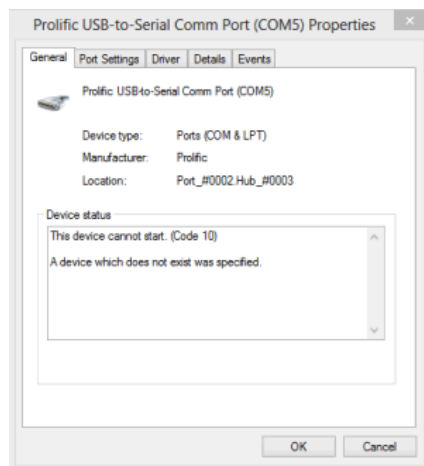
And it addresses issue of: Prolific PL-2303 Driver Fix (VID_067B&PID_2303)

Driver issue will show inside your Device Manager like this:



(Notice in above picture, yellow triangle next to "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM X)". That means correct driver version is not installed.)

And if you double-click on it, you will see:



(Notice in above picture, Code 10 error. This confirms you need to install correct driver file.)

Issue will also may show messages like this:

- "This Device cannot start (Code 10)"
- "No driver installed for this device"
- "Device driver was not successfully installed"

Available forum solutions to this problem are half-baked. Even vendors selling their "USB to Serial" adapters are baffled.

Main cause of this issue is because the device you own contains a counterfeit "Prolific" chip (China clone).

The counterfeit chip use the same *Vendor ID (VID_067B)* and *Product ID (PID_2303)* - as the authentic Prolific chips.

To solve this intellectual infringement - original Prolific company modified their newest drivers *to render the counterfeit adapters unusable*. Unfortunately this decision also renders all earlier adapters inoperative.

The Prolific 64-bit drivers that Microsoft supplies via Windows Update, *Versions 3.4.67.325, 3.4.25.218, 2.1.51.238 and 3.4.62.293* - will **not** work with most adapters and therefore shows the generic "Code 10" error.

Or you may get no error at all, but your device will still not work.

If your adapter was working prior to going to Windows Update, you can "roll back" to the previous installed driver and all will be well once again.

However if you didn't have a previous driver installed that worked - you'll have to go through the process of removing any PL-2303 driver installation programs, the actual driver files, and the information (.INF) file, BEFORE you are able to successfully install the correct driver.

(What worsens this issue is that there are many "*Prolific Driver Removal Tools*" that do not work properly.)

And Windows 8, 8.1 and Window 10 are **set by default to automatically update your drivers without your permission** or even notifying you of the update.

So no matter how many times you remove the driver files and reboot - the next time you insert the *USB-To-Serial* adapter, Windows installs the newest non-working version again.

Only 64-bit driver I have ever found that works with all the "Prolific" adapters is *Version 3.3.2.102*.

Below installer program will remove all of the incompatible drivers — make a change so that Windows can never update the driver without your approval — and install the *Version 3.3.2.102* compatible drivers.

Windows 64-bit Fix:

- All Windows 64-bit operating systems including Windows 10
- Prolific USB to Serial Adapter .
- Device using PL-2303 H/HXA/HX/X version chips
- Driver Version: 3.3.2.102
- Driver Date: 09/29/08
- Supported device ID and product strings: . VID_067B&PID_2303 for "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port"

Steps:

1. Download and save the "*PL2303_64bit_Installer.exe*" by clicking [here](#).
2. Unplug all USB-To-Serial adapters from your computer - and double-click on "PL2303_64bit_Installer.exe"
3. When it prompts you, plug in one (1) of your USB-To-Serial adapters and click "Continue".
4. Reboot your computer. That's it!

Troubleshooting:

You must follow ever step in the process in exact order.

1. If you still receive an error after running the *PL-2303_64bit_Installer.exe* and your device is plugged in - go to **Windows Device Manager**.
 - **Windows Vista/7/8/10:** Control Panel » System » Device Manager
 - **Windows XP:** Control Panel » System » "Hardware" tab » Device Manager
2. Scroll down to *Ports (Com & LPT)* and double-click on "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM#)".
3. In the Properties Window, Click on "Driver".

The "Driver Version" must say "**3.3.2.102**" dated **09/24/08**.

If not, then the correct driver is not installed.

Unplug the USB-To-Serial adapter and run the "PL2303_64bit_Installer.exe" again - following the directions precisely until the correct driver appears.

Windows 32-bit Fix:

- All Windows 32-bit operating systems from XP up
- Prolific USB to Serial Adapter .
- Device using PL-2303 H/HXA/HX/X version chips
- Driver Version: 2.0.2.8
- Driver Date: 11/20/07
- Supported device ID and product strings: . VID_067B&PID_2303 for "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port"

Steps:

1. Download and Save the "PL-2303_Driver_Installer.exe" by clicking [here](#).
2. Run the installer program. If it offers a choice to remove the driver, then select to remove the current "bad" driver.

Then run the installer again to install the correct driver.

Troubleshooting:

1. If you still receive an error after running the *PL-2303_Driver_Installer.exe* and your device is plugged in, go to the Windows Device Manager.
 - **Windows Vista/7/8/10:** Control Panel » System » Device Manager
 - **Windows XP:** Control Panel » System » "Hardware" tab » Device Manager
2. Scroll down to *Ports (Com & LPT)* and double-click on "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM#)".
3. In the Properties Window, Click on "Driver".

The "Driver Version" must say "**2.0.2.8**" dated **11/20/07**.

If not, then the correct driver is not installed. Unplug the USB-To-Serial adapter and run the "PL2303_Driver_Installer.exe" again, following the directions until correct driver appears in Device Manager.

Removal of this tool:

The Prolific 32-bit PL-2303_Driver_Installer is a "Program" file and therefore installed to your computer and must stay. If you want to delete it - use the Windows "Uninstall a Program" or "Add or Remove Program" feature - however this will also uninstall the driver itself.

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Key words: Sabrent, SBT-USC1M, Prolific, PL-2303, PL2303, USB to Serial, VID_067B, PID_2303, Code 10

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Deona Van Der Merwe • 3 years ago

Dude if the above works..you will be my hero and I will be returning here to ask about the Donate button. Here goes..fingers crossed.....

22 ^ | ▾ 1 • Reply • Share ›



anantia • 2 years ago

I am using Windows 10, 64 bit machine and interestingly for me, "Microsoft -> USB Serial Device" worked.

1. Go to "Update Driver"
2. Browse my computer...
3. Let me pick...
4. Remove "Show compatible hardware" check and choose Microsoft -> USB Serial Device

It worked for me.

15 ^ | ▾ 1 • Reply • Share ›



diegorosas19 → anantia • 2 years ago

Thank You!

9 ^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



Aaron Mason → anantia • 2 years ago

Doesn't work for sending data to the device, only receiving.

^ | ▾ • Reply • Share ›



Francois De Bruyn → anantia • 2 years ago



Thank You.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Computer User → anantia • 2 years ago

Thank you !!!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Sebastian Malta • 2 years ago

Regarding Profilic 3.3.2.102 driver ; after spending most of my pension on cables, usb hubs, downloads etc etc to programm my tranciver searching the internet for six hours daily for ten days trying all and everything.....I FOUND THIS SITE. YOU are magic and All for me to have solved my problem. Tks a million and Greeting from Malta-Europe. May your GOD Blesses you. xxxxx

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Cristian Muscalu • 2 years ago

Dude, for 2 days i'm looking for a fix. almost gave up. This works. I had to write something. Thanks! :)

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Justin Goldberg • 2 years ago

The newest official driver breaks old, legitimate PL2303 chips too.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



VG • 2 years ago

I am using Windows 10, 64 bit machine and interestingly for me, "Microsoft -> USB Serial Device" worked.

1. Go to "Update Driver"
2. Browse my computer...
3. Let me pick...
4. Remove "Show compatible hardware" check and choose Microsoft -> USB Serial Device

It worked for me.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Bradley Goodson • 7 months ago

I spent a couple of frustrating days dealing with my one program which wouldn't work on my newly installed Windows 10 until I came across this site and downloaded driver from this site. In a matter of a minute, I was back n my feet with my program working well. Thank you!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Csabáné Bátor • 10 months ago

help please,cod 28

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Addo • a year ago

Worked like charm! Thank you man.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Dan Buckheit • a year ago

I went through this process only to discover that the chip does not work with Windows 10. I went to the Prolific site and they have a little program inside their de-installer .zip package that tells you the chip version you have, and a chart that shows what operating systems they support. It told me my chip version and the chart said no Windows 8 or 10. I have a Windows 7 machine and the original software and chip worked fine. Windows 8 is NOT supported in HXA/XA chip versions (will show yellow mark Error Code 10).

- Windows 8 is supported only in following chip versions:

- PL2303HxD (HX Rev D)
- PL2303EA (ESD protection)
- PL2303RA (Built-in transceiver)
- PL2303SA (SOP8 package)
- PL2303TA (PL2303HXA/XA replacement)
- PL2303TB (12 GPIO)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Youngwoo Cho • a year ago

It worked! Thanks!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Søren Andreasen • a year ago

why does my pc show annoying pop up ads after installing this? I mean, come on...

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



kim njenga • 2 years ago

great stuff, it worked

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Rbert • 2 years ago

Thank you very much! You saved me! Have a nice day! ;)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Nick Moore • 2 years ago

You saved my bacon, thanks!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Media Class • 2 years ago

I tried for 5 time all steps!!!!. Man you are great...works!!!!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Nathan Stanley • 2 years ago

This is totes the website you are looking for if you are using Windows 10 and trying to get a Prolific 2303 serial cable working.

Download the exe that will remove any wrong drivers and install the correct ones.

Follow the article's instructions.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Aaron Wood • 2 years ago

You Saved me! fired up my old xp laptop to program my cars standalone computer and LC-1 wideband sensor, not working.

With this fix it's working on my xp and windows 10 laptops. both computers needed a restart for it to work.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Munchh Munchh • 2 years ago

I am on windows 7 and still have the issue. Even after using all the links provided some of the usb ports give the error others only go as far as "other" and some now do nothing.

Im stumped.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Dmytro Mirian • 2 years ago

many thanks!

i was going to trough away device because it didn't start, and then found this article 1 garbage unit less))

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Din • 2 years ago

Thank you so much. Lord will bless you.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



tovpri • 2 years ago

THX SO MUCH, it works

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Titus Majeza • 2 years ago

works 100% ..thank you so much

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



ChinaMan • 2 years ago

Perfect - driver works on Windows 10 64-bit!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



pingu pingu • 2 years ago

Thanks this truly works. Blesss YOU

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Abdelrahman Gomaa Abady • 2 years ago

Million of thanks, really work.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Viking • 2 years ago

Hi, you are just amazing. After a ton of problems, I finally made your driver work with my old BU-353 USB GPS device, and OpenCPN 4.8.4 running on Windows 10 Pro 1803 on a Dell XPS 12 portable computer with a touch screen.

However, I found the following issues:

1. I couldn't make it work on the USB 3.0 port. Had to use the 2.0 port.
2. When I detach and reattach the GPS device, I have to reinstall the driver and reboot for it to work again. Minor annoyance, but so what.

Thank you so much for your work!

Please put me on your mailing list if you ever decide to update your fine driver.

Rgds

Viking

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Neil Frazer • 2 years ago

Worked for my Hioki battery tester on my and two other Win10 x64, except only if I followed this sequence, leave bad driver installed, run this installer, cancel pc reboot. Working. The reboot puts the bad driver back in. I think our company settings might ignore the update override? Anyway, it works, thanks.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Jason Rowley • 2 years ago

Gotta say - I'm impressed! I was very skeptical - but it works! Thank you very, very much!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



David Warren • 2 years ago

Thanks. Worked for me with Windows 8.1 and Arduino Uno that uses this chip.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Caspian • 2 years ago

Worked for me, a ton of thanks!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Koti Prakash Yallapragada • 2 years ago

Thank you. Windows 7 - 64 bit. Installed suggested drivers. Restarted. Connected USB To Serial. When windows tried to search for driver, asked it not to search the internet. It then searched on my PC and loaded the correct previously installed driver.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Clifford • 2 years ago

Genius! Thanks - Resurrected my old Garmin GPS without having to buy a new adapter.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



John • 2 years ago

Worked on my HP Pavilion with Win 10 but not working on my DIY Desktop with Win 7, keeps loading 3.8.18.0

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Fajar Muhammad • 2 years ago

Its worked for windows 10 64bit . Thanks you very much

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



FABIO KALIN • 2 years ago

Hey man! You are my hero too. It worked the first time. Thanks!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Mark Edgell • 2 years ago

Thank you so much. This worked well to get my One Touch Glucose meter connected to my PC.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Samlin Wilson • 2 years ago



Thank you so much. This was very much useful. I have been struggling for more than a week to solve this problem, the solution gave me a big relief. Once again thank you so much. PS:It worked perfectly :) :)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



hawe • 2 years ago

Wow! Working on Windows 10 x64 1709. thanks man!

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Gerardo Menta • 2 years ago

Excellent. Sos un genio!!! funcionó perfecto con prolific 2303 XA / HXA en W10 64bits. Gracias.

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Jess • 2 years ago • edited

Hi ya, I finally got rid of the error using the troubleshooting section. It still won't communicate properly so checked the version and its still the updated version 17/10/2017 Version 3.8.18.0. I can't seem to get it to use the old one. Do you think this is why I can't get it to communicate? Tried to manually do it but still says I have the best version and won't let me add another driver een though I've run the program and resolved the error 10 with it? Any other thoughts would be welcomed, thanks

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Martin Černý • 3 years ago

Hey dude, you're my hero man, you made my entire day. I needed to get this working for my school project, thanks a lot man, apreciated

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Vitaly Rudenko • 3 years ago

worked perfectly for me on Windows 10 x64. Thanks guys

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



Radoslav • 3 years ago

It worked perfectly! I didn't even re-plug the adapter, as I was working on remote laptop and there was nobody available to do it for me, so I just disabled the device in Device Manager, installed update, enabled device again and restarted. Thanks God that Teamviewer reconnects automatically after the reboot. Cannot thank you enough :)

^ | v • Reply • Share ›



John Miklor • 3 years ago

The "3.3.2.102" dated 09/24/08 may not take it back quite far enough. Some of the 'cloned' Prolific chips require Prolific 3.2.0.0 (2007)

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