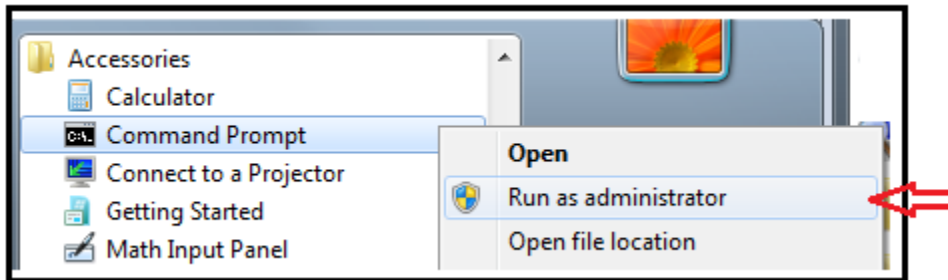


Deleting Old COM Ports in Windows 7

When working with USB Serial Adapters or other devices that appear as USB Virtual Serial Ports, it's not unusual to end up with a large number of COM ports that are listed as "In Use". There is no straight forward way to delete them, but it is possible. The following procedure is taken from [FettesPS](#).

- 1) Under **All Programs/Accessories**, open the **Command Prompt** window in Administrator mode:
Right click on **Command Prompt** and click on **Run as administrator**.



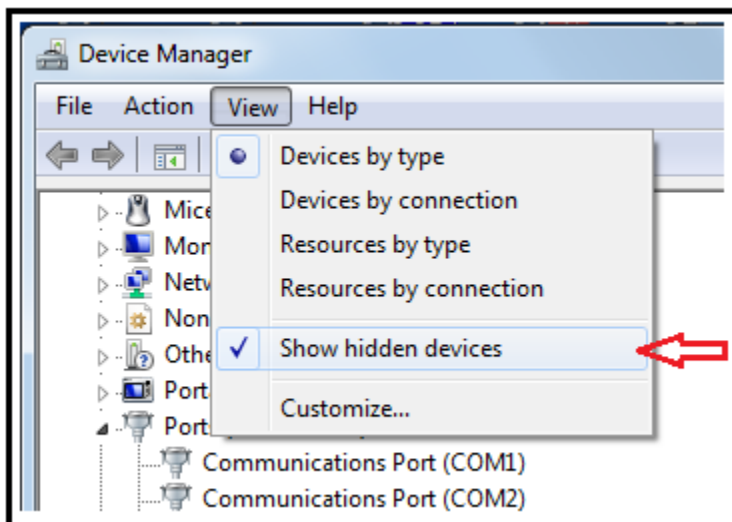
- 2) In the **Command Prompt** window that opens, enter the following two commands:

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\windows\system32>set devmgr_show_nonpresent_devices=1
C:\windows\system32>start devmgmt.msc
```

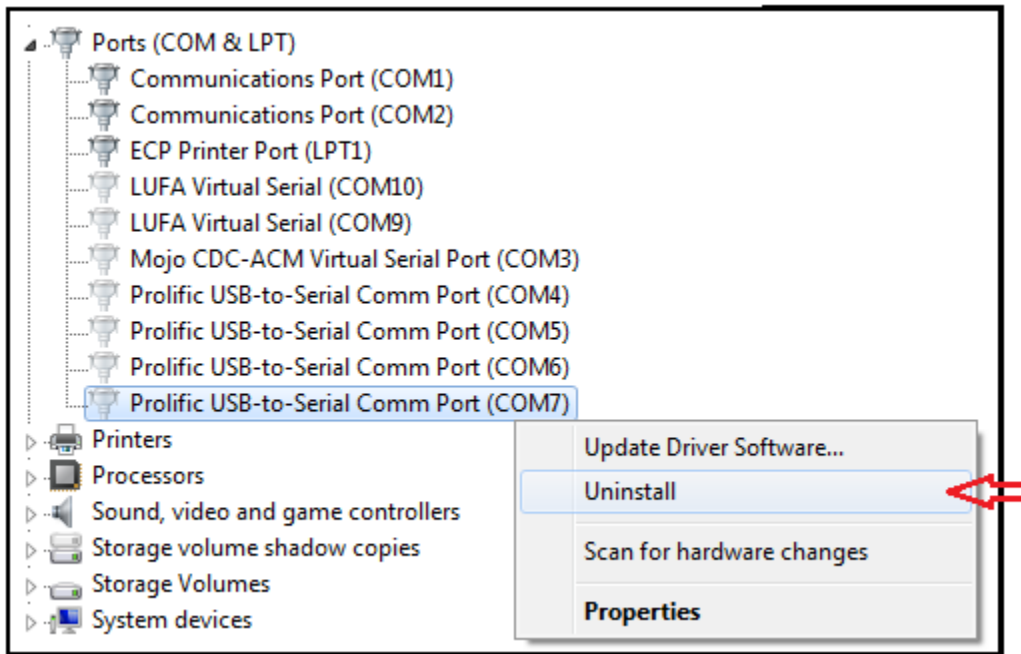
The second command opens the **Device Manager** window. It is important the **Device Manager** is opened from the **Administrator Command Prompt**, not from the **Control Panel**.

- 3) The **Device Manager** window should have opened. Under **View**, select **Show hidden devices**.



4) Under **Ports (COM & LPT)** right click on the port you want to delete.

In the popup window, click **Uninstall**.



5) The **Confirm Device Uninstall** window appears. Click on **OK**.

(Do Not check the box to delete the driver software unless you have a specific reason to do so.)



6) Repeat steps 4 and 5 for other COM ports that you want to delete.

7) In **Device Manager**, uncheck **Show Hidden Devices** under **View**. Close the **Device Manager**.

8) In the **Command Prompt** window, enter the command:

```
C:\windows\system32>set devmgr_show_nonpresent_devices=0
```

The **Device Manager** will now only show devices that are attached.

9) Close the **Command Prompt** window.