

Device Manager - General Information and Essential Troubleshooting

Keywords / Key Phrases: device manager, Windows, enable devices, disable devices

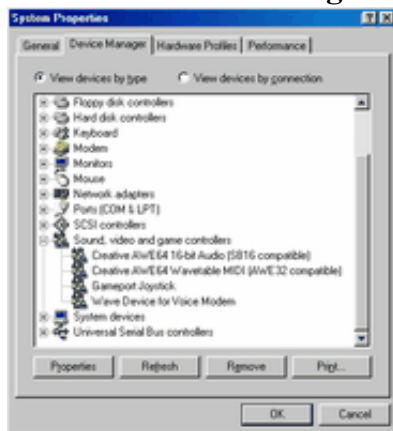
Summary

- ✓ You can use Device Manager to manage the devices in your computer.
- ✓ You can use Device Manager to view and manage device properties, update device drivers, change device settings, and uninstall devices.

To view your device manager

For Windows 9X or Windows ME

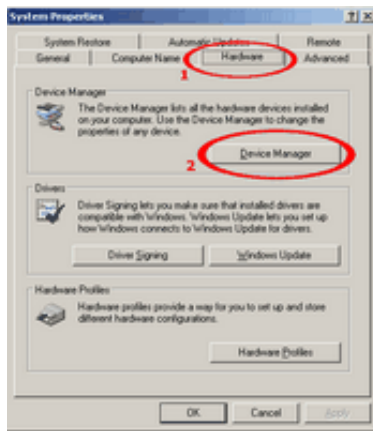
1. Click Start, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click the **System icon**.
3. Click the **Device Manager** tab.



[Click to enlarge](#)

For Windows 2000 or Windows XP

1. Click Start, point to **Settings**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. Double-click the **System icon**.
3. Click **Hardware** tab.
4. Click on **Device Manager** button.



[Click to enlarge](#)

For Windows Vista

1. Click the **Start** button .
2. Click **Control Panel**.
3. Double click the **System** icon.
4. Click **Device Manager** on the left pane.



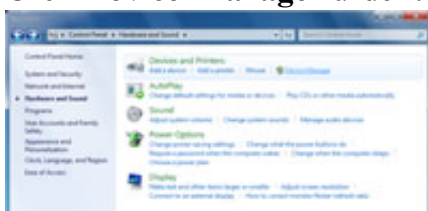
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For Windows 7

1. Click the **Start** button
2. Click **Control Panel**.
3. Click **Device Manager**.

or

1. Click the **Start** button
2. Click **Control Panel**.
3. Click **Hardware and Sound**.
4. Click **Device Manager** under the **Devices and Printers**.



[Click to enlarge](#)

For Windows 8

1. Move the mouse cursor into the upper right or lower right corner of the screen to show the **Charms bar**.
2. Click **Settings**
3. Click **Control Panel**.
4. Click **Hardware and Sound**.
5. Click **Device Manager** under the **Devices and Printers**.

To enable or disable a device in Device manager

Windows 9X/ME

1. Open **Device Manager**
2. Locate the device you want to enable or disable.
3. To **enable** a device, double-click the name of the device and then uncheck the option called **Disable in this hardware profile** and then check the option called **Exists in all hardware profiles**.
4. To **disable** a device, double-click the name of the device and then check the option called **Disable in this hardware profile** (A red cross next to an entry in your Device Manager indicates that this device has been disabled. This means that the device will not work.)

Windows 2000/XP

1. Open **Device Manager**
2. Locate the device you want to enable or disable.
3. To **enable** a device, double-click the name of the device and then click on **Use this Device (Enable)**
4. To **disable** a device, double-click the name of the device and then click on **Do not use this Device (Disable)**

Windows Vista/7/8

1. Open **Device Manager**.
2. Locate the hardware you want to **disable**.
3. After finding the hardware, right click on the hardware's name or icon and choose **Properties**.
4. In the Properties window, click the **Driver** tab.
5. Click the **Disable button**, located near the bottom of the window.
6. You will prompted with a message that says *"Disabling this device will cause it to stop functioning. Do you really want to disable it?"*
Click **Yes**
This piece of hardware should now be disabled.
7. Click **OK**.

8. You should now be returned to the main Device Manager window.

Note:

- A black arrow should now be showing on top of the icon for the device you just disabled, confirming that the disabling is complete.
- Another way to verify that the hardware is disabled is by checking the device status in Device Manager. Disabled devices will return a Code 22 error.
- To **enable** the device, just reverse the process.

Further Suggestions

283658 How to Manage Devices in Windows XP
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244601 How to Troubleshoot Unknown Devices Listed in Device Manager

125174 Explanation of Error Codes Generated by Device Manager

133240 Troubleshooting Device Conflicts with Device Manager

311504 No Items Appear in the Device Manager List When You Open It
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