Microsoft Knowledge Base Article - 839013

How to install the Microsoft Loopback adapter in Windows XP

View products that this article applies to.

For a Microsoft Windows 2000 version of this article, see 236869.

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SUMMARY

The Microsoft Loopback adapter is a testing tool for a virtual network environment where network access is not available. Also, you must use the Loopback adapter if there are conflicts with a network adapter or with a network adapter driver. You can bind network clients, protocols, and other network configuration items to the Loopback adapter, and you can install the network adapter driver or network adapter later while retaining the network configuration information. You can also install the Loopback adapter during the unattended installation process.

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Manual installation

To manually install the Microsoft Loopback adapter in Windows XP, follow these steps:

1. Click **Start**, and then click **Control Panel**.
2. If you are in Classic view, click **Switch to Category View** under **Control Panel** in the left pane.
3. Double-click **Printers and Other Hardware**, and then click **Next**.
4. Under **See Also** in the left pane, click **Add Hardware**,and then click **Next**.
5. Click **Yes, I have already connected the hardware**, and then click **Next**.
6. At the bottom of the list, click **Add a new hardware device**, and then click **Next**.
7. Click **Install the hardware that I manually select from a list**, and then click **Next**.
8. Click **Network adapters**, and then click **Next**.
9. In the **Manufacturer** box, click **Microsoft**.
10. In the **Network Adapter** box, click **Microsoft Loopback Adapter**, and then click **Next**.
11. Click **Finish**.

After the adapter is installed successfully, you can manually configure its options, as with any other adapter. If the TCP/IP properties are configured to use DHCP, the adapter will eventually use an autonet address (169.254.x.x/16) because the adapter is not actually connected to any physical media.

Note By default, TCP/IP properties are configured to use DHCP.

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Unattended installation

To install the Microsoft Loopback adapter, use the following sample Unattend.txt file as a model for your Unattend.txt file:

```
[NetAdapters]
Adapter01=Params.Adapter01

[Params.Adapter01]
```

```
InfID="*msloop"
; Microsoft Loopback Adapter
ConnectionName ="MS Loopback Adapter"

[NetProtocols]
MS_TCPIP=Params.MS_TCPIP
; TCP/IP parameters
; Use parameter values specific to your network

[Params.MS_TCPIP]
AdapterSections=params.TCPIP.Adapter01
DNS=yes
DNSSuffixSearchOrder=mycorp.com
EnableLMHosts=No
; Adapter Specific TCP/IP parameters
; Use parameter values specific to your network

[params.TCPIP.Adapter01]
SpecificTo=Adapter01
DNSDomain=mycorp.com
DNSServerSearchOrder=192.168.5.251
WINS=no
DHCP=no
IPAddress=192.168.5.10
SubnetMask=255.255.255.0
DefaultGateway=192.168.5.254
```

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MORE INFORMATION

For more information, see the Windows XP Preinstallation Reference Help file in the Support\Tools\Deploy.cab folder on your Windows XP CD-ROM.

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The information in this article applies to:

- Microsoft Windows XP Home Edition
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional

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