921 Corporate Way, Fremont, CA 94539, USA
Tel: +1-510-490-8024, Fax:+1-510-623-7268
Web: http://www.ACTiSYS.com, E-mail:

ACT-IR224UN / ACT-IR424UN Series

Windows 8 Driver Workaround



ACT-IR224UN



ACT-IR424UN

September 14, 2012

Version 1.0.0

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REVISION HISTORY

Revision History		
Revision	**Date**	**Comment**
1.0.0	9/14/2012	Initial release

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1 OVERWIEW

ACT-IRx24UN series represents a series of USB Raw IR adapter, including ACT-IR224UN, ACT-IR424UN and their sub-models: ACT-IR224UN-Lx, ACT-IR224UN-Lx-LE, ACT-IR424UN-Lx, and ACT-IR424UN-Lx-LE. In brief, we will use **ACT-IRx24UN** to cover all above models and sub-models in this manual hereafter.

This manual describes a **Workaround** to update driver in **Windows 8** for ACT-IRx24UN series, which IC inside is PL2303**HXA** version. (Please **check the S/N number** from the dongle backside. If its leading character does **not begin with "TA"** followed by six digit number, then it **is IC PL2303HXA** inside.)

2 BASIC REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Windows Driver Installer **v1.5.0** (Build date: 10/21/2011)
  File name: **ACT-IR224UN-DriverInstaller_v1.5.0-20111021.exe**
- ✓ ACT-IRx24UN series Adapter (with PL2303HXA chip version inside)

3 STEP 1: ROLL BACK DRIVER TO SUPPORT PL2303HXA IN WIN 8

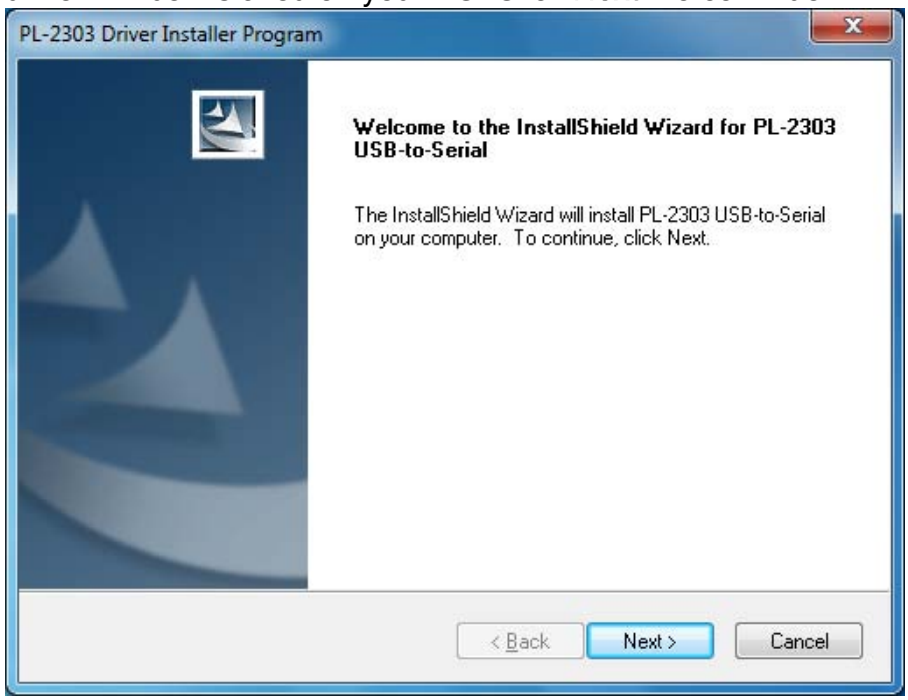
Note:

- The IC PL2303**HXA** which originally used in ACT-IRx24UN has been discontinued and replaced with a newer version PL2303TA now and we cannot further support the former with its latest WHQL driver in Windows 8. You should use **driver version 3.4.25.218** created by above mensioned "Driver Installer v1.5.0" for this solution.
  However, Windows 8 **can automatically update** the latest driver from regular "**Windows Update**" if PC has an Internet connection. This will give you **incompatibility** trouble then.
- The only **workaround solution** has **two steps**: (1) ***manually roll-back*** the driver **to** the older driver version (**3.4.25.218**) which is compatible with PL2303**HXA** in Windows 8.
  (2) **Disable** auto Windows Update.

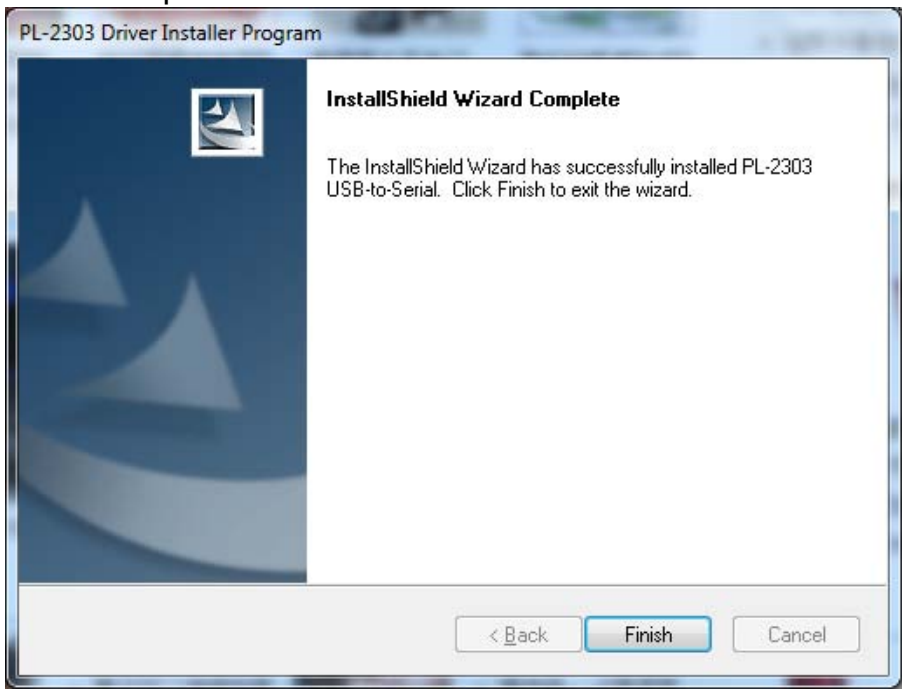


This chapter shows all the procedures of step1, as follows.

1. Power on PC and boot to Windows 8. Run Windows Driver Installer v1.5.0 first.
   Do not plug-in ACT-IRx24UN adapter yet.
   Unplug the adapter from the USB port before running the driver installation.
   ACT-IR224UN-DriverInstaller_v1.5.0-20111021.exe
2. The InstallShield Wizard will be displayed to inform you that the PL-2303 USB-to-Serial driver will be installed on your PC. Click **Next**> to continue.



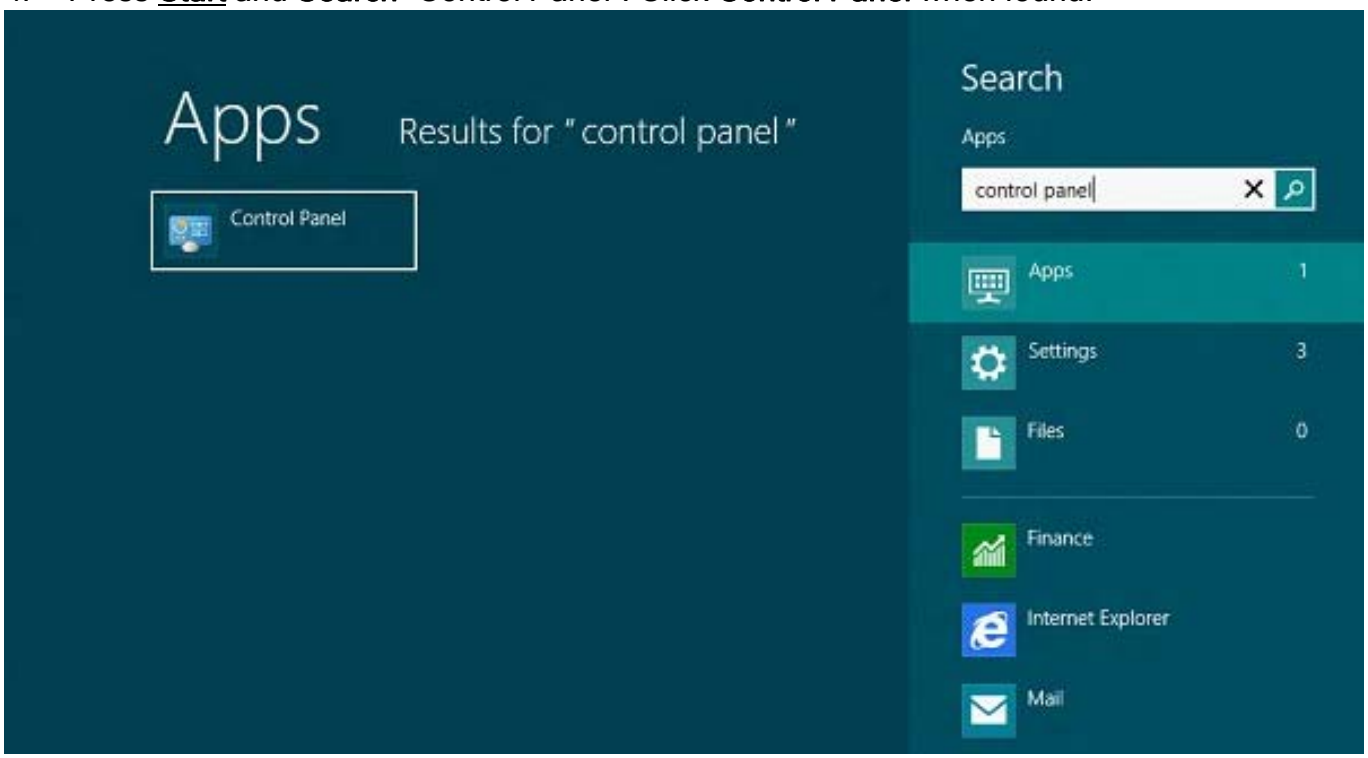
3. The Driver Installer will then start the installation. Click **[Finish]** to close the InstallShield after it complete.



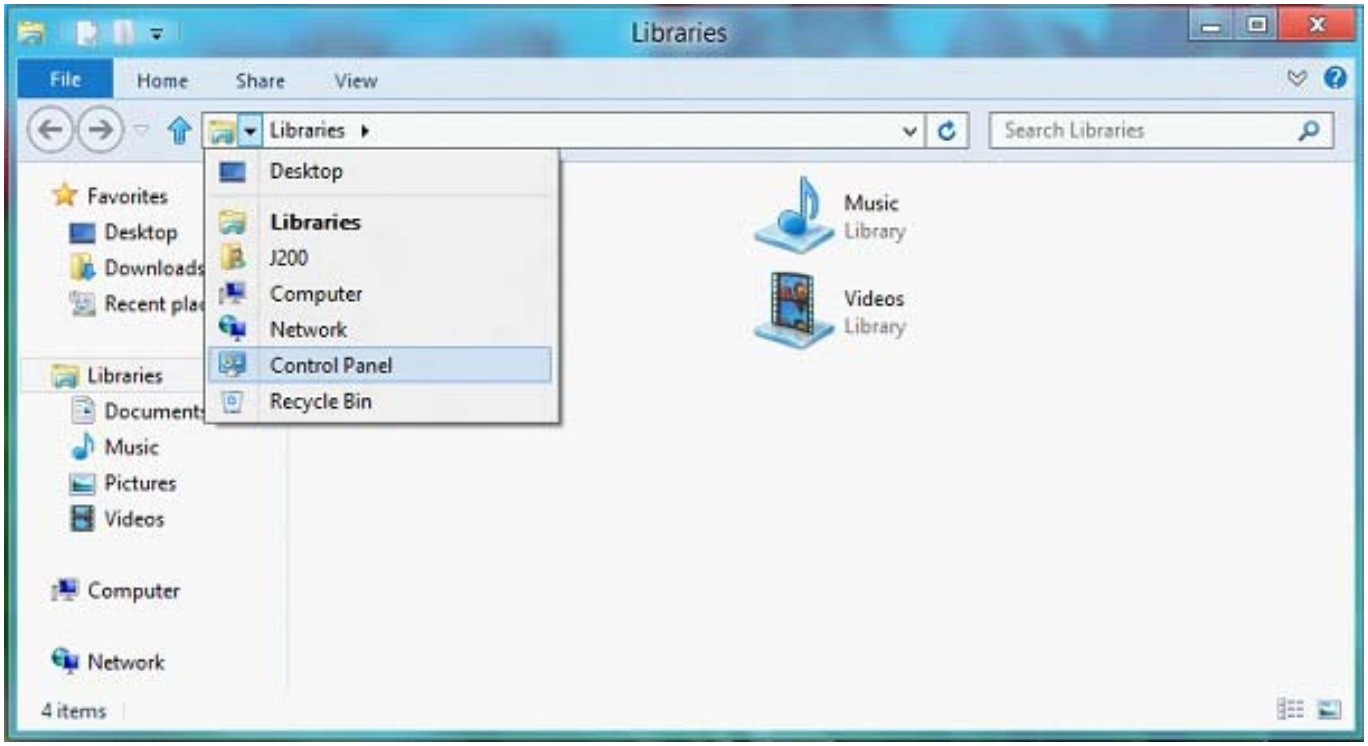
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4. Press **Start** and **Search** "Control Panel". Click **Control Panel** when found.



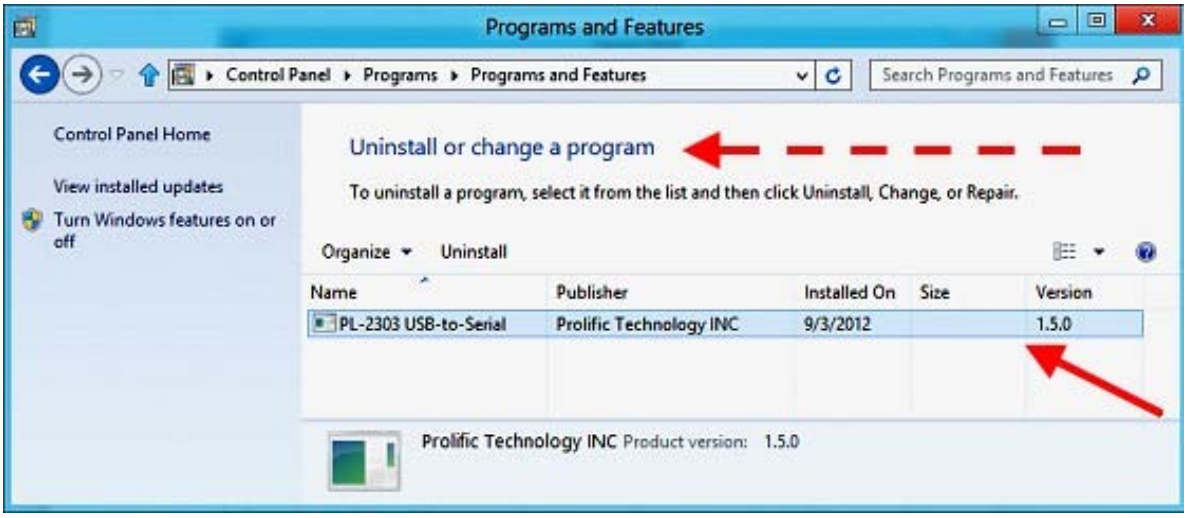
Or open **Explorer** folder and pull down **Libraries** folder menu to look for **Control Panel**.



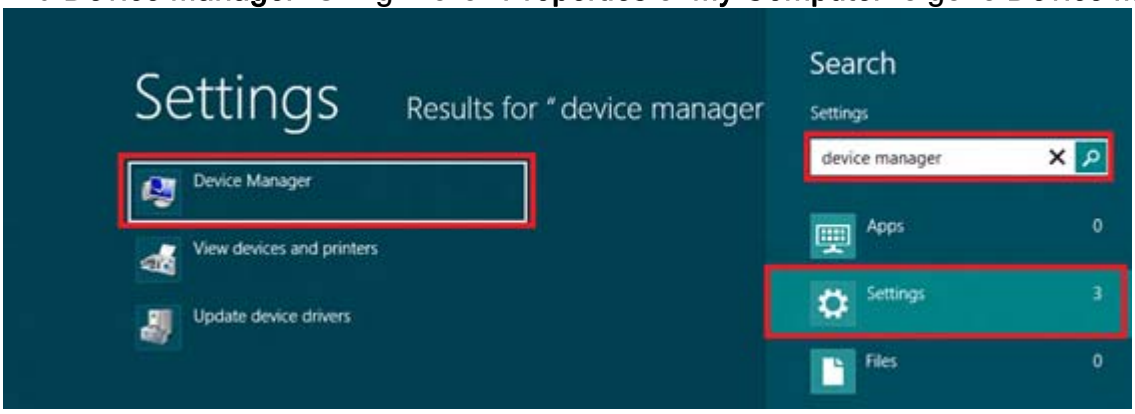
5. Click **Uninstall a program** under **Programs**.



Check if "**PL-2303 USB-to-Serial**" (**v1.5.0**) is installed.



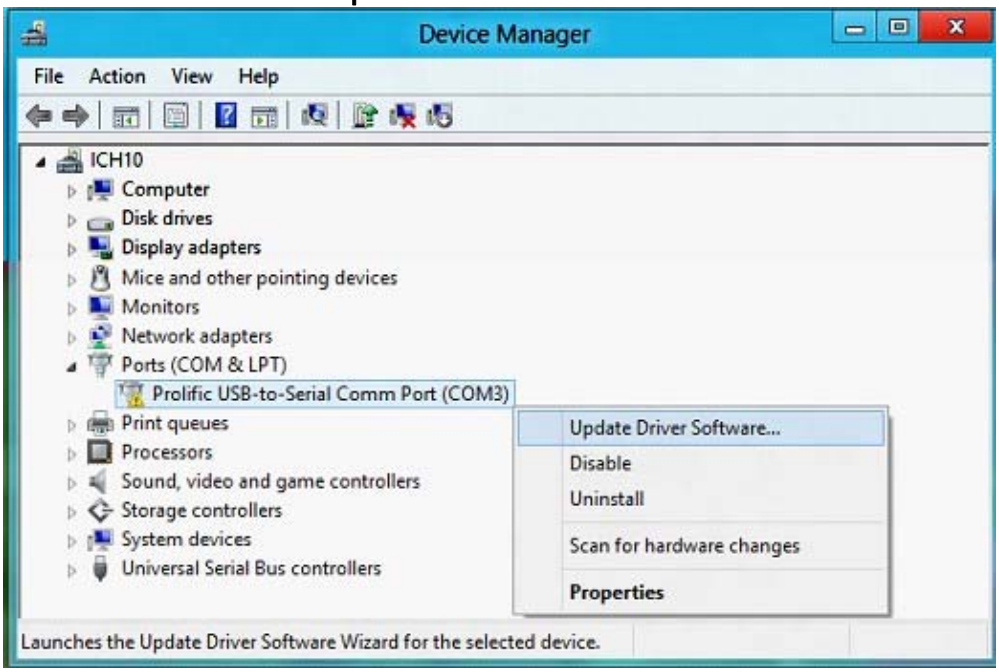
6. Go to **Device Manager**. Press **Start** button and type "Device Manager" and click **Settings** to find **Device Manager**. Or right-click **Properties** of **My Computer** to go to **Device Manager**.



7. Plug-in ACT-IRx24UN adapter to the PC USB port. If PC is connected to the Internet, Windows will also check **Windows Update** for any new driver available. It will then *download the new driver*. This "**Windows Update**" actually will install the driver **NOT Compatible** with ACT-IRx24UN Adapter when its IC inside is **PL2303HXA**.. So it will show a yellow mark (error code 10) for device "**Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port**" in **Device Manager**.

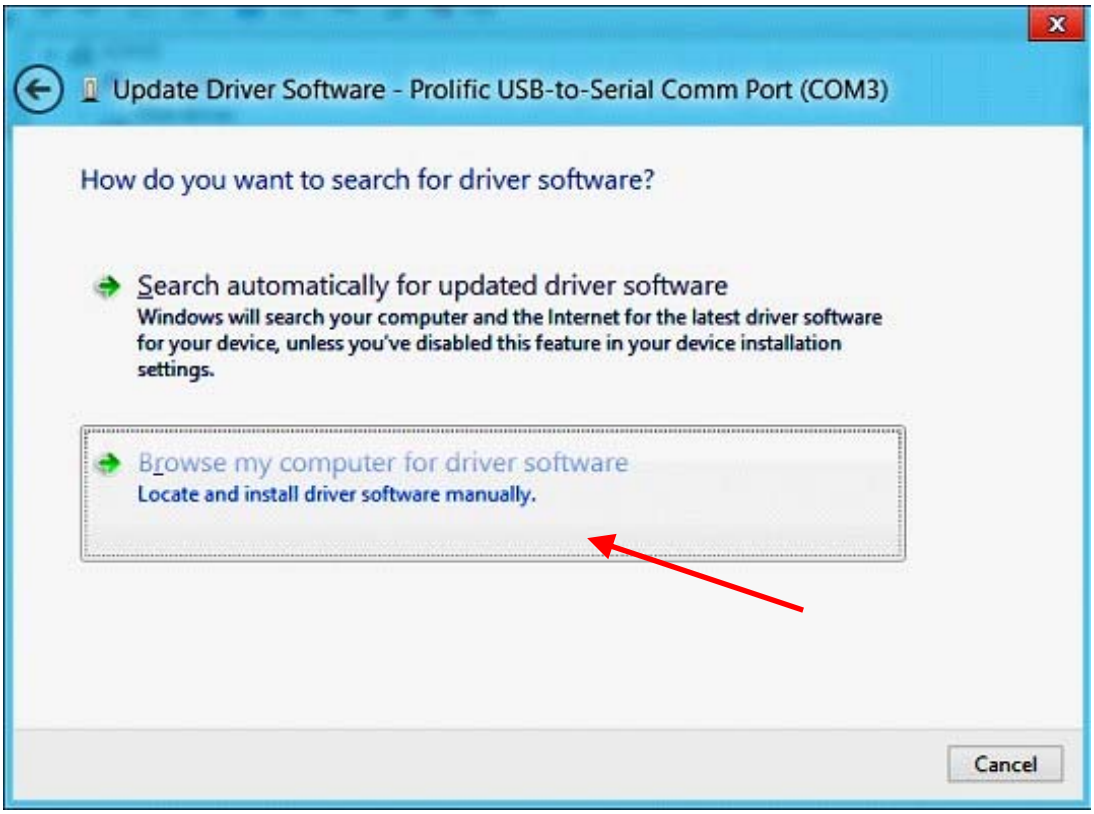


8. To Roll-back the driver to the compatible old driver version, right-click "**Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port**" and click "**Update Driver Software...**".

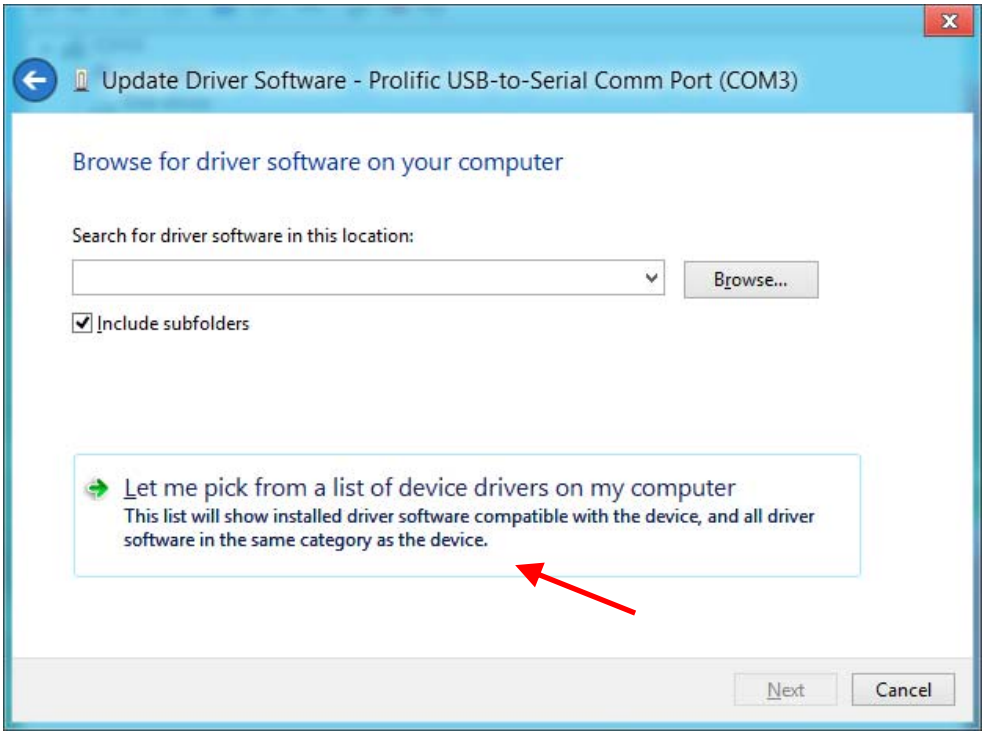


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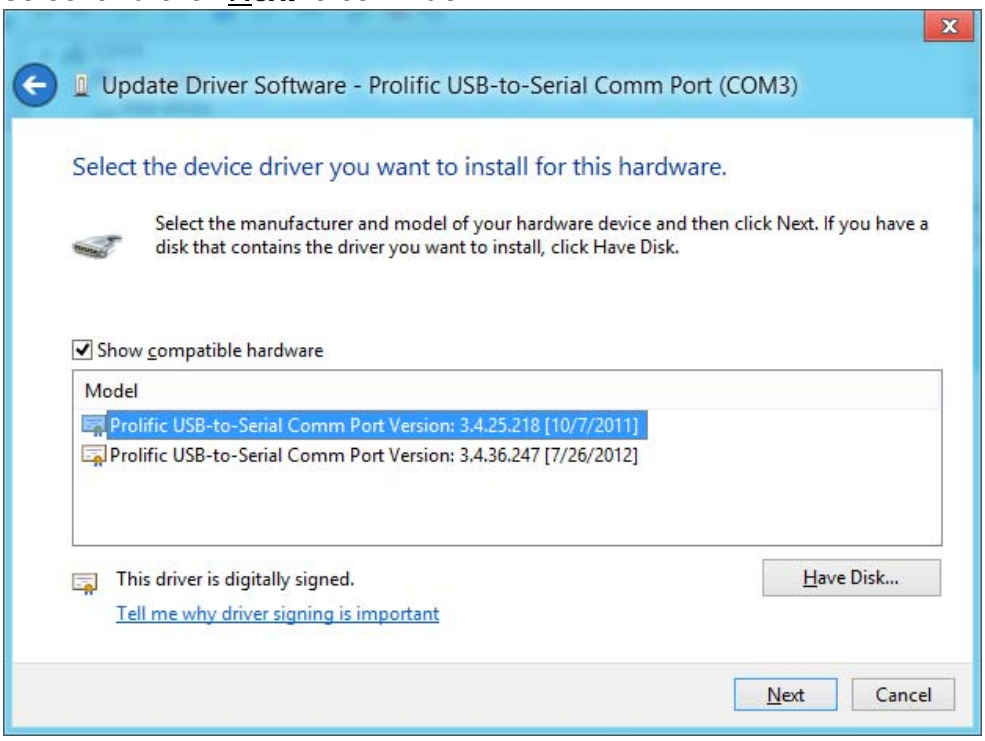
9. Click "**Browse my computer for driver software**" to "**Locate and install driver software manually**".



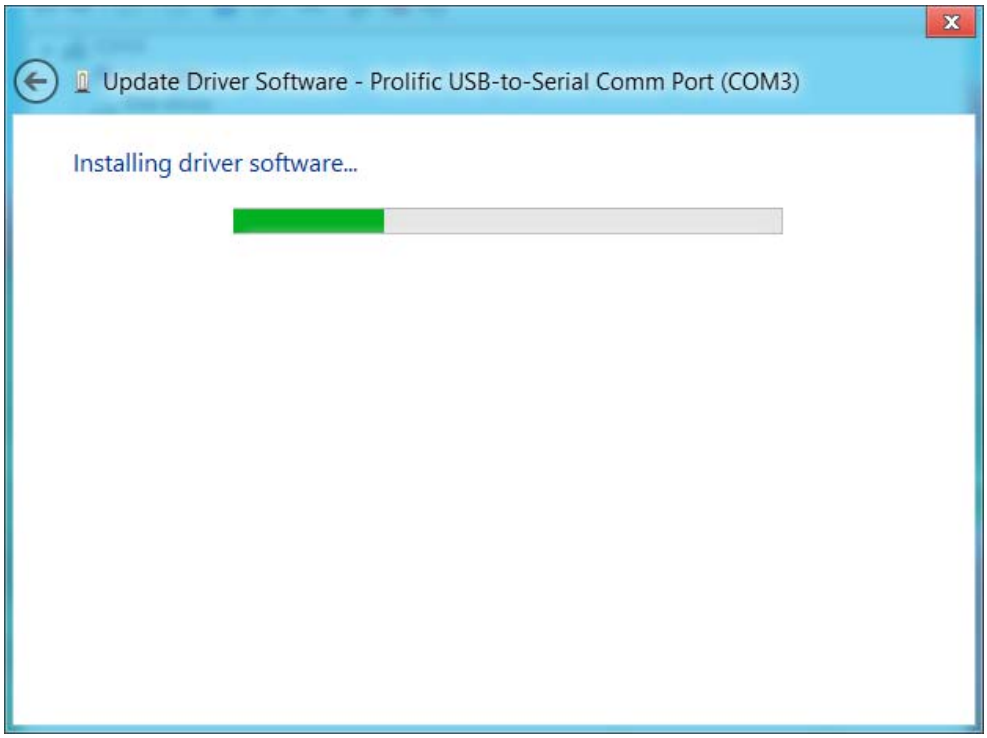
10. Since the old driver has already been installed, just click the bottom option "**Let me pick from a list of device drivers on my computer**" which will show installed driver software compatible with the device.



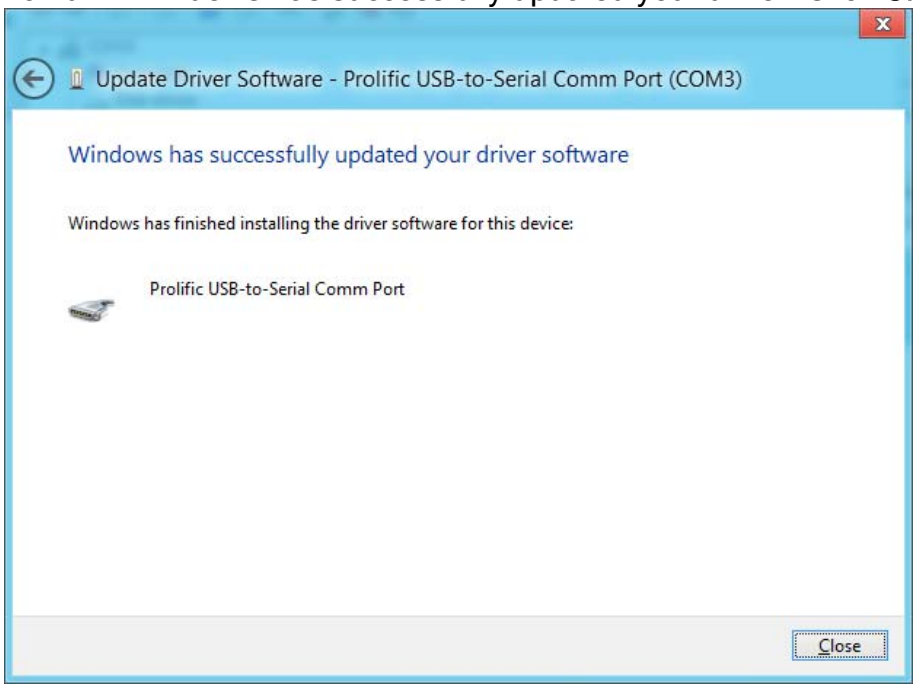
11. From the list of installed drivers, look for the driver version 3.4.25.218 [10/7/2011], click it to select and click **Next** to continue.



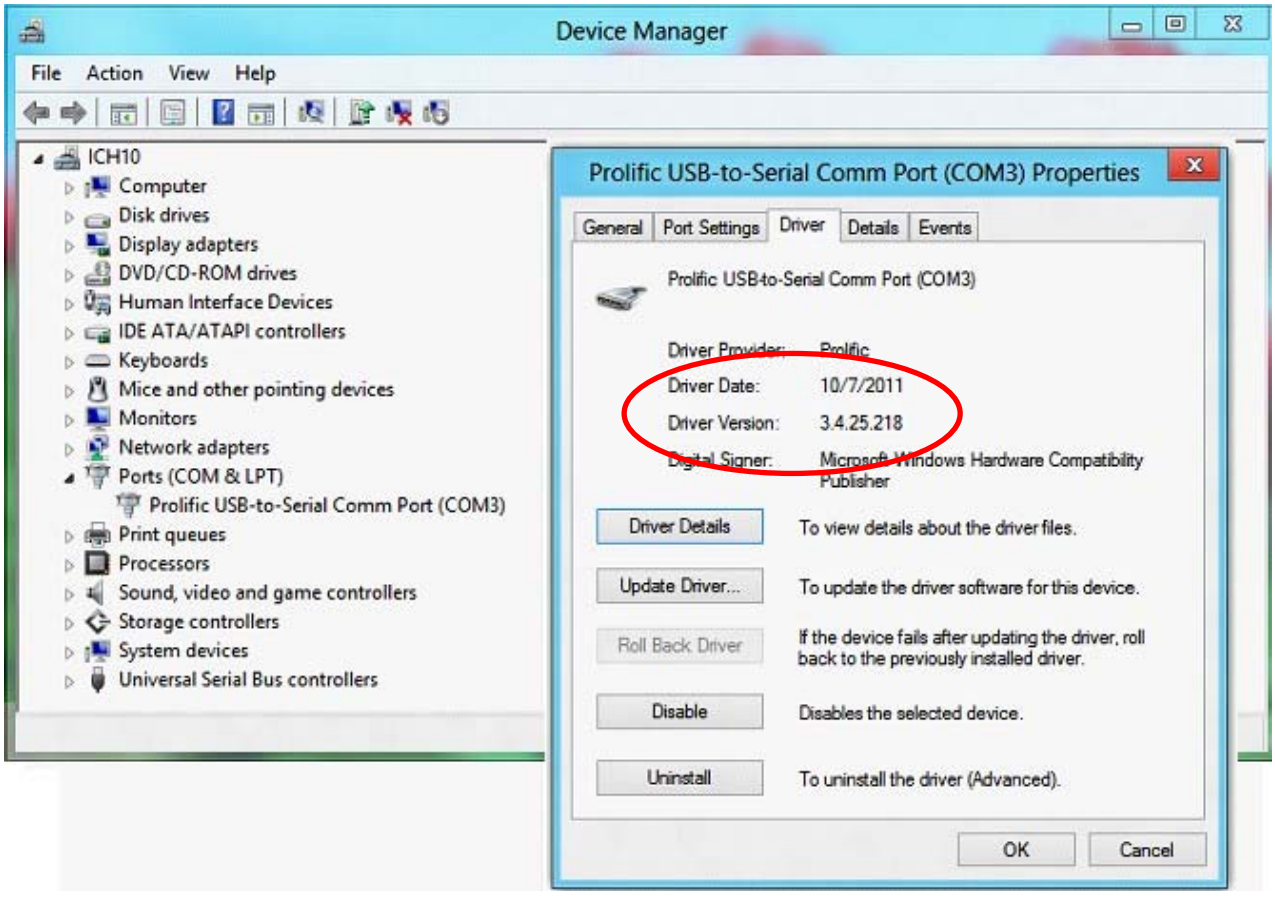
12. Windows will then install the old driver back to the system.



13. Wait until Windows has successfully updated your driver. Click **Close** when finished.



14. You will now see "Prolific USB-to-Serial Comm Port" is installed properly. Right-click Properties of the device again to confirm the driver version (3.4.25.218), the old compatible one. Now set the assigned COM port number and run your software.



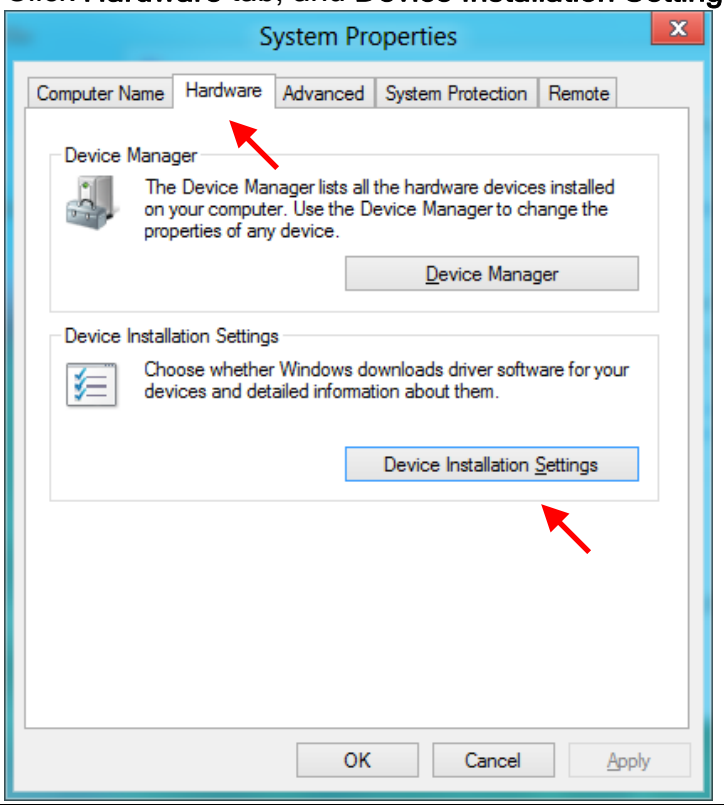
4 STEP 2: DISABLE AUTO WINDOWS UPDATE OPTION

In order to prevent from going into endless circle between Windows Update and roll back again, please **disable** "*automatically updating*" from **Windows Update**. Of course, this would also affect all devices driver updates. Then **only manually select the required patch file for your Windows Update yourself. NEVER Update Driver from Windows Update** for IRx24UN. Always Keep the driver version as it is where you have just rolled back.

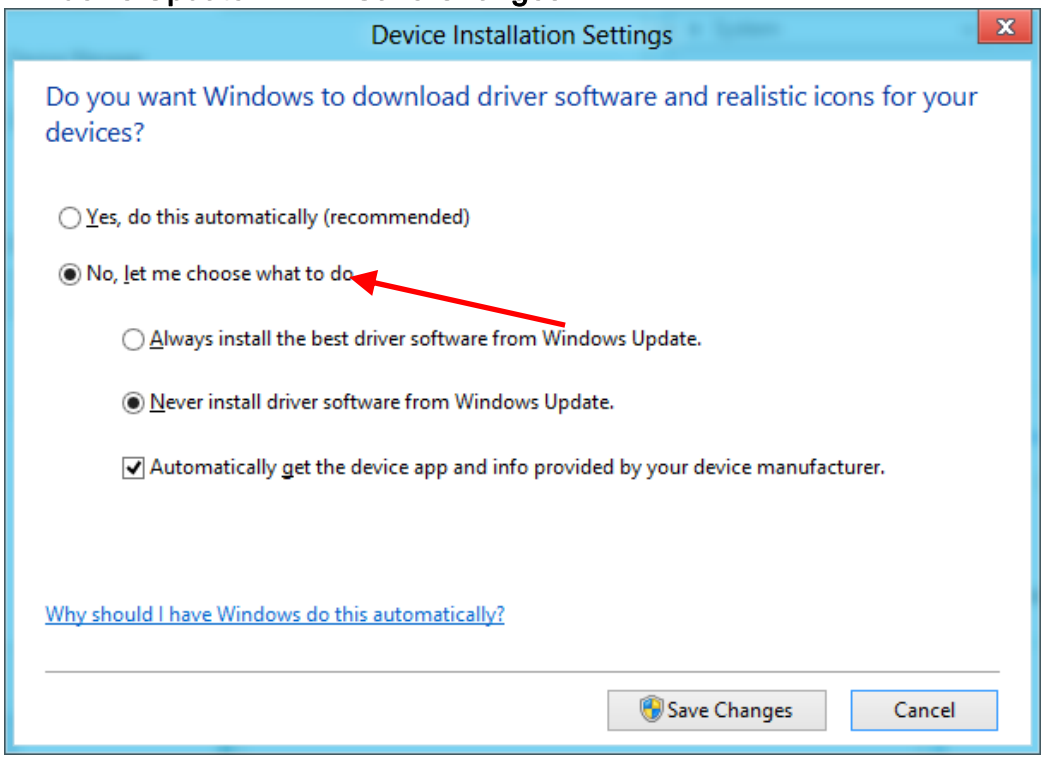
1. Right-click Properties My Computer. Click **Advanced system settings**.



2. Click **Hardware** tab, and **Device Installation Settings**.



3. Click "**No, let me choose what to do**" and click "**Never installed driver software from Windows Update.**" Click **Save Changes**.



5 CONTACT INFORMATION



ACTiSYS Corporation

921 Corporate Way

Fremont, CA 94539, USA

TEL:+1-510-490-8024, FAX:+1-510-623-7268

E-Mail: irda-info@ACTiSYS.com

Web: ***http://www.ACTiSYS.com***