

PL2303 USB-to-Serial Bridge Chip Family Windows Driver Installer User Manual

WHQL Driver Version Information

- ✓ Driver Installer & Build date: 1.7.0 (2012-8-1)
 - GUID: ECC3713C-08A4-40E3-95F1-7D0704F1CE5E
- ✓ Windows 2000 / Windows XP (32 & 64-bit) WDM WHQL Driver: v2.1.35.211
 - Compatible with Server 2003 (32 & 64-bit)
- ✓ Windows Vista / Windows 7 / Windows 8 (32 & 64-bit) WDF WHQL Driver: v3.4.31.231
 - Compatible with Server 2008, Server 2008R2, Server 2012 (32 & 64-bit)
 - Drivers are also available via Windows Update (for Vista, 7, 8 32/64-bit OS)

System Requirements

- PC with USB 1.1/2.0/3.0 Host Controller (USB Port) and following Windows OS Family:
 - Windows 2000 SP4
 - Windows XP SP2 or SP3 (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows Server 2003 (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows Vista (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows 7 (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows Server 2008 / 2008 R2 (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows 8 (32 & 64 bit)
 - Windows Server 2012 (32 & 64 bit)
- ✓ USB Device with below PL-2303 chip versions and their supported OS Family:

Chip Version	Windows 2000 / XP (32 & 64 bit)	Vista / Windows 7 (32 & 64 bit)	Windows 8 (32 & 64 bit)
PL-2303H	Yes	Yes	Not Supported*
PL-2303HX (Rev A) or HXA	Yes	Yes	Not Supported*
PL-2303X or XA	Yes	Yes	Not Supported*
PL-2303HX (Rev D) or HXD	Yes	Yes	Yes
PL2303TA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PL2303TB	Yes	Yes	Yes
PL2303EA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PL2303RA	Yes	Yes	Yes
PL2303SA	Yes	Yes	Yes

 * - PL2303H, PL-2303HX (Rev A), and PL-2303X are EOL and discontinued chips and Prolific will not provide Windows 8 driver support. New driver versions will show yellow mark (Error Code 10) in Device Manager for these EOL chip versions under Windows 8. Prolific recommends using PL2303HXD chip.

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Counterfeit Warning!!!

Please be warned that counterfeit/fake PL-2303HX Rev A (or PL-2303HXA) USB-to-Serial Controller ICs using Prolific's trademark logo, brandname, and drivers, are being sold in the China market. Counterfeit IC products show exactly the same outside chip markings but generally are of poor quality and causes Windows driver compatibility issues (<u>Yellow Mark Error Code 10 in Device Manager under</u> <u>WinXP, Vista, and 7</u>). This warning is issued to all customers and consumers to avoid confusion and false purchase. Please purchase only from stores or vendors providing technical and RMA support.



Windows 7 Driver Installation

This section will guide you on how to install the PL-2303 Windows Driver. You can download the latest Driver Installer program from Prolific Support website:

http://www.prolific.com.tw/US/ShowProduct.aspx?p_id=225&pcid=41

Note: Please take notice of the installation order. First, run the Driver Installer Program before plugging in the USB to Serial adapter. If you already plug the device during the driver installation, you need to re-plug the device for Windows to enumerate the device and load the drivers installed. If your device is embedded to the system, you might need to restart the system (or click rescan hardware changes in Device Manager) to reload and install the driver.

The following steps will show how to install the device under **Windows 7 (64-bit)** OS as this is the most inquired driver installation support received by Prolific. The procedures are the same and straight-forward for all other supported Windows operating system versions.

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For Driver Installer v1.7.0 Release For Microsoft Windows Operating Systems



1. Power on your computer and boot to Windows. Run or double-click the PL-2303 Windows Driver Installer program.

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 The InstallShield Wizard will be displayed to inform you that the PL-2303 USB-to-Serial driver will be installed on your computer. Click Next to continue.

PL-2303 Driver Installer Program	×
	Welcome to the InstallShield Wizard for PL-2303 USB-to-Serial
	The InstallShield Wizard will install PL-2303 USB-to-Serial on your computer. To continue, click Next.
	< Back Next > Cancel

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August 1, 2012



3. The PL-2303 Driver Installer program will then start to install the drivers needed.

PL-2303 Driver Installer Program	×
Setup Status	A A
PL-2303 USB-to-Serial is configuring your new software installation.	
InstallShield	Cancel

 Click the Finish button to close the InstallShield program. If you have plugged the cable into the PC while running the setup installation, please unplug and replug the cable for the system to detect the device.

PL-2303 Driver Installer Program	n
	InstallShield Wizard Complete The InstallShield Wizard has successfully installed PL-2303 USB-to-Serial. Click Finish to exit the wizard.
	< <u>B</u> ack Finish Cancel

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 Plug in the USB to Serial adapter to the PC USB port. Windows should detect the driver as Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port. Go to Device Manager and check for the "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port" device and the COM port number assigned by Windows.



6. You can also check the driver version by right-clicking on the "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port" device and select Properties and Driver tab.



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Warning!!!

If you are encountering yellow mark (Error Code 10) for device in Device Manager under Windows XP, Vista, or Windows 7, you need to contact the cable vendor or manufacturer for possible counterfeit chip. Prolific does not manufacture or sell any end-user market products and will not provide or be responsible for direct support to end-users.





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Windows 7 Driver Installation (via Windows Update)

This section will guide you on how to install the PL-2303 Windows Driver via Windows Update. You will need an Internet connection to be able to automatically download and install the drivers via Windows Update.

1. Check if your Internet connection is OK. Plug in PL-2303 USB to Serial cable.



2. Windows will automatically check Windows Update if driver is available and will download and install the driver instantly.

Driver Software Installation	×
Installing device driver software	
USB-Serial Controller D OSearching Windows Update	
Obtaining device driver software from Windows Update might take a while. Skip obtaining driver software from Windows Update	
	Close



3. Windows will then prompt you that Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COMx) is installed and ready to use.



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4. You can also right-click on the USB-Serial Controller device and click Update Driver.

	Update Driver Software - USB-Serial Controller D	
	How do you want to search for driver software?	
	Search automatically for updated driver software Windows will search your computer and the Internet for the latest driver software for your device, unless you've disabled this feature in your device installation settings.	
	Browse my computer for driver software Locate and install driver software manually.	
		Cancel
<u> </u>		
	Update Driver Software - USB-Serial Controller D	×
	Update Driver Software - USB-Serial Controller D Searching online for software	X
G		X
G		X
G		X
		X
		X

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	×
Update Driver Software - USB-Serial Controller D	
Downloading driver software	
	Cancel
🕞 📱 Update Driver Software - Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM6)	×
Update Driver Software - Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM6) Windows has successfully updated your driver software	×
	×
Windows has successfully updated your driver software	X
Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X
Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	

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Windows 8 Supported Chip Versions

This section will guide you on what PL-2303 chip versions are supported by Prolific in Windows 8:

Chip Version	Chip Availability	Windows 8 (32 & 64 bit)
PL-2303H	Discontinued (EOL)	No New Driver Support*
PL-2303HX (Rev A) or HXA	Discontinued (EOL)	No New Driver Support*
PL-2303X or XA	Discontinued (EOL)	No New Driver Support*
PL-2303HX (Rev D) or HXD	Available	Yes
PL2303TA	Available	Yes
PL2303TB	Available	Yes
PL2303EA	Available	Yes
PL2303RA	Available	Yes
PL2303SA	Available	Yes

* - New Driver does not support PL-2303H, PL2303HX (Rev A), and PL2303X in Windows 8. It will show a yellow mark (Error Code 10) in Device Manager similar to what counterfeit chips would show.

Check Chip Version Tool

Prolific provides a tool program together with the driver to check the chip version of your device for Windows8-ready driver support.

http://www.prolific.com.tw/US/ShowProduct.aspx?p_id=225&pcid=41

NOTE:

This tool will not work in Windows 8 if the PL-2303 device shows a yellow mark in Device Manager. You need to use Windows 7 or XP to run the tool program for discontinued chip versions.

•	Check F	PL-2303 chip version	v1002	
сомз	•	Check	Exit	
This is a PL-230	03 HXD ch	ip	Clear	

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Windows 8 Driver Installation

This section will guide you how to install the PL-2303 device in Windows 8 Operating System. You can download the latest Driver Installer program from Prolific Support website:

http://www.prolific.com.tw/US/ShowProduct.aspx?p_id=225&pcid=41

		System			- 0	X
🗲 🔿 🗢 👚 🖳 🕨 Control P.	anel 🕨 System and Security 🕨 Sy	/stem	× 🖒	Search Control Par	iel	٩
Control Panel Home	View basic information	about your computer				0
Bevice Manager	Windows edition					
Remote settings	Windows 8 Release Preview	N 🗾		r 1	0	
System protection	© 2012 Microsoft Corpora	tion. All rights reserved.		/indov	VS° č	5
🚱 Advanced system settings	Get more features with a n	ew edition of Windows	14			
	System					
	Rating:	5.5 Windows Experience Index				
	Processor:	AMD Engineering Sample 2.40 GHz				
	Installed memory (RAM):	8.00 GB (3.00 GB usable)				
	System type:	64-bit Operating System				
	Pen and Touch:	No Pen or Touch Input is available f	or this Display	/		
	Computer name, domain, and	workgroup settings				
	Computer name:	AMD-Armorhead		9 0	Change setti	ngs
	Full computer name:	AMD-Armorhead				
	Computer description:					
See also	Workgroup:	WORKGROUP				
Action Center	Windows activation					
Windows Update	Windows is not activated.	View details in Windows Activation				
Performance Information and Tools	Product ID: 00137-11009-9	99904-AA445				

1. Power on your computer and boot to Windows 8. Run or double-click the PL-2303 Windows Driver Installer v1.7.0 program.

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2. The InstallShield Wizard will be displayed to inform you that the PL-2303 USB-to-Serial driver will be installed on your computer. Click Next to continue.

PL-	2303 Driver Installer Program	
	Welcome to the InstallShield Wizard for PL-2303 USB-to-Serial The InstallShield Wizard will install PL-2303 USB-to-Serial on your computer. To continue, click Next.	
< <u>B</u> ack Next> Cancel		

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3. The PL-2303 Driver Installer program will then start to install the drivers needed. Click the Finish button to close the InstallShield program.

PL	2303 Driver Installer Program
	InstallShield Wizard Complete The InstallShield Wizard has successfully installed PL-2303 USB-to-Serial. Click Finish to exit the wizard.
	< <u>B</u> ack Finish Cancel

4. Plug in the USB to Serial adapter to the PC USB port. Windows should detect the driver as "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port". Go to Device Manager and check for the device and the COM port number assigned by Windows. You can also check the driver version by right-clicking on the "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port" device and select Properties and Driver tab.



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5. The COM Port number for the PL-2303 is assigned by the Windows Operating System. If you encounter a device that shows a yellow mark (Error Code 10), you need to check if that device is using an old version Prolific chip (PL-2303HXA or PL-2303XA) or a counterfeit chip. As mentioned in the previous sections, Prolific does not support old version chips in Windows 8.



Prolifi	c USB-to-Seria	al Comm Port (COM6)	Properties	х
General	Port Settings Dri	ver Details Events		
	Prolific USB-to-Se	erial Comm Port (COM6)		
	Device type:	Ports (COM & LPT)		
	Manufacturer:	Prolific		
	Location:	Port_#0002.Hub_#0006		
	ce status device cannot start	. (Code 10)	×	
		ОК	Cance	el

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Windows 8 Driver Installation (via Windows Update)

This section will guide you on how to install the PL-2303 Windows Driver via Windows Update. You will need an Internet connection to be able to automatically download and install the drivers via Windows Update.

1. Check if your Internet connection is OK. Plug in PL-2303 USB to Serial cable.



2. Windows will automatically check Windows Update if driver is available and will download and install the driver instantly.

U	Device Setup	x
Installing Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM3)		
	Please wait while Setup installs necessary files on your system. This may take several minutes.]
	Close	:

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3. Windows will then prompt you that Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COMx) is installed and ready to use.





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4. You can also right-click on the USB-Serial Controller device and click Update Driver.





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		X
E	Update Driver Software - USB-Serial Controller D	
	Installing driver software	
		X
E	Update Driver Software - Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM3)	X
	Update Driver Software - Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COM3) Windows has successfully updated your driver software	X
		X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software	X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X
	Windows has successfully updated your driver software Windows has finished installing the driver software for this device:	X

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Uninstalling the PL-2303 Driver

To uninstall the PL-2303 driver, follow the below steps:

 Click Start - Control Panel - Programs - Programs and Features - Uninstall a Program. Look for the "PL-2303 USB-to-Serial" program and click the Uninstall (Remove) button.

Programs and Features						
🕞 河 🕆 Control Panel 🔸 Programs 🔸 Programs and Features 🔹 🗸 🗴 Search Programs and Features 🔎						
Control Panel Home View installed updates Turn Windows features on or off	Uninstall or change a To uninstall a program, sel Organize 👻 Uninstall	a program lect it from the list and then click	Uninstall, Char	nge, or Repair.	8== 🗸	0
	Name	Publisher	Installed On	Size	Version	
	PL-2303 USB-to-Serial	Prolific Technology INC	8/1/2012		1.7.0	
	Prolific Technol	ogy INC Product version: 1.7.0				

2. InstallShield Wizard will then start the maintenance program and will prompt you to choose if you want to modify, repair, or remove the driver. Click the Remove button and click Next to begin the driver uninstall.

	PL-2303 Driver Installer Program		
Welcome Modify, repair, or remove the program.			
	the PL-2303 USB-to-Serial Setup Maintenance program. This program lets you urrent installation. Click one of the options below.		
◯ <u>M</u> odify			
1	Select new program features to add or select currently installed features to remove.		
⊖ R <u>e</u> pair	Reinstall all program features installed by the previous setup.		
Eemove InstallShield	Remove all installed features.		
	<u>N</u> ext ≻ Cancel		

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3. The InstallShield Wizard will prompt you to confirm to uninstall. Click Yes to continue.

	PL-2303 Driver Installer Program
Confirm Uninstal Do you want to c	l ompletely remove the selected application and all of its features?
	<u>Y</u> es <u>N</u> o

4. Wait for the InstallShield Wizard to complete the uninstall process. When complete, click Finish to end the program. Wait for some few seconds until the "PL-2303 USB-to-Serial" program is removed from the Control Panel Uninstall (Add or Remove Programs) program list.

PL-2303 Driver Installer Program		
	Uninstall Complete InstallShield Wizard has finished uninstalling PL-2303 USB-to-Serial.	
	< <u>B</u> ack Finish Cancel	

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