
Technical Note 1304-01

Windows detects WITS Streams as a Mouse

Summary

This technical note describes the problem of Windows detecting WITS streams as mouse input, and the procedures to avoid this issue.

Audience: All PetroDAQ Customers

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Platform: PCs running Windows

Keywords: WITS Input, Mouse Detection, Serial Enumeration, Windows Registry, Boot Options

Problem Description

Windows polls all serial ports at startup to try to detect serial mice. This detection is called “Serial Enumeration”.

If a system is connected via a serial port to a WITS data stream, the operating system will interpret it as mice instructions, and configure a mouse on the serial port.

The detection of a WITS stream as a mouse will stop normal data aggregation operations after a Windows startup or restart if the WITS stream is active.

This behavior is limited to Windows OS. It does not occur in Linux.

Suggested Solution

The solutions vary depending on the version of Windows running on the machine. This document describes the procedures for tested Windows versions.

For Windows XP, and 2003

1. Login with an account in the Administrators group
2. Edit the boot.ini file to add the switch /NOSERIALMICE:COMx. The /NOSERIALMICE:COMx disables the serial enumeration the specified serial port. Multiple Ports may be separated with commas to disable more than one port. If no serial port is specified, the serial enumeration is disabled in all serial ports. Examples:

/NOSERIALMICE	Disable serial enumeration in all ports. This is the recommended settings, unless you have a serial mouse connected to one of the serial ports (This is not common).
/NOSERIALMICE:COM1	Disable serial enumeration in COM1. Enumeration will continue in other ports present in the system
/NOSERIALMICE:COM1,COM2	Disable serial enumeration in COM1 and COM2

3. Reboot the system.

For Windows 7, and 2008

In Windows 7 and 2008, the use of the boot.ini file was discontinued. In these operating systems, the serial enumeration is controlled by a registry setting.

1. Login with an account in the Administrators group
2. Open regedit and navigate to the key
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\SerMouse
3. Change the value from 3 to 4.
4. Reboot the system.

PetroDAQ Support

For more information about this Technical Note, please contact our support team.

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