

Lab - Establishing a Console Session with Tera Term

Topology



Objectives

Part 1: Access a Cisco Switch through the Serial Console Port

- Connect to a Cisco switch using a serial console cable.
- Establish a console session using a terminal emulator, such as Tera Term.

Part 2: Display and Configure Basic Device Settings

- Use **show** commands to display device settings.
- Configure the clock on the switch.

Part 3: (Optional) Access a Cisco Router Using a Mini-USB Console Cable

Note: Users on Netlab or other remote access equipment should complete only Part 2.

Background / Scenario

Various models of Cisco routers and switches are used in networks of all types. These devices are managed using a local console connection or a remote connection. Nearly all Cisco devices have a serial console port to which you can connect. Some newer models, such as the 1941 Integrated Services Router (ISR) G2 used in this lab, also have a USB console port.

In this lab, you will learn how to access a Cisco device via a direct local connection to the console port, using a terminal emulation program, Tera Term. You will also learn how to configure the serial port settings for the Tera Term console connection. After you have established a console connection with the Cisco device, you can display or configure device settings. You will only display settings and configure the clock with this lab.

Note: The routers used with CCNA hands-on labs are Cisco 1941 ISRs with Cisco IOS Release 15.2(4)M3 (universalk9 image). The switches used are Cisco Catalyst 2960s with Cisco IOS Release 15.0(2) (lanbasek9 image). Other routers, switches, and Cisco IOS versions can be used. Depending on the model and Cisco IOS version, the commands available and output produced might vary from what is shown in the labs. Refer to the Router Interface Summary Table at the end of the lab for the correct interface identifiers.

Note: Make sure that the switch and router have been erased and have no startup configuration. If you are unsure, contact your instructor.

Required Resources

- 1 Router (Cisco 1941 with Cisco IOS software, release 15.2(4)M3 universal image or comparable)
- 1 Switch (Cisco 2960 with Cisco IOS Release 15.0(2) lanbasek9 image or comparable)
- 1 PC (Windows 7, Vista, or XP with terminal emulation program, such as Tera Term)
- Rollover (DB-9 to RJ-45) console cable to configure the switch or router via the RJ-45 console port
- Mini-USB cable to configure the router via the USB console port

Part 1: Access a Cisco Switch through the Serial Console Port

You will connect a PC to a Cisco switch using a rollover console cable. This connection will allow you to access the command line interface (CLI) and display settings or configure the switch.

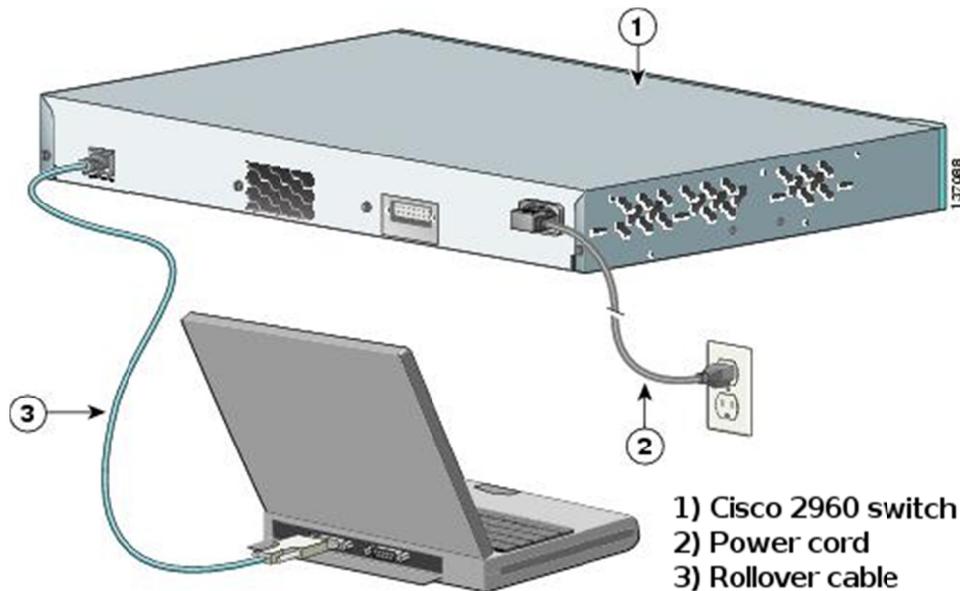
Step 1: Connect a Cisco switch and computer using a rollover console cable.

- a. Connect the rollover console cable to the RJ-45 console port of the switch.
- b. Connect the other cable end to the serial COM port on the computer.

Note: Serial COM ports are no longer available on most computers today. A USB-to-DB9 adapter can be used with the rollover console cable for console connection between the computer and a Cisco device. These USB-to-DB9 adapters can be purchased at any computer electronics store.

Note: If using a USB-to-DB9 adapter to connect to the COM port, you may be required to install a driver for the adapter provided by the manufacturer on your computer. To determine the COM port used by the adapter, please see Part 3 Step 4. The correct COM port number is required to connect to the Cisco IOS device using a terminal emulator in Step 2.

- c. Power up the Cisco switch and computer if these devices are not already on.



Step 2: Configure Tera Term to establish a console session with the switch.

Tera Term is a terminal emulation program. This program allows you to access the terminal output of the switch. It also allows you to configure the switch.

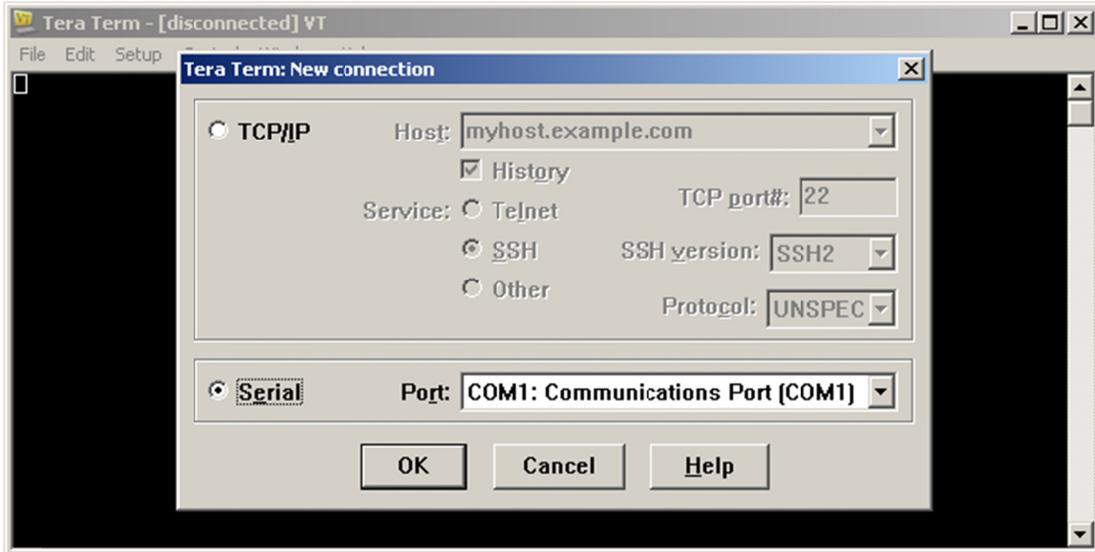
- a. Start Tera Term by clicking the **Windows Start** button located in the task bar. Locate **Tera Term** under **All Programs**.

Note: If the program is not installed on the system, Tera Term can be downloaded from the following link by selecting **Tera Term**:

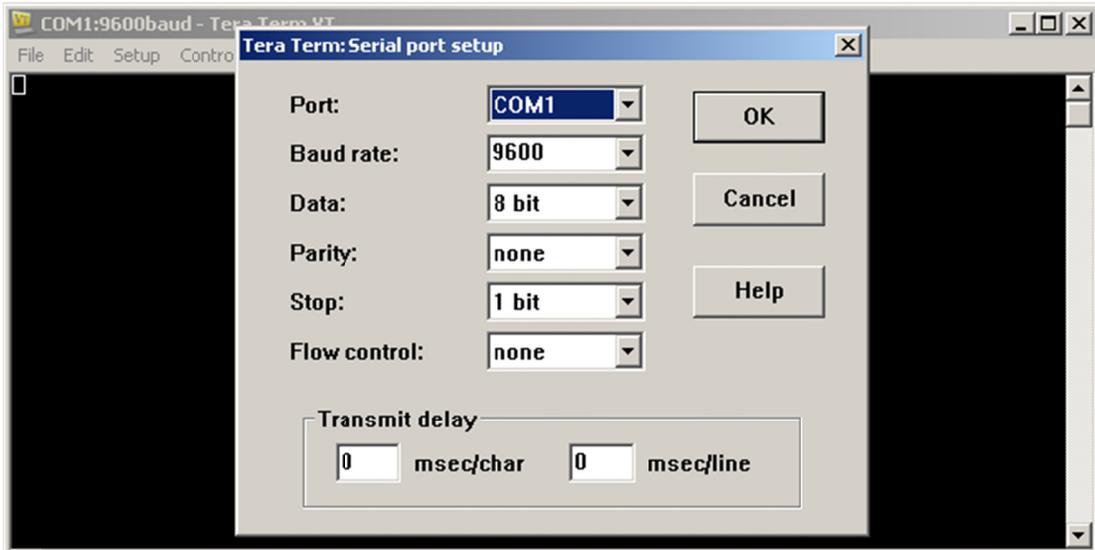
<http://logmett.com/index.php?/download/free-downloads.html>

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- b. In the New Connection dialog box, click the **Serial** radio button. Verify that the correct COM port is selected and click **OK** to continue.

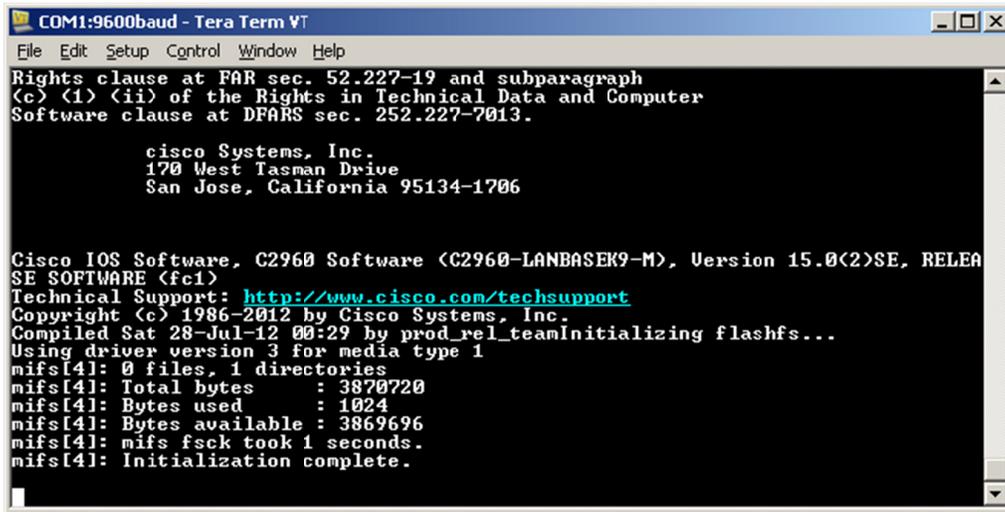


- c. From the Tera Term **Setup** menu, choose the **Serial port...** to verify the serial settings. The default parameters for the console port are 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit, and no flow control. The Tera Term default settings match the console port settings for communications with the Cisco IOS switch.



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- d. When you can see the terminal output, you are ready to configure a Cisco switch. The following console example displays the terminal output of the switch while it is loading.



```
COM1:9600baud - Tera Term VT
File Edit Setup Control Window Help
Rights clause at FAR sec. 52.227-19 and subparagraph
(c) (1) (ii) of the Rights in Technical Data and Computer
Software clause at DFARS sec. 252.227-7013.

    cisco Systems, Inc.
    170 West Tasman Drive
    San Jose, California 95134-1706

Cisco IOS Software, C2960 Software (C2960-LANBASEK9-M), Version 15.0(2)SE, RELEA
SE SOFTWARE (fc1)
Technical Support: http://www.cisco.com/techsupport
Copyright (c) 1986-2012 by Cisco Systems, Inc.
Compiled Sat 28-Jul-12 00:29 by prod_rel_teamInitializing flashfs...
Using driver version 3 for media type 1
mifs[4]: 0 files, 1 directories
mifs[4]: Total bytes      : 3870720
mifs[4]: Bytes used      : 1024
mifs[4]: Bytes available : 3869696
mifs[4]: mifs fsck took 1 seconds.
mifs[4]: Initialization complete.
```

Part 2: Display and Configure Basic Device Settings

In this section, you are introduced to the user and privileged executive modes. You will determine the Internetwork Operating System (IOS) version, display the clock settings, and configure the clock on the switch.

Step 1: Display the switch IOS image version.

- a. After the switch has completed its startup process, the following message displays. Enter **n** to continue.

```
Would you like to enter the initial configuration dialog? [yes/no]: n
```

Note: If you do not see the above message, please contact your instructor to reset your switch to the initial configuration.

- b. While you are in the user EXEC mode, display the IOS version for your switch.

```
Switch> show version

Cisco IOS Software, C2960 Software (C2960-LANBASEK9-M), Version 15.0(2)SE, RELEASE
SOFTWARE (fc1)
Technical Support: http://www.cisco.com/techsupport
Copyright (c) 1986-2012 by Cisco Systems, Inc.
Compiled Sat 28-Jul-12 00:29 by prod_rel_team

ROM: Bootstrap program is C2960 boot loader
BOOTLDR: C2960 Boot Loader (C2960-HBOOT-M) Version 12.2(53r)SEY3, RELEASE SOFTWARE
(fc1)

Switch uptime is 2 minutes
System returned to ROM by power-on
System image file is "flash://c2960-lanbasek9-mz.150-2.SE.bin"
<output omitted>
```

Which IOS image version is currently in use by your switch?

Step 2: Configure the clock.

As you learn more about networking, you will see that configuring the correct time on a Cisco switch can be helpful when you are troubleshooting problems. The following steps manually configure the internal clock of the switch.

- a. Display the current clock settings.

```
Switch> show clock
*00:30:05.261 UTC Mon Mar 1 1993
```

- b. The clock setting is changed in the privileged EXEC mode. Enter the privileged EXEC mode by typing **enable** at the user EXEC mode prompt.

```
Switch> enable
```

- c. Configure the clock setting. The question mark (?) provides help and allows you to determine the expected input for configuring the current time, date, and year. Press Enter to complete the clock configuration.

```
Switch# clock set ?
  hh:mm:ss  Current Time
```

```
Switch# clock set 15:08:00 ?
  <1-31>    Day of the month
  MONTH    Month of the year
```

```
Switch# clock set 15:08:00 Oct 26 ?
  <1993-2035> Year
```

```
Switch# clock set 15:08:00 Oct 26 2012
```

```
Switch#
```

```
*Oct 26 15:08:00.000: %SYS-6-CLOCKUPDATE: System clock has been updated from 00:31:43
UTC Mon Mar 1 1993 to 15:08:00 UTC Fri Oct 26 2012, configured from console by
console.
```

- d. Enter the **show clock** command to verify that the clock setting was updated.

```
Switch# show clock
15:08:07.205 UTC Fri Oct 26 2012
```

Part 3: (Optional) Access a Cisco Router Using a Mini-USB Console Cable

If you are using a Cisco 1941 router or other Cisco IOS devices with a mini-USB console port, you can access the device console port using a mini-USB cable connected to the USB port on your computer.

Note: The mini-USB console cable is the same type of mini-USB cables that are used with other electronics devices, such as USB hard drives, USB printers, or USB hubs. These mini-USB cables can be purchased through Cisco Systems, Inc. or other third-party vendors. Please verify that you are using a mini-USB cable, not a micro-USB cable, to connect to the mini-USB console port on a Cisco IOS device.

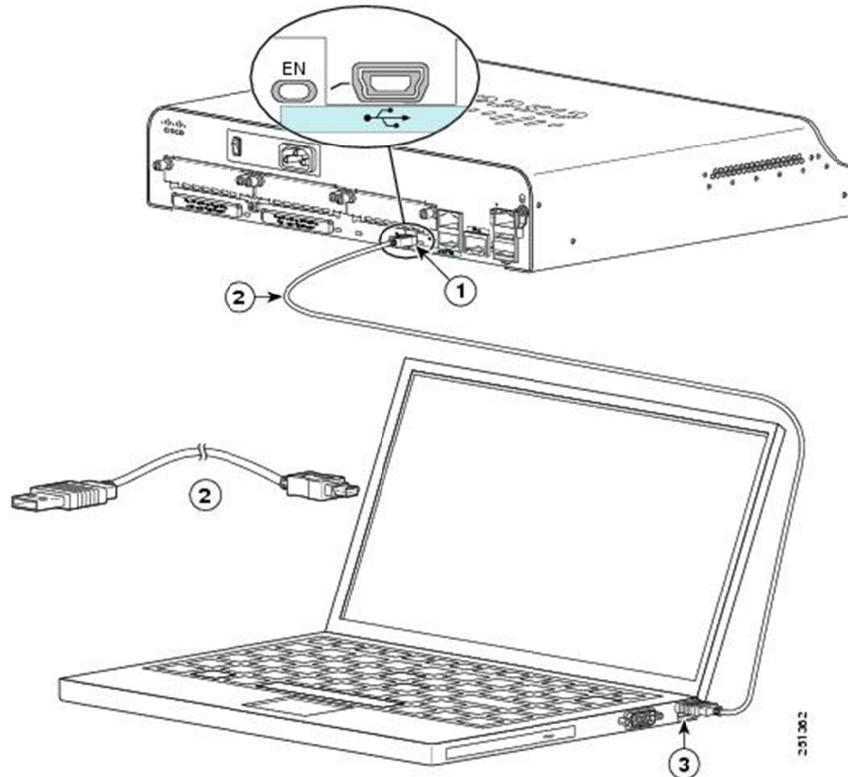


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Note: You must use either the USB port or the RJ-45 port, and not both simultaneously. When the USB port is used, it takes priority over the RJ-45 console port used in Part 1.

Step 1: Set up the physical connection with a mini-USB cable.

- Connect the mini-USB cable to the mini-USB console port of the router.
- Connect the other cable end to a USB port on the computer.
- Power up the Cisco router and computer, if these devices are not already on.



- 1) USB 5-pin mini Type-B console port
- 2) USB 5-pin mini Type-B to USB Type-A Console Cable
- 3) USB Type-A connector

Step 2: Verify that the USB console is ready.

If you are using a Microsoft Windows-based PC and the USB console port LED indicator (labeled EN) does not turn green, please install the Cisco USB console driver.

For a Microsoft Windows-based PC connecting to a Cisco IOS device with a USB cable, a USB driver must be installed prior to use. The driver can be found on www.cisco.com with the related Cisco IOS device. The USB driver can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.cisco.com/cisco/software/release.html?mdfid=282774238&flowid=714&softwareid=282855122&release=3.1&reind=AVAILABLE&relifecycle=&reltype=latest>

Note: You must have a valid Cisco Connection Online (CCO) account to download this file.

Note: This link is related to the Cisco 1941 router; however, the USB console driver is not Cisco IOS device-model specific. This USB console driver only works with Cisco routers and switches. The computer requires a reboot after finishing the installation of the USB driver.

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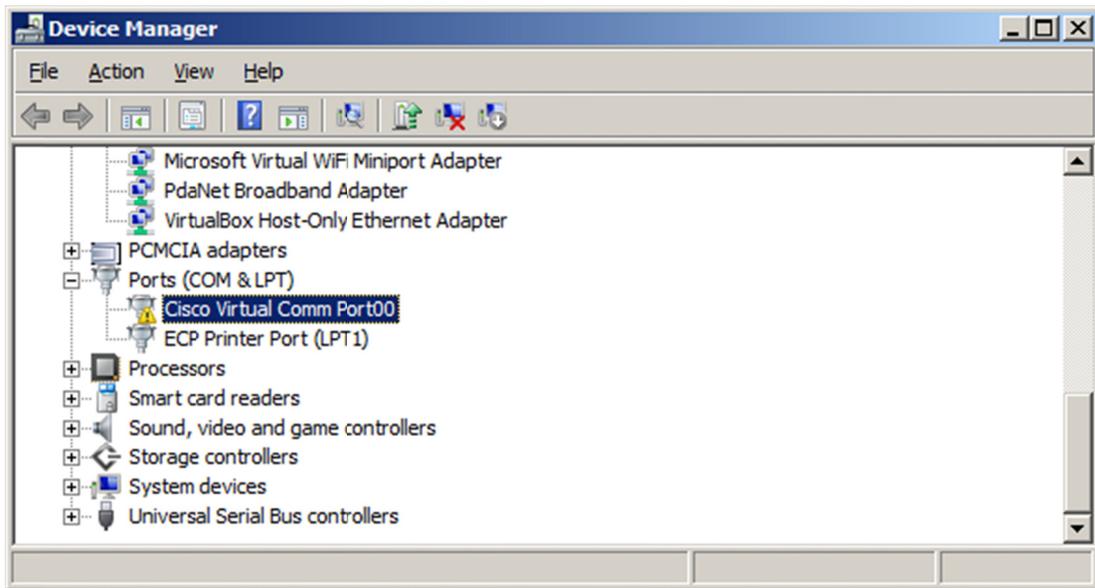
Note: After the files are extracted, the folder contains instructions for installation and removal and necessary drivers for different operating systems and architectures. Please choose the appropriate version for your system.

When the LED indicator for the USB console port has turned green, the USB console port is ready for access.

Step 3: (Optional) Enable the COM port for the Windows 7 PC.

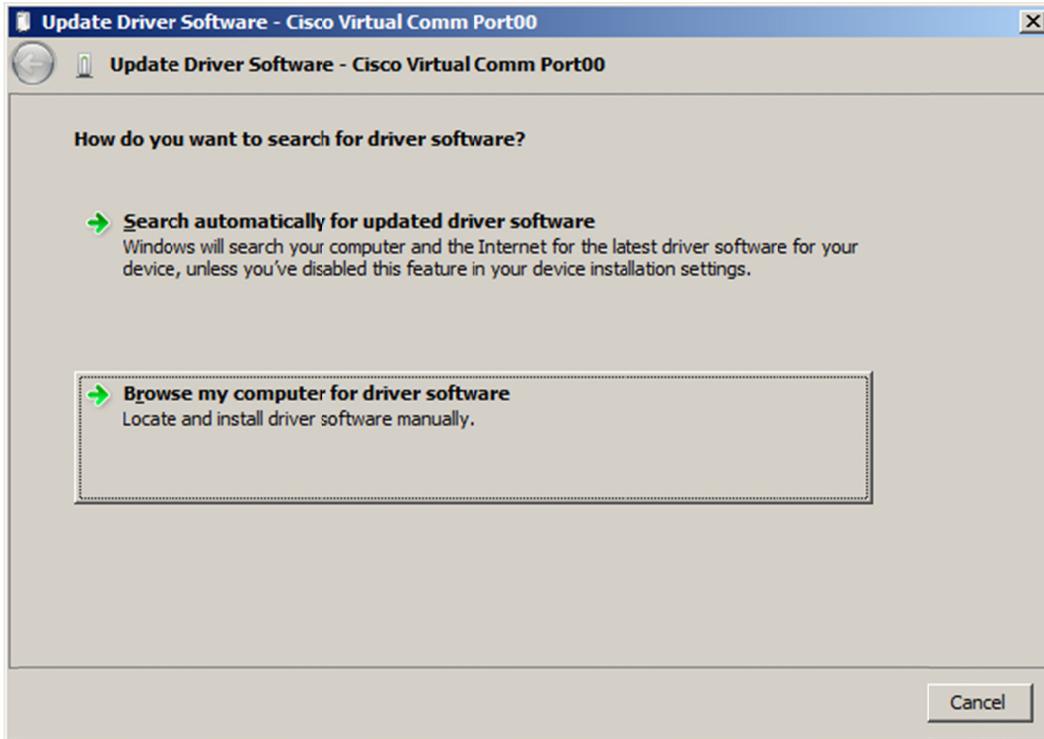
If you are using a Microsoft Windows 7 PC, you may need to perform the following steps to enable the COM port:

- a. Click the **Windows Start** icon to access the **Control Panel**.
- b. Open the **Device Manager**.
- c. Click the **Ports (COM & LPT)** tree link to expand it. The **Cisco Virtual Comm Port00** icon displays with a yellow exclamation point attached.

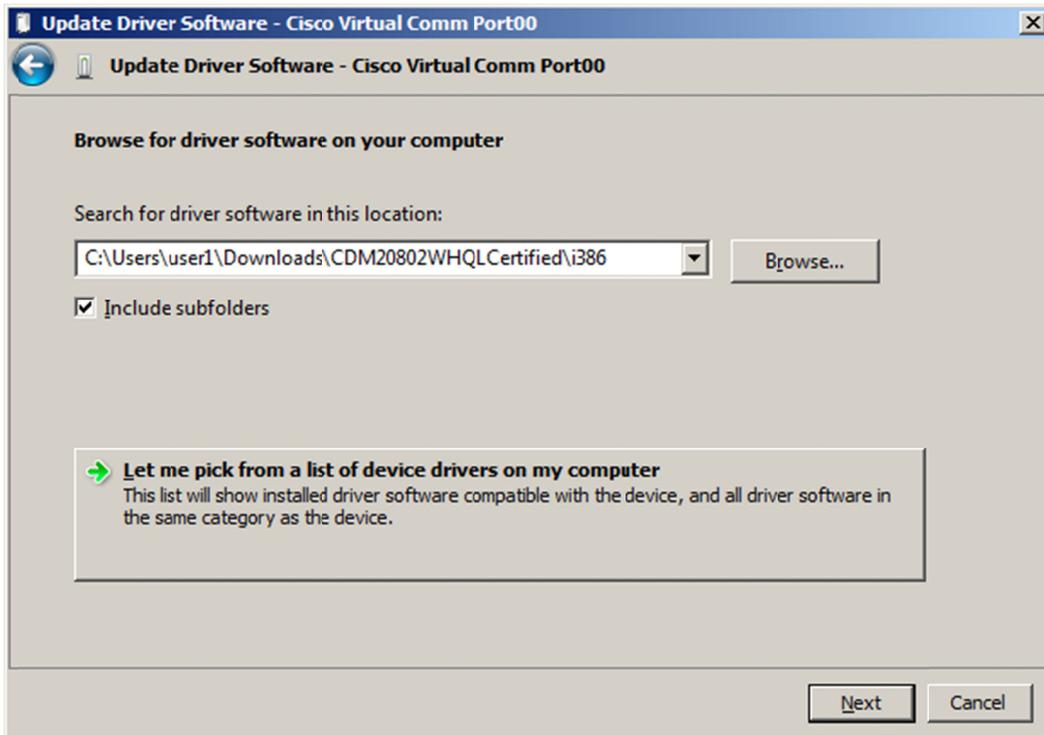


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- d. To resolve the issue, right-click the **Cisco Virtual Comm Port00** icon and choose **Update Driver Software**.
- e. Choose **Browse my computer for driver software**.

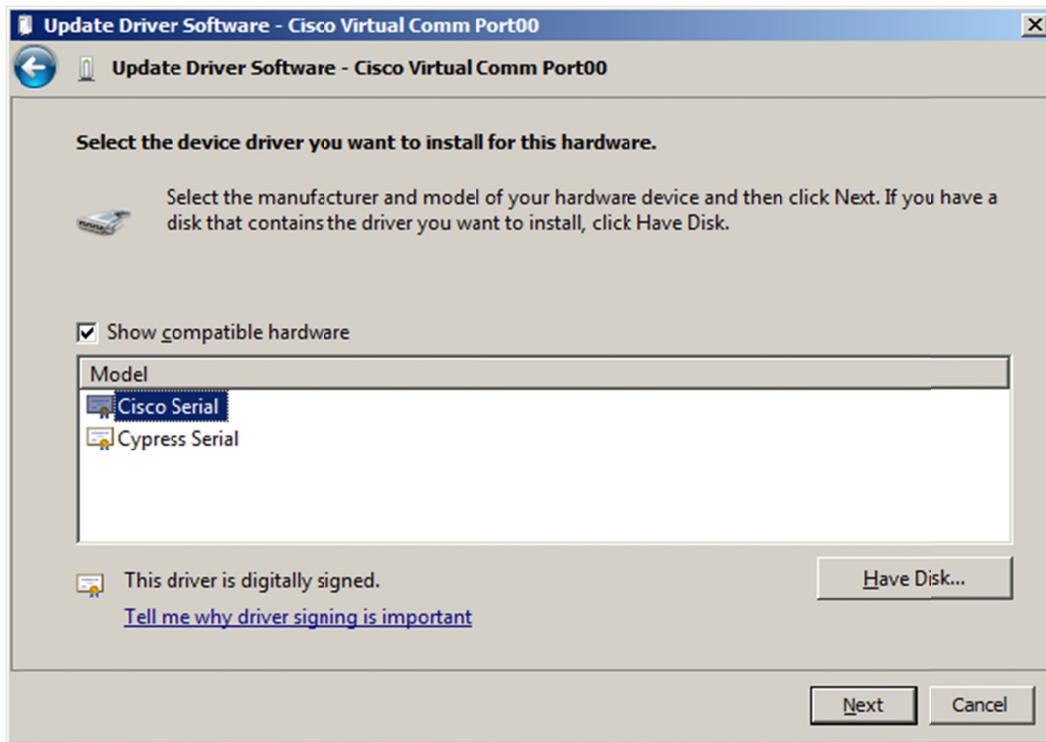


- f. Choose **Let me pick from a list of device drivers on my computer** and click **Next**.

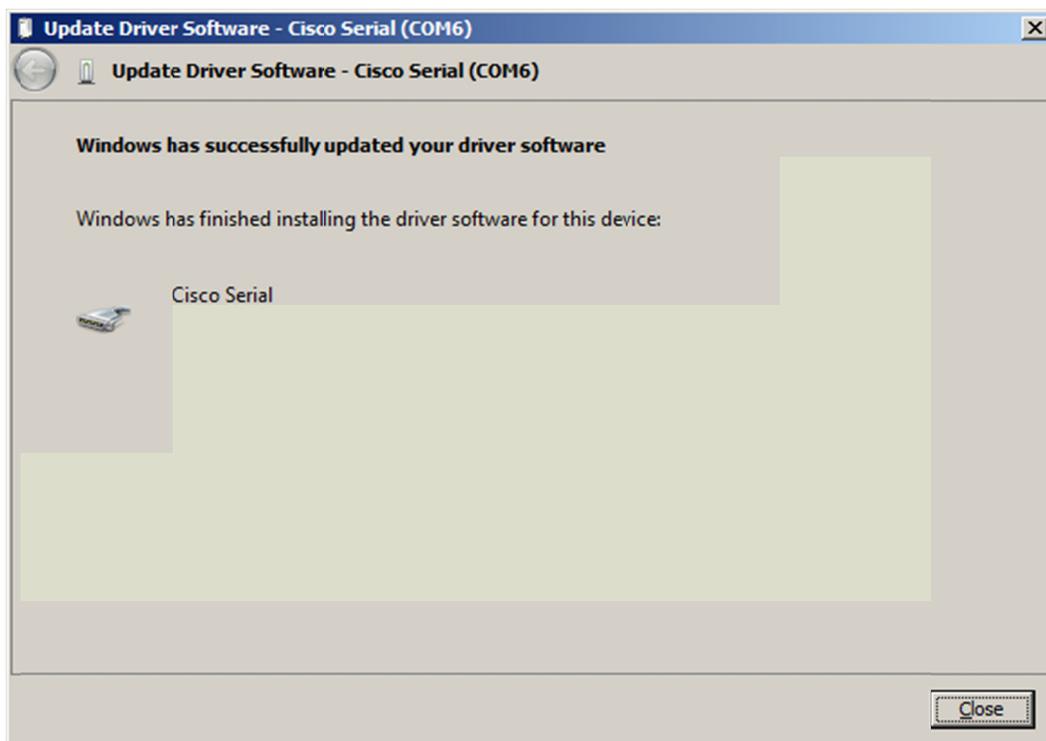


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- g. Choose the **Cisco Serial** driver and click **Next**.

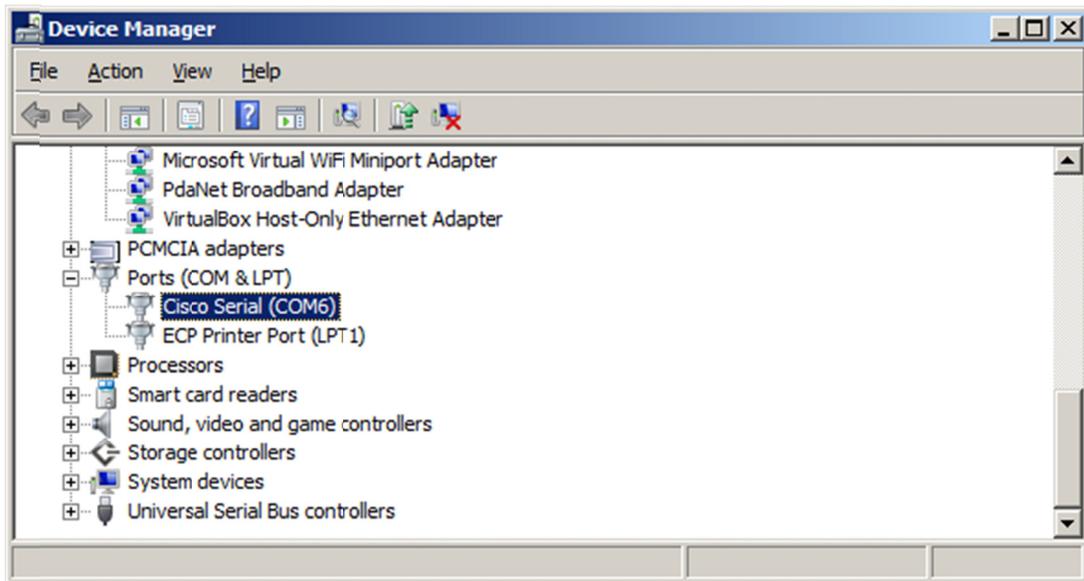


- h. The device driver is installed successfully. Take note of the port number assigned at the top of the window. In this sample, COM 6 is used for communication with the router. Click **Close**.

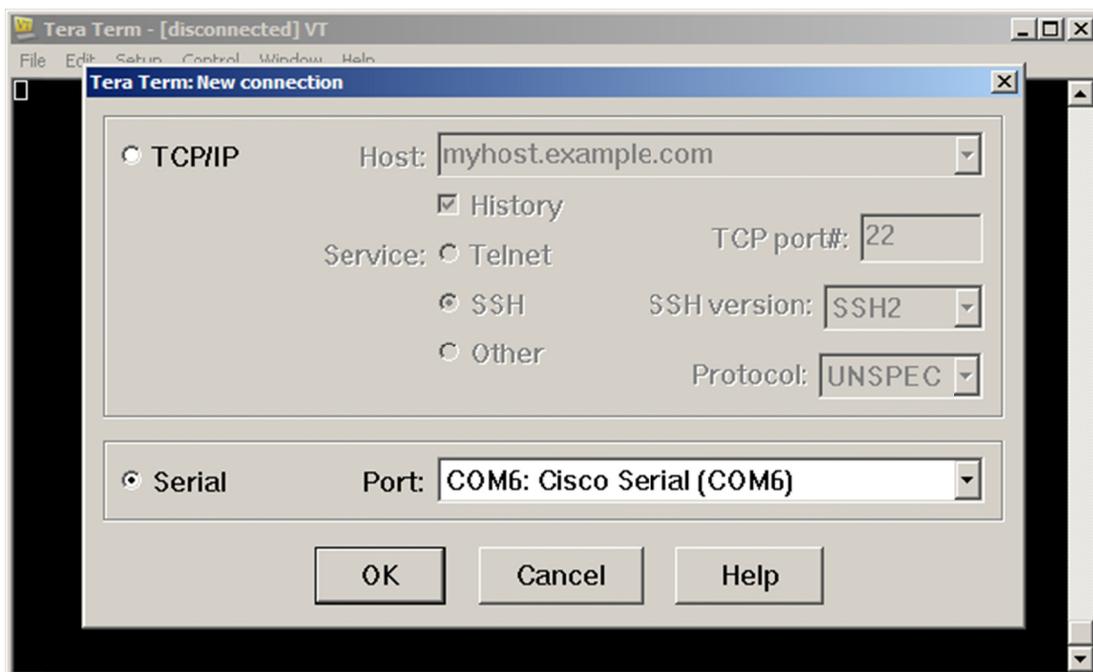


Step 4: (Optional) Determine the COM port number.

- a. If you need to determine the COM port number, open the **Control Panel** and select the **Device Manager**. Search for the **Ports (COM & LPT)** heading, expand it, and determine the COM port number currently in use. In this example, **Cisco Serial (COM 6)** was selected for connection to the router because a Cisco USB console driver is in use. If you use a rollover console cable, or an adapter from a different manufacturer, the naming convention reflects this information.



- b. Open Tera Term. Click the **Serial** radio button and choose **Port COM6: Cisco Serial (COM 6)**. This port should now be available for communication with the router. Click **OK**.



Reflection

1. How do you prevent unauthorized personnel from accessing your Cisco device through the console port?

2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the serial console connection as compared to the USB console connection to a Cisco router or switch?

Router Interface Summary Table

Router Interface Summary				
Router Model	Ethernet Interface #1	Ethernet Interface #2	Serial Interface #1	Serial Interface #2
1800	Fast Ethernet 0/0 (F0/0)	Fast Ethernet 0/1 (F0/1)	Serial 0/0/0 (S0/0/0)	Serial 0/0/1 (S0/0/1)
1900	Gigabit Ethernet 0/0 (G0/0)	Gigabit Ethernet 0/1 (G0/1)	Serial 0/0/0 (S0/0/0)	Serial 0/0/1 (S0/0/1)
2801	Fast Ethernet 0/0 (F0/0)	Fast Ethernet 0/1 (F0/1)	Serial 0/1/0 (S0/1/0)	Serial 0/1/1 (S0/1/1)
2811	Fast Ethernet 0/0 (F0/0)	Fast Ethernet 0/1 (F0/1)	Serial 0/0/0 (S0/0/0)	Serial 0/0/1 (S0/0/1)
2900	Gigabit Ethernet 0/0 (G0/0)	Gigabit Ethernet 0/1 (G0/1)	Serial 0/0/0 (S0/0/0)	Serial 0/0/1 (S0/0/1)

Note: To find out how the router is configured, look at the interfaces to identify the type of router and how many interfaces the router has. There is no way to effectively list all the combinations of configurations for each router class. This table includes identifiers for the possible combinations of Ethernet and Serial interfaces in the device. The table does not include any other type of interface, even though a specific router may contain one. An example of this might be an ISDN BRI interface. The string in parenthesis is the legal abbreviation that can be used in Cisco IOS commands to represent the interface.