

# NEXTSTEP for Intel Processors

**Title:** Serial Port Connectivity

**Entry Number:** 1208

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**Product Vendor:** NA

**Keywords:** Serial, Port, Connectivity

## Usage Commentary:

NEXTSTEP Releases 3.1 and 3.2 currently support two serial ports. You can use these ports to connect modems, mice, laptops, terminals and other peripherals.

The serial driver in Releases 3.1 and 3.2 for Intel Processors utilizes the FIFO buffer on the 16550 high speed serial controller chip.

### Release 3.1:

A new serial driver is available from NeXTanswers via anonymous FTP ([ftp.next.com](ftp://ftp.next.com)) or Internet e-mail ([nextanswers@next.com](mailto:nextanswers@next.com)). Request document numbers 1327\_SerialPortDriver.pkg.compressed, and 1326\_SerialPortDriver.ReadMe.rtf. This update provides enhanced functionality and greater robustness. Install this update if you are going to use the serial port. This driver is included with the NEXTSTEP Release 3.2 User CD.

## Setup and Installation:

Use the hardware or software tools provided with your system to configure the first serial port to IRQ 4, port 0x3f8 and the second serial port to IRQ 3, port 0x2f8.

# Known Problems:

## Release 3.1:

- The Releases 3.1 serial port driver may become unreliable at speeds above 19,200 baud. A bug in this driver may cause your computer to crash when serial port activity goes above an undetermined threshold.

## Release 3.3:

- For NEXTSTEP 3.3, see NeXTanswers documents
  - 1948\_SerialPorts\_Driver\_Overview.rtf
  - 1947\_Port\_Server\_Driver\_Overview.rtf
  - 1945\_Serial\_Pointing\_Device\_Driver\_Overview.rtf