

There is much turmoil about cables and Prolific drivers, especially with Win 7.

New people are running into these issues for the first time, and trying to review complex threads to ferret out the answers they need can be a challenge.

I will try make this one definitive post on the subject.

### **The Problem:**

Many programming cables contain Chinese clones of the Prolific PL2303HD USB-to-Serial chip. Prolific has "responded" to this by releasing "poison-pill" drivers that will FAIL to work with a non-genuine chip. Windows 7 will rush out and load the newest driver by default. Even if you deliberately install a driver from the FILES section, Windows 7 will automatically fetch and use the more modern (higher version number) driver, the crippled one. "Forcing" the driver to update itself began a few weeks ago, after a set of Windows 7 updates from Microsoft, doubtless at Prolific's request.

Keep in mind, several drivers which all do the same basic thing can be "installed" on your system at one time. Windows 7 merely SELECTS what it perceives to be the most up-to-date one, (the crap one in this case), to use for the device (cable).

### **Symptoms:**

Look at your cable driver in Device Manager. If you're unfamiliar with Device Manager, you can get there by right-clicking My Computer, selecting "Manage", and from the tree presented on the left choose Device Manager.

Expand "Ports (COM & LPT)". You should see "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port (COMn)". Make note of the COMn number--later on when you go to use the programming software for your particular radio you will need to point it at this COM port.

If you see a little yellow triangle on this device, and clicking it produces the disheartening message "This device cannot start. (Code 10)", then congratulations, you bought a cheap, and fake, cable.

### **The Solution:**

The good news is that you can still get Windows to use an older, proven, non-crippled driver you have already installed from the CD that came with your cable, or even better, from the FILES section of this group.

If you've not installed any drivers yet, see the section at the bottom of this post. If you've installed 938 drivers over and over again and are about ready to throw your radio at the dog, fear not--you're almost there.

In Device Manager, right-click the device and select "Update Driver Software". Select the "Browse my computer ..." option, and on the following screen select "Let me pick from a list of device drivers on my computer".

Choose an older, workable, driver from the list presented. For Windows 7 64-bit this is version 3.2.0.0. Any number lower than this should work. Versions at about 3.3 and above are crippled.

You might be asked to reboot, but basically that's it!

### **Alternate Solution:**

It has been suggested by some that an alternate solution is to prevent your computer from connecting to the internet when it tries to fetch the new poisoned driver. More effort in my opinion, but it works too. Your choice.

### **Drivers That Work from the FILES Section:**

For Windows XP use: [PL2303 Prolific GPS AllInOne 1013.exe](#)

For Vista or Windows 7, 32-bit use: [usb drivers for win7.zip](#)

For Vista or Windows 7, 64-bit use: [Win7Vista 64bit ProlificUSB v3200.exe](#)

Happy programming.

Ian