

Resolving Hardware Conflicts On Your Own - Toshiba P100-ST7211 User Manual

P100-st7211 user's guide

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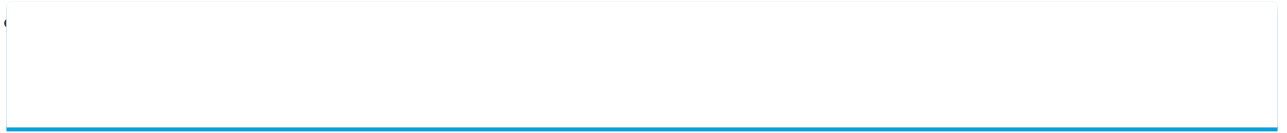
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If Something Goes Wrong

Resolving a hardware conflict

Resolving hardware conflicts on your own

Computer components need resources to accomplish a task.

A device, such as a disk drive or a modem, needs a channel to the computer's Central Processing Unit (CPU). It also needs a direct channel to the computer's memory to store information as it works. These channels of communication are commonly referred to as system resources.

Interrupt Request Channel

The channel to the CPU is called an Interrupt Request (IRQ)

because it interrupts what the processor is doing and requests

some of the processor's time. If two or more devices use the

same IRQ, the processor does not know which device is asking for attention. This causes a hardware conflict.

Direct Memory Access

Similarly, the data required by the device is stored in a specific place or address in memory called the Direct Memory Access (DMA). The DMA provides a dedicated channel for adapter cards to bypass the microprocessor and

access memory directly. If two or more devices use the same

DMA, the data required by one device overwrites the data

required by the other, causing a hardware conflict.

Plug and Play

With Plug and Play and the operating system, avoiding hardware conflicts is easy. Plug and Play is a computer standard that helps the system BIOS (basic input/output system) and the operating system to automatically assign system resources to Plug and Play-compliant devices. In theory, if every device connected to the computer is Plug and Play-compliant, no two devices will compete for the same system resources. Plug in the device and turn on your computer. The operating system is automatically set up to accommodate the new device.

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