

TechNote      TN-112201-42A  
Date:            January 9, 2003 (Revised)  
Subject:        Using Single Port Serial Cards from Black Box with VCS  
Applies To:    ViewComm Async and Async Plus, Black Box Single Serial PC Card  
                  Model IC115A or IC115A-R2 with Windows 95

## Problem

When starting ViewComm using the Black Box serial card, you receive an error that VCS was unable to open the COM port because the port is either in use or does not use the standard driver.

## Summary

The single port serial PCMCIA card from Black Box uses a custom driver called seacom95.vxd. When VCS starts up, it looks to see what COM ports you have chosen to use and attempts to talk to the COM ports. If the port is using seacom95.vxd as its driver, VCS will not be able to communicate with it, and returns an error saying that it cannot open the port because the port is either in use or does not use the standard serial driver.

## Solution

You will need to install the Black Box card using a generic installation file provided by Black Box. This file is also available for download from Frontline's FTP site.

1. Download blackbox.exe from <http://www.GreenleafSoftware.com/VCS/Downloads/Utils/BlackBox.exe>
2. Run the file to unzip it. You should end up with two files: pc\_one\_instructions.txt and one\_pc.inf.
3. Follow the instructions given in pc\_one\_instructions.txt. The instructions are:
  - A. With the card removed, go to device manager and remove the port listing that references this card.
  - B. Copy this file [one\_pc.inf] to the \windows\inf sub-directory.
  - C. Re-insert the card. On this insertion it should re-read the inf file and assign the correct serial driver, otherwise we will need to find the registry key and hand change the information.

## If This Doesn't Work:

If the above instructions fail to do the trick, you can manually install the card as a standard serial port.

1. Remove the card from the PC (you may need to go into the PCMCIA control panel and Stop the card first.)
2. Click the Start button and choose Settings | Control Panel. Double-click on the System icon and then click on the Device Manager tab.
3. Under the Ports item, delete the line referencing the Black Box card.
4. From Windows Explorer, go to the Windows\system directory and delete or rename seacom95.vxd and seacomui.dll. Then go to the windows\inf directory and delete or rename one\_pc.inf.
5. Reboot the computer.
6. Insert the Black Box serial card.
7. Windows should find the card. Go back to the Device Manager tab in the System Control Panel. Go to the Ports section and click on the listing for the Black Box card. Then click the Properties button. Click on the Driver tab, and click on the Update Driver button.
8. A wizard will come up with two radio buttons at the bottom. Choose the button for "No, select driver from list." and Click Next.
9. At the bottom of this window may be two radio buttons. Choose the one for "Show all hardware."

10. On the left side, select Standard Port Types from the Manufacturers list. On the right, choose Communications Port.
11. Click Finish. Windows may ask you for your Windows 95 CD. If you do not have your CD with you, you may be able to tell it to look for serial.vxd in the Windows\System directory.
12. Once the port has been installed, Windows will take you back to the Driver tab on the Port Properties page. Click on the Resources tab and ensure that the port does not have any resource conflicts.