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## Changing the COM port

In order for the ToughBook to be able to read an external Global Positioning System receiver (GPS), you need to change the connection port to a COM port. This will allow the computer to communicate with the GPS receiver. This is necessary whether you use a GPS receiver through the USB port or the PCMCIA card slot. Make sure you use the first port (left USB or top PCMCIA).

Most USB-driven receivers or PCMCIA card adaptors come bundled with drivers. Install the drivers. If you cannot access the CD-Rom, many drivers are available online. Check either the Walcott Scientific website or the manufacturer's website for the most recent driver.

To check on the COM port status of your device after installing drivers (if available), attach the device to the USB or PCMCIA port. Then, click on the 'Start' button and go to the 'Control Panel'. From the 'Control Panel', click on Administrative Tools.' Then, click on 'Computer Management.' The pop-up window will provide a list of options. Choose 'Device Manager.' A window will appear with an expanded list of options. Scroll down to 'Ports (COM & LPT)' and open 'Communications Port.'

### *Summary:*

Start>Control Panel>Administrative Tools>Computer Management>Device Manager>Ports (COM & LPT)>Communications Port

From this menu, you will be able to change the COM port number if you need to. More importantly, you can identify the COM port number assigned to the device. Then, when you are in a program that uses that device, you will be able to identify correctly. For instance, if you are using a GPS receiver, the program will need to know which COM port has been assigned. Usually, there is a 'Preferences' function in the program for you to change the COM port number to match the device.