

Re: Third party applications on GPS receivers

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Chris wrote:

<snip>

Some applications and devices use proprietary means, but most of them communicate through an internal virtual COM port, regardless of how they physically connect to the computer.

With Garmin's USB drivers you see a Garmin Devices category in the device manager when you connect a Garmin receiver via USB. MapSource uses that, not a virtual COM port, for I/O. It is all a little mysterious to me because I don't know much about it but it works. The other Garmin applications like nRoute will also use that.

Garmin's free navigation software, nRoute, will not use anything except a Garmin GPS but it will use it from either a COM port or a USB Garmin Device connection. So I assume there that the GPS would have to be outputting the Garmin NMEA protocol.

The Garmin USB Device does not appear to be a closed proprietary means though as other applications can also use the USB connected Garmin receivers if they are written in a manner to do so.

Some of the third party GPS applications will use the Garmin USB GPS connection. GPS Utility is one that will, there may be others here that do too:

<http://gpsinformation.net/#3rdparty>

Jack

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