NS LINK

User Guide for Microsoft Systems

Windows XP
Windows 2000
Windows NT

COMTROL

Document Number: 2000339 Rev. A

Table of Contents

Overview

This section defines what hardware and software platforms are supported in this guide. It also provides information about finding:

- Hardware installation documentation, if you have not installed the hardware
- Latest released NS-Link™ drivers

In addition, it provides an overview of NS-Link and it's requirements.

Install the NS-Link driver if you want to use the **DeviceMaster** serial ports as native COM ports. **DeviceMaster** port can also configure the ports as sockets after the NS-Link installation.

If you want to configure the port for socket mode or serial tunneling, you do not need to install NS-Link. See the appropriate *DeviceMaster User Guide* for socket configuration information that is listed in *Locating Hardware Installation Documentation* on Page 6.

NS-Link Requirements

This guide discusses installing and configuring NS-Link drivers for the following hardware platforms:

- DeviceMaster® Serial Hub
- DeviceMaster RTS
- DeviceMaster PRO
- RocketPort® Serial Hub *Si*
- RocketPort Serial Hub ia

The NS-Link drivers for the following operating systems are discussed in this guide:

- Windows® XP
- Windows 2000
- Windows NT

The NS-Link driver requires at least one host system running one of the supported operating systems.

Locating Hardware Installation Documentation

Use the hardware installation documentation to install the hardware before installing NS-Link. The hardware installation documentation is available on the Comtrol CD that ships with your product or you can download the current version from the ftp site using the following links.

- *DeviceMaster Serial Hub User Guide* or http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp?partnumber=2000337
- *DeviceMaster RTS User Guide* or http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp?partnumber=2000340
- *DeviceMaster PRO User Guide* or http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp?partnumber=2000334
- *RocketPort Serial Hub ia Hardware Installation* document or http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp?partnumber=2000169
- *RocketPort Serial Hub Si 2-Port Hardware Installation* document or http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp?partnumber=2000153

Locating NS-Link Software

You can download the latest NS-Link device driver updates at no charge from the Comtrol web site at: http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp. Always check the web or ftp sites to make sure that you have the current driver and documentation. The software files that you download from the web site are self-extracting zipped files that you must extract before installing.

The Comtrol CD that ships with your product can streamline the installation of your product. When loaded on a system running a Microsoft operating system, the CD opens a menu system (unless the autorun feature is disabled).

Note: *If the autorun feature has been disabled, open the **Readme.pdf** file at the root of CD to start the menu system.*

NS-Link Overview

The following subsections discuss NS-Link features and topics that you may want to review before installation.

Connectivity Requirements

An Ethernet connection, either to an Ethernet hub or to a network interface card (NIC) in the host system. See the hardware installation documentation (*Locating Hardware Installation Documentation* on Page 6) for information regarding hardware installation.

Product Type	Connected to	Ethernet Cable	Connector Name
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 8	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 16	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 NETWORK
DeviceMaster RTS 1	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 ETHERNET
DeviceMaster RTS 1 Embedded	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	RJ45 port (not labeled)
DeviceMaster RTS 4/8/16 with external power supply	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
DeviceMaster RTS 16/32RM with internal power supply	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 NETWORK
DeviceMaster PRO 8	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
DeviceMaster PRO 16	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
RocketPort Serial Hub *ia*	NIC	Crossover	Network
	Ethernet hub	Standard	
RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* (2-Port)	NIC	Crossover	10/100BASE-T
	Ethernet hub	Standard	

IP or MAC Addressing Issues

This is an overview of IP and MAC addressing issues that may affect how you configure the Comtrol device with a brief discussion of advantages of each method.

The IP addressing scheme has the following advantages:

- Uses an industry standard protocol.

- Allows you to configure systems to use ports on the Comtrol device that are outside of the host system's Ethernet segment.

Note: This IP address must be a unique reserved IP address, do not use an address from a dynamic address pool. If necessary, see the system administrator for an IP address.

The MAC addressing method has the following advantages:

- Simplifies implementation and ongoing support by eliminating the address administration issues inherent in network protocols. MAC addresses are predefined by Comtrol and there is no potential for an "address conflict" at setup.

- It is isolated from foreign LAN segments minimizing potential security issues.

Using the Port Sharing Feature

The Comtrol device can be shared with multiple systems on a network. To do so, follow the *Installing NS-Link* discussion for each system that you want to permit access to the serial ports.

You can implement the port sharing feature in several ways. You can share the same port with multiple systems or you can set up multiple systems to share specific ports on the Comtrol device.
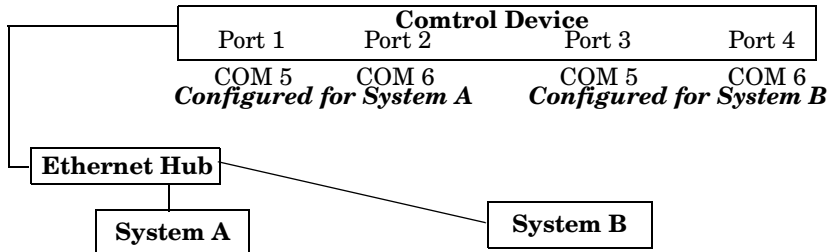
COM port names must be unique to each system.

Example: *Multiple systems can use the same COM port names.*
To configure two ports for System A and two ports for System B, you could configure the drivers like this:

1. When installing NS-Link on System A, select "Not Configured" for the COM port names for Ports 3 and 4.

2. When installing NS-Link on System B, select "Not Configured" for the COM port names for Ports 1 and 2.

Port	System A	System B
1	COM5	Not Configured
2	COM6	Not Configured
3	Not Configured	COM5
4	Not Configured	COM6

Note: Most applications do not release ports, so you may not be able to use port sharing across multiple systems with the same port. Also, if using port sharing, make sure that two computers do not try to access the same port at the same time. Only one computer can control a given port at a given time.

Device Preparation for NS-Link

Use the appropriate table to verify that your hardware was installed properly and is ready for NS-Link installation. See the hardware installation documentation (Page 6) if you need to install the hardware.

- *DeviceMaster Serial Hub LEDs* (below)
- *DeviceMaster RTS LEDs* on Page 10
- *DeviceMaster PRO LEDs* on Page 11
- *RocketPort Serial Hub ia LEDs* on Page 11
- *RocketPort Serial Hub Si LEDs* on Page 11

DeviceMaster Serial Hub LEDs

Use this table to verify that your DeviceMaster Serial Hub is ready for NS-Link installation.

Model	How to tell if the DeviceMaster Serial Hub is working properly:
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 8	• The **PWR** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note:* *The **PWR** LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 16	• The **Status** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note:* *The **Status** LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **Duplex** LED is lit, it indicates full-duplex activity. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).

DeviceMaster RTS LEDs

Use this table to verify that your DeviceMaster RTS is ready for NS-Link installation.

Model	How to tell if the DeviceMaster RTS is working properly:
DeviceMaster RTS 1-Port	• The **Status** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates that it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The Status LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **Link Act** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **Duplex** LED is lit, it indicates full-duplex activity. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).
DeviceMaster RTS 1-Port Embedded	The LEDs are located between the RJ45 connector and the power terminal block. • The amber **Status** LED (**D1**) on the adapter is lit, which indicates that it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The Status LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **Link Act** LED (**D2**) is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **Duplex** LED (**D3**) is lit, it indicates full-duplex activity. • If the red **100** LED (**D4**) is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).
DeviceMaster RTS 4/8/16 With External Power Supply	• The **PWR** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The PWR LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).
DeviceMaster RTS 16/32RM With Internal Power Supply	• The **Status** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The Status LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **Duplex** LED is lit, it indicates full-duplex activity. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).

DeviceMaster PRO LEDs

Use this table to verify that your DeviceMaster PRO is ready for NS-Link installation.

Model	How to tell if the DeviceMaster PRO is working properly:
DeviceMaster PRO 8	• The **PWR** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The PWR LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).
DeviceMaster PRO 16	• The **Status** LED on the front of the unit is lit, which indicates it has power and has completed the boot cycle. *Note: The Status LED flashes while booting and it takes approximately 15 seconds for the bootloader to complete the cycle.* • The red **LNK/ACT** LED is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • If the red **Duplex** LED is lit, it indicates full-duplex activity. • If the red **100** LED is lit, it indicates a working 100 MB Ethernet connection (100 MB network, only).

RocketPort Serial Hub *ia* LEDs

Use this table to verify that your RocketPort Serial Hub *ia* is ready for NS-Link installation.

Model	How to tell if the RocketPort Serial Hub *ia* is working properly:
RocketPort Serial Hub *ia*	• The yellow **PWR** LED is flashing, which means that the device is waiting for the driver installation. *Note: If the PWR LED is lit steady with only an occasional flash, it means that the device driver has loaded.* • The green **LNK LED** is lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection. • The yellow **ACT LED** flashes, which indicates Ethernet activity on the network.

RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* LEDs

Use this table to verify that your RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* is ready for NS-Link installation.

Model	How to tell if the RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* is working properly:
RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* 2-port	• The **Power** LED in the front of the unit is flashing, which indicates that the device is waiting for the driver installation. *Note: If the Power LED is lit steady with only an occasional flash, it means that the device driver has loaded.* • Both **10/100BASE-T** LEDs are lit, which indicates a working Ethernet connection.

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Initial NS-Link Installation

Use the appropriate subsection to initially install NS-Link on your operating system after verifying that your device is functioning properly, see *Device Preparation for NS-Link* on Page 9.

- *Windows XP: NS-Link Installation* on Page 13
- *Windows 2000: NS-Link Installation* on Page 23
- *Windows NT: NS-Link Installation* on Page 31

If there is a NS-Link driver already installed on your system, see *Updating, Adding, or Removing NS-Link Devices* on Page 37 before install the new driver.

Windows XP: NS-Link Installation

Use this procedure to install and configure the NS-Link device driver for your device.

1. If necessary, unzip the self-extracting files from the Comtrol media or ftp/web site. See *Locating NS-Link Software* on Page 6, if you need to locate the device driver.

2. From the **Start** button, select **Control Panel**, and double-click on the **Add Hardware** icon.
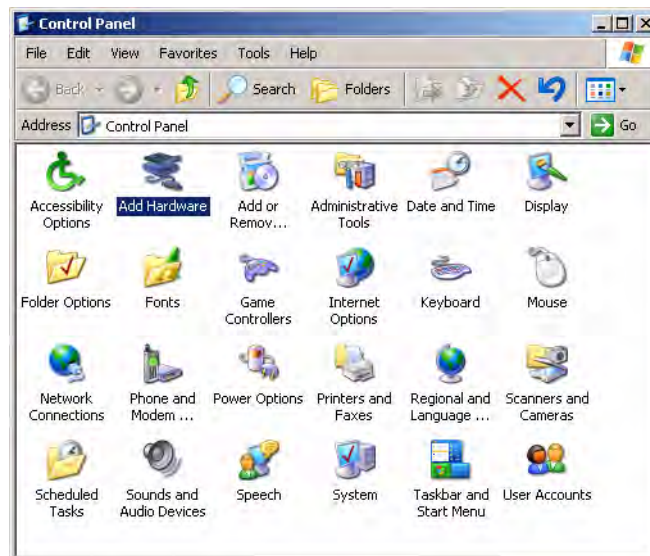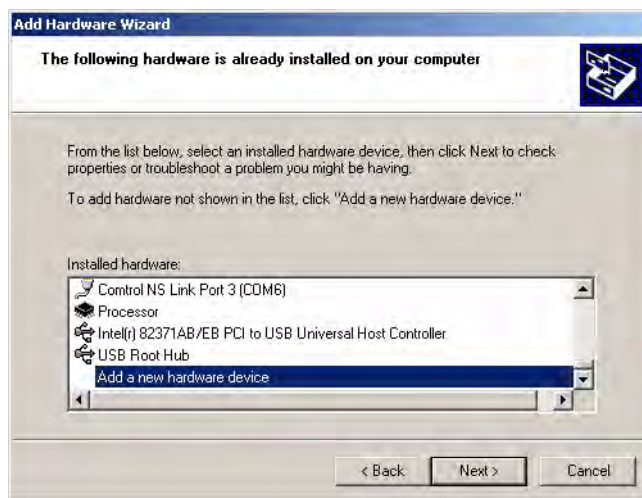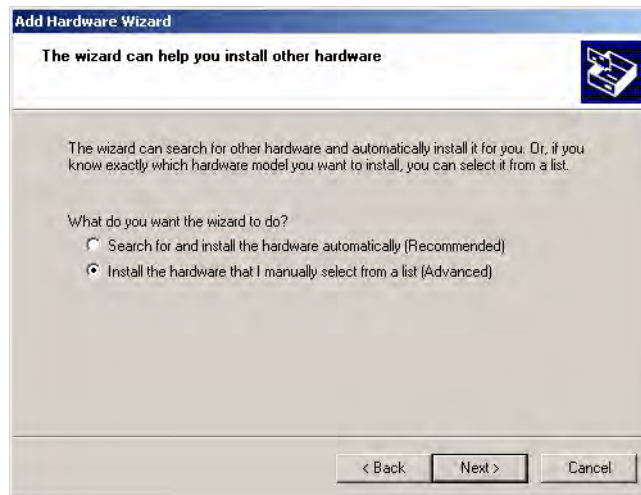
3. Select **Next**.

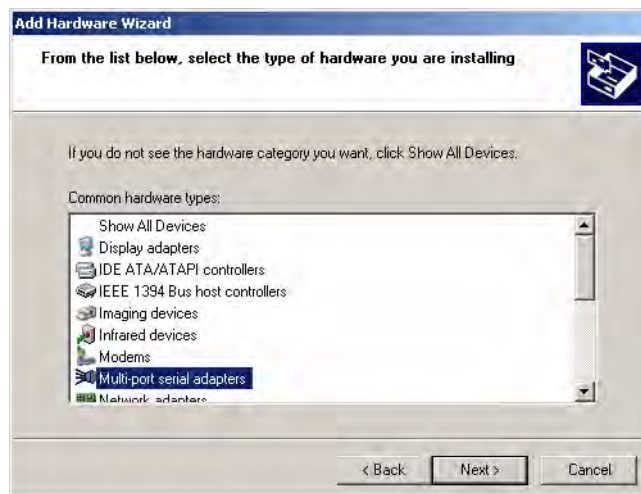4. Select **Yes, I have already connected the hardware** and **Next**.
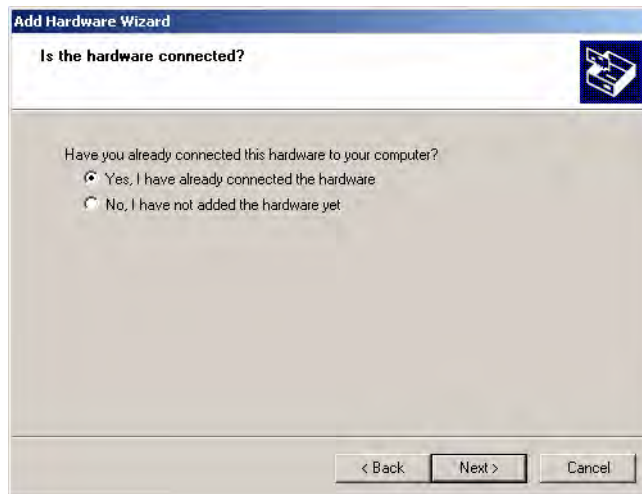
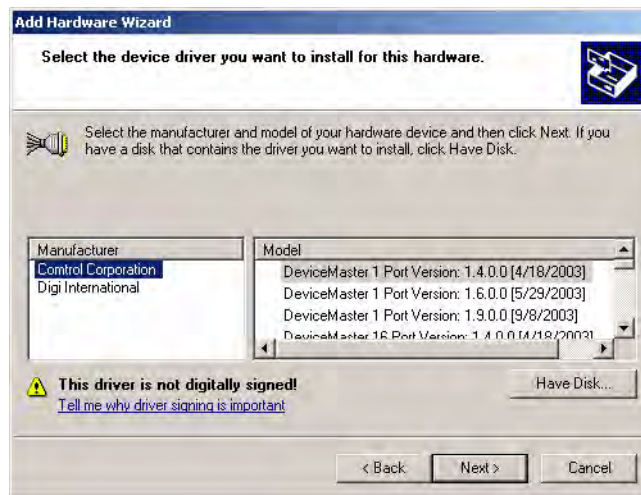5. Highlight **Add a new hardware device** (at the end of the list) and select **Next**.

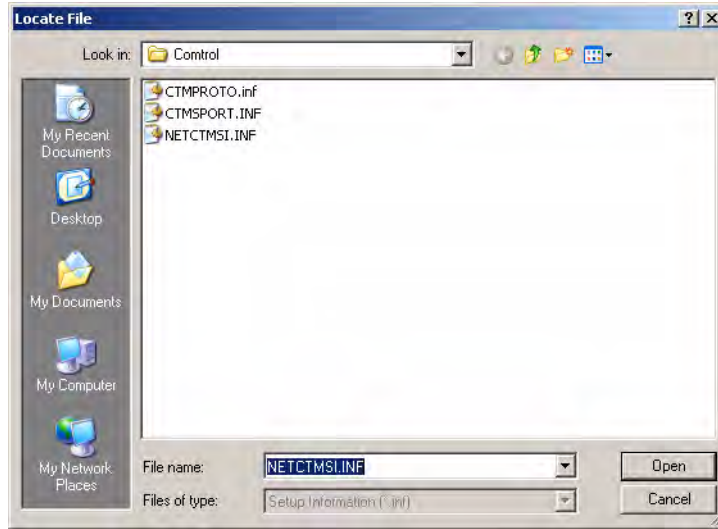6. Select **Install the hardware that I manually select from a list (Advanced)** and **Next**.

7. Highlight **Multi-port serial adapters** and select **Next**.
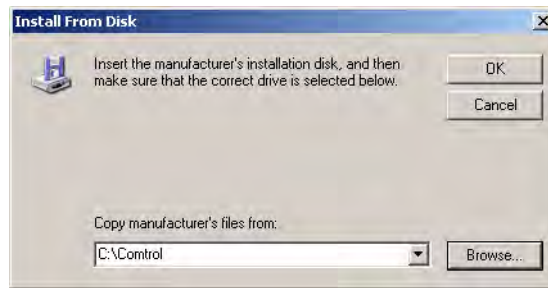

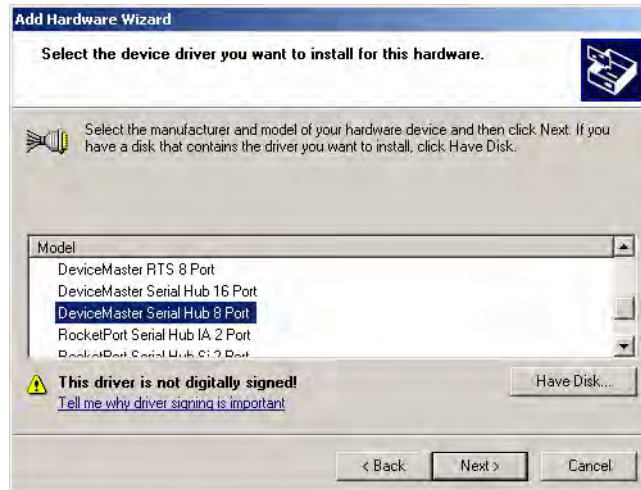8. Select the **Have Disk** button.

9. Use **Browse** button to locate the installation files or enter the path and select **Ok**.

For example, if you extracted the driver to the default subdirectory, enter: **C:\COMTROL**.

10. From the **Models** list, highlight the device you are installing and **Next**.

This example installs a DeviceMaster Serial Hub 8-Port.

11. Select the **Next** button to start the driver installation.
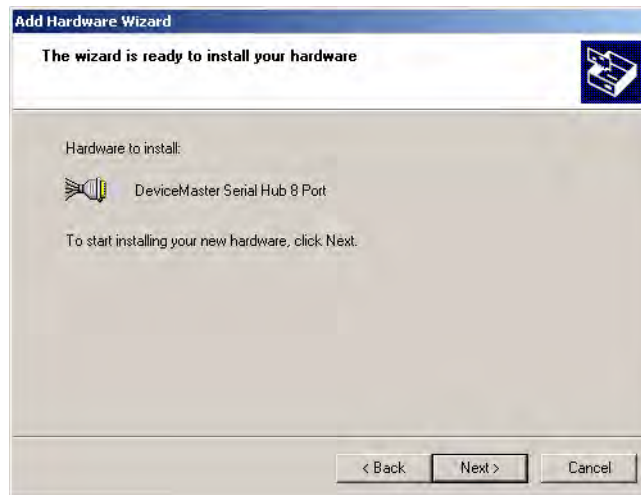
12. Select **Continue Anyway** to proceed.

Note: *It may take up to several moments for Windows XP to load the driver. Found New Hardware messages will display during this time.*

13. Select the **Finish** button to complete the installation process for this port.

A *Found New Hardware Comtrol NS-Link Port #* message displays briefly as each port installs at the lower right corner of the screen.

14. Select **Install the software automatically (Recommended)** and **Next**.

15. Select **Continue Anyway** to proceed.

16. Select the **Finish** button to complete the driver installation process for this port.

   Note: *You may need to wait a few moments while the operating system creates a port for the device.*

17. Repeat Steps 14 through 16 for each remaining port on the device.

18. Close the Control Panel.

19. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

20. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are installing, and select the **Properties** menu item.
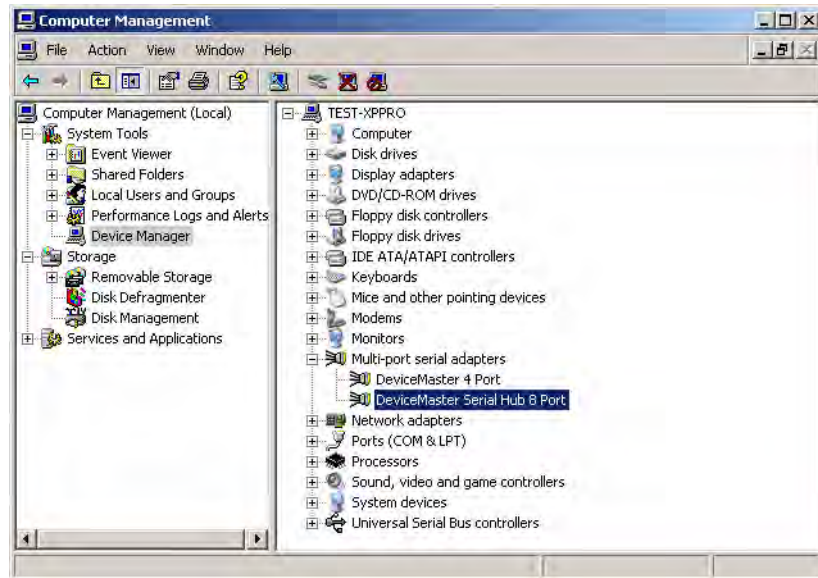
21. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device you want to configure, and select **Properties**.

   Note: *If this is the first device you are installing, the Device screen will load over the **Properties** screen.*
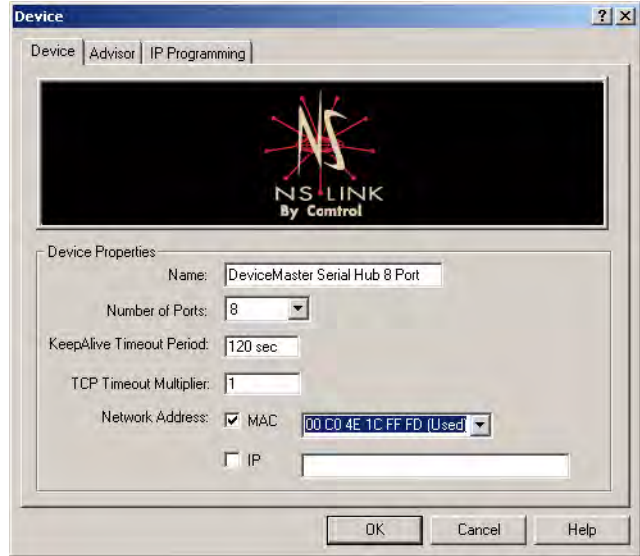
22. Select **MAC** and enter the address on the MAC address label (on the device) or select the MAC address from the drop list.

    The MAC address format is:

    00 C0 4E xx xx xx.

    A space must separate each pair of digits.

    If your site has other Comtrol network devices on the network, their MAC addresses will display in the droplist after initial installation.

23. Verify the **Number of Ports** on the device.

24. Optionally, rename the NS-Link default name.

25. Optionally, set a different **KeepAlive Timeout Period**

    You can set the amount of time in seconds that this device waits until it closes this connection and frees all the ports associated with it.

    The KeepAlive feature works in the following ways:

    • During normal operation the driver periodically sends a connection check to the NS-Link device, and the device then returns a response. There are two timers, one in the driver, and one in the device. These timers are reset when a connection check signal is received and goes to the next signal. If a connection is broken, the data is stored in the computer and the device. Depending on the amount of time that has expired since the connection was lost, the following happens:

      - When the computer loses its connection to the device but re-establishes it before the timeout period expires, any data transmitted during this period is queued and sent when the connection resumes.

      - When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device and does not re-establish it before the timeout period expires; the driver then purges any pending I/O data for ports on that connection and returns all pending, and future I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close** command, to the application with an error indicating the disconnected status.
      This is similar to the processing which occurs when the computer receives a notification from the device that a port release request, from **FreePort**, was processed on a port it owns with the exception that a different status is returned. When the connection is re-established, the computer will attempt to re-acquire the ports that were open when the connection was lost. If the attempt is successful, normal operations resume for the port. If any port has been acquired, then the computer will continue to fail all further I/O operations, with the exception of a **Close** request. When the **Close** request is received, the port can then be re-opened.

      - When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device, and the time period expires, the device places the port into a state from which another computer can establish a connection, locking out the original driver when the connection is made. The driver will respond to all I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close** command, with an error indicating the disconnect status.

    If you need the ability to reconnect with a port that another server is currently using, Comtrol includes an utility called **FreePort** (Page 78) and

its source code which makes the API calls that would force a port closure. The included source code for **FreePort** demonstrates the calls an application would make to perform the same operation.

26. Optionally, set the **TCP Timeout Multiplier** value.

   Use the TCP Multiplier to modify two timers used in TCP/IP socket communications. The first identifies how long the TCP protocol should wait before timing out an attempt to open a TCP channel. This timer defaults to 500 ms when the TCP/IP address method is used to communicate with a device. If the TCP Multiplier is set to 2, the timer would now be 1000 ms, or 1 sec. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 2000 ms, or 2 sec.

   The second timer defines how long the driver will wait for a response from the device when a forced release of a port is requested (i.e. as when the **Freeport** utility is being used). This timer defaults to 8 seconds. If the TCP Multiplier is changed to 2, the timer would now be 16 seconds. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 32 seconds.

27. Select the **Ok** button to close the Device window.
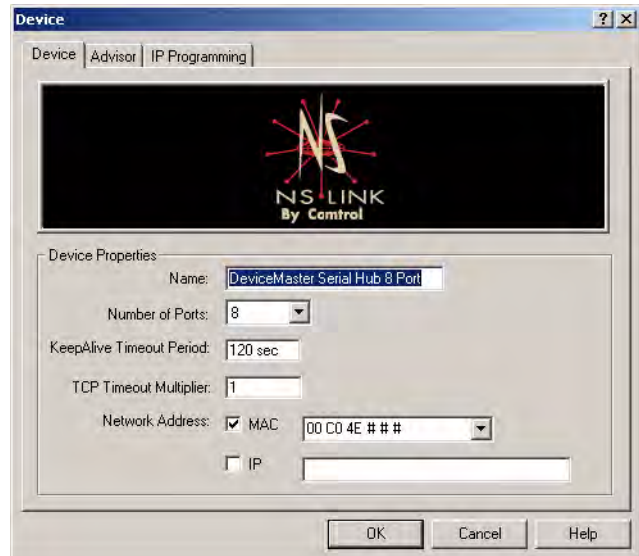
28. Close the Device Manager.
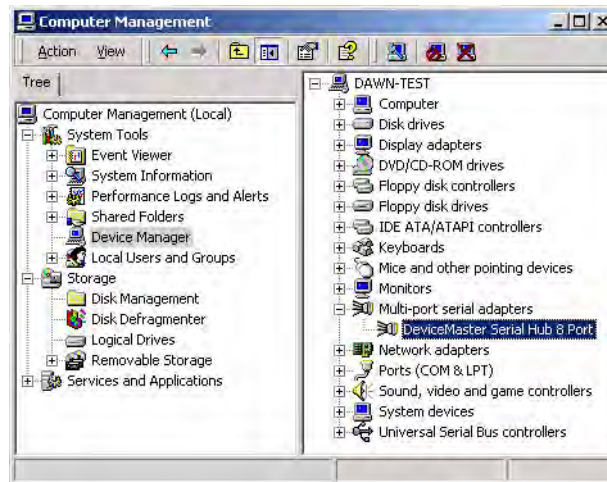
29. From the **Start** button, select **Turn off Computer**, and **Restart** your system for the changes to take affect.

30. *After rebooting*, you can go to the appropriate subsection to complete any further configuration that is required for your site.

    • To configure an IP address in the device, go to *Programming the IP Address* on Page 47.

    • To configure NS-Link in MAC mode to run efficiently, go to *Disabling DHCP Requests (MAC Mode)* on Page 54.

    • To configure COM port properties, go to *COM Port Configuration* on Page 63.

Windows 2000: NS-Link Installation

Use this procedure to install and configure the NS-Link device driver for your device.

1. If necessary, unzip the self-extracting files from the Comtrol media or ftp/web site. See *Locating NS-Link Software* on Page 6, if you need to locate the device driver.

2. From the **Start** button, select **Settings**, **Control Panel**, and double-click on the **Add/Remove Hardware** icon.
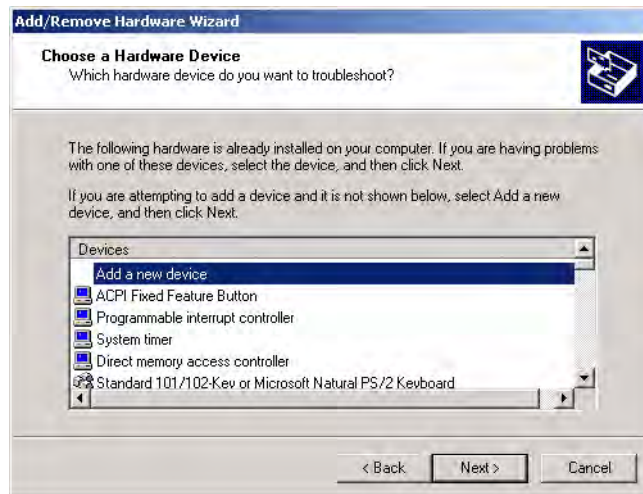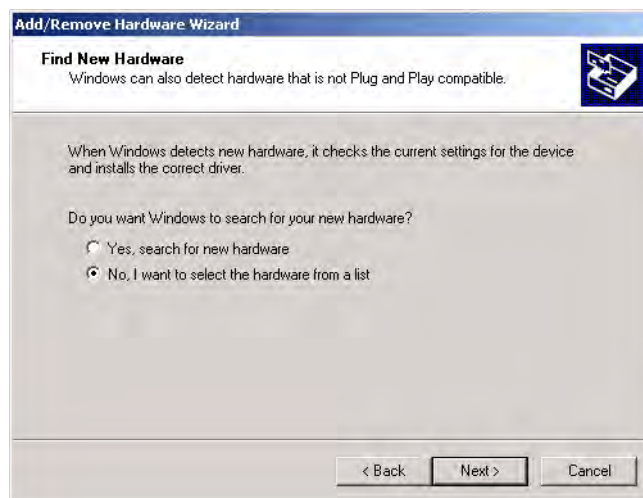

3. Select **Next**.

4. Select **Add/Troubleshoot a device** and **Next**.
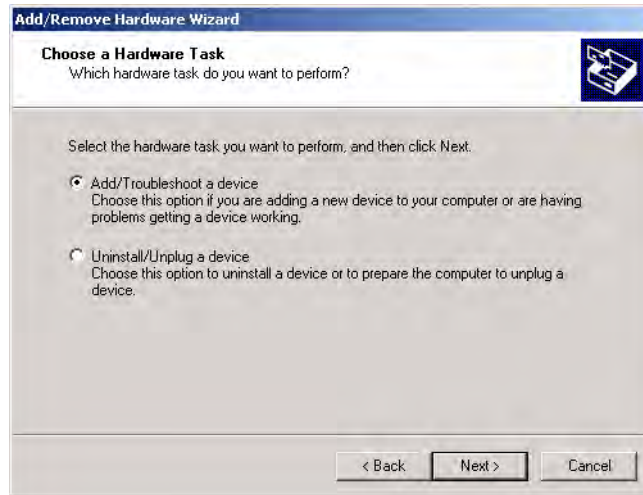
5. Highlight **Add a new device** and select **Next**.

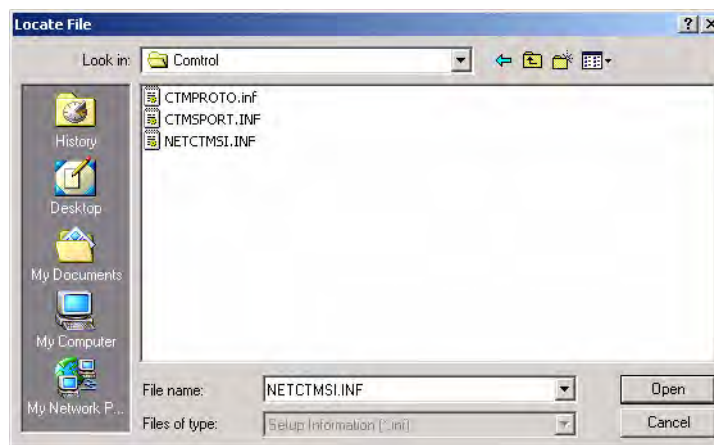6. Select **No, I want to select the hardware from a list** and **Next**.

7. Select **Multi-port serial adapters** and select **Next**.

8. Select the **Have Disk** button.

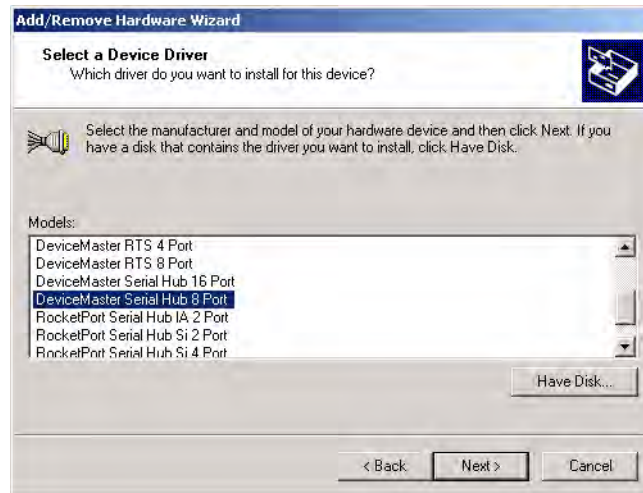9. Use **Browse** button to locate the installation files or enter the path and select **Ok**.

For example, if you extracted the driver to the default subdirectory, enter:
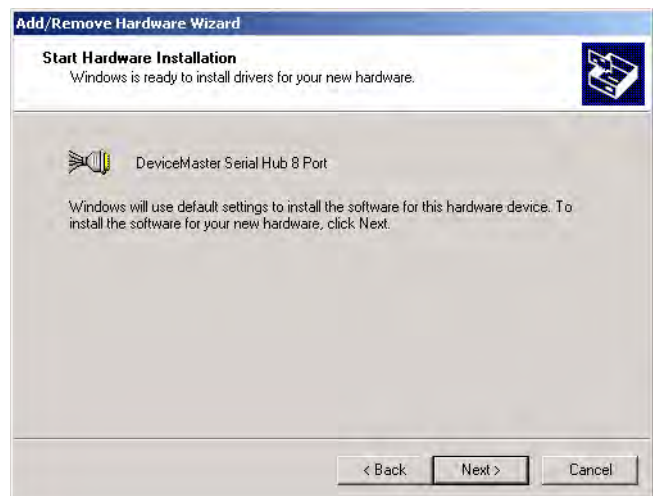**C:\COMTROL**.

10. From the **Models** list, highlight the device you are installing and **Next**.

This example installs a DeviceMaster Serial Hub 8-Port.

11. Select the **Next** button to start the driver installation.

12. Select **Yes** to continue the installation.

    Note: *It may take up to several moments for Windows 2000 to load the driver for each port on the device. A Found New Hardware message will display for each port on the device.*
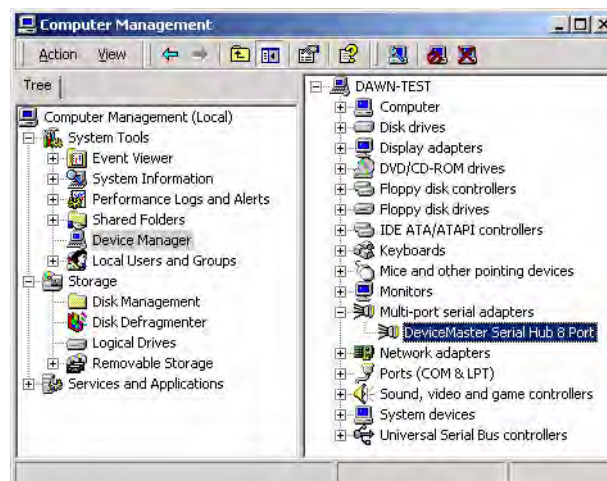
13. Select the **Finish** button to complete the driver installation process for this port.

14. Close the Control Panel.

15. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

16. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are installing, and select the **Properties** menu item.

17. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device you want to configure, and select **Properties**.

Note: *If this is the first device you are installing, the Device screen will load over the **Properties** screen.*

18. Select **MAC** and enter the address on the MAC address label (on the device).

   The MAC address format is:

   00 C0 4E xx xx xx.

   A space must separate each pair of digits.

   If your site has other Comtrol network devices on the network, their MAC addresses will display in the droplist after initial installation.

19. Verify the **Number of Ports** on the device.

20. Optionally, rename the NS-Link default name.

21. Optionally, set a different **KeepAlive Timeout Period**

   You can set the amount of time in seconds that this device waits until it closes this connection and frees all the ports associated with it.

The KeepAlive feature works in the following ways:

- During normal operation the driver periodically sends a connection check to the NS-Link device, and the device then returns a response. There are two timers, one in the driver, and one in the devic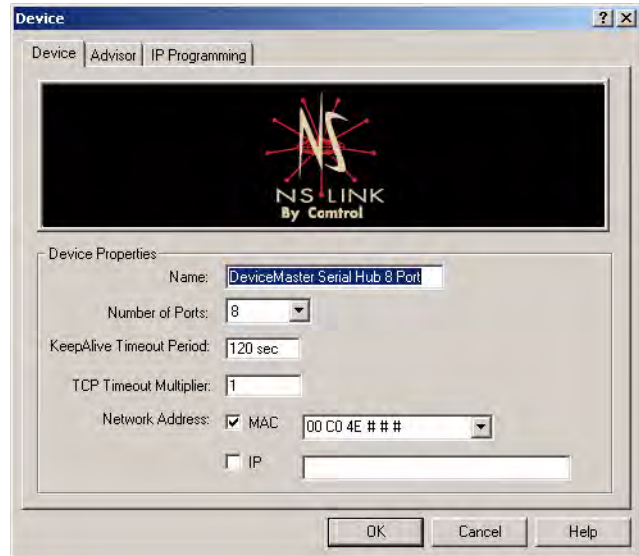e. These timers are reset when a connection check signal is received and goes to the next signal. If a connection is broken, the data is stored in the computer and the device. Depending on the amount of time that has expired since the connection was lost, the following happens:

  - When the computer loses its connection to the device but re-establishes it before the timeout period expires, any data transmitted during this period is queued and sent when the connection resumes.

  - When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device and does not re-establish it before the timeout period expires; the driver then purges any pending I/O data for ports on that connection and returns all pending, and future I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close** command, to the application with an error indicating the disconnected status.
  This is similar to the processing which occurs when the computer receives a notification from the device that a port release request, from **FreePort**, was processed on a port it owns with the exception that a different status is returned. When the connection is re-established, the computer will attempt to re-acquire the ports that were open when the connection was lost. If the attempt is successful, normal operations resume for the port. If any port has been acquired, then the computer will continue to fail all further I/O operations, with the exception of a **Close** request. When the **Close** request is received, the port can then be re-opened.

  - When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device, and the time period expires, the device places the port into a state from which another computer can establish a connection, locking out the original driver when the connection is made. The driver will respond to all I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close** command, with an error indicating the disconnect status.

  If you need the ability to reconnect with a port that another server is currently using, Comtrol includes an utility called **FreePort** (Page 78) and its source code which makes the API calls that would force a port closure. The included source code for **FreePort** demonstrates the calls an application would make to perform the same operation.

22. Optionally, set the **TCP Timeout Multiplier** value.

Use the TCP Multiplier to modify two timers used in TCP/IP socket communications. The first identifies how long the TCP protocol should wait before timing out an attempt to open a TCP channel. This timer defaults to 500 ms when the TCP/IP address method is used to communicate with a device. If the TCP Multiplier is set to 2, the timer would now be 1000 ms, or 1 sec. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 2000 ms, or 2 sec.

The second timer defines how long the driver will wait for a response from the device when a forced release of a port is requested (i.e. as when the **Freeport** utility is being used). This timer defaults to 8 seconds. If the TCP Multiplier is changed to 2, the timer would now be 16 seconds. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 32 seconds.

23. Select the **Ok** button to close the Device window.

24. Close the Device Manager.
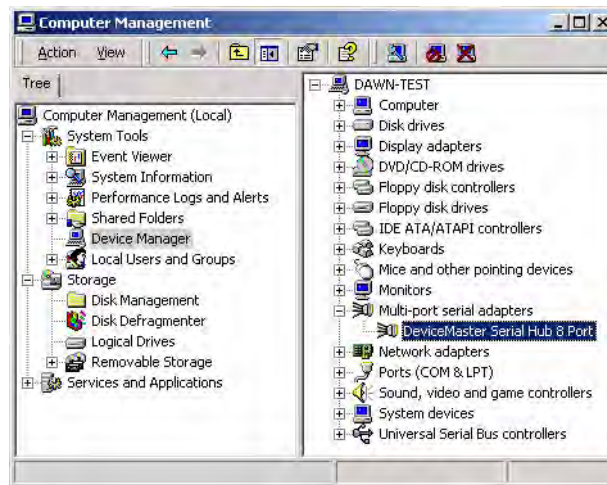
25. Select Shutdown from the **Start** button and **Restart** your system for the changes to take affect.

26. *After rebooting*, you can go to the appropriate subsection to complete any further configuration that is required for your site.

- To configure an IP address in the device, go to *Programming the IP Address* on Page 47.

- To configure NS-Link in MAC mode to run efficiently, go to *Disabling DHCP Requests (MAC Mode)* on Page 54.

- To configure COM port properties, go to *COM Port Configuration* on Page 63.

Windows NT: NS-Link Installation

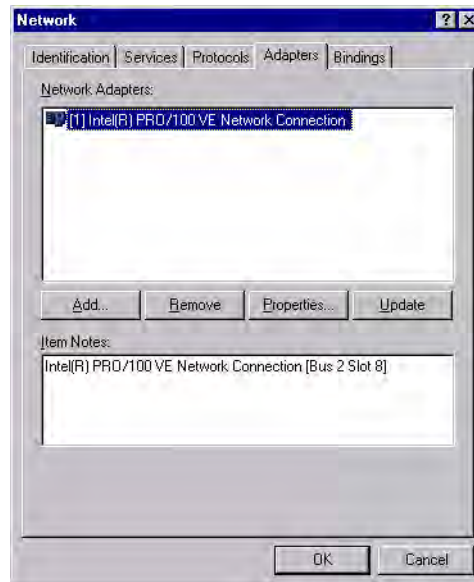Use this procedure to install and configure the NS-Link device driver for your device.

1. If necessary, unzip the self-extracting files from the Comtrol media or ftp/web site. See *Locating NS-Link Software* on Page 6, if you need to locate the device driver.

2. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.
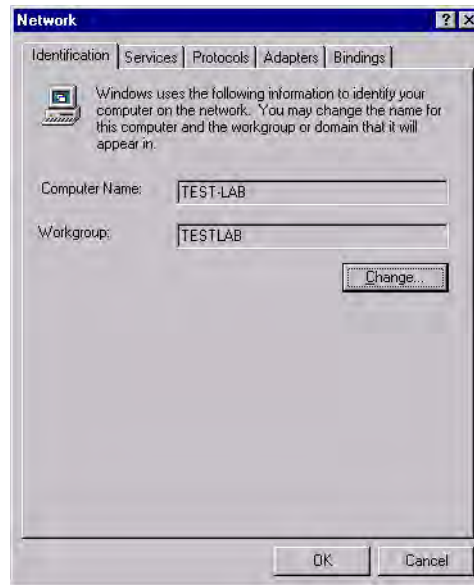
3. Select the **Adapters** tab and then the **Add** button.
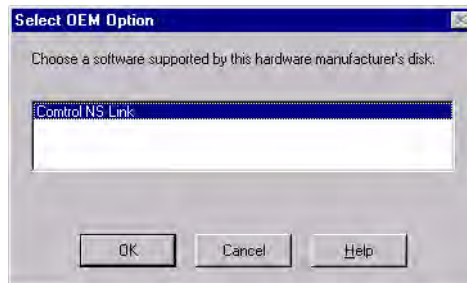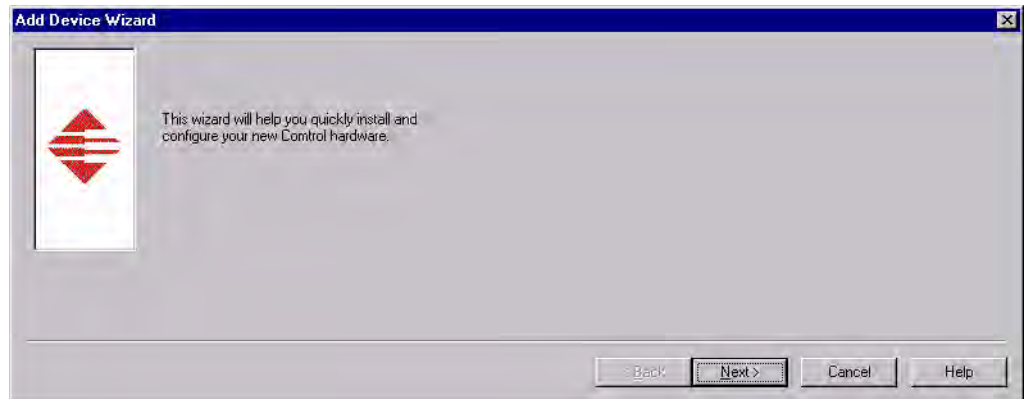
4. Select the **Have Disk** button.

5. Enter the drive and directory path to the installation files and select the **Ok** button. For example, if you extracted NS-Link to a subdirectory named comtrol, enter: **c:\comtrol**
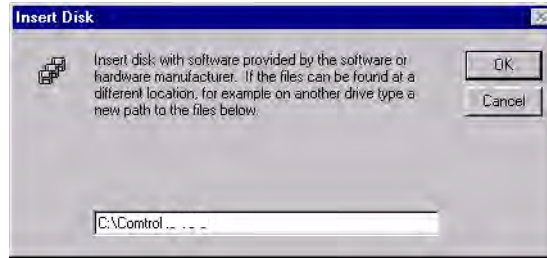
6. Select the **Ok** button when the selection box appears with **Comtrol NS-Link** highlighted.

7. Select the **Next** button when the Add Device Wizard appears:

8. Select the Comtrol device you are installing.
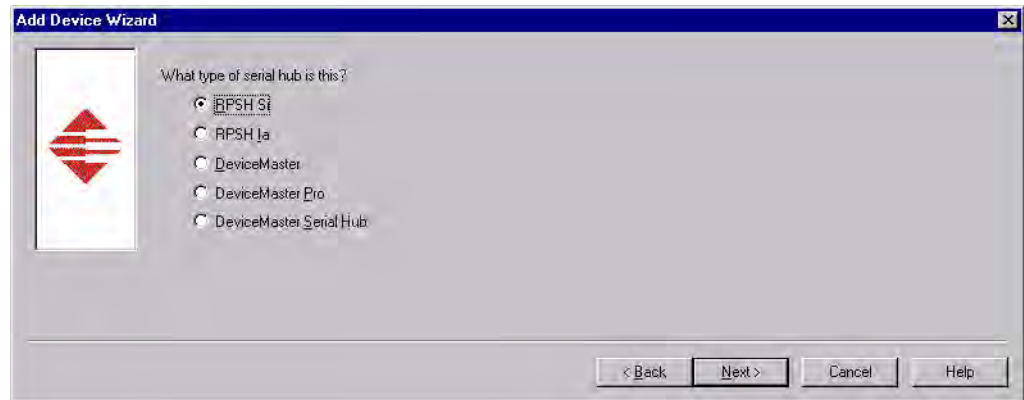
This example shows an installation for an RPSH-Si 2-Port.

9. If queried, select the number of ports on this Comtrol device.
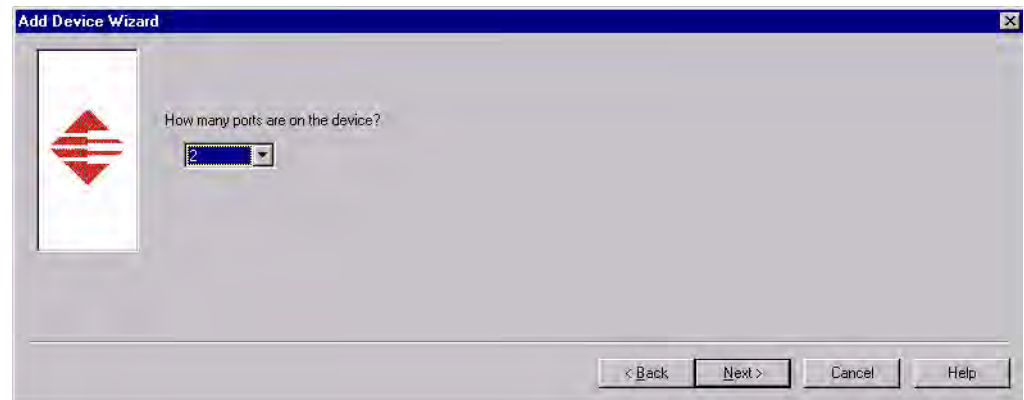
10. Select the COM port number for each port you plan to use on this system, if you do not want to allow access to a specific port for this system, scroll up to **Not configured**. When configuring ports among several systems, they can share the same COM port name or be assigned a unique COM port name on each system.

    See *Using the Port Sharing Feature* on Page 8 for an overview about port sharing.
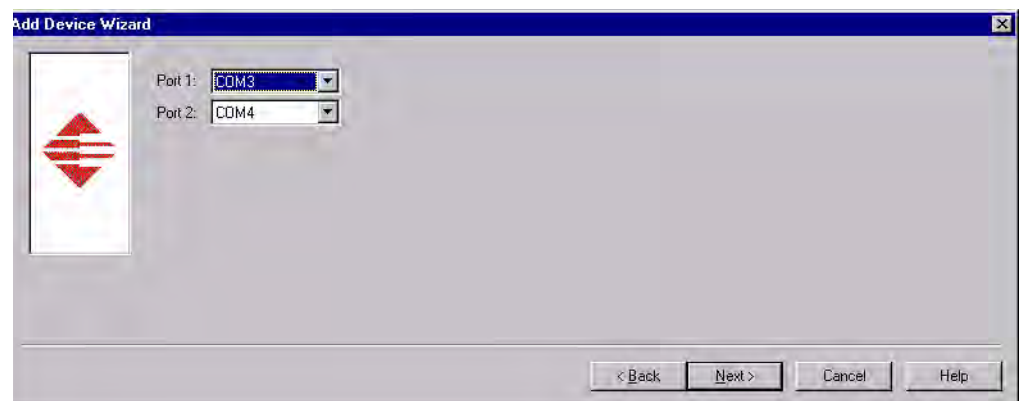
This window is dependent on the number of ports.

Note: *This window is dependent on the number of ports on the device.*

11. Select **MAC** and the **Next** button.
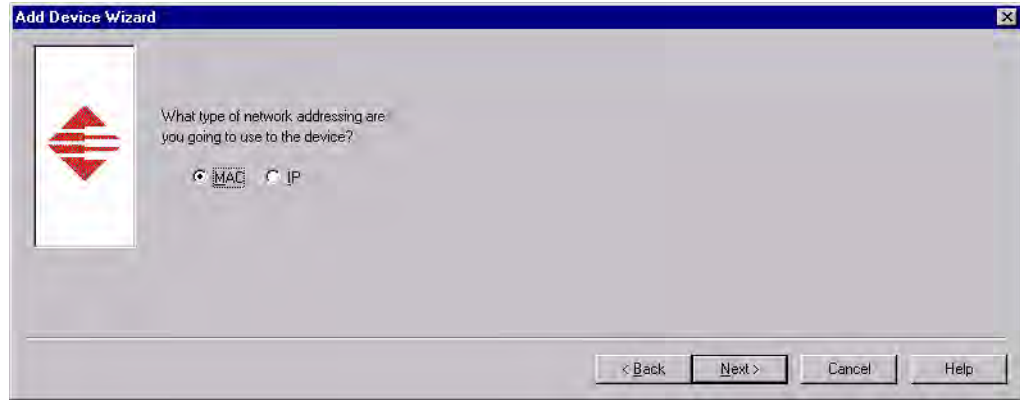
12. Enter the MAC Address of the device.The MAC address label is on the device and the format is: **00 C0 4E xx xx xx.** A space must separate each pairs of digits, as illustrated in the following screen shot.

    If your site has other Comtrol network devices on the network, their MAC addresses will display in the drop list after initial installation.
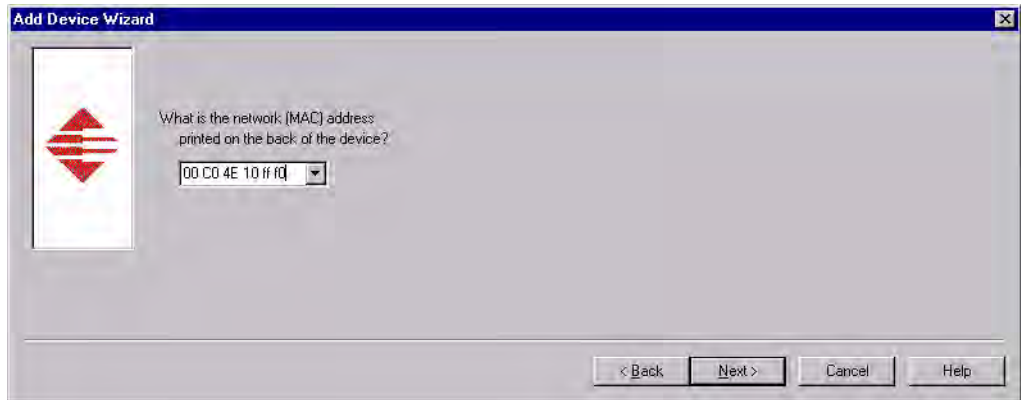
13. Select the **Finish** button when the following window appears:
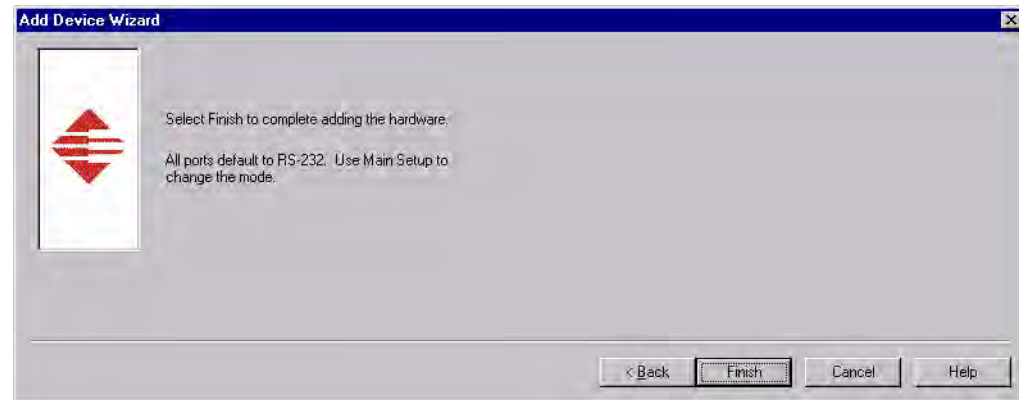
14. When the **Device Properties** window appears, verify that the MAC address is correct and select **Ok**.
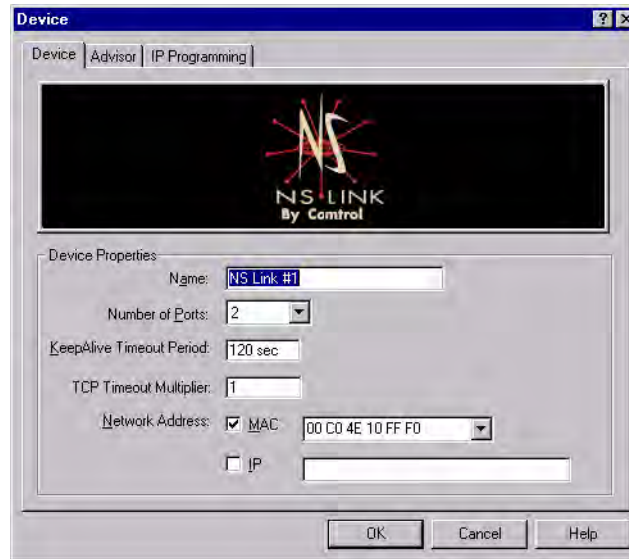
15. Highlight the device and select the **Ok** button.

16. Select **Yes** to save the configuration.
17. Select **Ok** to restart the system.
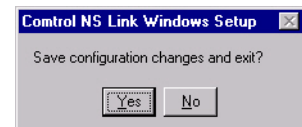
18. Select **Close**.
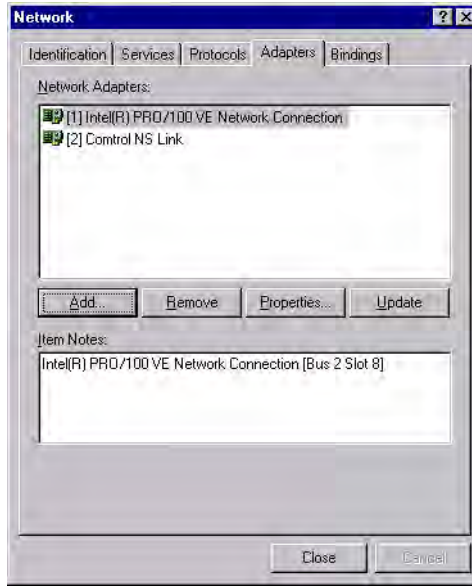
19. Close the Comtrol NS-Link program group.

20. Select **Yes** to restart the computer.

21. ***After rebooting***, you can go to the appropriate subsection to complete any further configuration that is required for your site.
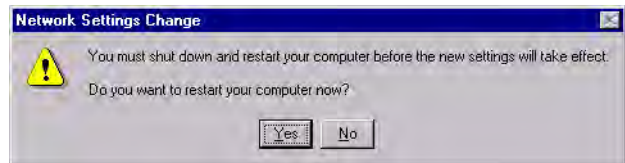
- To configure an IP address in the device, go to *Programming the IP Address* on Page 47.

- To configure NS-Link in MAC mode to run efficiently, go to *Disabling DHCP Requests (MAC Mode)* on Page 54.

- To configure COM port properties, go to .*COM Port Configuration* on Page 63.

Updating, Adding, or Removing NS-Link Devices

This section discusses how to

- Update existing installations
- Add additional NS-Link devices to an existing installation
- Remove or disable the NS-Link driver

Note: *See the User Guide or Hardware Installation document for your product if you want to swap one NS-Link device for another NS-Link device. See* [*Locating Hardware Installation Documentation*](#) *on Page 6.*

Updating an Existing Driver

Use the appropriate procedure for your operating system.

Windows NT
NS-Link drivers for Windows NT should not be updated but first removed and then installed. See the *Removing an Existing Driver* subsection for [*Windows NT*](#) on Page 44.

Windows XP
Use the following procedure to update an existing NS-Link driver for the Windows XP operating system.

1. If necessary, unzip the self-extracting files from the Comtrol media or ftp/web site. See [*Locating NS-Link Software*](#) on Page 6, if you need to locate the device driver.

2. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**, expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** selection, right-click the device for which you want to update the driver, and select **Update Driver**.

3. Select **Install from a list or specific location (Advanced)** and **Next**.

4. Select **Search for the best driver in these locations**, check **Include this location in the search**, use the **Browse** button to locate the unzipped driver assembly, and select **Next**.
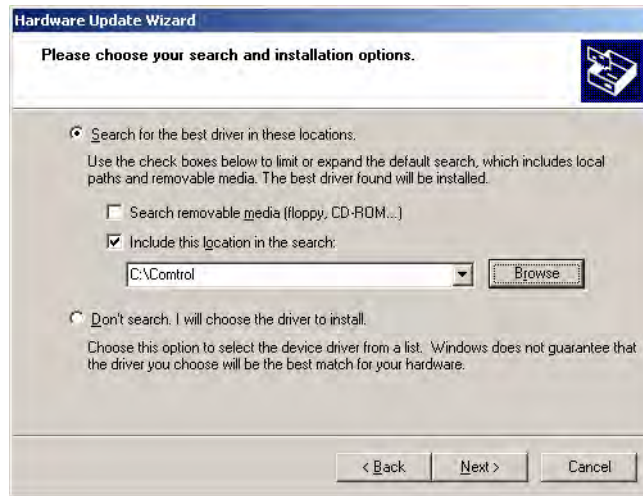
5. Select **Continue Anyway**.

6. Select **Finish**.

7. Select **Yes** to restart the system.
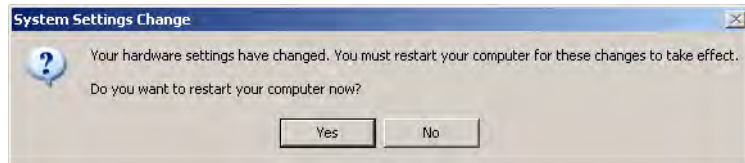
Windows 2000   Use the following procedure to update an existing NS-Link driver for the Windows 2000 operating system.

1. If necessary, unzip the self-extracting files from the Comtrol media or ftp/web site. See *Locating NS-Link Software* on Page 6, if you need to locate the device driver.

2. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

3. Expand **Multi-port serial adapters**, right-click the device you want to update, and select **Disable**.

4. Select **Yes** to disable the device.
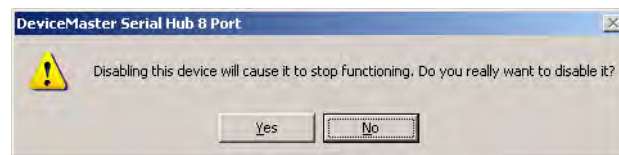
5. Select **Yes** to restart the system.
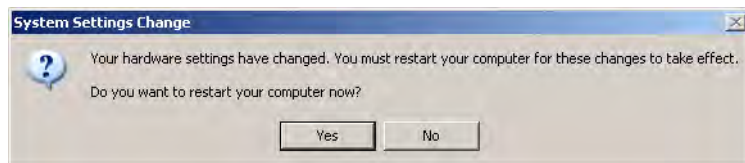
6. After the system reboots, access the Device Manager (Step 2), expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** selection, right-click the device for which you want to update the driver, and select **Properties**.

7. Select the **Driver** tab and the **Update Driver...** button.

8. Select **Next** when the Update Device Driver wizard appears.

9. Select **Search for a suitable driver for my device (recommended)** and **Next**.

10. Select **Specify a location** and **Next**.
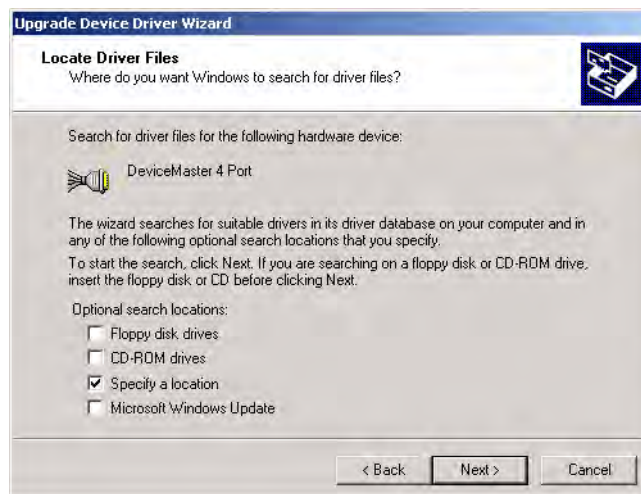
11. Use the **Browse** button to locate the driver update and select **Open**.
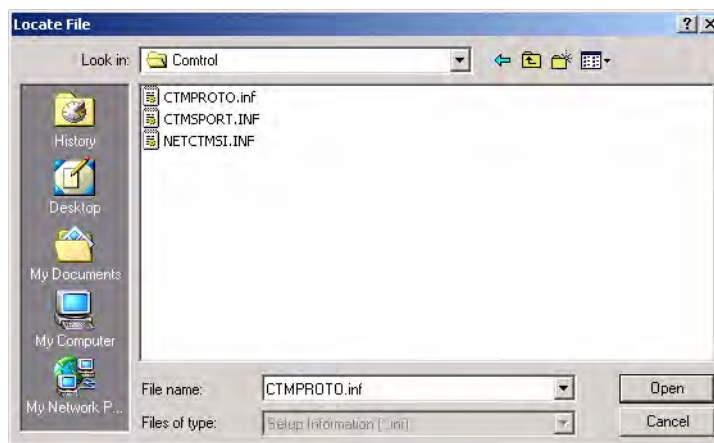
12. Select **Ok**.

13. Select **Next**.

14. Select **Yes** to install the driver.
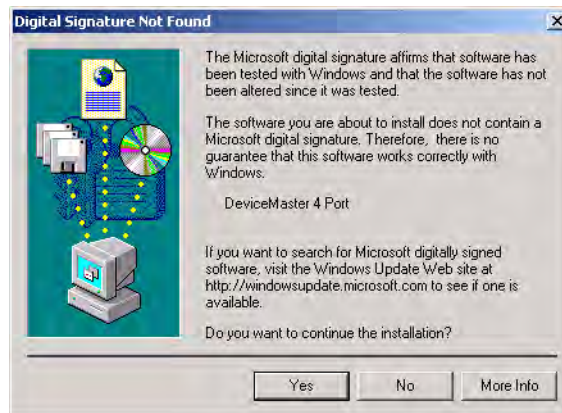
15. Select **Finish**.

16. Close the **Properties** page.

17. Select **Yes** to reboot the system.

18. Access the Device Manager () right-click the device and select **Enable**.

Adding Additional Devices

Install the device and configure the ports using the same procedures in *Initial NS-Link Installation* on Page 13.

Removing an Existing Driver

Use the appropriate procedure for your environment.

Windows XP and Windows 2000

Use the following procedure to remove any existing NS-Link device driver for the Windows XP or Windows 2000 operating systems.

1. From the **Start** button, right-click on **My Computer**, and select **Manage** from the shortcut menu.

2. In the **Tree** panel of the Computer Management window, highlight **Device Manager**.

3. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry to view the list.

4. Right-click on the device you want to remove and select the **Uninstall** menu item.

5. Select **Ok** at the *Confirm Device Removal* popup.

6. Close the Device Manager window and resume normal operations.

Windows NT

Use the following procedure to remove the existing Windows NT driver. If updating (not reconfiguring) NS-Link for Windows NT, make sure that you remove the existing version before installing an updated driver.

Note: Using the **Remove** *button on the Comtrol Main Setup sheet only discards the software configuration, it does not remove the software.*

1. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

2. Select the **Adapters** tab.
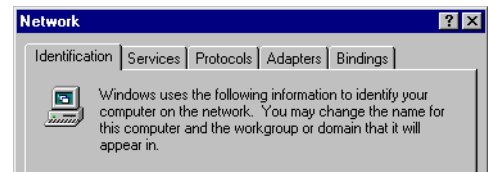
3. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Remove** button.

4. Select **Yes** to the warning that notifies you that this will permanently remove the driver.

5. Select the **Close** button. Several messages display as the system updates.

6. Select the **Yes** option to shut down and restart the system, so that your changes take effect.

After removing the existing driver, use the following subsection to install a new version.
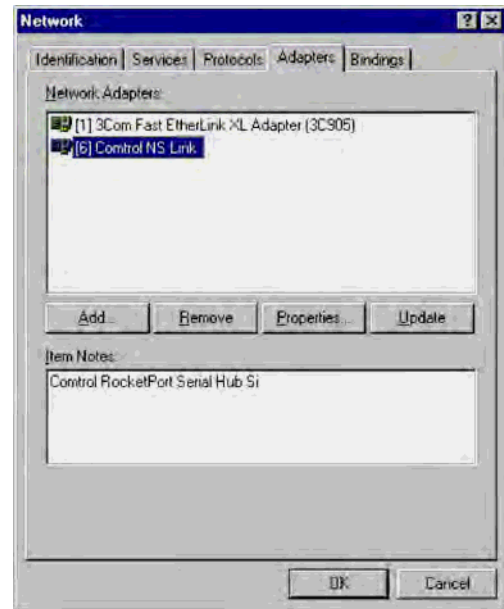
Page blank to accommodate double-sided printing.

Device Configuration

If you are installing the NS-Link device for the first time, use the appropriate procedure in the *Initial NS-Link Installation* section starting on Page 13 to first configure NS-Link with a MAC address.

Note: *To perform the following procedure, you must have previously entered the MAC address and rebooted your system.*

After you have programmed the MAC address, you can use this section to configure network information or change the default configuration. This section contains the following procedures.

- *Programming the IP Address*
- *Disabling DHCP Requests (MAC Mode)* on Page 54
- *Changing Device Properties* on Page 55

This section also contains *Using the Advisor* on Page 58, which may provide valuable information about the device and your network, in the event that you are having problems.

Programming the IP Address

After installing NS-Link, programming the MAC address, and restarting the system, use the following procedure to program the IP address in the Comtrol device. See your System Administrator to acquire a unique reserved IP address if you are using DHCP. They will need the MAC address of the unit to provide you with an IP address.

1. Access the **Properties** page for the device using the appropriate procedure:

   Windows XP and Windows 2000:

   a. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

   b. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are configuring, and select the **Properties** menu item.

   Windows NT:

   a. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

   b. Select the **Adapters** tab.

   c. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Properties** button.

2. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device, and select **Properties**.

The screen for Windows NT is similar.

3. Select the **IP Programming** tab.

4. Select the **Retrieve** button to check to see if the Comtrol device has been programmed with an IP address, gateway, and subnet mask.

5. Select the **Ok** button to retrieve the values.
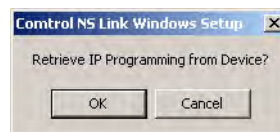
6. If NS-Link ***retrieves the values*** assigned by the System Administrator, this means that the hardware has been previously configured and go to Step 20.
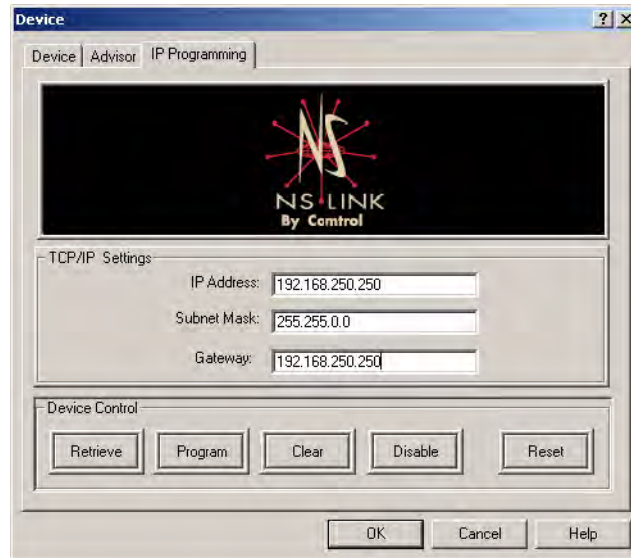
Note: *The default address for the DeviceMaster RTS is 192.168.250.250.*

If NS-Link returns ***all zeros***, go directly to Step 7.

If NS-Link ***did not retrieve the correct values*** (not zeros), select the **Clear** button.

a. Select the **Clear** button.

b. Select the **Ok** button to clear the IP programming in the device.

c. Select the **Ok** button to the *IP programming not complete until the device is reset* popup.

d. Select the **Reset** button and wait until the device reloads.

e. Repeat Steps 4 through 6.

Note: *The Comtrol device cycles its LEDs.*

7. Enter the **IP address**, **subnet mask**, and **gateway** values in the IP Settings area.
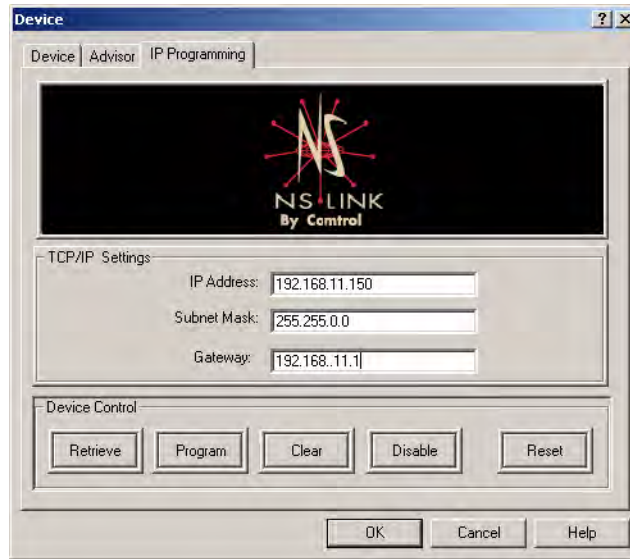
8. Select the **Program** button.
9. Select the **Ok** button to begin programming the device.
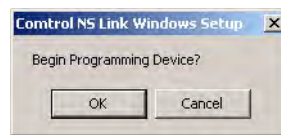
10. Select the **Ok** button to the *IP programming not complete until the device is reset* popup.

11. Delete the contents of the IP Address, Gateway, and Subnet Mask fields.
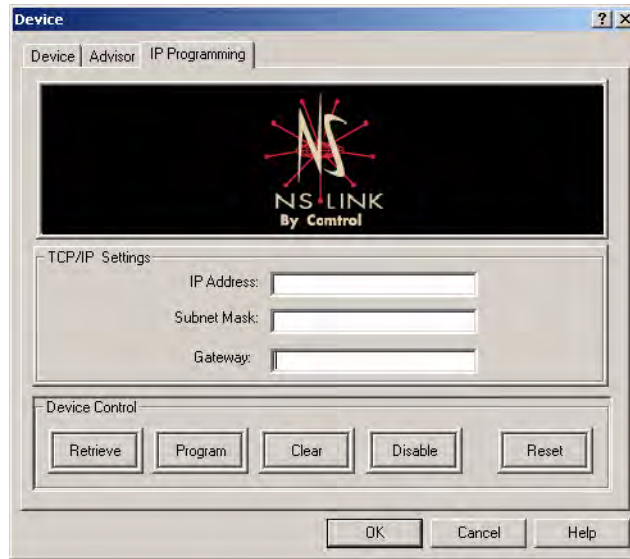
12. Select the **Retrieve** button.

13. Select the **Ok** button to retrieve IP programming from the device.
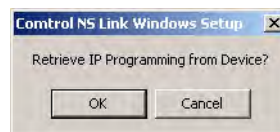
14. Verify that the information that loads into the IP Address, Gateway, and Subnet Mask fields matches the information that you previously entered.

    If not, re-enter the IP Address, Gateway, and Subnet mask information and repeat Steps 8 through 12.

15. Select the **Reset** button to soft boot the device.

    Note: *The Comtrol device cycles its LEDs.*

16. Select the **Ok** button to reset the entire device.
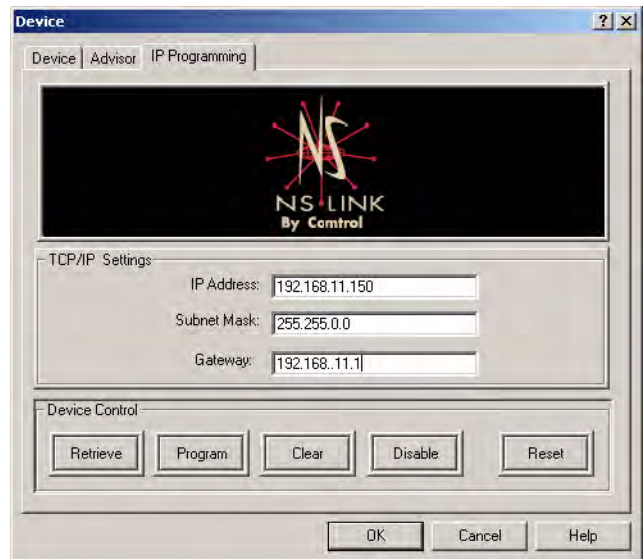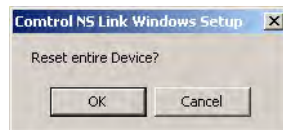
17. Select the **Device** tab.

18. Check the **IP** checkbox and select **Yes**.
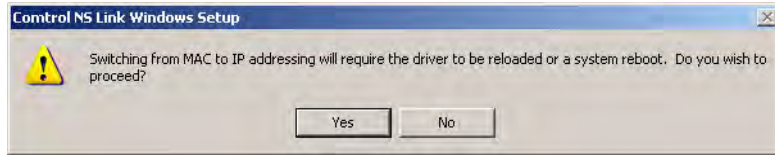
19. Select **Ok** and enter the IP address you programmed in the IP Programming tab.
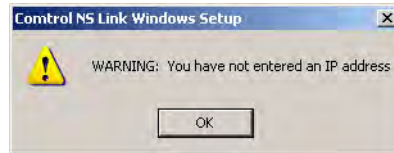
20. Select the **Ok** button to close the Device window.
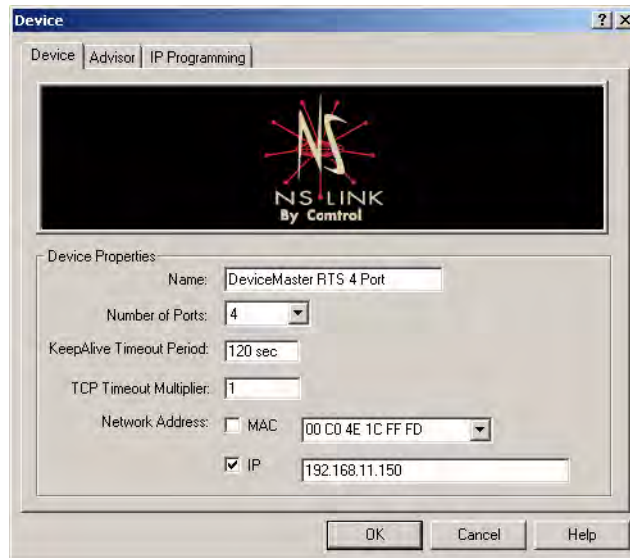
21. Select the **Ok** button to close the Setup window or go to *COM Port Configuration* on Page 63 to configure advanced COM port features.

22. Select **Ok** to restart the system.
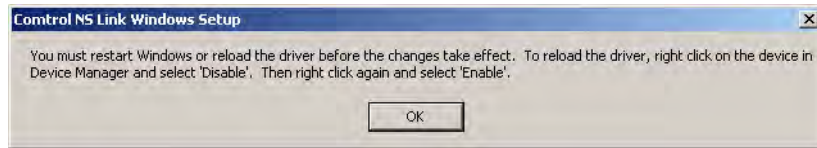
23. Close the Device Manager or the Network property page (depending on the operating system).

24. Connect your serial devices to the Comtrol device. If you need information about connecting your serial devices, see *Locating Hardware Installation Documentation* on Page 6 for your product.

25. Set up modems or printers using your Windows 2000 or Windows XP documentation.

26. ***DeviceMaster Family***: If you want to configure any of the ports as sockets:

   a. Enter the IP address of the device in your web browser URL field.

   b. Select the port number that you want to configure as a socket.

   Note: See the User Guide for your product, if you need help configuring sockets. You can download the latest version at: http://support.comtrol.com/Download.asp.

Disabling DHCP Requests (MAC Mode)

After installing NS-Link and restarting the system, you may want to disable the DHCP requests that are periodically sent from the device if you are running the device in MAC mode (not using a static IP address). Use the following procedure to disable DHCP requests sent from the Comtrol device.

Note: MAC must be checked in the Device window as discussed in <u>Step 22</u> on Page 20.

1. Access the **Properties** page for the device using the appropriate procedure:

    Windows XP and Windows 2000:

    a. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

    b. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are configuring, and select the **Properties** menu item.

    Windows NT:

    a. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

    b. Select the **Adapters** tab.

    c. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Properties** button.

2. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device name for which you want to disable DHCP requests, and select **Properties**.

3. Select the **IP Programming** tab.
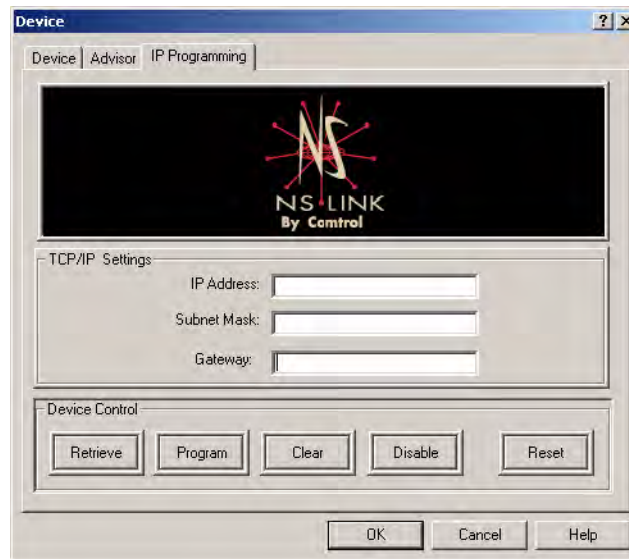
4. Select the **Disable** button.

   Note: *Not available on all NS-Link devices. If the button is greyed out, then this feature is not available.*

5. Select the **Reset** button and wait until the device reloads.

   Note: *The Comtrol device cycles its LEDs.*

6. Select **Ok** to close the Device window.

7. Select **Ok** to close the Properties window.

8. Close the Device Manager or the Network Property page (depending on the operating system).

Changing Device Properties

After installation and configuration, you may want to change device properties, such as the device name or configure the KeepAlive Time-out Period or the TCP Time-out Multiplier. Use the following to change these values.

1. Access the **Properties** page for the device using the appropriate procedure:

   Windows XP and Windows 2000:

   a. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

   b. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are configuring, and select the **Properties** menu item.

   Windows NT:

   a. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

   b. Select the **Adapters** tab.

   c. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Properties** button.

2. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device, and select **Properties**.

The screen for Windows NT is similar.

3. Optionally, rename the NS-Link default name by entering a unique name in the **Name** field.

4. Optionally, set a different **KeepAlive Timeout Period.** You can set the amount of time in seconds that this device waits until it closes this connection and frees all the ports associated with it.

The KeepAlive feature works in the following ways:

- During normal operation the driver periodically sends a connection check to the NS-Link device, and the device then returns a response. There are two timers, one in the driver, and one in the device. These timers are reset when a connection check signal is received and goes to the next signal. If a connection is broken, the data is stored in the computer and the device. Depending on the amount of time that has expired since the connection was lost, the following happens:

  - When the computer loses its connection to the device but re-establishes it before the timeout period expires, any data transmitted during this period is queued and sent when the connection resumes.

  - When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device and does not re-establish it before the timeout period expires; the driver then purges any pending I/O data for ports on that connection and returns all pending, and future I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close**

command, to the application with an error indicating the disconnected status.
This is similar to the processing which occurs when the computer receives a notification from the device that a port release request, from **FreePort**, was processed on a port it owns with the exception that a different status is returned. When the connection is re-established, the computer will attempt to re-acquire the ports that were open when the connection was lost. If the attempt is successful, normal operations resume for the port. If any port has been acquired, then the computer will continue to fail all further I/O operations, with the exception of a **Close** request. When the **Close** request is received, the port can then be re-opened.

- When the computer loses its connection to the NS-Link device, and the time period expires, the device places the port into a state from which another computer can establish a connection, locking out the original driver when the connection is made. The driver will respond to all I/O commands, with the exception of the **Close** command, with an error indicating the disconnect status.

If you need the ability to reconnect with a port that another server is currently using, Comtrol includes an utility called **FreePort** (Page 78) and its source code which makes the API calls that would force a port closure. The included source code for **FreePort** demonstrates the calls an application would make to perform the same operation.

5. Optionally, set the **TCP Timeout Multiplier** value.

Use the TCP Multiplier to modify two timers used in TCP/IP socket communications. The first identifies how long the TCP protocol should wait before timing out an attempt to open a TCP channel. This timer defaults to 500 ms when the TCP/IP address method is used to communicate with a device. If the TCP Multiplier is set to 2, the timer would now be 1000 ms, or 1 sec. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 2000 ms, or 2 sec.

The second timer defines how long the driver will wait for a response from the device when a forced release of a port is requested (i.e. as when the **Freeport** utility is being used). This timer defaults to 8 seconds. If the TCP Multiplier is changed to 2, the timer would now be 16 seconds. If the multiplier is 4, the new timeout period would be 32 seconds.

6. Select the **Ok** button to close the Device window.

7. Close the Device Manager or the Network property page (depending on the operating system).

Using the Advisor

You can use the **Advisor** tab to get a summary of the device status. The Advisor tab can be useful for troubleshooting network problems with your device.

Starting the Device Advisor

1. Use the following procedure to access the Device Advisor:

   Windows XP and Windows 2000:

   a. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

   b. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are configuring, and select the **Properties** menu item.

   Windows NT:

   a. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

   b. Select the **Adapters** tab.

   c. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Properties** button.

2. Select the **Main Setup** tab, highlight the device, and select **Properties**.
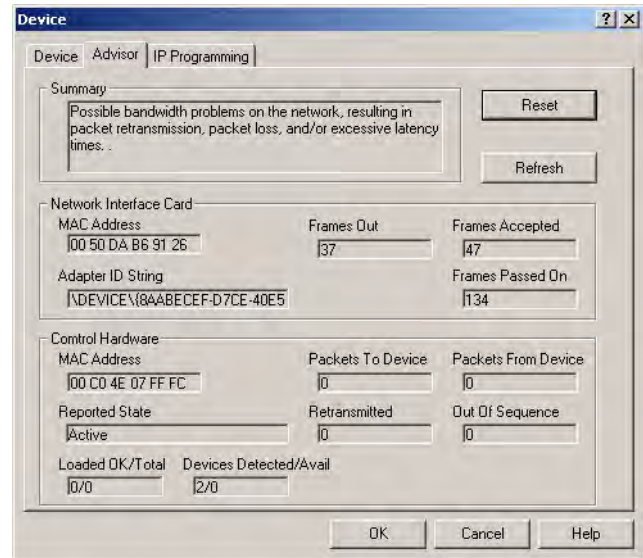

The screen for Windows NT is similar.

3. Select the **Advisor** tab.

The **Advisor** contains the following fields:

- **Summary** displays information regarding the current state of the selected device. This information is updated constantly. See *Device Advisor Driver Messages* on Page 60, for a list of messages and meanings.

- **Network Interface Card:**

  - **MAC Address** is the reported MAC address of the Ethernet (NIC) card in the server. Since a server may contain more than one Ethernet card, identifying exactly which Ethernet card is being used by NS-Link may help you to identify and resolve problems.

  - **Adapter ID string** is the network interface card binding string. Every network entity that needs to be uniquely identified has a Globally Unique Identifier (GUID). The presence of this string indicates that NS-Link has been bound to a specific NIC card.

  - **Frames Out** is the count of the number of frames output by NS-Link through the identified network interface. This includes all administrative, data, and control frames, and should be incriminated whenever the device and NS-Link are operating, even if the device is idle.

  - **Frames Accepted** is the count of the number of received frames accepted by NS-Link for further processing. These must be well-formed packets with the correct protocol identifiers for NS-Link.

  - **Frames Passed On** is when a network interface card (NIC) receives a packet, it passes the packet around to each driver or application that is bound to the NIC until one of them recognizes and accepts the packet.

    This field shows the count of the number of received frames that have gone into NS-Link and been returned to the NIC layer for processing by other software.

    If a received packet it not accepted by NS-Link or any other driver, it is discarded.

- **Comtrol Hardware:**

  - **MAC address** is the network (MAC) address of the NS-Link device that is currently selected. It should match both the MAC address on the Device Setup tab and the MAC address on the physical device.

  - **Packets To Device** is the count of information and control frames sent to a layer in NS-Link and indicates actual data traffic sent.

  - **Packets From Device** is the count of information and control frames received by a layer in NS-Link, and indicates actual data traffic received.

  - **Reported State** contains a message showing the status of the NS-Link software in relation to the selected device.

  - **Retransmitted** is a count of information frames requiring retransmission due to network errors. If this value is not zero, you have network problems.

  - **Out of Sequence** is a count of information frames received out of order due to network errors. If this value is not zero, you have network problems.

- **Loaded OK/Total** indicates the ratio of successful loads to load attempts. The rightmost, or **Total**, number indicates the number of times the system tried to load NS-Link, while the left most number indicates the number of times that NS-Link activated successfully after loading. Ideally, these two numbers should be the same.

- **Devices Detected/Avail** indicates the number of NS-Link devices currently attached to the network, and the number of devices currently available to be acquired by this server.

  For example, if you have one device installed, and it is not currently configured on any server, then the value displayed is 1/1. But if you have one device installed, and it is currently configured on a server, then the value displayed is 1/0.

Device Advisor Driver Messages

The following tables provide information about device driver summary messages and reported state messages.

Message	Description
Active	The normal state for NS-Link device that is attached to a server and is ready for data traffic.
Cannot detect any NS-Link.	Network traffic is being received, but not from a NS-Link device. Check the network connections and verify that the NS-Link device is powered up.
Cannot detect network	No inbound traffic of any sort NS-Link device may be inoperative or you may have a network cabling problem.
Cannot detect NS-Link with specified MAC address.	Network traffic is being received from a NS-Link device, but not the one specified in the **Network Connection** tab. Check the device to make sure that you are using the correct MAC address and check the **General** tab to verify that you are working with the correct device.
Connect	The server has completed the download and is completing initialization.
Counts reset.	This message displays immediately after you click the **Reset** button.
Init	This is the normal state for undetected and inactive NS-Link device.
InitOwn	The server has acquired the NS-Link device but has not downloaded the control software.
Invalid	An illegal NS-Link device state has been detected. Reset the NS-Link device.
Not found	The specified MAC address is not configured on this server.
NS-Link active.	Normal state: the NS-Link device is installed correctly and active with data traffic.
NS-Link detected, initializing.	The server has acquired the NS-Link device and is downloading the control program. The device will be available shortly.
NS-Link device detected and configured for this server, but is not yet assigned to this server.	Either the NS-Link device is currently being controlled by another server or the device power has been cycled and the device is waiting for a server to acquire it.

Message	Description
NS-Link device with specified MAC address was detected, but is not configured for this server.	Either the NS-Link device in question is not assigned to this server, or it is not assigned to *any* server, or it has been configured for this server but the configuration has not been saved. If the latter, save and exit, and restart the server
NS-Link responsive, but no data traffic exchange since last inquiry.	The NS-Link device appears to be installed correctly and active, but no data traffic has been sent or received since the last time you clicked the **Refresh** button. If there should have been traffic, check the NS-Link device port configuration and external cabling.
NS-Link responsive; data traffic received, but nothing sent since last inquiry.	Similar to above, except the NS-Link device has received data successfully.
NS-Link responsive; data traffic sent, but nothing received since last inquiry.	Similar to above, except the NS-Link device has sent data successfully.
Poor connection to NS-Link.	This message displays if retransmissions occur, frames arrive out of sequence, or more than 2% of the total packets arrive out of sequence. This generally indicates a cable, connector, or LAN termination problem.
SendCode	The server has acquired the NS-Link device and is in the process of downloading the control software.
Unable to contact a Network Interface Controller (NIC)	The server NIC card may not be installed, may be malfunctioning, or may not be bound to the NS-Link device.
Unable to contact the NS-Link driver	The NS-Link device NS-Link is not installed or is not responding to Advisor requests.
Undefined	No NS-Link devices are configured on this server.
Unintialized	NS-Link device has not been installed correctly.

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COM Port Configuration

Use this subsection if you want to configure standard or advanced COM port properties. See the following subsection for standard COM port configuration and see *Configuring Advanced COM Port Properties* on Page 66.

To change the default communications mode on supported models from RS-232 to RS-422 or RS-485, see *Configuring Advanced COM Port Properties* on Page 66.
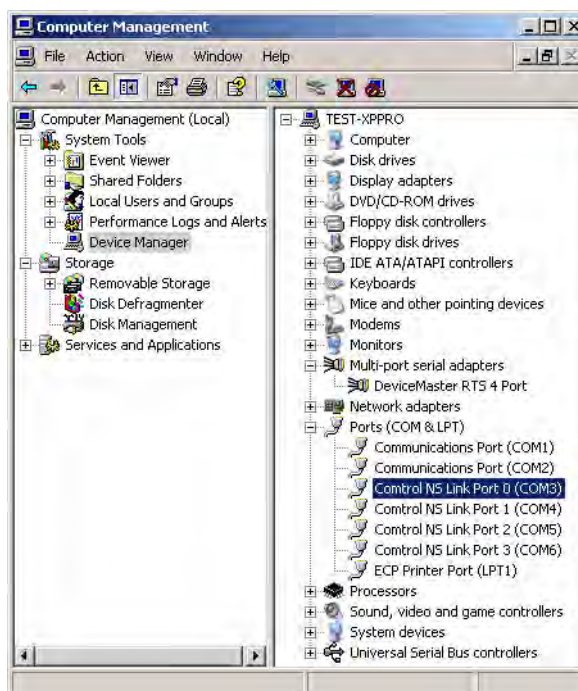
Configuring Standard COM Port Properties

Use the appropriate procedure for your operating system if your application does not set COM port properties. If the application sets COM port properties, those settings take precedence over the standard COM port settings. The exception to this guideline is if you use the *Override and Lock Baud Rate* advanced COM port setting (Page 67).
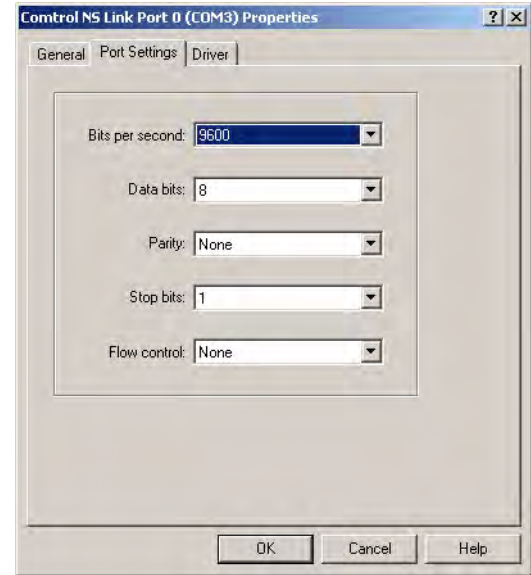
Windows XP and Windows 2000

Use the following information if you need assistance configuring standard COM port properties.

1. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

2. Expand the **Ports (COM & LPT)** entry, right-click on the COM port you want to configure, and select the **Properties** menu item.

3. Select the **Port Settings** tab.

4. Make any necessary changes for the port.

5. Repeat Steps 2 through 4 for each port you want to configure port attributes.
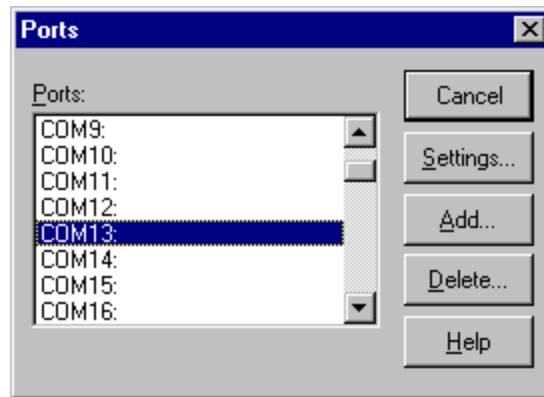
Windows NT   Use the following information if you need assistance configuring standard COM port properties.
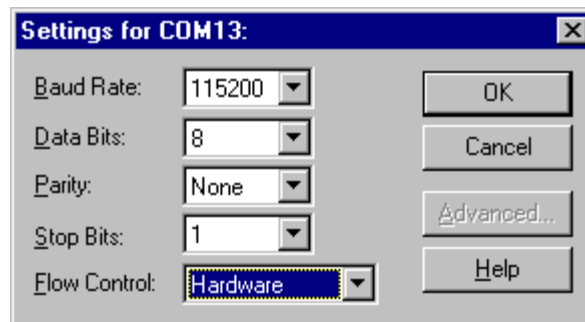
1. Open the **Ports** control panel.

2. Select the port that you want to configure.

3. Make any necessary changes for the port.

Configuring Advanced COM Port Properties

Use this subsection to configure advanced COM port properties.

1. Access the **Properties** page for the device using the appropriate procedure:

   Windows XP and Windows 2000:

   a. Right-click **My Computer**, select **Manage**, and highlight **Device Manager**.

   b. Expand the **Multi-port serial adapters** entry, right-click on the device you are configuring, and select the **Properties** menu item.

   Windows NT:

   a. Right-click on the **Network Neighborhood**, and select **Properties**.

   b. Select the **Adapters** tab.

   c. Highlight **Comtrol NS-Link** and select the **Properties** button.

2. Select the **Main Setup** tab when the Properties screen appears.

3. Highlight the **COM port** that you want to configure and select **Properties**.

4. If applicable for your model, select the appropriate RS mode to match the communications mode of the peripheral that you are connecting to that particular COM port.

5. Optionally, make any necessary changes to fit your environment:

   a. Select a baud rate from the drop list or enter a baud rate value to access higher or lower rates than are normally permitted by your Windows 2000 or Windows XP applications.

   b. If applicable, set a time delay on the transmit data before a port closes.
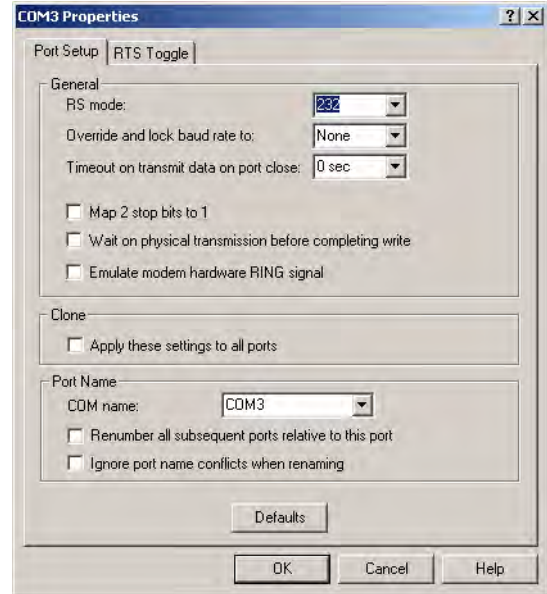
      Note: You can select the length of time to wait for data to clear the transmit buffer, before a close request from a host application is completed. If data is still in the transmit buffer, you can set a delay time to allow the buffer to empty. This is typically used with slower peripheral devices such as printers, to give the data sufficient time to flush through the system.

   c. If applicable, select **Map 2 stop bits to 1**.

      Note: You can use this option to map 2 stop bits to 1 bit. If the application you are using is hard coded to use two stop bits and you are receiving framing errors, you can implement this option. Leave this box unchecked to enable stop bits to pass through unchanged.

   d. If appropriate, select **Wait for physical transmission before completing write**.

      Note: Use this option to force all write packets to wait until the transmit data has physically completed the transmission before returning completion to the host application. The default mode (box not checked) is to buffer the data in the transmit hardware buffer and return completion as soon as the packet is in the buffer. This is typically used with slower peripheral devices such as printers, to give the data sufficient time to flush through the system.

   e. If required, select **Emulate modem hardware ring signal**.

      Note: This emulates a hardware RI (ring indicator) signal.

   f. If you want all ports on this device configured to the same settings, select **Clone**.

      *Note: If this box is checked, the changes in the **General** category area are applied to **all NS-Link ports in the system**. If this box is not checked, the changes you make to the Port Setup options apply to the selected port only.*

   g. Change the COM port name of this port by selecting a new name in the **COM name** drop list.

   h. To renumber all subsequent ports relative to the port displayed in the COM name drop list, select **Renumber all subsequent ports relative to this port**.

The DeviceMaster Serial Hub only supports RS-232.

    i. Optionally, select **Ignore port name conflicts when renaming**, to avoid warnings to appear when renumbering ports. For example, if renumbering a four port device from COM3 through COM6 to COM4 through COM7, and you do not select this option, a warning message for COM4, COM5, and COM6 displays.

    j. If you need to configure RTS (Request to Send) options, select the **RTS Toggle** tab.

    k. Configure the port and select **Ok** after making the appropriate selections.

The Override and lock to RTS (Request to Send) toggle mode option allows you to lock the port in RTS toggle mode, then set the mode (low or high) as desired.

The RTS Toggle RTS Low option allows you to toggle the RTS output signal low during data transmission. If the option box is not checked, RTS is toggled high (asserted) during data transmission.
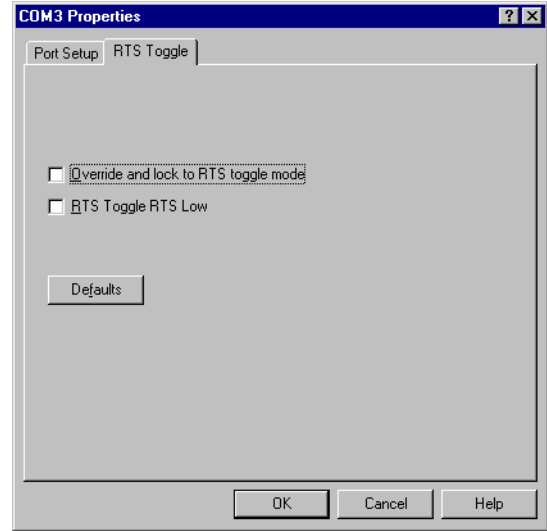
6. After configuring your port (COM) properties, select the **Ok** button. The Main Setup window returns.

7. If you did not clone all the COM ports, repeat through 6 until all of the COM ports that you want to use are configured.

8. Select the **Ok** button after you have configured each port.

9. Close the Device Manager or the Network property page (depending on the operating system).

10. Select Shutdown from the **Start** button and **Restart** your system for the changes to take affect.

Comtrol Tools

This section discusses the following utilities that are installed with most Comtrol drivers for Microsoft operating systems:

- Test Terminal program (**wcom32.exe**), which can be used to troubleshoot communications on a port-by-port basis (*Using Test Terminal* on Page 69).

- Port Monitor program (**portmon.exe**), which checks for errors, modem control, and status signals (*Using Port Monitor* on Page 71). In addition, it provides you with raw byte input and output counts.

- Peer Tracer program (**peer.exe**), which traces driver events (*Using Peer Tracer* on Page 77).

- FreePort program, which frees a specified port (*Using Freeport* on Page 78)

Using Test Terminal

WCOM32 is a terminal program that enables you to open a port, send characters and commands to the port, and toggle the control signals.

*Note: WCOM32 will **not** work on ports used by RAS **if Remote Access Service is running** or any other application is using the port. If you are using RAS, you must stop the service before starting WCOM32 to test RAS COM ports. To test ports that are not used by RAS, you do not need to stop RAS.*

Follow these steps:

1. Start **Test Terminal** from the Comtrol NS-Link program group.
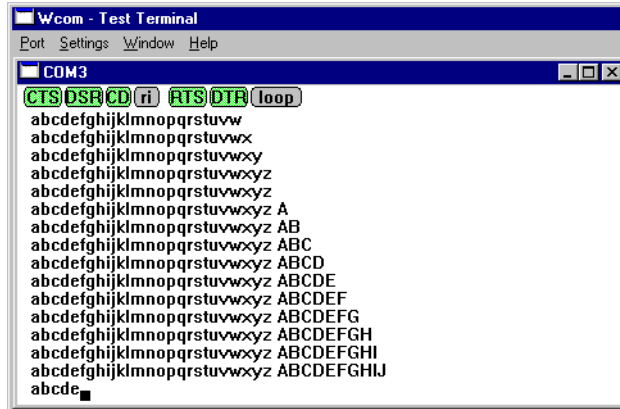
2. Select **Ok** if this screen appears:
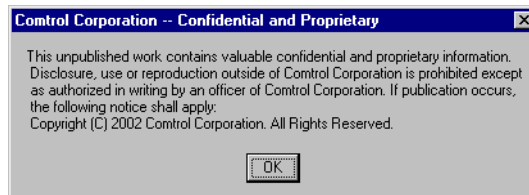
3. Select **Open Port** from the **Port** menu. A list of possible COM port numbers displays.

4. Select the COM port you want to test.
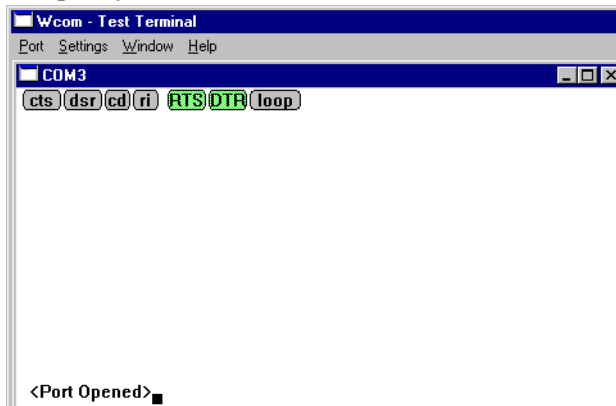
If the COM port does not exist or if it is currently being used by another program, a *Create File Error* message displays.

If the COM port is available, a terminal window pops up:

Note: *Notice the <loop> button in the terminal window. If this option is activated, it is green and uppercase (LOOP), the COM port internal loopback feature is activated, and the data is returned by the COM port hardware. If this option is deactivated, it is gray and lowercase (loop), the internal loopback is deactivated, and the data is sent out the COM port.*

Testing a Comtrol Device

Use the following procedure to test the Comtrol device.

1. Place a loopback plug on the COM port you are testing. Make sure all connectors are seated firmly and that the loop button is **off**.

    Note: *Test terminal works for RS-232 and RS-422 mode.*

    To build loopback plugs, see the hardware installation document for the Comtrol device.

2. From the **Port** menu, select **Send Test Data**. The program sends out a repeating data stream.

    Note: *To stop the data stream, select Send Test Data again.*

    *   If the loopback plug is in place and the port is working correctly, the test data should be echoed back to the screen.
    *   If the loopback plug is **not** in place or the port is not working correctly, no data or garbled data is echoed back to the screen.

   *Note:* *If no characters appear, insure that the loopback plug is attached to the correct port.*

3. If further testing is required, select **Loopback Test** from the **Port** menu.

    Note: *The Loopback Test only works for ports configured for RS-232.*
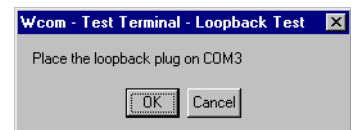
    If the loopback plug is in place and the port is working correctly, the system should return the message *Passed*.

    If the loopback plug is not in place or the port is not working correctly, the system will return the message *Failed*.
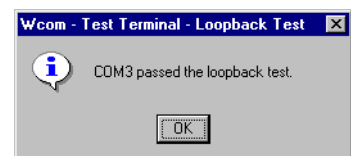
    Note: *If the port is set to RS-422 or RS-485 mode, the Loopback test will send a "Port failed loopback test" message.*

Testing a Comtrol Device (RS-485)

Perform the following procedure to determine if a port or ports are functioning properly.

1. Connect a straight-through cable from Port 1 to Port 2.

   Note: *See hardware installation documentation for the device if you need to build a cable. If testing ports other than Ports 1 and 2, simply connect the cable between any two ports.*

2. Open a session for each port.

3. Enter data into the Port 1 session, the data should appear in the *Port 2* window.

4. Enter data into the Port 2 session, the data should appear in the *Port 1* window.

   Note: *If the data appears as described in Steps 3 and 4, the hardware is functioning properly.*

Test Terminal Modem Control Signals

The terminal window displays the modem control signals as gray or green lights at the top of the window. The first four are inputs: cts dsr cd ri

The lights are green if they are turned on, or gray if off. The text on the light also changes from uppercase (CTS), which is on, to lowercase (cts), which is off.

The next two lights are outputs: RTS DTR

Note: *If you have a loopback plug connected and you click on one of the outputs, the corresponding signal is sent to the input and the input lights should toggle accordingly.*

This test will only work if hardware handshaking is turned off.

Using Port Monitor

The Port Monitor program (**portmon.exe**) offers a summary of all Comtrol device statistics in one spreadsheet view. It also enables you to verify operation of all Comtrol device ports from a single window.

The Port Monitor display follows the familiar spreadsheet model: each COM port is a horizontal row, and each vertical column displays a variable or value for the respective COM port. For definitions of the abbreviations used, see *Port Monitor Variables* on Page 75.

Port Monitor can also produce statistics and reports that can help you verify the operation of the COM ports and connected peripherals. Some immediate feedback includes:

• The state of the modem control and status signals

• Open ports

• Raw byte input and output counts obtained from the device driver

• Port errors

The available statistics include:

• Instantaneous characters per second (CPS) calculations

• Minute, hour, and day CPS averages and peaks

• Carrier detect (CD) signal runtime and transition count

Reports can be automatically generated on an hourly and/or daily basis, and can cover all ports collectively or a separate report for each port. You can also set how often the values are recalculated, fine-tuning thoroughness against system efficiency, and automatically run external batch files to perform additional processing and analysis.

Starting Port Monitor

To run Port Monitor, select **Port Monitor** from the NS-Link Comtrol program group. The Port Monitor window displays:

Device	Oper	CTS	DSI	CD	RTS	DTI	TxTotal	RxTotal	TxCPSInst	RxCPSInst	Errors	TxMinCPS	RxMinCP	TxCPSM
COM3	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	53.138k	39.892k	0	0	1	0	0	0
COM4	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COM5	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
COM6	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	Off	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: To change the appearance of the screen, see the following discussion.

Once the monitor window displays, Port Monitor is active and collecting data. If any cumulative data has been saved from previous sessions, it is automatically brought in and used.

Port Monitor continues to run and collect data until you terminate it, at which point all accumulated data is automatically saved for use in the next session.

Changing Screen Appearance

While Port Monitor is running, there are a number of commands and controls that change the appearance of the screen.

Desired Change	Procedure
Change the monitor window font.	Select **Font** from the **Edit** menu.
Change width of a single column.	Left-click on the column separator (vertical) line and drag it to the desired width.
Change column placement.	Left-click in the middle of the column you want to move and drag it to the desired location.
Remove a column.	Right-click on the column you want to remove and select **Remove** from the pop-up menu.
Clear all fields and reset them to null values.	Right-click on the upper left cell in the table and select **Reset** from the pop-up menu.*
Clear any single field *except* the upper left cell.	Right-click on the field to be cleared and select **Reset** from the pop-up menu.*
Add a column.	Right-click on the column now occupying the desired location and select **Add** from the pop-up menu. You are prompted to name the variable you want to display, as well as other information. (See *Column Setup*, below.) After you click **OK**, the column is inserted in the selected location and the existing column is moved to the right.
Change other properties of a column.	Right-click on the column and select **Properties** from the pop-up menu. (See *Column Setup*, below.)

*   *The **Reset** command does not clear raw data from the **calcs.dat** file. It simply resets the selected display fields to their null values. For more information regarding **calcs.dat** see [Port Monitor Files]() on Page 74.*

Column Setup

When you select **Add** or **Properties** from the column pop-up menu, the Column Setup window displays:

- Use the **Input** droplist to select the variable displayed in the column.

- Use the **Type** droplist to select the way in which the value displays: either as an integer, as an on/off state, as an integer with a kilo, mega, or giga suffix, or as an hh:mm:ss time stamp. This defaults to the appropriate type for the selected Input variable.

- Use the **Name** variable to change the column heading name.

- Use the **Width** variable to specify the column width in characters.

- Use **Color0** to set the column character color when the value is zero.

- Use **Color1** to set the column character color when the value is not zero.

- When done, click **OK** to save your changes and return to Port Monitor.
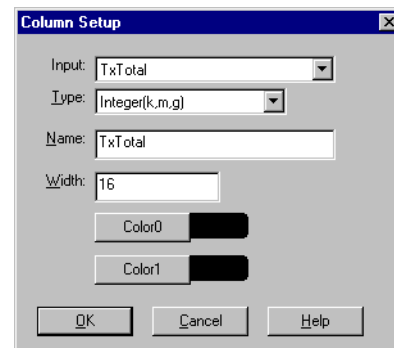
Report Configuration

To configure reports, select **Config** from the Edit menu.

The **Single** report options cover all ports and are overwritten each time the reports are generated. The **Multiple** report options generate a separate report for each port, and each report file is appended each time the report is generated.

For **Hour** reports, use the Single and Multiple droplists to select whether you are generating single or multiple reports, or both. For each report type, select from the following types of data to include:

- None: no report is generated.

- Hour Data: only variables with "Hour" in the name are included.

- All Data: all variables are included.

- View Data: only variables that appear on-screen are included.

The **External Program** field is used to enter a command line to run another program after the hourly reports have been generated. For example, you can use this to run a batch file that performs custom report processing. The **Test** button causes the command line to be executed immediately.

For **Day** reports, the single and multiple droplists behave the same, but your choices are:

- None: no report is generated.

- Day Data: only variables with the words "Day" or "Raw" in the names are included.

- All Data: all variables are included.

- View Data: only the variables that appear in the Port Monitor window are included.

Likewise, the **External Program** field is used to enter a command line to be
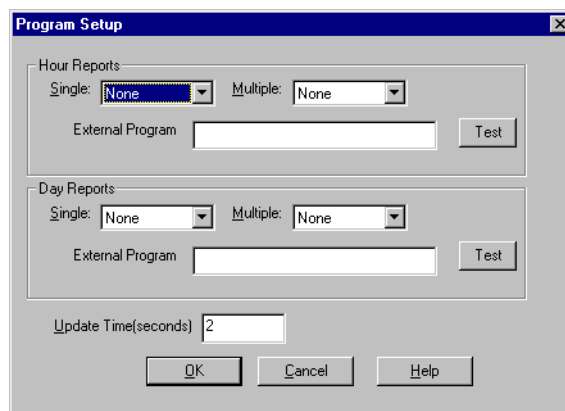
executed after the daily reports have been generated.

The **Update Time** option allows you to set the rate at which the port information is obtained and the calculations performed. There is a trade-off between Port Monitor efficiency and response time. If you are using Port Monitor to view the port activity on the screen, you may want to set the update time to 1 or 2 seconds, so that the screen is updated frequently. If you are concerned about the monitor program using CPU resources, set this to a higher value, (6 to 20 seconds) in order to decrease the time required by the program to perform the calculations and update the screen.

If Port Monitor is left active to generate reports, minimizing or reducing the display area of the program will help reduce the CPU overhead of updating the screen.

Port Monitor Files   Port Monitor creates and uses the following files:

- **portmon.vew**
- **calcs.dat**

The default column layout is saved in **portmon.vew**. If you have been experimenting with the appearance of the monitor screen, you can use the File menu **Save** option to save your customized layout in another **.vew** file. You can retrieve this file later by using the File menu **Open** option, or you can use the Edit menu **View Default** option to retrieve **portmon.vew** and restore the default view.

All Port Monitor calculations are saved at program exit and on the hour in a binary file named **calcs.dat**. This enables you to halt Port Monitor execution without losing accumulated data.

Port Monitor also creates a **\REPORTS** directory. All hourly and daily reports are saved in this directory, under the following names:

- **hall.txt** — hourly single report
- **dall.txt** — daily single report
- **hcomx.txt** — hourly multiple reports, where *x* is the port number
- **dcomx.txt** — daily multiple reports, where *x* is the port number

Caution: *Since multiple reports append new data each time they are written, the multiple report files grow in size. It is up to you to delete them periodically.*

Some safeguards are built into the program to avoid filling up a hard disk drive due to growing report files. The monitoring program stops writing additional data to the multiple reports if they reach a size of 2 MB. Also, the program will not write out data files to the disk drive if the spare room on the drive is less than 2 MB in size.

To view or edit an hourly or daily report, use the Edit Report option on the File menu, or use a system tool such as NOTEPAD.

For more information, see the Port Monitor **Help** file.

Port Monitor Variables

The following table lists Port Monitor variables.

Variable	Description
Open	Open status, on if open, off if closed.
Cts	Input CTS pin status.
Dsr	Input DSR pin status.
Cd	Input CD (carrier detect) pin status.
Rts	Output RTS pin status.
Dtr	Output DTR pin status.
TxTotal	Total bytes transmitted.
RxTotal	Total bytes received.
TxCPSInst	Instantaneous average of transmit characters per second.
RxCPSInst	Instantaneous average of receive characters per second.
Errors	Total hardware receive errors (parity, framing, and overruns.)
TxMinCPS	Last minute average of transmit characters per second.
RxMinCPS	Last minute average of receive characters per second.
TxCPSMinAvMax	Peak TxCPSInst for the last minute.
RxCPSMinAvMax	Peak RxCPSInst for the last minute.
TxCPSHourAvMax	Peak TxMinCPS for the last hour.
RxCPSHourAvMax	Peak RxMinCPS for the last hour.
TxCPSDayAvMax	Peak TxMinCPS for the last day.
RxCPSDayAvMax	Peak RxMinCPS for the last day.
TxTotalRaw	Total number of transmit bytes raw data from the device driver.
RxTotalRaw	Total number of receive bytes raw data from the device driver.
TxMinCnt	Count of transmit bytes sent in last minute.
TxHourCnt	Transmit bytes count sent in the last hour.
TxDayCnt	Transmit bytes count sent in the last day.
RxMinCnt	Receive bytes count sent in the last minute.
RxHourCnt	Receive bytes count sent in the last hour.
RxDayCnt	Receive bytes count sent in the last day.
TxMinCntWrk	Transmit bytes count sent in this minute.
TxHourCntWrk	Transmit bytes count sent in this hour.
TxDayCntWrk	Transmit bytes count sent in this day.
RxMinCntWrk	Receive bytes count sent in this minute.
RxHourCntWrk	Receive bytes count sent in this hour.
RxDayCntWrk	Receive bytes count sent in this day.

Variable	Description
TxCPSMinAvMaxWrk	Peak TxCPSInst for the current minute.
TxCPSHourAvMaxWrk	Peak TxMinCPS for the current hour.
TxCPSDayAvMaxWrk	Peak TxHourCPS for the current day.
RxCPSMinAvMaxWrk	Peak RxCPSInst for the current minute.
RxCPSHourAvMaxWrk	Peak RxMinCPS for the current hour.
RxCPSDayAvMaxWrk	Peak RxHourCPS for the current day.
CDRuns	Carrier detect turn-on count.
CDDayRuns	Carrier detect turn-on count in the last day.
CDDayRunsWrk	Carrier detect turn-on count in the current day.
CDRunTime	Time in seconds carrier detect has been on.
CDHourRunTime	Time in seconds carrier detect has been on in the last hour.
CDDayRunTime	Time in seconds carrier detect has been on in the last day.
CDHourRunTimeWrk	Time in seconds carrier detect has been on this hour.
CDDayRunTimeWrk	Time in seconds carrier detect has been on this day.
StatusFlags	Bit flags, Open, CTS, DSR, CD, RTS, DTR
TxPkts	Raw count of total transmit packets sent.
RxPkts	Raw count of total receive packets sent.
OverrunErrors	Total count of receive overrun errors.
FramingErrors	Total count of receive framing errors.
ParityErrors	Total count of receive parity errors.
OverrunErrorsRaw	Total count of receive overrun errors, from the device driver.
FramingErrorsRaw	Total count of receive framing errors, from the device driver.
ParityErrorsRaw	Total count of receive parity errors, from the device driver.

Using Peer Tracer

The **Peer Tracer** program (**peer.exe**) is specifically designed to view the internal operations of the device driver for the purpose of troubleshooting communications on Windows NT, Windows 2000, and Windows XP systems. **Peer** enables you to see:

- Receive and transmit data
- Internal driver event traces
- Advanced configuration and status information

Like Test Terminal, **Peer** acts as a simple terminal session, and is used to send and receive text information to and from the device driver. To use **Peer**, you type in commands, and status and information are sent back.

Unlike Test Terminal, **Peer** enables you to keep a continuous log of the commands sent and the results received in a file named **peer.log**. Comtrol Technical Support may ask you to run **Peer** in order to help diagnose reported problems.

Starting Peer

Peer Tracer does not appear in the Comtrol program group.

To start Peer, you may need to open the **Windows Explorer**, access the **\WINNT\system32\rpshSi** directory, and double-click on **peer.exe**. The **Peer** Tracer window displays (at right).

Log Functions

All logging functions are found under the File menu. To start keeping a log, select **Log to Disk** from the File menu. The other options on this menu are View Disk Log, Clear Disk Log, Clear Screen, and Exit.

Using Peer

To use peer, simply type in commands at the **: prompt**. (It may be necessary to press **Enter** to make the **: prompt** appear.) For example, to examine COM5, type: **PORT COM5 <Enter>**

To gather some information about the port, type: **STAT <Enter>**. This should return details about the port.

To turn on monitoring of any calls into driver (events), type: **MON EV <Enter>**

To send strings and commands to attached peripherals—for example, to send "ATH0" to a modem—type: **SEND ATH0 <Enter>**. A return and linefeed are always appended to each string sent.

Other Peer Commands

Enter commands at the **:** prompt and follow each command with **Enter**.

Command	Effect
MON TX	Monitor data being transmitted through the selected port.
MON RX	Monitor data being received through the selected port.
M	Turn off all monitoring.
?	Display Peer Tracer command summary.
PORT COM*xx*	Change port being examined to COM*xx*.

Keep in mind that all commands are processed in the device driver, and that **Peer** simply acts as a conduit for this information. For more information, see the **Peer.hlp** help file.

Using Freeport

FreePort is an application utility that provides a simple mechanism to communicate to the NS-Link device driver that it should request the physical device to close the physical ports which are associated with the specified logical ports.

See the **Freeport.cpp** file (bundled with the driver) for a simple example on how other applications could implement this capability themselves. The **Freeport.cpp** file can be found in the **C:\WINNT\System32\RpshSi** subdirectory after driver installation.

Troubleshooting and Technical Support

This section contains troubleshooting information for your Comtrol device. You should review the following subsections before calling Technical Support because they will request that you perform many of the procedures or verifications before they will be able to help you diagnose a problem.

- Troubleshooting checklist
- *General Troubleshooting* on Page 81
- *NS-Link Driver Troubleshooting* on Page 82

If you cannot diagnose the problem, you can contact *Technical Support* on Page 83.

Troubleshooting Checklist

The following checklist may help you diagnose your problem:

- Verify that you are using the correct types of cables on the correct connectors and that all cables are connected securely using the hardware documentation.
- Most customer problems reported to Comtrol Technical Support are eventually traced to cabling or network problems.
- Isolate the unit from the network by connecting the device directly to a NIC in a host system.

Product Type	Connected to	Ethernet Cable	Connector Name
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 8	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
DeviceMaster Serial Hub 16	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 NETWORK
DeviceMaster RTS 1	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 ETHERNET
DeviceMaster RTS 1 Embedded	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	RJ45 port (not labeled)
DeviceMaster RTS 4/8/16 with external power supply	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
DeviceMaster 16/32RM with internal power supply	Ethernet hub or NIC	Standard	10/100 NETWORK
DeviceMaster PRO 8/16	NIC	Standard	DOWN
	Ethernet hub	Standard	UP
RocketPort Serial Hub *ia*	NIC	Crossover	Network
	Ethernet hub	Standard	
RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* (2-Port)	NIC	Crossover	10/100BASE-T
	Ethernet hub	Standard	

- Verify that the Ethernet hub and any other network devices between the system and the Comtrol device are powered up and operating.

- Reset the power on the Comtrol device and watch the **PWR** or **Status** light activity.

Product Type	PWR or Status LED	Description
DeviceMaster Serial Hub **DeviceMaster RTS** **DeviceMaster Pro**	5 sec off, 3 flashes, 5 sec off, 3 flashes ...	Redboot checksum failure.
	5 sec off, 4 flashes, 5 sec off, 4 flashes ...	SREC load failure.
	5 quick flashes	The default application is starting up.
	10 sec on, .1 sec off, 10 sec on .1 sec off ...	The default application is running.
RocketPort Serial Hub *ia*	Flashing	Bootloader is running.
RocketPort Serial Hub *Si* (2-Port, only)	On	Firmware (**rpshsi2p.bin**) is running.

- If the device has a power switch, turn the device's power switch off and on, while watching the LED diagnostics.
- If the unit does not have a power switch, disconnect and reconnect the power cord.
- Verify that the hardware MAC address in NS-Link matches the address on the Comtrol device.
- Verify that the network IP address is correct. If IP addressing is being used, the system should be able to ping the Comtrol device.
- Verify that the IP address programmed into the Comtrol device matches the unique reserved IP configured address assigned by the system administrator.
- If using a driver for Microsoft systems, verify that you are addressing the port correctly. In many applications, device names above COM9 require the prefix **\\.** in order to be recognized. For example, to reference COM20, use \\.**COM20** as the file or port name.
- If using NS-Link for a Microsoft system, you can use one of the tools bundled with the drivers:
  - Test Terminal program (**wcom32.exe**), which can be used to troubleshoot communications on a port-by-port basis (*Using Test Terminal* on Page 69).
  - Port Monitor program (**portmon.exe**), which checks for errors, modem control, and status signals (*Using Port Monitor* on Page 71). In addition, it provides you with raw byte input and output counts.
  - Device Advisor, which helps identify problems is a tab in the **Device** window of the driver (*Using the Advisor* on Page 58).
  - Peer Tracer program (**peer.exe**), which traces driver events (*Using Peer Tracer* on Page 77).
- If using NS-Link for Windows hosts, enable the **Verbose Event Log** feature under the **Setup Options** tab and then reboot the system.
- Reboot the system and the Comtrol device.
- Remove and reinstall NS-Link.
- If you have a spare Comtrol device, try replacing the device.

General Troubleshooting

This table illustrates some general troubleshooting tips.

Note: *Make sure that you have reviewed the* [Troubleshooting Checklist](#) *on Page 79.*

General Condition	Explanation/Action
PWR or **Status** LED flashing	Indicates that boot program has not downloaded to the unit. 1. Make sure that you have downloaded the most current driver from http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp. 2. Install the driver and configure the device using the MAC address. Make sure that you reboot the system. *Note:* *If the PWR or Status LED is still flashing, contact Technical Support.* 3. If you want to program an IP address into the Comtrol device, you can use the procedure outlined in *NS-Link Driver Troubleshooting* on Page 82. 4. Remove the NS-Link driver.
PWR or **Status** LED not lit	Indicates that power has not been applied or there is a hardware failure. Contact Technical Support.
Can ping the Comtrol device, but cannot open the ports from a remote location. (You must have previously programmed the IP address, subnet mask, and IP gateway.)	The NS-Link driver uses Port 4606 (**11FE** h) to communicate with the Comtrol device. When using a "sniffer" to track NS-Link packets, filtering for Port 4606 will easily track the packet. The packet should also contain the MAC address of the device and the originating PC so that it can be determined if the packet is able to travel the full distance one way or not. If the 4606 packet is found on one side of a firewall or router, using sniffer, and not on the other side, then that port needs to be opened up to allow the 4606 to pass. This will most often be seen with firewalls, but is also seen in some routers.
Cannot ping the device through Ethernet hub	Isolate the unit from the network. Connect the device directly to the NIC in the host system (see Page 81).
Cannot ping or connect to the DeviceMaster RTS.	The default IP address is often not accessible due to the subnet masking from another network unless **192.168** is used in the network. In most cases, it will be necessary to program in an address that conforms to your network. If you do not use the NS-Link driver to program the IP address, you only have 10 seconds to disable the bootloader with Redboot to get into the setup utility. See the User Guide (Page 6) for your product for the Redboot method of programming an IP address.

NS-Link Driver Troubleshooting

This table includes some tips related to NS-Link drivers.

NS-Link Condition	Explanation/Action
Need to program IP address into the device.	Before programming an IP address it is critical that the unit be operational and passes the power on tests when configured for the MAC address. ***Note:*** *If the unit is NOT operational, do NOT attempt to program or use an IP address with the unit.* This is a general procedure for drivers on Microsoft operating systems. 1. In the Comtrol Setup, highlight the Comtrol device. 2. Select **Properties**. 3. Select **IP Programming**. 4. Select **Retrieve** and confirm or modify addresses as necessary. ***Note:*** *Enter in all 3 categories. The unit must have Address, Mask and Gateway IP values entered. If you do not have a default gateway address, try using the ID number assigned to the PC that has the NS-Link driver installation.* 5. Select **Program**. 6. Select **Reset** - power LED should begin blinking. 7. Select **Device Setup**. 8. Uncheck **MAC**. 9. Check **IP** and enter IP number that you configured earlier. 10. Select **Ok** (several times) and reboot the system. IP addressing will now be in effect.
Cannot open port	1. Verify that MAC address in the NS-Link driver matches the address on the Comtrol device. 2. Verify that you are using the correct NS-Link driver. If necessary, remove and reinstall a new driver. 3. Isolate the unit from the network (see Page 81). 4. Check to see if another program or computer is active on this port.
The Comtrol device has a lower limitation of network bandwidth requirement of 64 Kbps.	At this speed the entire available bandwidth is required for the purpose of uploading the firmware from the driver to the Comtrol device. At lower speeds, timing issues will prevent the firmware from being successfully installed to the Comtrol device, thus preventing the device from normal operation. When using the Comtrol device over a WAN link that is less than the recommended 64 Kbps, a timing modification may be made that will allow uploading of the firmware. Load the driver locally to the device for the purpose of getting the firmware installed. The PC on the other side of the slow link can then "share" the port. The sharing may be exclusive as the firmware loader PC may not need to access the ports.

Technical Support

If you need technical support, contact Comtrol using one of the following methods.

Contact Method	Corporate Headquarters	Comtrol Europe
FAQ/Online	http://support.comtrol.com/support.asp	
Downloads	http://support.comtrol.com/download.asp	
Email	support@comtrol.com	support@comtrol.co.uk
Web site	http://www.comtrol.com	http://www.comtrol.co.uk
Fax	(763) 494-4199	+44 (0) 1 869-323-211
Phone	(763) 494-4100	+44 (0) 1 869-323-220

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Appendix A. Windows NT Configuration Overview

Configuring Modems

After installing the hardware and driver for Windows NT, you can use this discussion to configure modem COM ports.

The Comtrol device can support any asynchronous serial modem for use by any application that uses TAPI. For information regarding port pinouts and signals, see the *User Guide* for the device (*Locating Hardware Installation Documentation* on Page 6).

Working with NT RAS

Comtrol products are frequently used to provide Dial-Up Networking access with NT RAS (Remote Access Service).

- If RAS is *not* installed, note that you must install at least one RAS-capable device (for example, modem) before installing and configuring RAS.

- If RAS *is* installed, note that the modem installation process automatically launches RAS Setup after modem installation is complete.

Installing Modems

The following instructions were developed using Comtrol modem products. If you are using another brand of modem, note that some prompts and window descriptions may differ from those shown.

Follow these steps:

1. Connect the modem to the desired port.

2. Power up the modem.

3. Open the **Control Panel** window.

4. Double-click the **Modems** icon.

   If you have no other modems installed, skip to Step 5.

If you have already installed another modem, the Modems Properties window displays. Select the **Add** button.
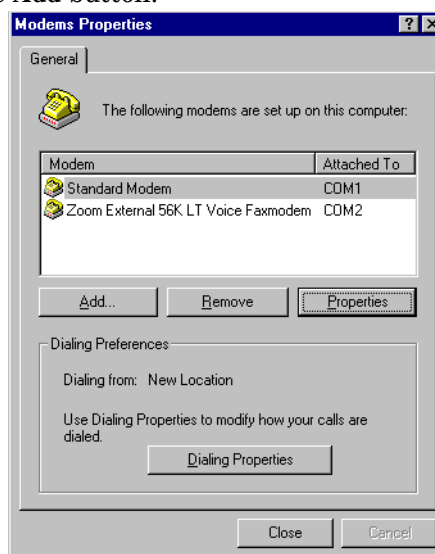
5. Check the "Don't detect my modem..." box and select **Next**.
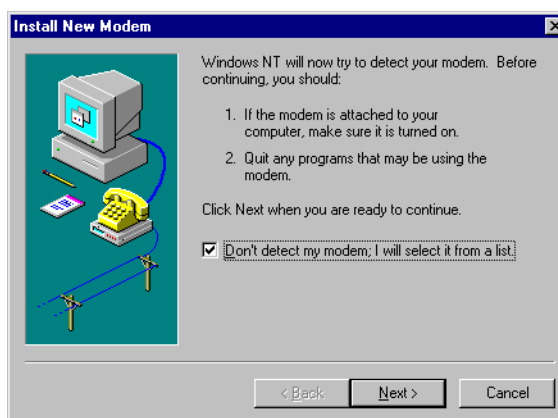
Note: *While Windows NT can automatically detect modems, we advise against using this option as auto-detect feature may cause some multiprocessor systems to lock up, and the modems may be installed in reverse order.*

6. Select the appropriate manufacturer and model and select **OK**. If the correct manufacturer and model do not appear on the list, select **Have Disk** to install software from a manufacturer-supplied installation diskette.

7. Select the COM port number.
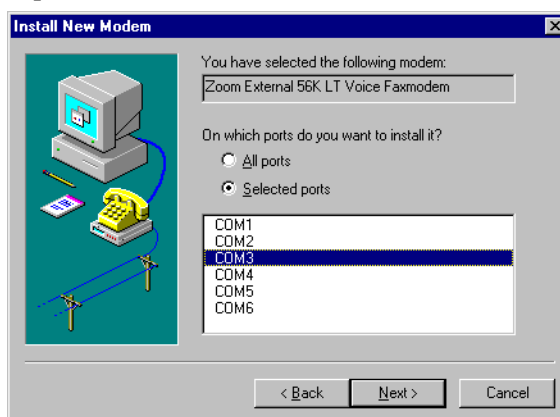
8. Select **Finish**. The modem software is installed on the selected ports.
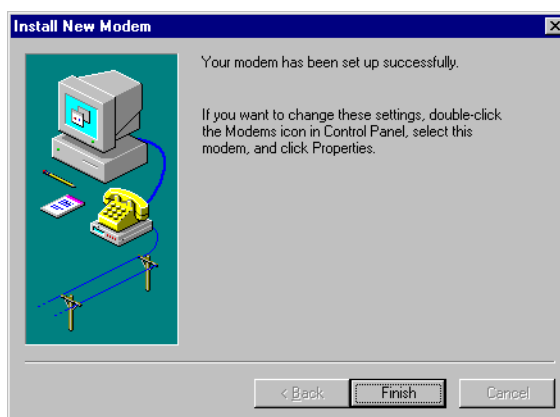
Depending on prior configuration, you may be asked to enter your country of use, area code, the number you dial to get an outside line, and whether you have tone or pulse dialing at this time.

9. If you need to configure modem properties (maximum baud rate, data bits, parity, and so on), select the **Properties** button, make the needed changes, then select **OK** to return to this window.

    Note: *For help configuring modem properties, see the Windows Help System.*

10. If you need to configure dialing properties (country, area code, calling card number, and so on), select the **Dialing Properties** button, make the needed changes, then select **OK** to return to this window.

11. Select **Close**.
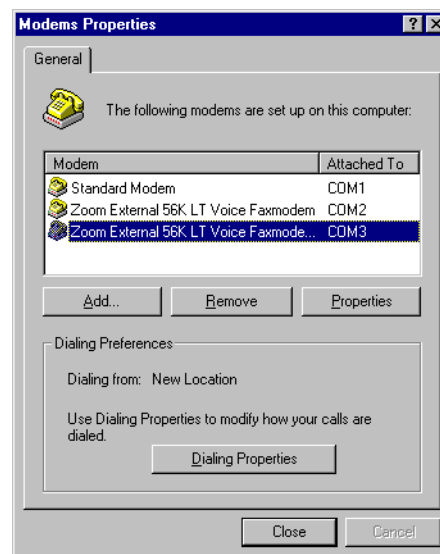
Further Modem Configuration

At this point:

- If you are not using RAS, you are now finished. Reboot the system so that your changes take effect and resume normal operations.

- If you plan to use RAS but do not have it installed yet, reboot your system, then go to *Installing RAS Initially* on Page 88.

- If you already have RAS installed and configured, this dialog box displays.
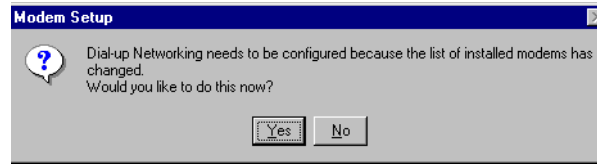
If you do *not* want to configure this modem for use with RAS at this time, select **No**, then reboot and resume normal operations.

If you *do* want to configure this modem for use with RAS, do *not* reboot. Instead, select **Yes**, then go directly to *Adding or Reconfiguring a RAS Device* on Page 89

Installing and Configuring RAS

After installing the hardware and driver, and installing and configuring at least one RAS device (for example, a modem), use this section to install and configure Remote Access Service (RAS).

Installing RAS Initially

If you have not previously installed RAS in your Windows NT system, log into the system with Administrative rights and follow these steps:

Note: This example shows how to install and configure RAS for use with modems, but you can use it as a guide to setting up other serial devices.

1. Open the Control Panel and start the **Network** applet, or right-click on the Network Neighborhood and select **Properties**.

2. Select the **Services** tab and select the **Add** button.
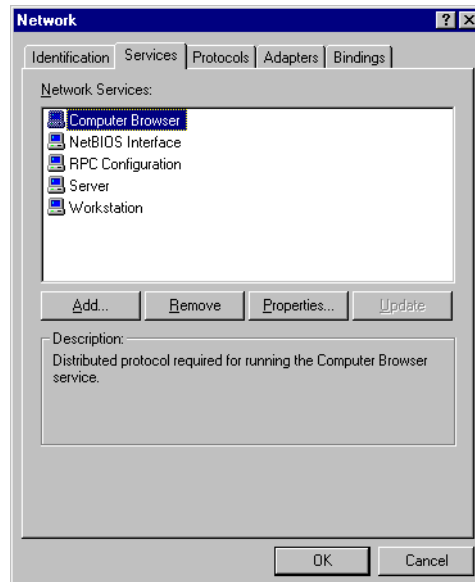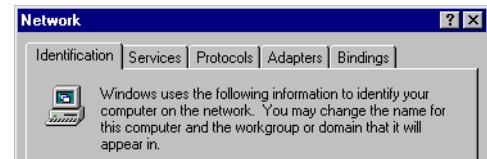
3. Highlight **Remote Access Service** and select the **OK** button.
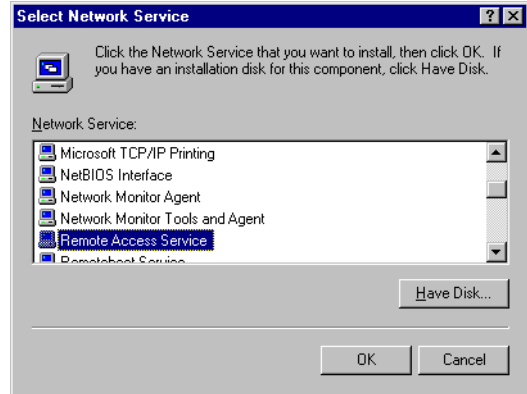
4. Enter the location of the Windows NT files (for example, **d:\i386**) and press the **Continue** button.

   The appropriate files are copied onto your hard drive.

   The RAS installation process automatically launches the Add RAS Device process. Go to *Adding or Reconfiguring a RAS Device* on Page 89, Step 5.
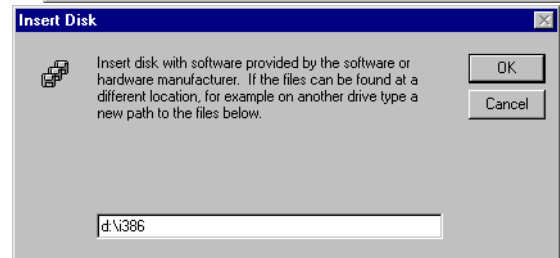
Note: *If you install or reinstall RAS from your original Windows NT 4.0 distribution media, you must install or reinstall the latest Windows NT Service Pack* **after** *installing/reinstalling RAS. This is necessary because most Service Packs include RAS-related files that are newer than the files on the NT distribution media.*

Adding or Reconfiguring a RAS Device

There are several different ways to start this procedure:

- If you have previously installed RAS and configured at least one RAS device, and are now adding or reconfiguring RAS devices, begin with Step 1.

- If you have previously installed RAS and were in the process of installing a modem when this process started automatically, begin with Step 3.

- If you were in the process of installing RAS when this process started automatically, begin with Step 5.

Follow these steps:

1. Open the Control Panel and start the **Network** applet, or right-click on the Network Neighborhood and select **Properties**. The Network window displays.

2. Select the **Services** tab.
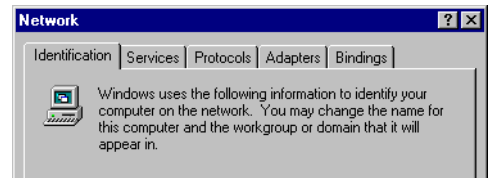
3. Highlight **Remote Access Service** and select the **Properties** button.
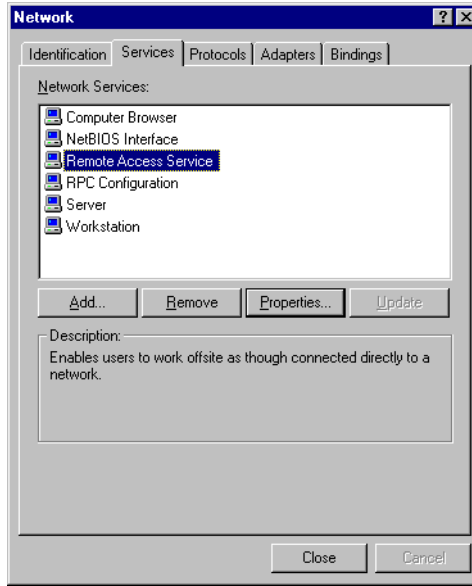
4. To reconfigure an existing RAS port, highlight the port/device and select the **Configure** button. Then go to .
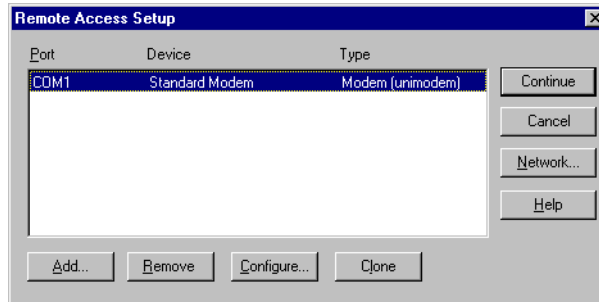
5. To add a new RAS device—for example, if you are configuring a new modem—select the **Add** button. The Add RAS Device window displays:
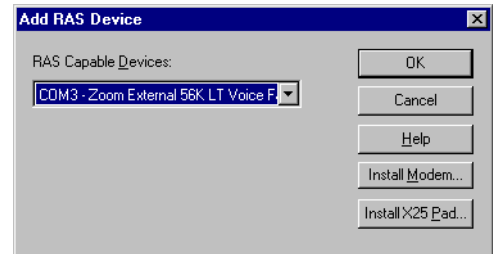
6. Use the droplist to select the COM port (modem) that you want to configure and select the **OK** button.

   Note: *If no modems appear on this list, you need to install a modem, see* *on Page 85.*

   The Remote Access Setup window displays again.
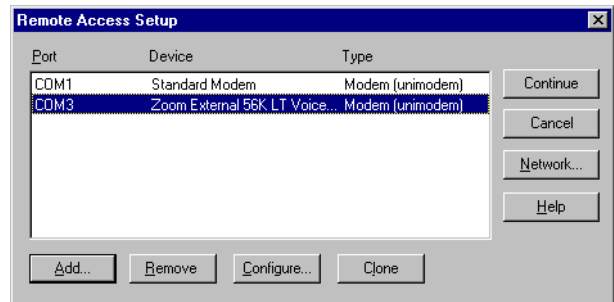
7. Highlight the desired COM port (Modem) and select the **Configure** button. The Configure Port Usage window displays.

8. Select the appropriate radio button, based on the role the modem will perform, and select the **OK** button.
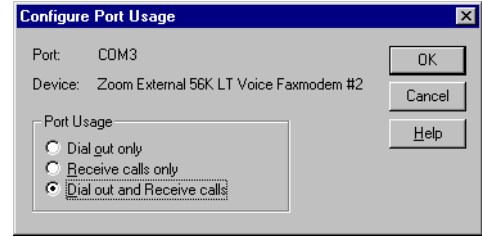
    Note: When configuring multiple simultaneous RAS dial-in ports, configure the ports to "Receive calls only" not "Dial out and Receive." Configuring a port to dial-out requires a separate memory pool for each dial-out port, while all ports configured for receive-only share the same memory pool.

    If you configure too many ports for dial-out unnecessarily, resources can become an issue. If you require dial-out on the RAS server, configure one port to "Dial out and Receive" and all the other ports to "Receive calls only."

The Remote Access Setup window displays again.
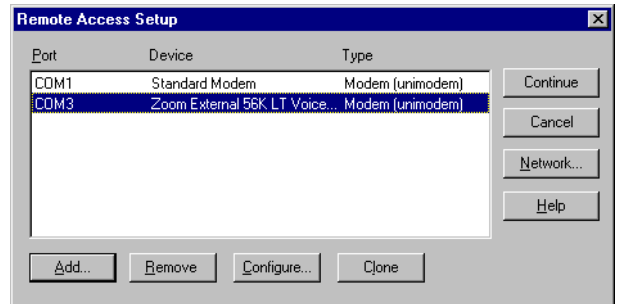
9. Highlight the COM port (modem) again and select the **Network** button.

10. Select the appropriate dial out protocols, dial in protocols, logon security levels, enable multilink (if required) and select **OK**.
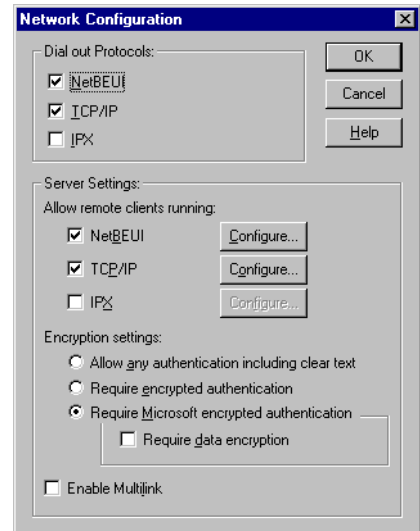
    *Note: Only previously configured protocols are selectable. If you want to set up a protocol that is grayed out, you must first add it using the Network **Protocols** tab.*

    If you selected "Receive calls only" on all ports while configuring the port usage, the "Dial out Protocols" area will be shaded.

    If you want to use Multilink PPP (bonding), make sure that you select the **Enable Multilink** checkbox.

    For detailed information about the configuration windows, use the Help button or the Windows NT CD-ROM (**Support/books/server.hlp** file to locate information).

Note: The following steps are dependent upon the protocol selections made in this window.

11. If you select NetBEUI on the Network Configuration window, the following window displays. Make the appropriate selection for your environment and select **OK**.
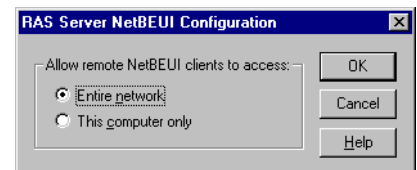
12. If you select TCP/IP, the following window displays. Make the appropriate selections for your environment and press **OK**.
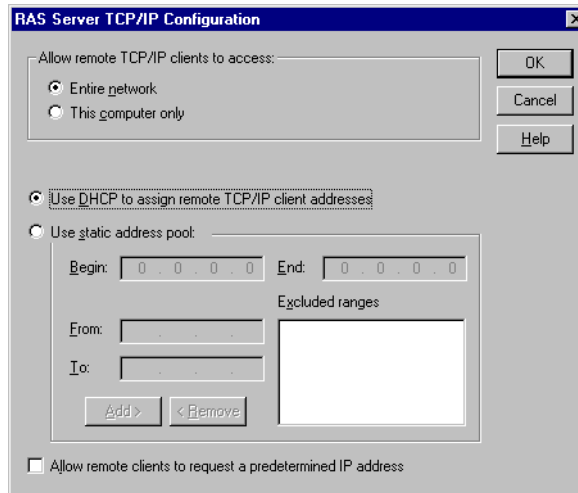
13. If you select IPX, the following window displays. Make the appropriate selection for your environment and press **OK**.

14. Select **OK** to exit the Network Configuration window and return to the Remote Access Setup window.

    Note: Choices made during network configuration will effect the entire system.

15. If you want to duplicate the configuration you just created on any other COM port (modem), highlight the COM port number and select **Clone**. Otherwise, repeat Steps 7 through 14 for each COM port (modem) you want to set up.

16. After setting up all the COM ports, select the **Continue** button.

17. Select the **Close** button at the Network/Services tab to complete the RAS installation.

18. Select **Yes** when asked to reboot the computer. Windows NT RAS installation is complete.

19. If necessary, install the latest NT Service Pack or Packs from Microsoft.
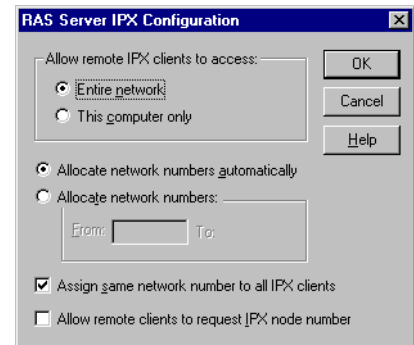
Configuring Printers

Use this subsection to configure printers for the Comtrol device after installing the hardware and driver.

Adding Serial Printers

Follow these steps to configure a serial printer in Windows NT:

1. Connect the printer to the desired port. Use a DTE-to-DTE null modem cable unless the printer maker specifies otherwise.

2. Open the **Printers** control panel and double-click on the **Add Printer** icon.

3. Select the **My Computer** checkbox, then the **Next** button.
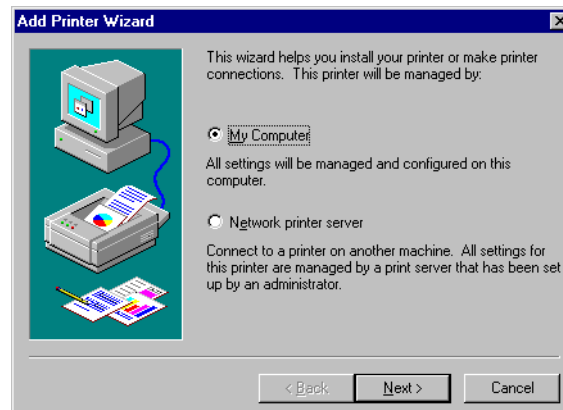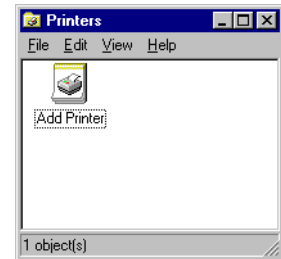
4. If the desired COM port is on this window, select it, select on the **Next** button, and skip to Step 6.

5. If the desired COM port is not on this list, select the **Add Port** button and follow these steps:
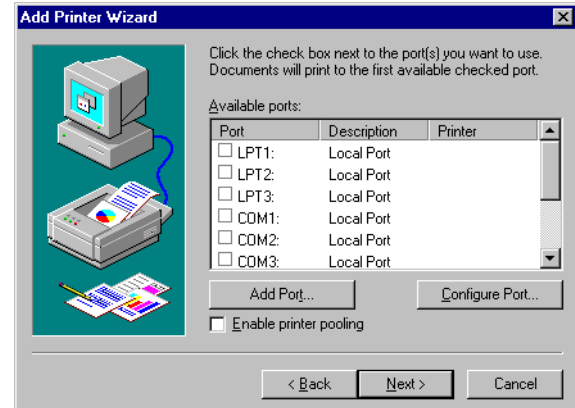
  a. A list of printer ports is displayed. Select **Local Port**.

  b. Select **New Port**.

  c. Type in the name of the port.
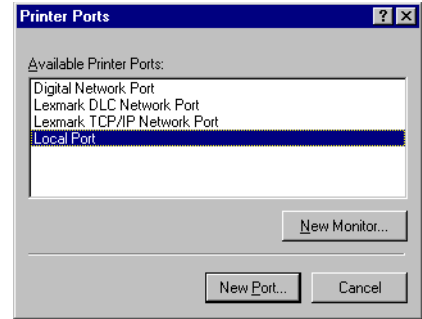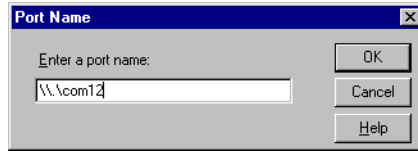
> **Note:** *Port names above COM9 require the \ \ . \ prefix. For example, to reference COM12, enter* **\\.\COM12:** *(make sure that you add the colon)*

  d. Select the **OK** button.

  e. Select the **Close** button to return to the Add Printer Wizard.

  f. Select the **Next** button.
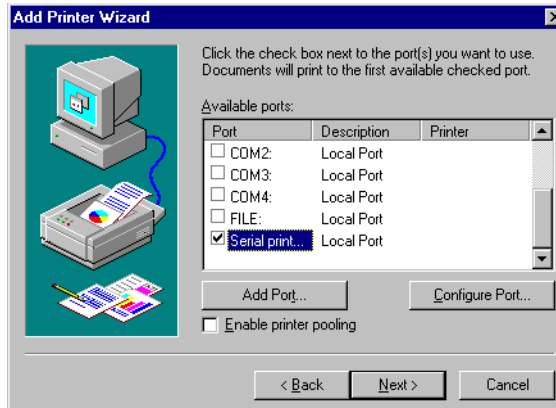
6. Select the printer make and model and select the **Next** button.

  If your printer is not on the make and model lists, but you have a manufacturer-supplied printer diskette, select the **Have Disk** button.

  If you have already installed another printer using this driver, you are asked if you want to keep the existing driver.

7. To keep driver: check **Keep existing driver**, select **Next,** and go to .

If you choose **Replace existing driver**, or if you have not previously installed this driver, you are prompted to insert either the Windows NT CD-ROM or the manufacturer's printer diskette. Do so and select **Next**.

8. Select whether you want this printer to be the Windows NT default printer, and select on the **Next** button.

9. Select whether or not you want to share this printer with other computers on the network. If you select **Shared**, you are asked to indicate the operating systems of all the computers that will be sharing this printer. (You may also be required to insert the operating system media so that Windows NT can extract the necessary driver files.)

10. Select whether to print a test page and select on the **Finish** button.

You are now ready to begin using the printer. No reboot is needed.
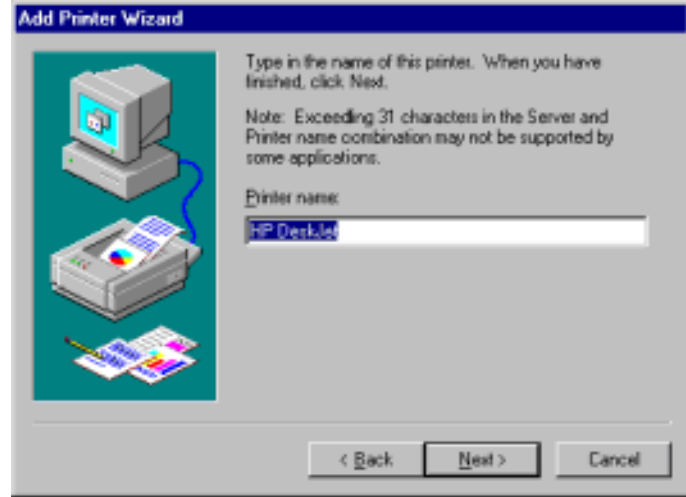
Changing Printer Port Configuration

If the printer does not successfully print the test page, it may be necessary to change the port baud rate, parity, and so on. If the Ports applet does not configure the port properly, you may have to use the **mode** command from a DOS prompt. Also, check the printer for DIP switches or other hardware configuration options.

Changing Printer Port Assignment

To change the port assigned to a printer, follow these steps:

1. Open the Printers control panel.

2. Right-click on the icon for the printer you want to change.

3. Select the **Properties** option from the menu. The Properties window is displayed.

4. Select the **Ports** tab.

   Note: *The Properties window also gives you access to printer test and setup options that can be very helpful when debugging a serial printer installation.*

5. Check the port you want to switch to. Remember to change your cabling accordingly.

   Note: *The* **Configure** *button on the Ports tab does not recognize Comtrol ports. This is a limitation of Windows NT. If you need to reconfigure the port, use the Ports option on the Control Panel.*

6. Select on the **OK** button. Any changes you make take effect immediately. No reboot is needed.

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