

Re: LPT Problems in XP

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-08/msg00610.html>

- *From:* "M.I.5¾" <no.one@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 21 Aug 2007 10:28:05 +0100
-

"Jeff" <Jeff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:709ECB4F-F256-463E-BBEB-DC100ADA6650@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Here's the scoop: I have a new computer with an ASUS P5N32-SLI motherboard. This motherboard has no physical parallel ports at all. It seems to be a new trend. XP Pro was installed. I now need an LPT1 to interface to some specialized IC programming equipment, so I added a MosChip Technology SY-PIO9835-2S1P PCI card which has 2 COM ports and 1 LPT port. When installation was complete, the parallel port was added as LPT3. The specialized hardware cannot communicate on LPT3, so I need this physical parallel port to be reinstalled as LPT1. In the Device Manager under Ports (COM & LPT), only COM1, LPT3, COM3, and COM4 exist. The latter 3 are from the MosChip Technology PCI card. LPT3 cannot be changed to LPT1 on the resources tab because the "Setting Based ON", "Use Automatic Settings", and "Change Settings" controls are all greyed out and inoperative. Is this because all 3 LPT ports are though to exist already, so you can't change one? Under Printers and FAXs, the properties for any given printer allows assignement to any of the 3 parallel ports LPT1, LPT2, and LPT3. This suggests Windows thinks they exist. A regedit search of the registry keys shows that all 3 LPT ports are listed under HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE >> Software >> Microsoft >> Windows NT >> Current Version >> Ports. I do not know why LPT1 and LPT2 are listed here if they do not exist. Is this why the first real LPT port installed itself as LPT3? How should I correct this? Should I uninstall LPT3, then delete the LPT1 and LPT2 registry keys from the registry location above, and lastly reinstall the new physical LPT port? Will this make it come up as LPT1? Are there any downside risks or considerations to doing this?

Re: LPT Problems in XP

It is quite possible that the southbridge chip on the motherboard has the physical ports implemented on the chip but they are just not connected to a connector at the back of the motherboard. It would be worth going into the BIOS setup and seeing if the LPT ports are mentioned there and if it is possible to reassign them to another LPT number. From my own past experience, disabling the LPT1: port without reassigning its number won't get you off the hook, because the port will still exist. Depending on the BIOS, the port may be installed (possibly why it's present in the registry), but will either show in device manager as a working port; a problem port (with exclamation mark) or does not appear at all.

For the LPT2: port, you should be aware that a legacy type of sound card, a Covox, required the existence of a LPT2: port for its operation (even though it didn't actually communicate through it – don't ask me why). If you have a sound card that supports Covox sound (many older ones did, though I personally haven't seen it on any sound card produced in the last 8 years – doesn't mean it isn't there, several cards in my junk box support it), then it may have a dummy LPT2: port for Covox compatibility. it should be possible to disable it if a genuine LPT2: port exists (as the covox sound will work if a genuine port is present, even if it it used to run a printer). It should also be possible to disable it if no such real LPT2: port exists, but of course, Covox compatibility will be lost. As hardly anything used Covox sound, you are unlikely to be incommoded (I believe a few legacy Disney titles briefly supported it – I also believe Disney produced their own version of it known as the Disney Thingey (?)).