

Re: COM1 not behaving...

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.hardware/2007-10/msg00126.html>

- *From:* Bob I <birelan@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 04 Oct 2007 08:10:54 -0500
-

After looking through the properties, what changes from "before" you disable/enable to afterwards?

Erik wrote:

I'm afraid it doesn't. It shows the exact same information as in the device list, and nothing else than "this device is working properly"...

"Bob I" wrote:

Double click on it, it will open Properties, there is a window that will provide the info about the error.

Erik wrote:

Oh, it's interesting alright!

I have gone into the BIOS, and changed the IRQ to 3, with its corresponding memory range. I have also removed the /fastdetect switch from boot.ini.

Device manager now shows me that COM1 has IRQ 3, and the default memory allocation as shown in the BIOS.

Now, when I start my PC, right before my mouse lights up, my device connected to COM1 clicks (relays) as it has done for all the years that I've been using it. So that's OK.

However, something must still go wrong after those drivers are loaded, because my programs still say that they can't open COM1.

After some more digging in the device manager, looking at the resources by connection, when I go to COM1 I see that there's a small, blue letter "i" on top of the serial cable icon.

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It also did that when it was on IRQ 4 (7). There are no memory allocation overlaps.

It seems like Windows is trying to tell me something ("i" for "information"?); but I can't find more info about that "i"...

I have gone through the event viewer again, but there are no new errors concerning the com port. Still, it doesn't work as expected.

Any other ideas?

Erik

"Bob I" wrote:

Interesting, perhaps the BIOS is handing off 4 and OS is assigning 7 because it thinks 4 is used and there is the error message?

Erik wrote:

Nope, not forcing anything.

COM1 has its own IRQ.
COM2 and 3 share IRQ 16.

What's weird though, is that I just noticed that COM1 now has IRQ 7 (not shared with anything else), while it had IRQ 4 yesterday (again not shared). And I swear it's always been 4 in the BIOS...

"Bob I" wrote:

You say "3
com ports".
You
wouldn't
happen to

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be trying to
"force"
IRQ4 on 2
of them? In
the old ISA
system,
IRQ 4 is
used in
COM1 and
COM3, and
that would
be conflict.

Erik wrote:

Thanks
Bob,
but
that
switch
is
already
present
in
boot.ini.
I
suspect
it's
the
default.

"Bob
I"
wrote:

Just
a
thought,
you
could
try
killing
mouse

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detection
on
the
serial
ports
with
the
/fastdetect
switch.

Available
switch
options
for
the
Windows
XP
and
the
Windows
Server
2003
Boot.ini
files
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/833721/en-us>

Erik
wrote:

Hi
DL.

Sorry
for
the
late
reply;
I
didn't
get
a
notification
that
you
had
replied

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again.

Often
missed
yes;
but
if
I'd
tell
you
how
many
times
I've
called
the
1800
number
for
a
new
activation
code
(if
I
could
remember...)
you'd
know
that
I've
done
this
"a
couple"
of
times
:)

To
answer
your
questions:

1.
No
conflicts
in
device
manager
at

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all.
Everything
is
reported
as
"working
properly".
2.
Error
messages
in
event
viewer:
lots!
A
little
over
600
in
the
Application
tab,
almost
2,000
(yep,
two
thousand)
under
the
System
tab.
Many
of
these
entries
are
merely
Information
(about
SP2
that
was
installed),
some
are
related
to
some
CDROM
issue
(even

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though
they
appear
to
work
fine);
but
I've
found
a
few
that
say
"While
validating
that
\Device\Serial1
was
really
a
serial
port,
a
fifo
was
detected.
The
fifo
will
be
used."
I've
done
a
Google
(oops!)
search
for
this
error
message;
but
didn't
find
anything
useful.
Any
idea
what
that
means?

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And,
what
else
am
I
looking
for?
3.
I
haven't
swapped
the
expansion
card
to
a
different
PCI
slot
yet,
no.
I
was
kinda
hoping
that
there
is
an
easier
(as
opposed
to
opening
the
box
–
again
–
and
swapping
cards
around...).

Any
ideas?

Thanks,

Erik

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Of
course
:-)

"DL"
wrote:

new
mobo?
You
have
installed
the
chipset
drivers?

"Erik"
<Erik@xxxxxxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
<news:0D48120C-AC>

Hi
all.

I
seem
to
have
a
stubborn
serial
port.

I
just
got
a
new

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motherboard
with
one
onboard
serial
port,
and
also
have
a
PCI
expansion
card
with
two
serial
ports.

After
I
installed
the
drivers
for
the
expansion
card
I
got
an
error
message
regarding
COM1
(the
onboard
port).
I
blamed
it
on
a
silly
driver
conflict,
forgot
to
write
the
exact
error

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message
down,
rebooted
the
PC,
and
everything
was
fine.
Or
so
I
thought...

Yesterday,
when
I
started
one
of
my
programs
that
use
all
3
COM
ports,
I
immediately
got
a
"cannot
open
port
1"
message.
After
checking
the
ports
and
their
settings
in
the
device
manager,
I
saw
"this

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device
is
working
properly"
for
all
3
ports.
Yet
COM1
refused
to
work.
2
and
3
worked
fine.

Blame
it
on
pure
luck,
for
some
reason
I
disabled
COM1,
and
then
enabled
it
again.
And
after
that
it
worked.
So
I
didn't
investigate
further.

This
morning
I
start
up

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my
PC,
only
to
find
out
that
COM1
wasn't
working
again.
"This
device
is
working
properly".
No,
it
isn't...
So
I
decided
to
do
the
disable/enab
routine
again,
and
sure
enough,
it
worked.

I
have
gone
so
far
as
to
uninstall/inst
COM1
through
the
device
manager,
thinking
that
that
would

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fix
it.
After
uninstalling
and
rebooting
XP
(SP2)
picked
up
the
"new"
device,
and
installed
the
drivers.
But
again,
the
COM
port
was
not
working
until
I
disabled/enabled
it.

Does
anyone
have
any
idea
how
I
can
fix
this
permanently

Thanks,

Erik

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