

iPort/LAN Network Configuration

Every device on a computer network needs an IP address in order to communicate with other devices on the network or Internet. A device can be assigned an IP address automatically, or manually.

Automatic (Dynamic) IP Address Assignment:

To automatically get an IP address, a device requests a dynamic IP address from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server on the network. In many computer networks, a router device used to connect the network to the Internet also acts as a DHCP server.

By default, an iPort/LAN is configured to automatically get its IP address from a DHCP server. If your network has a DHCP server, and your iPort/LAN application can use dynamic IP addressing, you can proceed to installing the iPort/LAN Virtual ComPort with the iPort/LAN Driver Installer.

Manual (Static) IP Address Assignment:

If your computer network does not have a DHCP server, your host computer connects directly to the iPort/LAN via a cross-over cable, or your iPort/LAN application requires the use of Static IP addressing, then the iPort/LAN Device Discovery Utility, a Windows application, will allow you to manually enter the iPort/LAN Static IP address. Before proceeding, you should discuss iPort/LAN network configuration settings (Static IP address, subnet mask, etc.) with your network administrator.

The iPort/LAN Device Discovery Utility and instructions on its use are located at the following web address:

<http://www.mcc-us.com/iPortLAN>

Once the Device Discovery Utility is used to set the network configuration, you can proceed to installing the iPort/LAN Virtual ComPort with the iPort/LAN Driver Installer.

iPort/LAN Device Discovery Trouble-shooting Tips:

This section contains some tips that address most common problems when the Device Discovery Utility cannot find the iPort/LAN.

Firewalls: Check to make sure that any software firewalls (common examples are Windows Firewall and most popular Anti-Virus software) are disabled. These can block the discovery process. Also, any physical firewall will almost certainly block the discovery process as well.

Once the updated iPort/LAN network configuration has been saved, re-enable any firewalls.

Routers or Switches: Is there a router between the computer running the discovery utility and the iPort/LAN device? Normally, routers will block the discovery process. If possible remove them and use a hub instead. If there is a switch in between, this may or may not be a problem. Occasionally they are configured to block the discovery traffic. If unsure use a hub or a direct Ethernet cross-over cable connection. Also, in case the port on your Router/Switch/Hub is bad, try a different port as well.

Network routers or switches can be restored once the updated iPort/LAN network configuration has been saved.

Cabling: If nothing else works try using a direct cross-over Ethernet cable directly between the computer and the iPort/LAN device. Another option is to try another Ethernet cable.

Ethernet LED: Check the Yellow Ethernet Link LED (Light Emitting Diode) on the iPort/LAN device. Is it lit solid? If not, there is not a valid network connection and it will not be possible to discover the device.

Network Adapters: Make sure the host computer network adapter is enabled. Also, ensure all other network adapters are disabled. If more than one network adapter is enabled, this can cause the discovery process to fail.

Change iPort/LAN Device: If you have second iPort/LAN device, try discovering it instead to see if you have the same problem. Though it may not solve your original discovery problem, it should provide you with some additional troubleshooting clues.