

PortDirector

User guide

*Part number: 5500028-12
Date: 16 December 1999*

Navigating around this manual



Using this on-line manual. See page 4.



Fast Contents. See page 6.



Contents. See page 7.



Quick reference. See page 68.



Index. See page 86.

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About this manual

Purpose of this manual

This manual tells you how to install, configure and use the PortDirector software.

Note

For details of the operating system and hardware needed to run the PortDirector software, see [System requirements](#) on page 16.

Who this manual is for

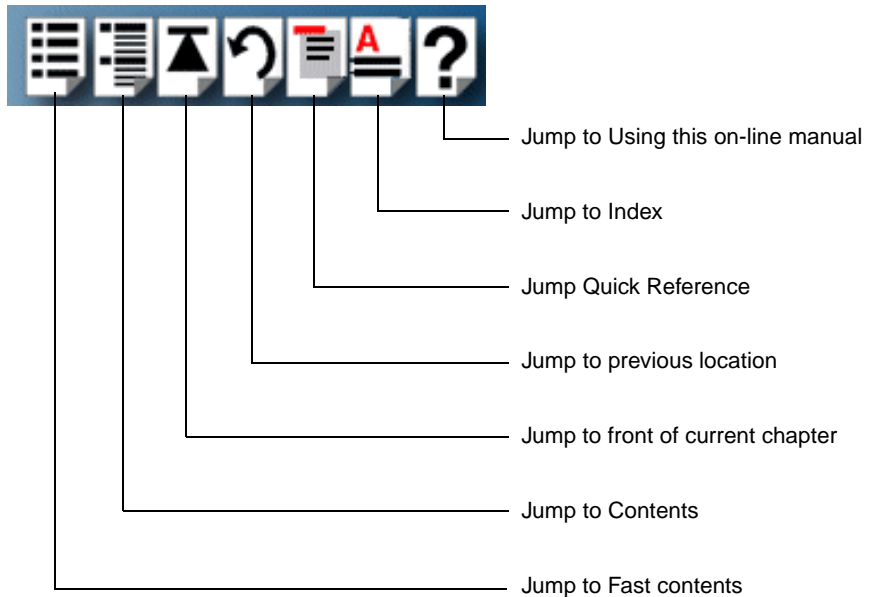
This manual is aimed at PC users who want to display or configure com ports on their systems (provided by Specialix connectivity products). This manual requires a working knowledge of using personal computers and associated operating systems.

Using this on-line manual

The following is a brief guide to using this manual on-line.

Document navigation

This manual features document navigation hypertext buttons in the header area as shown in the next picture;



Hypertext jumps

You can also navigate around this manual by clicking on any cross reference or text in blue for example, [Hypertext jumps](#).

Note

The **Fast Contents**, **Contents** and **Index** entries are all hypertext jumps into this manual.

Revision history

Date	Part number	Description
June 1999	5500028-10	First issue of new PortDirector user guide.
September 1999	5500028-11	Update of manual to include SPEED products.
December 1999	5500028-12	Update of manual to include device mapping functionality and Windows 2000.

Fast Contents

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Chapter 1 Introduction

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want an introduction to the PortDirector software.

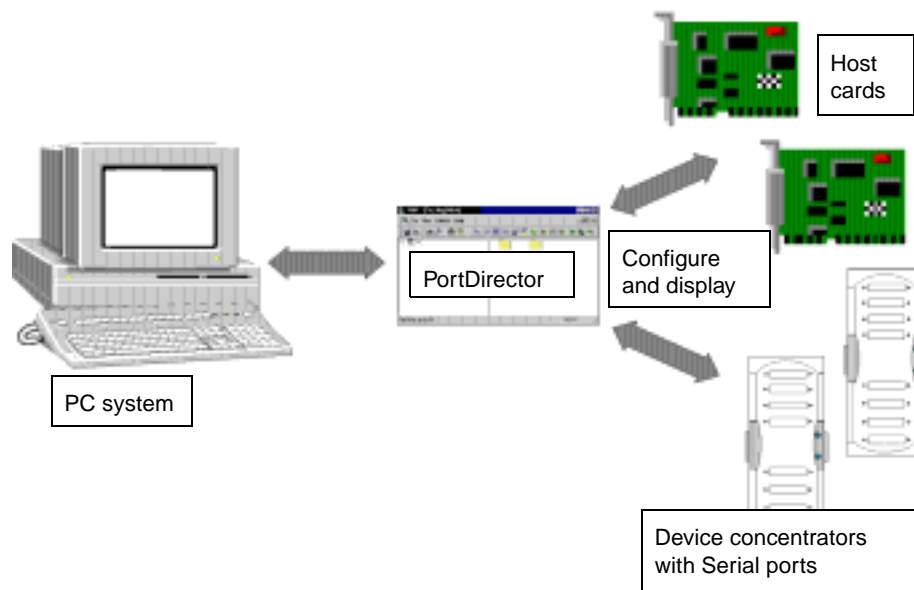
This chapter provides an introduction to the PortDirector software ([page 12](#)) information on how to use the product ([page 13](#)) and lists related hardware documentation ([page 14](#)).

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [About the PortDirector software](#) on page [12](#)
- [How to use the PortDirector software](#) on page [13](#)
- [Related hardware documentation](#) on page [14](#).

About the PortDirector software

The PortDirector is a software tool which allows you to display and configure the parameters of serial ports connected to your PC system. In addition, you can use PortDirector to configure host cards and device concentrators attached to your system and to perform various basic diagnostic functions on the connected devices.



You use the PortDirector software because you want an application which is not device specific or you are working with a system which includes Specialix connectivity products. For example, SX, I/O8+, SPEED4 or SPEED4+.

The PortDirector software allows you display a topological view of the PC ports and peripherals connected to the system and allows you to control the ports and devices for the Specialix SX, I/O8+, SPEED4 or SPEED4+ products.

PortDirector supports the Specialix SX, I/O8+, SPEED and RIO products as well as third party products which it treats as generic com ports.

The Windows 2000 version of PortDirector includes device mapping facilities which allow you to display a visual map of the actual connections between the hardware devices in a system. Using the Device Map facility you can manage networks components in remote locations and perform a variety of network management tasks. See [Displaying a map of system connections](#) on page 36. This facility is especially useful in managing network components spread over a wide area.

How to use the PortDirector software

The general procedure for using the PortDirector software is as follows;

1. Install the PortDirector software onto your PC system. See [General installation procedure](#) on page 17.

Note

For details of the operating system and hardware needed to run the PortDirector software, see [System requirements](#) on page 16.

2. Start the PortDirector software on your system. See [Starting PortDirector](#) on page 27.
3. If required, display the device drivers, host cards, device concentrators and com ports present in your system. See [Displaying the system hierarchy](#) on page 30 and [Displaying details of system components](#) on page 34.

Hint

For Windows 2000 installations you can also use Device map to view and manage your system. See [Displaying a map of system connections](#) on page 36.

4. If required, add or delete any host cards from your system as needed. See [Adding host cards](#) on page 48 and [Deleting host cards](#) on page 52.
5. If required, re-scan your system for any devices which are present but not active. See [Re-scanning the system](#) on page 54.
6. If required, configure the com ports on your system. See [Working with com ports](#) on page 56
7. Exit from the PortDirector software on your system. See [Exiting PortDirector](#) on page 28.
8. If required, remove the PortDirector software from your system. See [Removing PortDirector from your system](#) on page 24.

Related hardware documentation

For information about the hardware products used with this software, see the following product manuals;

- SX Quick start guide
- SX Installation Guide
- SX Configuration Guide
- SX release notes
- I/O8+ user guide
- SPEED user guide.

Chapter 2 Installing and removing PortDirector

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want to install the PortDirector application onto your system.

This chapter tells you how to install PortDirector on your system. You can do this either from CDROM ([page 20](#)) or by down loading from the Specialix web site ([page 21](#)). Also included are the system requirements to run PortDirector ([page 16](#)) and the procedure for removing the PortDirector software from your system ([page 24](#)).

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [System requirements](#) on page [16](#)
- [General installation procedure](#) on page [17](#)
- [Installing PortDirector from CDROM](#) on page [20](#)
- [Down loading PortDirector from the Specialix web site](#) on page [21](#)
- [Updating an existing device driver](#) on page [23](#)
- [Removing PortDirector from your system](#) on page [24](#).

System requirements

In order to run the PortDirector software you need a system which conforms to the following requirements:.

Item	Description
Platform	PC
Operating system	Windows NT 4, NT 3.51 Service pack 5 or Windows 2000.
Memory	32 Mb RAM
Disk space to store	5Mb minimum

In the event of any problems, please contact your system administrator for assistance.

General installation procedure

The general procedure for installing the PortDirector software under either the Windows NT or Windows 2000 operating systems is as follows;

Note

PortDirector is available in separate versions for **Windows NT** and **Windows 2000**. The installation procedure for the different versions is virtually identical. Any differences are highlighted in the procedure.

The Windows 2000 version does not include device drivers. You need to install device drivers independently of this application.



Caution

Do not install version 1.04 or earlier of PortDirector under Windows 2000 as this may cause problems with your existing device driver installation.

Loading the software

1. Load the PortDirector software onto your system either from CDROM or by down loading from the Specialix web site using the procedures described in one of the following:

- [Installing PortDirector from CDROM](#) on page [20](#)
- [Down loading PortDirector from the Specialix web site](#) on page [21](#).

Note

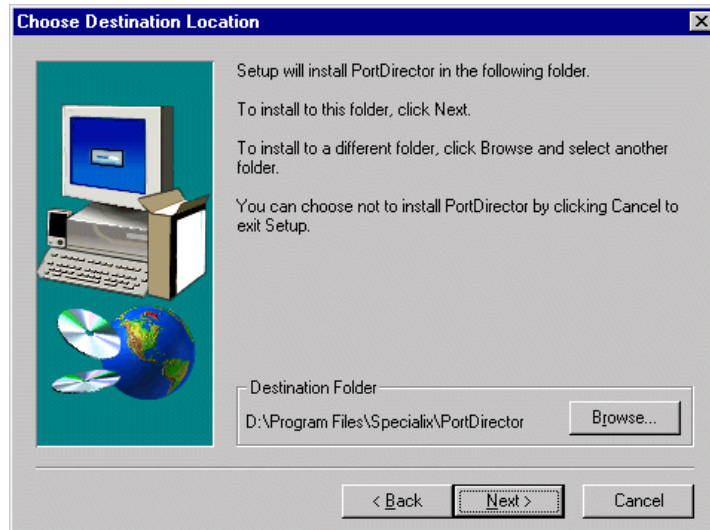
If you try to install the Windows NT version of PortDirector on a Windows 2000 system, a message is now displayed informing you that you are installing the wrong version and no further installation will be permitted by the software.



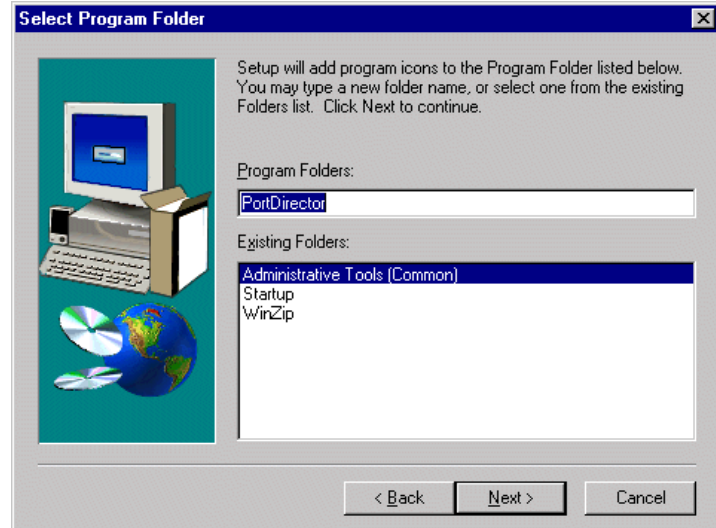
If this happens repeat step [1.](#) of this procedure using the correct version of PortDirector.

Choosing the destination folder

The **Choose Destination Location** window and a popup message window are now displayed as shown in the next pictures.



2. In the pop-up message window, click on the **OK** button to close the window.
3. If required, in the **Choose Destination Location** window, click the **Browse** button to change the destination folder.
A file browser is now displayed.
4. In the browser, choose the new location you want and close the browser.
The destination folder is now updated accordingly.
5. In the **Choose Destination Location** window, click on the **Next** button.
The Select Program Folder window is now displayed showing the default folder as shown in the next picture.



6. If required, in the **Select Program Folder** window, select a new folder by entering the file and path names into the **Program Folders** field. Alternatively, in the same window, click on an entry in the **Existing Folders** field.
7. In the **Select Program Folder** window, click on the **Next** button.

The PortDirector application is now copied onto your system thereby completing the installation process.

Note

Following installation of PortDirector under either Windows NT and Windows 2000 we recommend re-application of the current service pack. See your Windows user documentation for and on-line help further details.

You can now use the PortDirector application to set up your system. See [page 11](#) for further details.

Installing PortDirector from CDROM

To load PortDirector from CDROM proceed as follows:

1. Load the HandyWEB CDROM into your PC.
2. In the Windows desktop on your PC, click on the **Start** button then select **Programs> Windows Explorer**.
The Explorer window is now displayed.
3. In the left hand view of the Explorer window, select the HandyWEB CD icon.
The right hand view of the Explorer window is now updated to show the contents of the HandyWEB CD.
4. In the right hand view of the Explorer window, select the \Drivers\PortDirector directory and click on the **Set up** application icon.



The PortDirector **Setup Application** and **Choose Destination Location** windows now appear.

5. Now follow the steps described in [Choosing the destination folder](#) in the [General installation procedure](#) on page [17](#) to complete the installation process.

Down loading PortDirector from the Specialix web site

You can install the PortDirector software from the Specialix web site. To do this proceed as follows;

1. On your PC, start the Internet browser or FTP Client you want to use (for example, Netscape).
2. Within your Internet browser window or FTP client, select the software directory using one of the following URLs;

<ftp://ftp.specialix.co.uk/Drivers/PortDirector>

or

<ftp://ftp.specialix.com/Drivers/PortDirector>

Note

In the event of any problems contact your System Administrator or Internet Service provider for assistance.

3. Change to the directory for the operating system you want as shown in the next table.

Operating system	Directory
Windows NT	winnt
Windows 2000	w2k

The software directory is now displayed.

4. Download the files in this directory to a suitable location on your PC for example, c:\temp.
5. In the Windows desktop on your PC, click on the **Start** button then select **Programs > Windows Explorer**.

The Explorer window is now displayed.

6. In the Explorer window, display the location of the PortDirector zip file you have downloaded.
7. Using the software tool of your choice, (for example, Win Zip) unzip the file.

The PortDirector software directory is now displayed.

8. In the right hand view of the Explorer window, select the PortDirector directory and click on the **Set up** application icon.



The PortDirector **Setup Application** and **Choose Destination Location** windows now appear.

9. Now follow the steps described in [Choosing the destination folder](#) of the [General installation procedure](#) on page [17](#) to complete the installation process.

Updating an existing device driver

The PortDirector software allows you to update an existing device driver. For example, a Specialix IO8 Serial device driver. You update device drivers when you want to use a new version of an existing device driver (for example, new release containing product enhancements). The files you update have the .sys extension for example, for IO8 it would be IO8.sys and so on.

To update a device driver proceed as follows;

Note

You can only update an existing device driver if that device and all its ports are inactive.

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the icon for the device driver you want.
2. In the PortDirector window, click on the right mouse button and select the Update device menu option (available in both left and right hand view). Alternatively, in the PortDirector window click on the Update device button.
A popup window now appears asking you to confirm the update.
3. In the pop-up, click on **Yes** to confirm your selection.
A browser is now displayed.
4. In the browser, locate and select the new version of the device driver you are updating and click on **Open**.

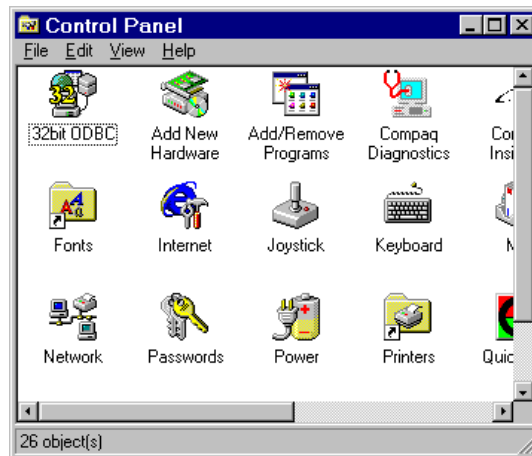
The new device driver is now installed.

Removing PortDirector from your system

To remove (uninstall) PortDirector from your system proceed as follows;

1. In the Windows desktop on your PC, click on the **Start** button and select the **Settings > Control Panel** menu option.

The Control Panel window is now displayed.

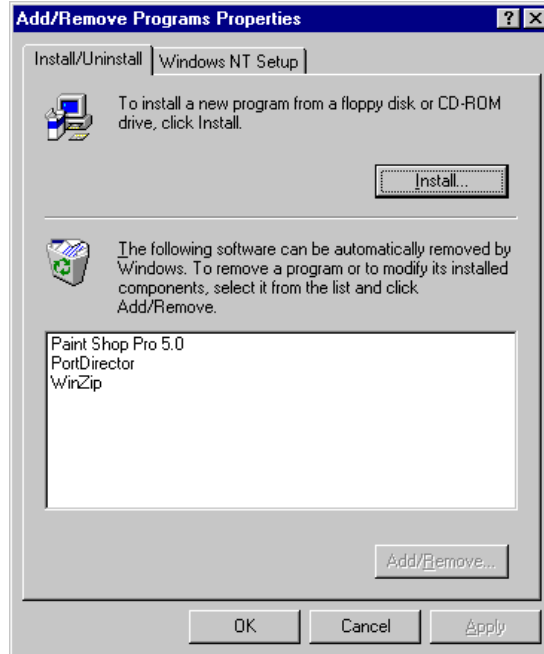


2. In the Control Panel window, double click on the **Add/Remove Programs** icon.



The **Add/Remove Programs Properties** window is now displayed.

3. In the **Add/Remove Programs Properties** window, click on the tab to display the **Install/Uninstall** page (shown in the next picture).



4. In the **Install/Uninstall** page, select PortDirector as the application you want to remove and then click on the **Add/Remove** button.
A pop-up appears asking you to confirm the deletion
 5. In the pop-up, click on **Yes** to confirm the removal of the PortDirector software from your system.
A message is now displayed while the software is removed.
- The PortDirector is now removed from your system with no further prompts.

Chapter 3 Starting and exiting PortDirector

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want to start or exit the PortDirector software.

This chapter tells you the procedure for starting the PortDirector software from the Windows desktop and also how to exit from PortDirector from within the software.

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [Starting PortDirector](#) on page [27](#)
- [Exiting PortDirector](#) on page [28](#)


Starting PortDirector

To start the PortDirector software from the Windows start menu, proceed as follows;

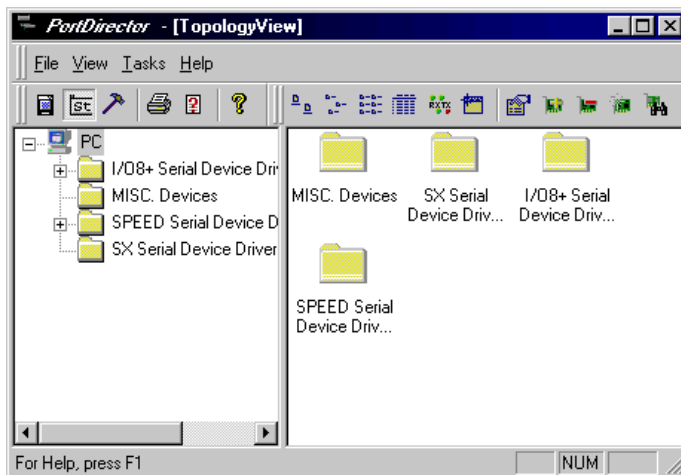
1. In the Windows desktop on your PC, click on the **Start** button then select **Programs > PortDirector**.

Hint

You can also start PortDirector using a windows shortcut as follows:

1. In the Windows Desktop double click on the PortDirector shortcut icon  (See Windows user documentation).

The PortDirector window is now displayed and you can start using the software (Windows NT opening screen shown).



Exiting PortDirector

To exit from the PortDirector software proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector menu, click on **File > Exit**.

The PortDirector software now closes.

Chapter 4 Displaying your system

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want to display a map of the cards and devices on your system.

This chapter tells you how to use PortDirector to display a map of the device drivers, host cards, device concentrators and com ports present in your system. Also included are the options for displaying details of system components in the right hand view of the PortDirector window.

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [Displaying the system hierarchy](#) on page [30](#)
- [Printing a copy of the system hierarchy](#) on page [33](#)
- [Displaying details of system components](#) on page [34](#)
- [Displaying a map of system connections](#) on page [36](#)

Displaying the system hierarchy

PortDirector allows you to display a map showing full details of Specialix products such as device drivers, host cards, device concentrators and com ports present in your system. In addition, you can also display the com ports of third party products.

You display a system hierarchy because you want to see a map of your entire system and identify individual items such as com ports or host cards. This makes it easier to decide which devices to configure and where they are in the system. This is especially useful when you have a large number of com ports.

For example, some host cards like the Specialix I/O8+ or SPEED have connections for serial devices direct to the back of the host card where as other cards like the Specialix SX and RIO have serial connections made to the device concentrators connected to the host card.

You display the components of your system by clicking on an Explorer style hierarchy tree in the left hand view of the PortDirector window, or by double clicking on an item in the right hand view of the same window.

To display the components of your system proceed as follows;

Note

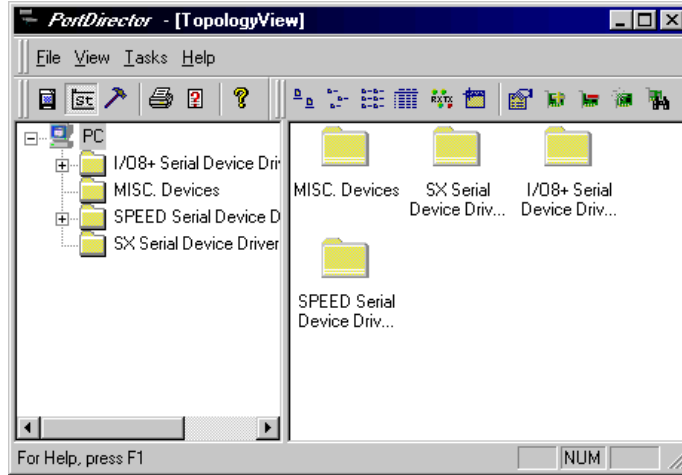
If you try and display a component which is not physically present in your PC then it will appear greyed out as shown in the next picture.



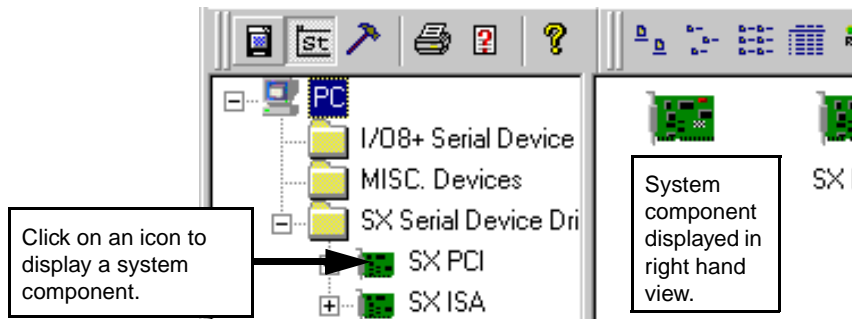
A typical example, is when an ISA card is no longer present in the system or does not have any Device concentrators attached.

1. Start the PortDirector software using the procedures given on [page 26](#).

The PortDirector window is now displayed in Topology view as shown in the next picture.



You can now display system components in the right hand view of the PortDirector window by clicking on icons in the explorer style hierarchy tree in the left hand view as shown in the next picture.



2. In the PortDirector window, display the system component you want by clicking on an icon in the Explorer style hierarchy tree in the left hand view. Alternatively, click on an icon you want in the right hand view.

Note

The order in which com ports are displayed is the order in which they are physically present on the parent device.

The icons and their corresponding devices are shown in the next table:

To display...	Click icon	Example display
Device drivers		
Host cards		
Device concentrators		
Com ports Displayed in the order in which they are physically present on the parent device.		

Printing a copy of the system hierarchy

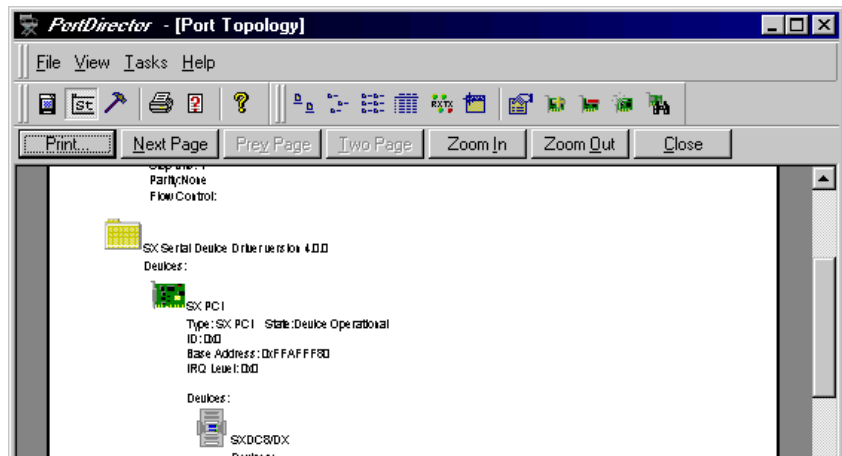
PortDirector allows you to print a copy of the complete system hierarchy. You can also preview the system hierarchy before printing. To print the system hierarchy proceed as follows;

Note

PortDirector allows you to print the **complete** system hierarchy only.

1. In the PortDirector menu, click on **File > Print Preview**. Alternatively in the toolbar, click on the print preview icon.

A preview of the system hierarchy you are printing is now displayed as shown in the next picture.



2. If required, in the print preview display, click on the Print button to print the current hierarchy. Alternatively, in the PortDirector menu, click on **File > Print**.
The standard Windows print window is now displayed.
3. In the **Print** window, set the print parameters you want then press **OK** to confirm and print your selection.

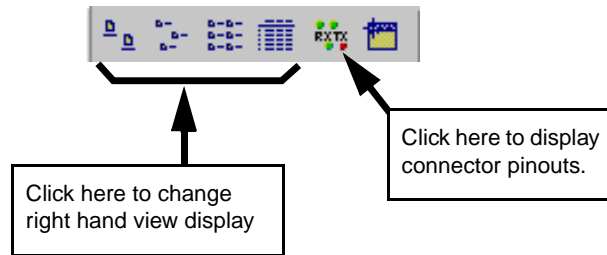
Hint

To setup the printer, in the In the PortDirector menu, click on **File > Print Setup** and use the resulting window to adjust printer settings. For further details, see the Windows user documentation.

4. If required, in the Preview display click on the **Close** button to close print preview.


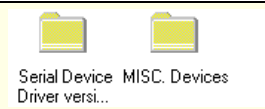






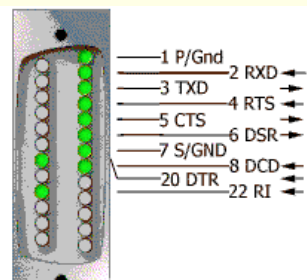
Displaying details of system components

PortDirector allows you to display system components in the right hand view of the PortDirector window in a variety of ways. You do this by clicking on certain buttons in the tool bar area of the PortDirector window as shown in the next picture.



You can display items as large or small icons, display basic or detailed lists and show connector pinouts. To do this proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, display the system component you want by clicking on an icon in the Explorer style hierarchy tree in the left hand view. Alternatively, click on an icon you want in the right hand view (see also [page 30](#)).
2. In the PortDirector window, click on one of the tool bar icons or menu options shown in the next table to display the system component using the method you want.

To display...	Menu option	Tool bar	Example display												
Large icons	View > Large Icons														
Small icons	View > Small Icons														
List of icons	View > List View														
List including details	View > Details View		<table><thead><tr><th>Port Name</th><th>Baud Rate</th><th>Data Bits</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>COM2</td><td>2400</td><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>COM3</td><td>9600</td><td>8</td></tr><tr><td>COM4</td><td>9600</td><td>8</td></tr></tbody></table>	Port Name	Baud Rate	Data Bits	COM2	2400	7	COM3	9600	8	COM4	9600	8
Port Name	Baud Rate	Data Bits													
COM2	2400	7													
COM3	9600	8													
COM4	9600	8													
Connector pinouts	View > Pinouts														

Displaying a map of system connections

Note

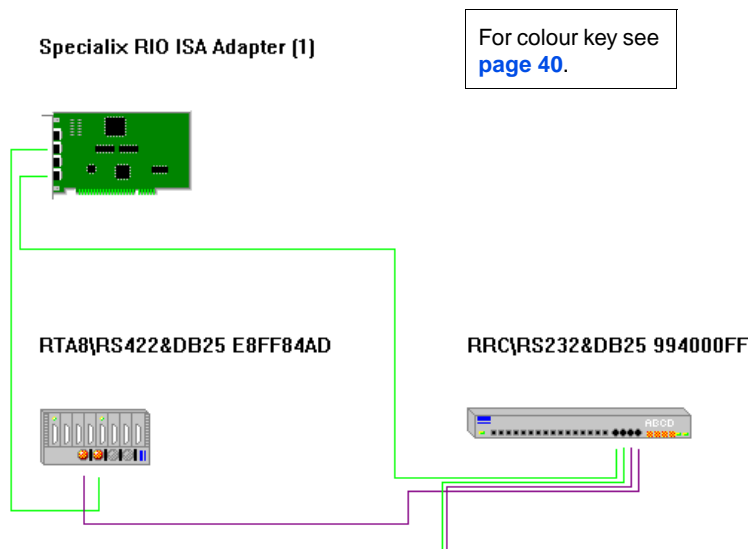
The facilities described in this section are only available when using PortDirector under Windows 2000.

This section includes the following;

- [Introduction to Device Map](#) on page [37](#)
- [General procedure for displaying a device map](#) on page [38](#)
- [Displaying a device map](#) on page [39](#)
- [Displaying the identity of system components](#) on page [41](#)
- [Adopting ports](#) on page [42](#)
- [Rebooting an RTA](#) on page [44](#)
- [Disconnecting system components](#) on page [45](#)
- [Deleting system components and associated ports](#) on page [46](#)

Introduction to Device Map

PortDirector includes device mapping facilities which allow you to display a visual map of the actual connections between the hardware devices in a system. For example in a RIO system it can display which sockets on a given RTA are connected to which sockets on a given host card. The next picture shows a typical example.



Using the Device Map facility, you can manage network components in remote locations and perform a variety of network management tasks. See [General procedure for displaying a device map](#) on page 38. This facility is especially useful in managing network components spread over a wide area.

General procedure for displaying a device map

The general procedure for displaying a map of your system connections is as follows;

Note

The facilities described in this section are only available when using PortDirector under Windows 2000.

1. Install your system components and then display the current system in port director. See [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39.
2. Within PortDirector perform the management task you want with the system using one of the facilities listed in the next table

Task	Toolbar	Menu option	To find further details ...
Displaying the identity of system components		Tasks > Device Map Tools > Identify	See page 41 .
Adopting ports		Tasks > Device Map Tools > Adopt	See page 42 .
Re-booting RTAs		Tasks > Device Map Tools > Reboot	See page 44 .
Disconnecting system components		Tasks > Device Map Tools > Zombie	See page 45 .
Deleting system components and associated ports.		Tasks > Device Map Tools > Delete	See page 46 .

3. Make any physical changes to your system hardware. See your system user documentation for details.

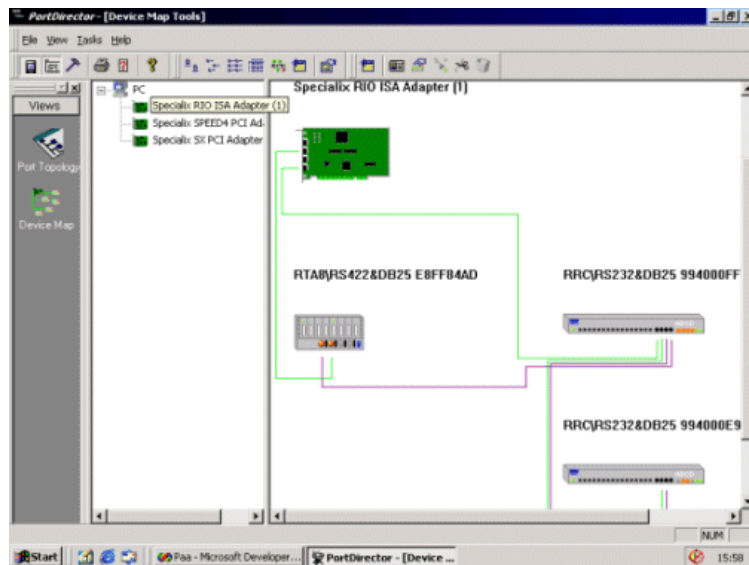
Displaying a device map

To display a device map in PortDirector proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar as shown in the next picture.



PortDirector now displays a device map of the current system (colour key on [page 40](#)).



Key to device map colours

The colours used on the device map view in port director are as shown in the next table;


Link type	Colour
Standard link	Lime green
Fibre optic (FOLK) link	Blue
Long distance module (LDM) link	Dark Cyan
Interlink	Dark purple

Displaying the identity of system components

To display the identity of a device on a device map, proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar.

The device map is now displayed for the current system (see also [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39).

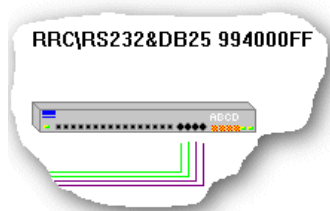
2. In the Device map, click on the device you want to identify to highlight it.
3. In the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Device Map Tools > Identify**. Alternatively, in the toolbar click on the  icon.

Hint

To hide the identity of the devices displayed, proceed as follows;

- In the Device map, click on a blank area of the display.
The identities of all displayed devices is now hidden.

The selected device identity is now displayed on the Device map along side the Device icon.



Adopting ports

When you are installing a new RTA, PortDirector allows you to adopt the port names of RTAs no longer connected to the system (known as orphaned). To adopt port names in this way proceed as follows;

Note

You cannot adopt ports from an 8 port device onto a 16 port device.

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar.
The device map is now displayed for the current system (see also [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39).

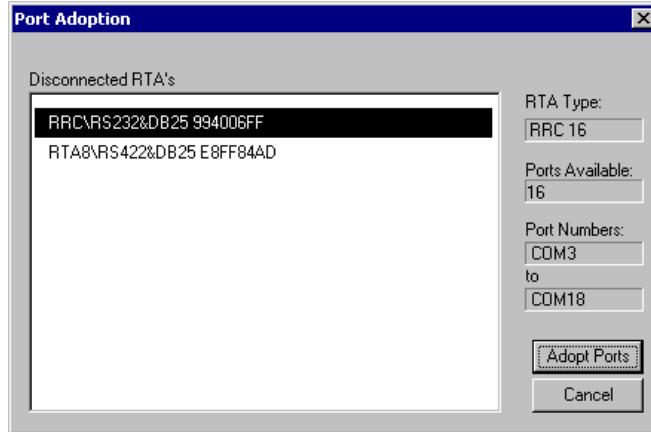
Note

If you adopt ports from a 16 port device onto an 8 port device, the first 8 ports are adopted and the remaining 8 ports discarded.

2. Connect the new RTA to your system. See your user manual for details.
3. In the Device map, click on the device you want to adopt to highlight it.



4. In the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Device Map Tools > Adopt**. Alternatively, in the toolbar click on the  icon.
The Port Adoption window is now displayed as shown in the next picture.



5. In the Port Adoption window, click on the device whose ports you want to adopt to highlight it and then click on the **Adopt Ports** button.


The selected ports are now adopted. The original device from which you have adopted the ports is removed from the system.

Rebooting an RTA

PortDirector allows you to re-boot any RTA displayed on the Device map without having to touch the actual unit. To re-boot an RTA in this way proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar.

The device map is now displayed for the current system (see also [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39).

2. In the Device map, click on the device you want to re-boot to highlight it.
3. In the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Device Map Tools > Reboot**. Alternatively, in the toolbar click on the  icon.

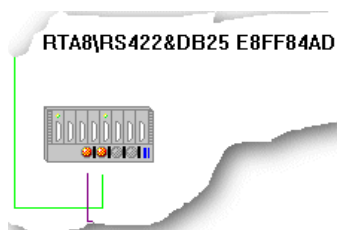
The selected device is now re-booted.

Disconnecting system components

PortDirector allows you to disconnect an RTA from the system without physically unplugging it. This process is known as zombieing. To disconnect an RTA in this way proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar.

The device map is now displayed for the current system (see also [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39). An example of a connected device is shown in the next picture.



2. In the Device map, click on the device you want to disconnect to highlight it.
3. In the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Device Map Tools > Zombie**. Alternatively, in the toolbar click on the icon.

The selected device is now disconnected and the appropriate LEDs on the device map display and on the real device are flashed. The links are now removed on the displayed device as shown in the next picture.




Deleting system components and associated ports

PortDirector allows you to permanently delete an RTA and its associated ports from the system without physically unplugging it. To delete an RTA and its ports proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the **Device Map** icon in the **View** toolbar.

The device map is now displayed for the current system (see also [Displaying a device map](#) on page 39).

2. In the Device map, click on the device you want to delete to highlight it.
3. In the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Device Map Tools > Delete**. Alternatively, in the toolbar click on the  icon.

The selected device and its associated ports are now deleted and the icon representing the device disappears from the Device Map display.

Chapter 5 Adding and deleting host cards

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want to use PortDirector to add or delete host cards from your system.

Note

This facility is only available with the Windows NT version of PortDirector. It is not available under Windows 2000.

This chapter tells you how to add or delete host cards from your system using the PortDirector software. Also included is the procedure for re-scanning the system for any devices which are present but not active.

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [Adding host cards](#) on page [48](#)
- [Deleting host cards](#) on page [52](#)
- [Re-scanning the system](#) on page [54](#)

Note

For information on how to physically install host cards into your PC system, see the manuals provided with the host card or other peripheral.

Adding host cards

The PortDirector software allows you to add host cards to the system using a method dependent upon the type of host card. For PCI host cards, no user action is required as they are automatically loaded by the PortDirector software on start-up. To add an ISA host card, see [Adding an ISA host card](#) on page 48.

Note

This facility is only available with the Windows NT version of PortDirector. It is not available under Windows 2000.

Adding a PCI host card

Note

Any PCI host cards present in the system are automatically added on starting the PortDirector software.

Adding an ISA host card

To add an ISA host card to the system proceed as follows;

Note

Before you add an ISA card to your system you must reserve ISA memory and interrupt level resources in the BIOS setup. See the manuals for your ISA cards for details.

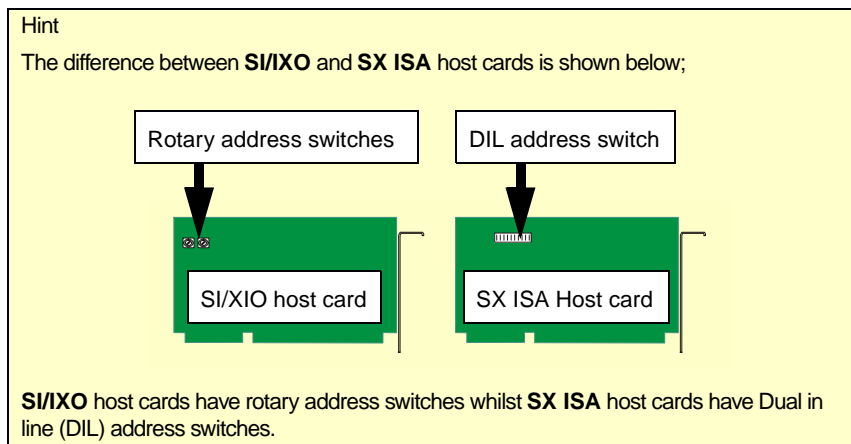
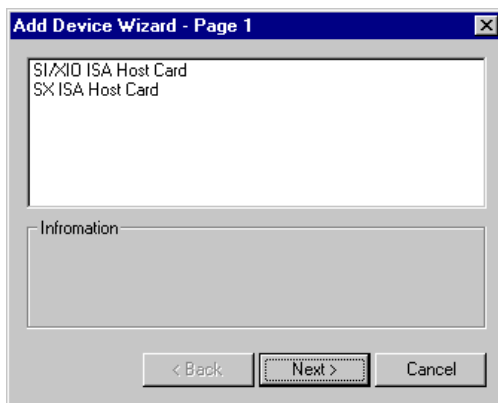
1. In either the left or right hand view of the PortDirector window, click on the icon for the parent object (for example an SX device driver).

The associated host cards are now displayed.



2. In the left hand view of the PortDirector window, click on the parent device icon.
3. In the PortDirector window, either click on the **Add ISA device** tool bar button or click the right mouse button and select the **Add Device** menu option. Alternatively, in the PortDirector menu click on **Tasks > Topology View > Add Device**.

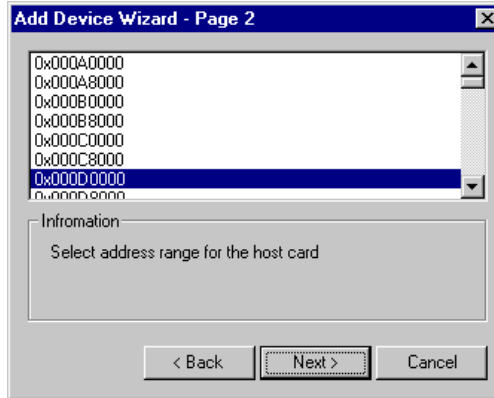
The **Add Device Wizard - Page 1** is now displayed as shown in the next picture.



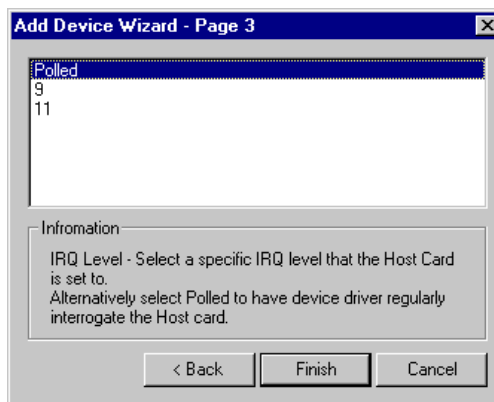
Selecting the address range

4. In the **Add Device Wizard - Page 1**, select the ISA host card you want and click on the **Next >** button.

The **Add Device Wizard - Page 2** is now displayed showing a list of valid addresses that the operating system will allow you to use. The default host card address range is selected by default as shown in the next picture.



5. If required, in the **Add Device Wizard - Page 2**, select the host card address you want (if you don't want the default value).
6. In the **Add Device Wizard - Page 2**, click on the **Next >** button.
The **Add Device Wizard - Page 3** is now displayed.



Selecting the operating mode

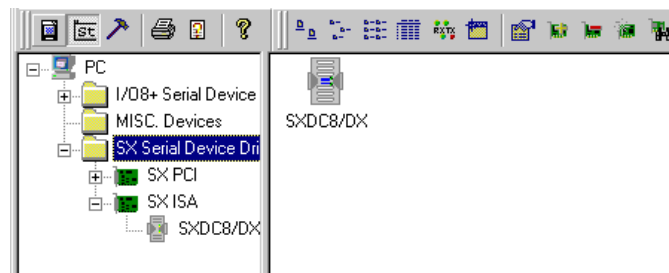
7. In the **Add Device Wizard - Page 3** select the operating mode you want as shown in the next table (for example, Polled) then click on the **Finish** button.

Operating mode	To Select this mode, choose	Description
Polled	Polled	In polled mode the driver checks the host card periodically for events. This mode is useful where the range of available IRQ levels is restricted.
Interrupt	An IRQ level for example, 11	In interrupt mode the host card signals the driver when an event has occurred. For example, data received by serial port. You enable this mode by selecting an Interrupt Request Level (IRQ Level) .

The ISA host card you have selected is now added to the system as shown in the next picture.

Note

If you choose incorrect host cards settings, for example an incorrect I/O address range, the new host card is displayed by the PortDirector software but not used by your system.



You have now completed the procedure for adding an ISA host card.

Deleting host cards

The PortDirector software allows you to delete host cards from the system using the same procedure for all host card types. That is, both PCI and ISA cards. To delete a host card from the system proceed as follows;

Note

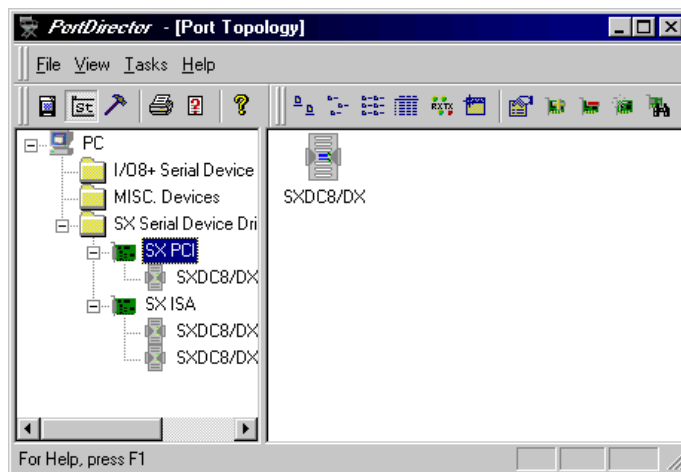
This facility is only available with the Windows NT version of PortDirector. It is not available under Windows 2000.

Note

You cannot delete devices currently in use by the system.

For example, if you try and remove an active host card, PortDirector continues to display that card and its parent devices. You can only remove the card by making it inactive.

1. Ensure that the host card you want to delete is not in use by the system.
2. In the left hand view of the PortDirector window, click on the icon for the host card that you want to remove (for example, an SX PCI card).

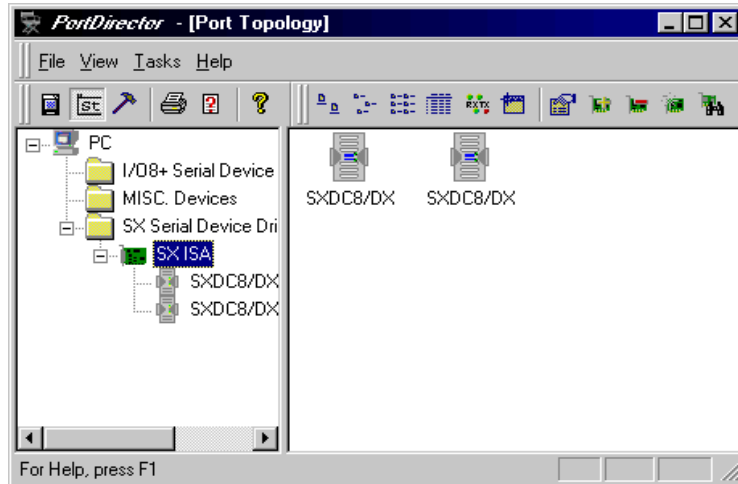


3. In the PortDirector window, either click on the **Remove Device** tool bar button, or click the right mouse button and select the **Remove Device** menu option. Alternatively, in the PortDirector menu click on **Tasks > Topology View > Remove Device**.

A pop-up appears asking you to confirm the deletion.

4. In the pop-up, click on **Yes** to confirm the deletion.

The selected device is now removed from the system and the PortDirector window updated accordingly as shown in the next picture.



Re-scanning the system

PortDirector device driver software automatically scans for all detectable devices (and specified ISA cards) when the system starts. Once running, you can remove devices from the system. See [Deleting host cards](#) on page 52. The Rescan facility repeats the initial device driver scan and allows you to re-detect any devices which may have been removed from the system.

Note

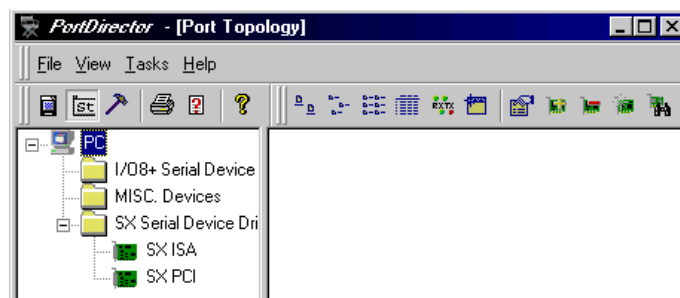
This facility is only available with the Windows NT version of PortDirector. It is not available under Windows 2000.

Note

ISA host cards which have been removed from the system are not detectable and must be re-entered. See [Adding an ISA host card](#) on page 48.

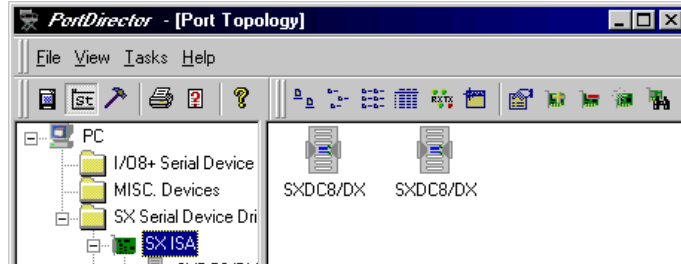
You use the re-scan facility when you want to restrict the number of ports on a system, or to restart a host card. To re-scan a device proceed as follows;

1. In the PortDirector window, click on the parent object (for example a host card).



2. In the PortDirector window, either click on the **Re-scan** tool bar button or click the right mouse button and select the **Re-Scan Devices** menu option. Alternatively, in the PortDirector menu click on **Tasks > Topology View > Re-scan All Devices**.

All devices not currently in use by the selected parent device (for example, host card) are re-scanned into the system and the PortDirector window updated to show them.



The devices you have re-scanned are now used by the system.

Chapter 6 Working with com ports

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want to set up the com ports on your system for use with the PortDirector software.

This chapter provides information about working with com ports. It includes how to select and access com ports, set their default parameters as well as how to monitor com port performance.

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [Setting the default com port parameters](#) on page [57](#)
- [Accessing com ports from third-party NT applications](#) on page [64](#)
- [Monitoring com port performance](#) on page [65](#)
- [Cabling information](#) on page [67](#).

Setting the default com port parameters

About com port settings in Windows NT

The windows NT operating system allows you to read com port settings from three different sources; **Registry**, **Drivers** and **Applications**. Note that the settings read from these sources may not be consistent.

Registry

The **Registry** com port settings are those stored by the Windows operating system for general use. Note that the physical com port settings may differ from the **Registry** settings.

Drivers

The **Driver** settings are the physical com port settings at a given time regardless of how they were created. If you run an application which uses a com port on your system, it may use settings other than the current driver settings.

Applications

Any third party application you run on your system may impose its own com port settings on the system which will be different from the driver or registry settings. When the application is shut down the com ports may or may not revert to their previous settings depending on the application.

When you configure a com port using PortDirector it retrieves the registry settings by default. PortDirector also allows you to retrieve the **Driver** settings. See [Restoring to current com port settings](#) on page 58. The com port configuration facility in PortDirector makes both the **Driver** and **Registry** settings the same. That is they are synchronised.

Setting up com ports from within the PortDirector software

Windows communications applications specify serial settings when you open a port device (for example, baud rate, parity, data bits and so on). Selected applications will refer to default system settings, selected using the **Ports** applet in the Windows **Control Panel**.

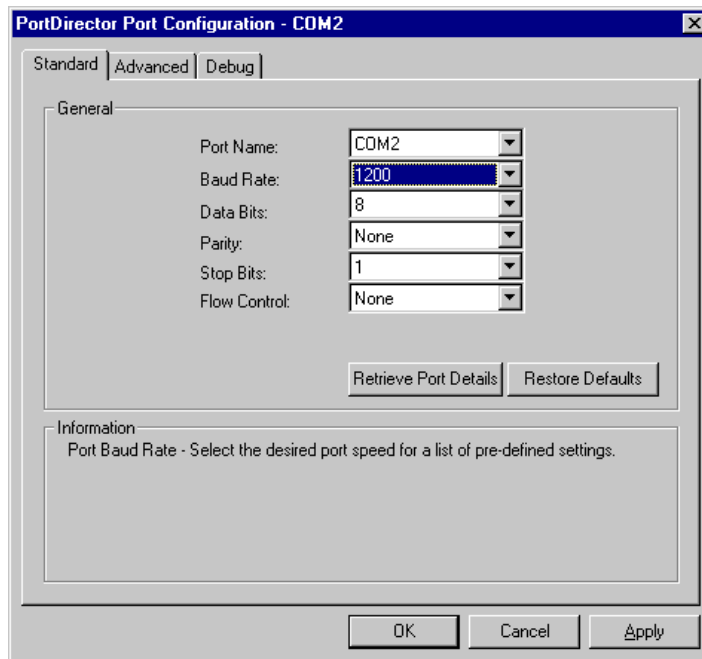
PortDirector allows you to specify the default system settings using the following steps;

Note

For a summary of the factory default com port settings within the PortDirector software, see [Default com port settings summary](#) on page 63.

1. In the PortDirector window, display the com ports you want using the procedures described in [PortDirector](#).
2. In the right hand view of the PortDirector window, click on the com port you want to select.
You can now display the default parameters for the selected com port as follows;
3. In the PortDirector window, either click on the **Properties** tool bar button, click the right mouse button and select **Properties**, or double click on the com port icon. Alternatively, in the PortDirector menu, click on **Tasks > Topology View > Device Properties**.

The PortDirector Port Configuration window is now displayed.



4. In the PortDirector Port Configuration window, select the **Standard** page.
5. If required, in the **Standard** page select the values you want for each of the general parameters (Port name, Baud rate, Data bits and so forth).
6. If required, in the **Standard** page click on the **Restore Defaults** button to restore the selected com port to its factory default settings.
7. If required, in the **Standard** page click on the **Retrieve Port Defaults** button to restore the settings of the currently active port.
8. In the PortDirector Port Configuration window, select the **Advanced** page.

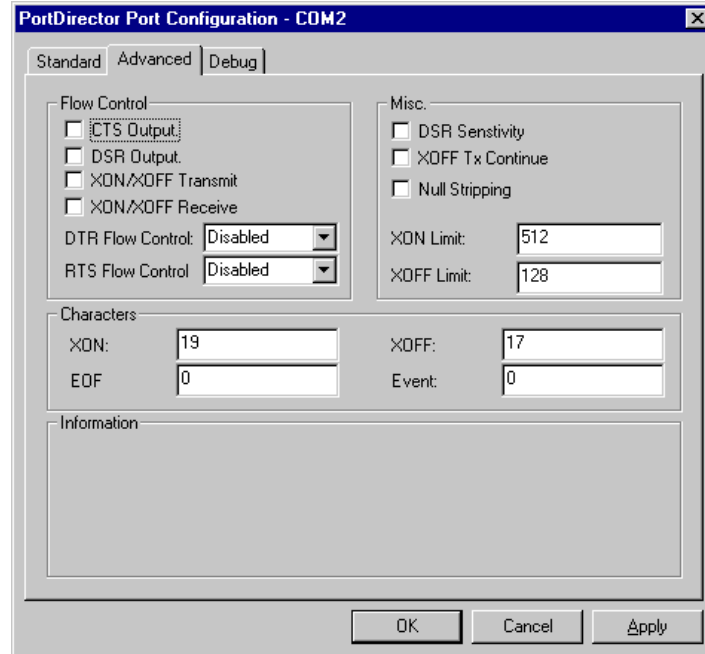
The **Advanced** page is now displayed is now showing default settings for each parameter as shown in the next picture.

Note

For normal use, it is recommended to use the default settings in the Advanced page of the PortDirector Port Configuration window.

Restoring factory defaults

Restoring to current com port settings

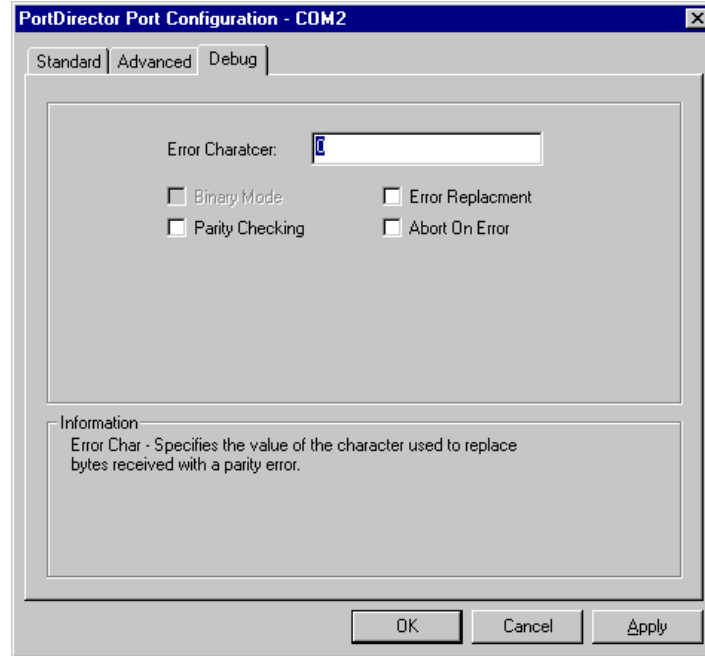


9. If required, in the advanced page set the parameters you want for Flow control, Characters and so forth.
10. In the PortDirector Port Configuration window, select the **Debug** page.

The **Debug** page is now displayed showing default settings for each parameter (shown in the next picture). This page allows you to declare a defined value as a null value.

Note

For normal use, it is recommended to use the default settings in the **Debug** page of the PortDirector **Port Configuration** window.



11.If required, in the **Debug** page, declare the error character as a null value.

Item	Description
Error Character	Specifies the value of the character used to replace bytes received with a parity error.
Binary Mode	Always enabled for Windows NT applications.
Parity Checking	Enables parity checking when checked.
Error Replacement	Inserts the defined error character in the data stream when an error is detected.
Abort On Error	When checked, any read or write operation will abort upon detection of the error character.

12.When you have set the parameters you want in all pages of the PortDirector Port Configuration window, click on **OK** to close the window and save your changes.

Setting up com ports using the command prompt

As an alternative to using the PortDirector software, you can list the current state of a com port and set the **Driver** parameters using the command prompt (to use the PortDirector software, see [page 57](#)).

Note

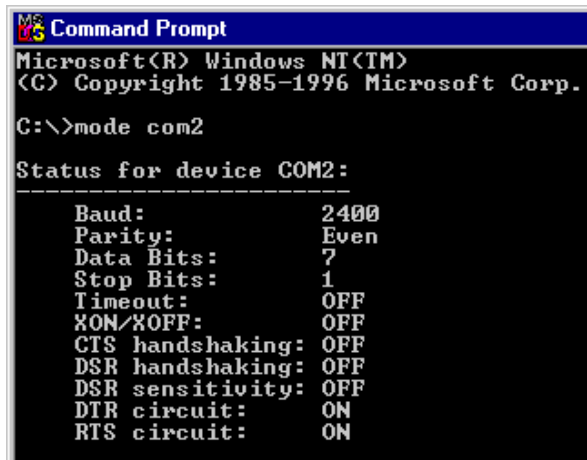
This section is intended as a brief general guide only. For further information, see the Windows user documentation or your System Administrator.

Listing the current settings for a com port

To list the current state of a com port proceed as follows;

1. In the Windows desktop, Open a **Command Prompt** window.
2. In the Command Prompt window, type **mode comX** (when X is the com port number) and then press the **Enter** key.

The current settings for the selected com port are now listed as shown in the next picture.



```
Microsoft(R) Windows NT(TM)
(C) Copyright 1985-1996 Microsoft Corp.

C:\>mode com2

Status for device COM2:
-----
Baud:                2400
Parity:              Even
Data Bits:           7
Stop Bits:           1
Timeout:             OFF
XON/XOFF:            OFF
CTS handshaking:     OFF
DSR handshaking:     OFF
DSR sensitivity:     OFF
DTR circuit:         ON
RTS circuit:         ON
```

Setting com port parameters

To set com port parameters using the command prompt proceed as follows;

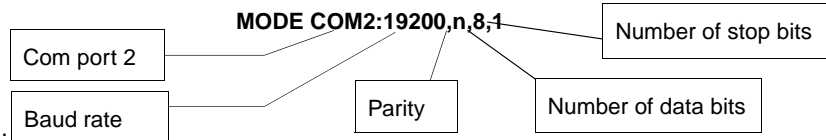
Note

The mode command sets the **Driver** com port settings. See also [page 57](#).

1. In the Windows desktop, Open a **Command Prompt** window.
2. In the Command Prompt window, type in a command in the form of the next example then press the **Enter** key.

Hint

In the Command Prompt window, type **mode /?** to obtain a list of all the command line arguments supported.



Typical command showing com port 2 with a baud rate of 19200, no parity, 8 data bits and one stop bit.

Default com port settings summary

The default com port settings for the PortDirector Port configuration window are shown in the next table. For further details about the parameters listed see your Windows user documentation;

Page	Parameter	Default setting
Standard		
	Port Name	Depends on the system
	Baud Rate	1200
	Data Bits	7
	Parity	Even
	Stop Bits	1
	Flow Control	None
Advanced		
Flow control	CTS Output	Disabled
	DSR Output	Disabled
	XON/XOFF Transmit	Disabled
	XON/XOFF Receive	Disabled
	DTR Flow Control	Disabled
	RTS Flow Control	Disabled
Misc	DSR Sensitivity	Disabled
	XOFF Tx Continue	Disabled
	Null Stripping	Disabled
	XON Limit	512
	XOFF Limit	128
Characters	XON	17
	XOFF	19
	EOF	0
	Event	0
Debug		
	Error Character	0
	Binary Mode	Disabled
	Error Replacement	Disabled
	Parity Checking	Disabled
	Abort On Error	Disabled

Accessing com ports from third-party NT applications

Note

If your application allows you to enter the full device name, you can access com ports higher than COM9 using the following device string;

\\.\comx

See the user documentation for your software for further details, or contact your system administrator.

Monitoring com port performance

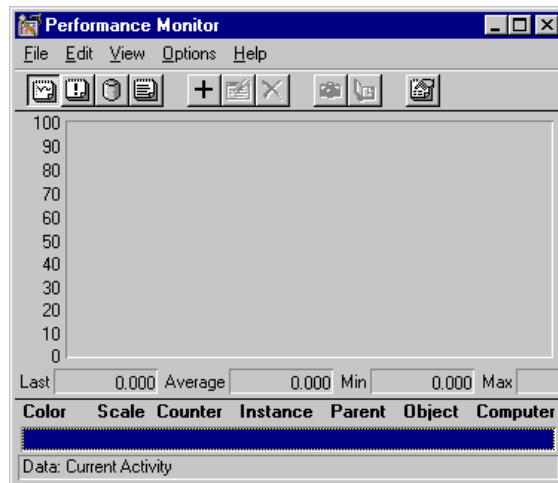
The PortDirector software allows you to monitor the performance of one or more com ports and display the results in graph form. To monitor com port performance, proceed as follows;

Note

This section is intended as a brief general guide only. For further information, see the Windows user documentation or your System Administrator.

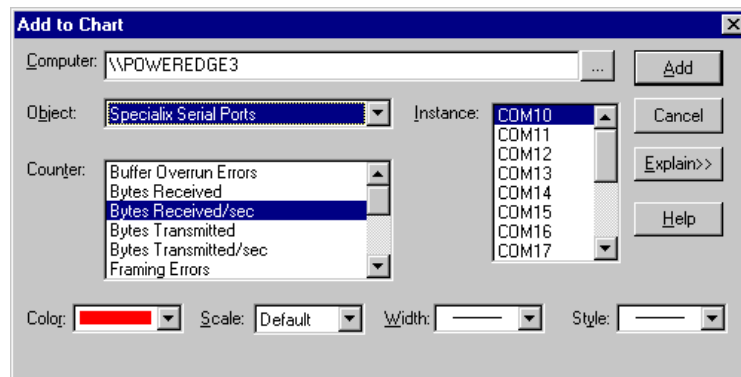
1. In the Windows desktop, click on the **Start** button and select **Programs > Administrative Tools (common) > Performance Monitor**.

The **Performance Monitor** window is now displayed.



2. In the **Performance Monitor** window, click on the **+** toolbar button. Alternatively, in the **Performance Monitor** menu, click on **Edit > Add to chart**.

The **Add to Chart** window is now displayed (shown in the next picture).

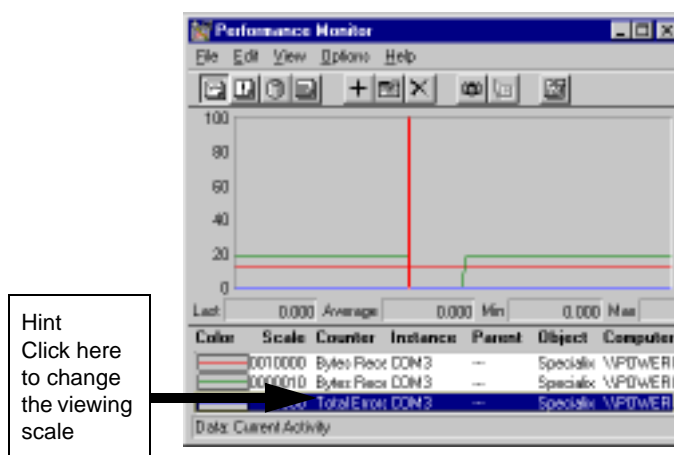


3. In the **Add to Chart** window, select the parameters you want as follows;

Parameter	User action required
Computer	No action required, current system displayed by default.
Object	Select Specialix Serial Ports .
Counter	Select the counter you want (for example, Bytes Received). If required, click on the explain button to show a definition of the currently selected counter.
Instance	Select the com port you want to monitor. For example, COM10 .

4. In the **Add to Chart** window, click on the **Add** button.

The Add to Chart window now closes and the **Performance Monitor** window displays a performance graph for the selected com port as shown in the next picture.



Cabling information

Note

For information about cabling for your system, see the Appendix on **Port Specifications and Cabling** in the **SX Installation Guide**, or refer to the appropriate section in either the I/O8+ or SPEED user guides.

Chapter 7 Quick reference

You need to read this chapter if you want to...

You need to read this chapter if you want information about the PortDirector main window, toolbars and menus.

This chapter provides a quick reference guide to the PortDirector software menus and tool bars. In addition, cross references are provided for further information about each area.

This chapter includes the following sections;

- [PortDirector main window](#) on page [69](#)
- [Tool bar](#) on page [71](#)
- [Menu maps](#) on page [74](#)

PortDirector main window

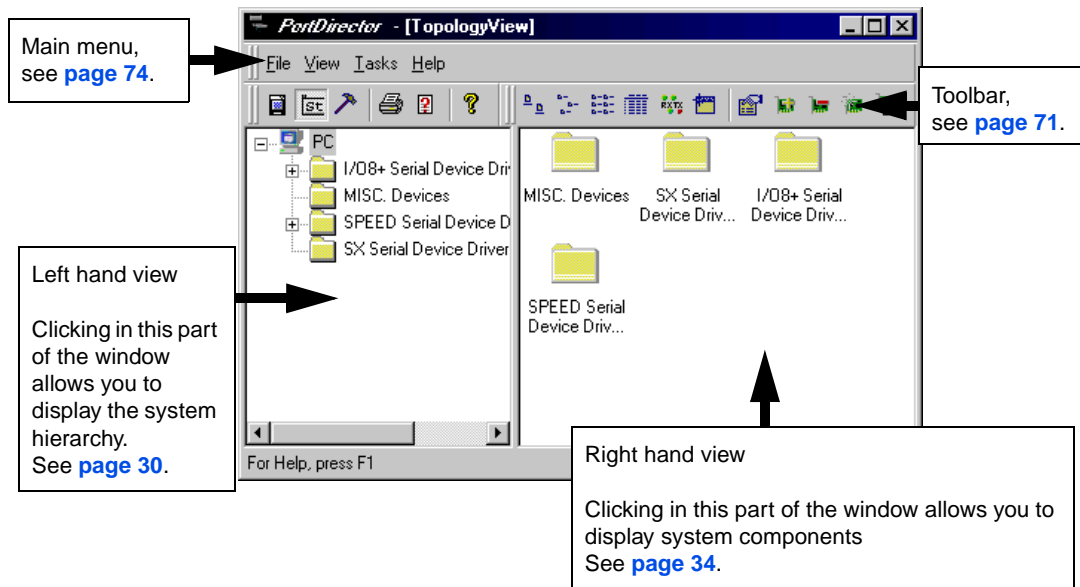
Note

The main window for PortDirector depends upon the operating system you are using see the following for details:

- [Main window under Windows NT](#) on page 69
- [Main window under Windows 2000](#) on page 70

Main window under Windows NT

The main window for the PortDirector software is shown in the next picture.



Tool bar

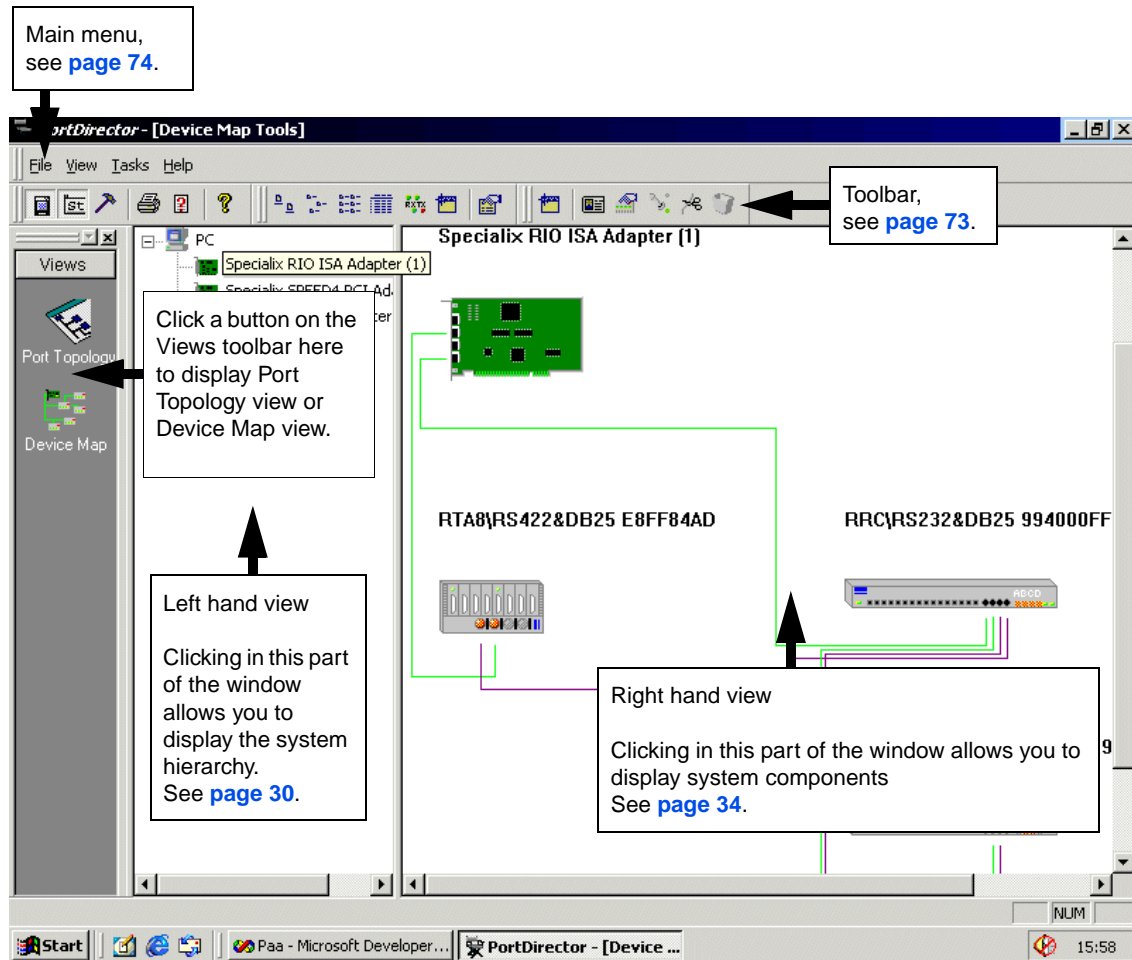
For details about tool bars see [Tool bar](#) on page 71.

Menus

For information about menus see [Menu maps](#) on page 74.

Main window under Windows 2000

The main window for the PortDirector software is shown in the next picture.



Tool bar

For details about tool bars see [Windows 2000 toolbar](#) on page [73](#).

Menus

For information about menus see [Menu maps](#) on page [74](#).

Tool bar

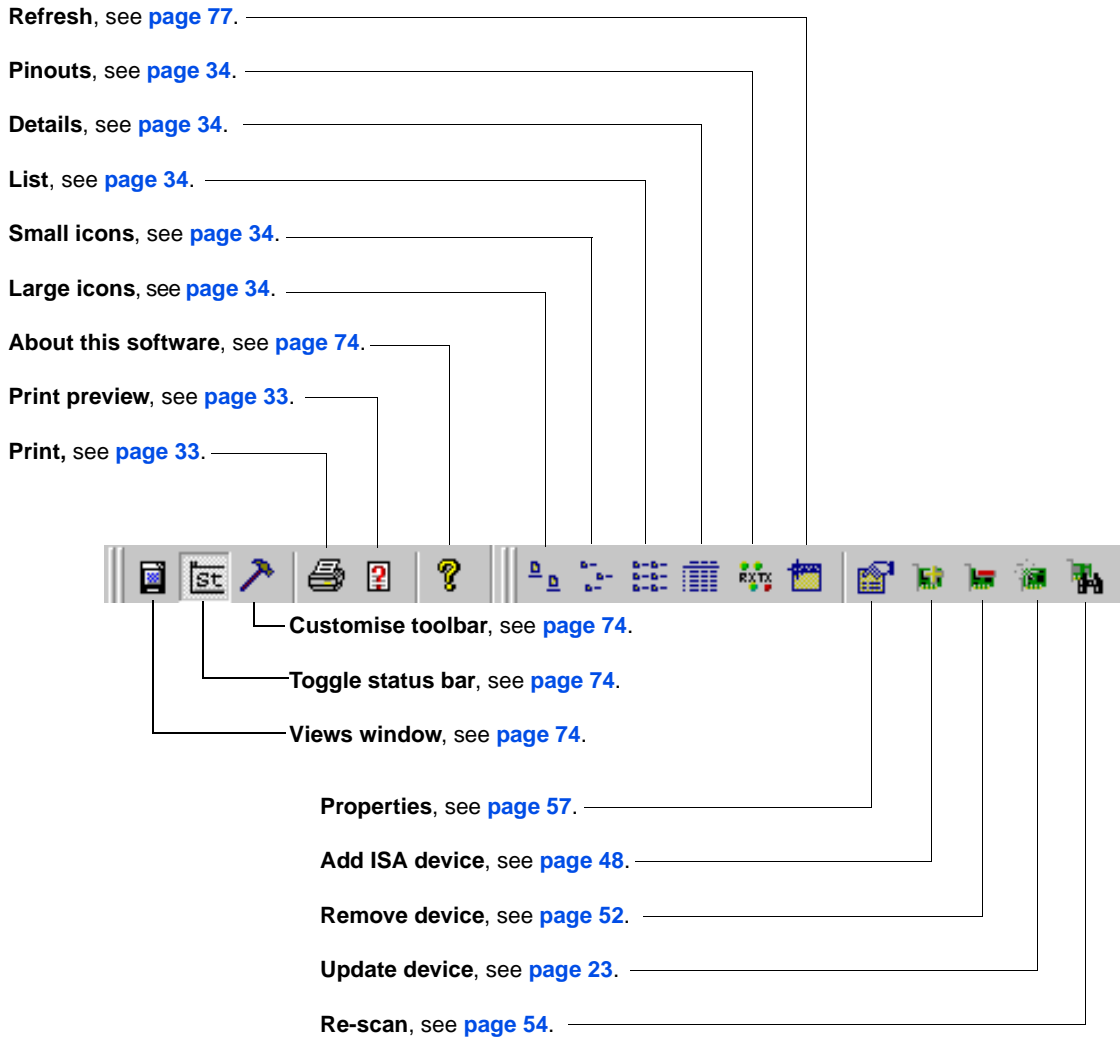
Note

The toolbar displayed within PortDirector depends upon the operating system you are using see the following for details:

- [Main window under Windows NT](#) on page [69](#)
- [Main window under Windows 2000](#) on page [70](#)

Windows NT toolbar

The functions provided by the tool bar in the main PortDirector window under Windows NT are summarised in the next picture. For the corresponding menu options, see [Main menu](#) on page 74, [Right hand view menu](#) on page 77 and [Left hand view menu](#) on page 78.



Windows 2000 toolbar

The functions provided by the tool bar in the main PortDirector window under Windows 2000 are summarised in the next picture. For the corresponding menu options, see [Main menu](#) on page 74, [Right hand view menu](#) on page 77 and [Left hand view menu](#) on page 78

- Refresh, see [page 77](#).
- Pinouts, see [page 34](#).
- Details, see [page 34](#).
- List, see [page 34](#).
- Small icons, see [page 34](#).
- Large icons, see [page 34](#).
- About this software, see [page 74](#).
- Print preview, see [page 33](#).
- Print, see [page 33](#).
- Properties, see [page 57](#).



Customise toolbar, see [page 74](#).

Toggle status bar, see [page 74](#).

Views window, see [page 74](#).

Refresh, see [page 48](#).

Identity, see [page 41](#).

Adopt, see [page 42](#).

Reboot, see [page 44](#).

Zombie, see [page 45](#).

Delete, see [page 46](#).

Menu maps

This section provides menu maps for all menus available within the PortDirector software. See the following;

- [Main menu](#) on page [74](#)
- [Right hand view menu](#) on page [77](#)
- [Left hand view menu](#) on page [78](#).

Main menu

The main PortDirector menus are as follows:

- [File menu](#) on page [74](#)
- [View menu](#) on page [75](#)
- [Tasks menu](#) on page [76](#)
- [Help menu](#) on page [76](#)

File menu

Menu option		Description
File >	Print	Prints the system hierarchy. See page 33
	Print Preview	Previews the system hierarchy to be printed. See page 33
	Print Setup	Sets up printing parameters. See page 33
	Exit	Closes the PortDirector software. See page 28 .

View menu

Menu option		Description
View >	Large Icons	Displays the current system components as large icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
	Small Icons	Displays the current system components as small icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
	List View	Displays a list of the current system components as icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
	Details View	Displays a detailed list of the current system components as icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
	Pinouts	Displays the connector pinouts of the current system components in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
	Refresh	Refreshes the right hand view display.
	Views Window	Displays the Views window
	Status Bar	Hides or displays (toggle) the status bar.

Tasks menu

Menu option		Description
Tasks >	Customise	Allows generic Windows toolbar customisation. See Windows user documentation.
	Topology View >	
	Add Device	Adds a device to your system. For example, an ISA host card. See page 48 .
	Remove Device	Deletes a device from your system. For example an ISA host card. See page 52 .
	Update Device	Updates an existing device driver. See page 23 .
	Re-scan All Devices	Re-scans the system for any devices not currently in use by the device drivers. See page 54 .
	Device Properties	Displays the properties of the currently selected com port. See page 57 .
	Device Map Tools >	
	Identify	Displays the identity of the selected RTA and flashes the LEDs on the actual device. See page 41 .
	Adopt	Allows you to adopt defined ports from disconnected devices. See page 42 .
	Reboot	Re-boots the selected RTA. See page 44 .
	Zombie	Disconnects the selected RTA from the system without physically unplugging it. See page 45 .
	Delete	Permanently deletes the selected device and its associated ports from the system. See page 46 .

Note that this menu option is only available under Windows 2000.

Help menu

Menu option		Description
Help >	About	Displays information on this release of the PortDirector software.

Right hand view menu

You display this menu as follows:

- Place the mouse cursor in the right hand view of the PortDirector window and then click on the right mouse button.

The right hand view menu is now displayed. This menu is described in the next table.

Menu option	Description
Large Icons	Displays the current system components as large icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
Small Icons	Displays the current system components as small icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
List	Displays a list of the current system components as icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
Details	Displays a detailed list of the current system components as icons in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
Pinouts	Displays the connector pinouts of the current system components in the right hand view of the PortDirector window. See page 34 .
Add Device	Adds a device to your system. For example, an ISA host card. See page 48 .
Remove Device	Deletes a device from your system. For example an ISA host card. See page 52 .
Update Device	Update an existing device driver. See page 23 .
Re-scan All Devices	Re-scans the system for any devices not currently in use by the device drivers. See page 54 .
Refresh	Refreshes the right hand view display.
Properties	Displays the properties of the currently selected com port. See page 57 .

Left hand view menu

You display this menu as follows:

- Place the mouse cursor in the left hand view of the PortDirector window and then click on the right mouse button.

The left hand view menu is now displayed. This menu is described in the next table.

Menu option	Description
Add Device	Adds a device to your system. For example an ISA host card. See page 48 .
Remove Device	Deletes a device from your system. For example an ISA host card. See page 52 .
Update Device	Updates an existing device driver. See page 23 .
Re-scan Devices	Re-scans the system for any devices not currently in use by the device drivers. See page 54 .
Refresh	Refreshes the right hand view display.
Properties	Displays the properties of the currently selected com port. See page 57 .

Appendix A Contacting Specialix

You need to read this appendix if you want to... You need to read this appendix if you want to contact Specialix for technical support or any other queries about this product.

This appendix includes the following sections;

- [Making a technical support query](#) on page **80**
- [Repair procedure](#) on page **83**
- [Feedback about this manual](#) on page **84**
- [Specialix support centres worldwide](#) on page **85**

Internet access

[Click here to access the our website at the following URL:](#)
<http://www.specialix.com>

Email

[Click here to email](#) Specialix at the following address;
Email: support@specialix.com

Making a technical support query

This section contains the following information about making a query;

- [Who to contact](#) on page **80**
- [Information needed when making a query](#) on page **81**
- [Making a support query via the Specialix web page](#) on page **82**

Who to contact

If you bought your product from a registered Specialix supplier, you must contact their Technical Support department; they are qualified to deal with your problem.

If you are a registered Specialix supplier, and bought your product from Specialix, contact Specialix Technical Support at the offices listed below.

Information needed when making a query

When you make a technical support enquiry please have the following information ready;

Hint

Print out this page and fill in the table provided with the basic information you need.

Item	Write details here
Product name and version	
Problem description	
Operating system version	
Driver version	
Details of any other cards installed in your system	
Your name	
Company Name	
Country	
Phone number	
Fax number	
Email address (if available)	

Making a support query via the Specialix web page

If you have an internet connection, please send details of your problem to Technical Support using the email links provided on the Specialix web site in the 'Support' area.

See also [Specialix support centres worldwide](#) on page 85 for email links and other contact details for the Specialix technical support centres.

[Click here to access our website at the following URL:
http://www.specialix.com](http://www.specialix.com)

Repair procedure

Before sending a unit for repair, you must contact your Specialix supplier. If, however, you bought your product directly from Specialix you can contact directly. See [Specialix support centres worldwide](#) on page 85 for contact information.

Customers who are In Europe, Africa or Middle East can submit repair details via a website form shown in the next picture. This form is on the Specialix website, www.specialix.co.uk or www.specialix.com, in the **Support** area.

Click here to access our web site at the following URL:
<http://www.specialix.com/support/rma.htm>

In the USA and Asia contact the office shown in the Technical Support section.

Website RMA (Return Material Authorisation) Form

The screenshot shows a Microsoft Internet Explorer window titled "Product Repair Request - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://www.specialix.com/support/rma.htm". The main content area has the heading "Product Repair (RMA) EMEA* Customers Only". Below this is a note: "*Europe, Middle East and Africa. Customers in other regions should follow normal RMA procedures." A red text block states: "As part of ongoing improvements to Perle Specialix Customer Service's **ALL** RMA enquires will be processed by the Technical Support Desk". Under the heading "Online RMA Procedure", it says "If you suspect that your Perle Specialix product may be faulty, please follow the procedure outlined below:". A numbered list follows: 1. Complete the form below and submit it to Perle Specialix either using the **Send Email** button at the end of the form or by printing it out and faxing it to +44 (0) 1932 792600. Our staff will contact you shortly afterwards with an RMA number. Up to 15 items may be returned using one RMA number. Consult your product warranty card for terms and conditions concerning product returns. 2. Clearly label all returned goods with the RMA number assigned to you. 3. Return goods to the following address: **Perle Specialix Europe Limited, 4 Craven Court, Canada Road, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7JL, UK**. At the bottom, it says "PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE FIELDS."

Product Repair (RMA) EMEA* Customers Only

*Europe, Middle East and Africa. Customers in other regions should follow normal RMA procedures.

As part of ongoing improvements to Perle Specialix Customer Service's **ALL** RMA enquires will be processed by the Technical Support Desk

Online RMA Procedure
If you suspect that your Perle Specialix product may be faulty, please follow the procedure outlined below:

1. Complete the form below and submit it to Perle Specialix either using the **Send Email** button at the end of the form or by printing it out and faxing it to +44 (0) 1932 792600. Our staff will contact you shortly afterwards with an RMA number. Up to 15 items may be returned using one RMA number. Consult your product warranty card for terms and conditions concerning product returns.
2. Clearly label all returned goods with the RMA number assigned to you.
3. Return goods to the following address:
Perle Specialix Europe Limited, 4 Craven Court, Canada Road, Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 7JL, UK

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL THE FIELDS.

Feedback about this manual

If you have any comments or suggestions for improving this manual please email Specialix using the following address;

docfeedback@specialix.co.uk

Please include the **title**, **part number** and **date** of the manual (you can find these on the title page at the front of this manual).

Specialix support centres worldwide

Note

For Internet access, [click here to visit our website \(www.specialix.com\)](http://www.specialix.com).

Country	Address	Telephone and Fax	Email
USA	Specialix Inc. 60 Renfrew Drive Markham Ontario Canada L3R OE1	Telephone: (905) 946 5097 (24hrs) Fax: (905) 944 2070 Multilingual	Email: support@specialix.com
Europe	Specialix Europe Ltd. 3 Wintersells Road Byfleet Surrey KT14 7LF UK	Telephone: +44 (0) 1932 792555 (24hrs) (redirected to worldwide support number) Telephone: +1 (905) 946 5097 (24hrs) Fax: +44 (0) 1932 792554 Multilingual	Email: support@specialix.co.uk
Asia	Specialix (Asia) Pte Ltd. Yu Li Industrial Building No 37 Lor 23 Sims Avenue 04-01/05 Singapore 388371	Telephone: +65 749 1700 Telephone: +1(905) 946 5097 (24hrs) Fax: +65 749 2003 Fax: (905) 944 2070 English and Mandarin speaking	Email: support@specialix.co.uk

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