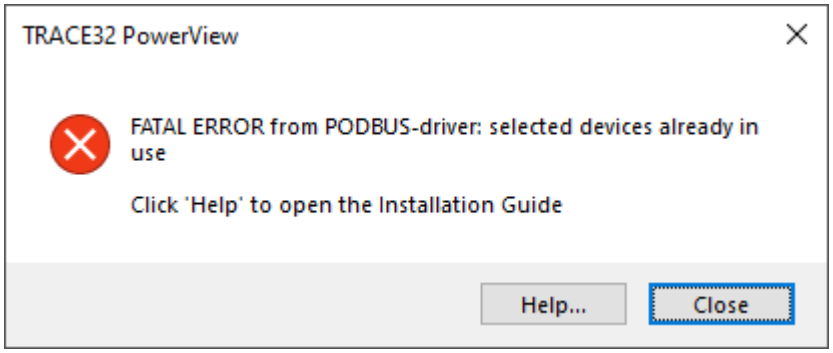
How to force a connection to a debug module which is already in use?

2026-08-14 - Comments (3) - Setup / update

If you encounter the message **"TRACE32 device already in use"**, one of the following scenarios may have occurred:



1. Another instance of TRACE32 PowerView is already exclusively connected to the same debug module.

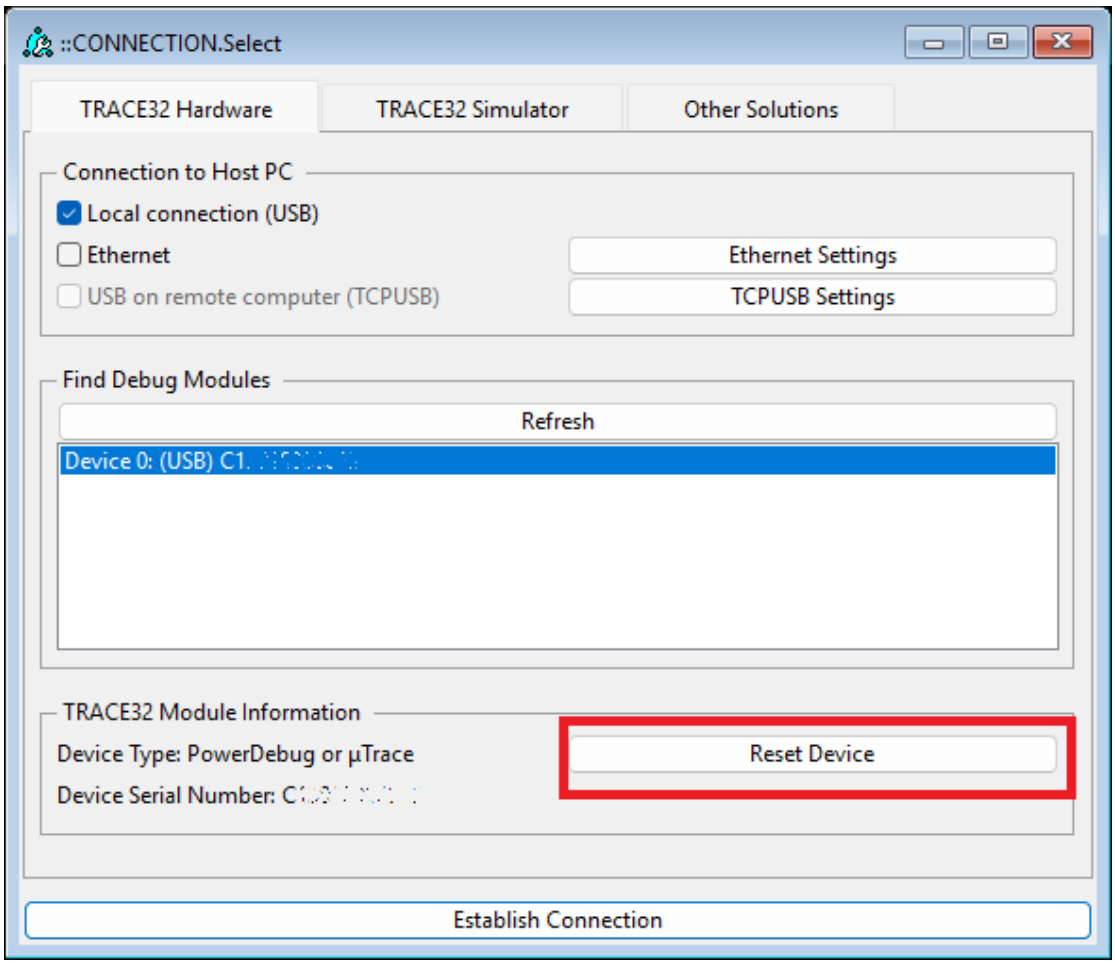
2. A previous TRACE32 session was not properly closed (e.g., it was terminated unexpectedly or crashed).

3. You are attempting to start a second TRACE32 session for an AMP multicore scenario, but:

- The second instance is not configured with `CORE=2`, or
- The first instance is not configured with `CORE=1`

If You Are Using the Interactive Connection Mode

In **Interactive Connection Mode**, you can reset an active connection to a debug module using the **Reset Device** button in the `CONNECTION.Select` window.



Alternatively, you can reset the connection from a script or the command line using: `CONNECTION.ResetDevice <index>`. For example to reset the connection to the first listed device:

```
CONNECTION.ResetDevice 0
```

For more details on **Interactive Connection Mode**, refer to the PowerView User's Guide.

If You Are Using a TRACE32 Configuration File

If you want TRACE32 to **automatically force a connection** by resetting the debug module, add the following line to the `PBI=` section of your TRACE32 configuration file (usually "config.t32").

Example for a USB connection:

```
PBI=
USB
CONNECTIONMODE=AUTOCONNECT
```

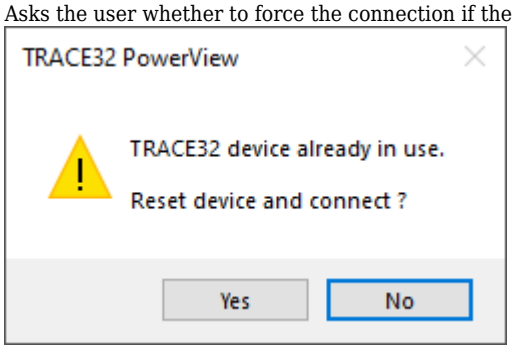
If you prefer TRACE32 to **automatically close** the new session instead of forcing a connection, use:

```
PBI=
USB
CONNECTIONMODE=AUTOABORT
```

Available Connection Modes

TRACE32 supports multiple connection modes for handling scenarios where the debug module is already in use:

Connection mode	Description
AUTOABORT	Automatically closes the new TRACE32 instance if the debug module is in use, without user interaction.

AUTOCONNECT	Automatically takes control of the debug module, forcing the connection.
AUTORETRY	Waits until the current TRACE32 session ends before attempting to connect.
NORMAL	Default mode. Displays a warning if the debug module is in use and closes the application after user confirmation.
QUERYCONNECT	Asks the user whether to force the connection if the debug module is already in use. 

For more details, refer to the TRACE32 Installation Guide.

If You Are Using t32start

If you use **t32start.exe** to launch TRACE32 PowerView, you can configure the connection mode under: **USB Settings** or **Ethernet Settings → Connection Mode**.

For more information, refer to the T32Start documentation.

Comments (3)

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Kariman Karam
3 years ago
Hello, I've the same issue but with multicore target, I tried this solution and it didn't work and I found that it's not applicable for multicore in the installation guide. Do you have any idea how to do the same but for multicore?
CB **Christopher Boeckman**
9 months ago
Should this work on Trace32 v2024.02? Should this help in the case of "FATAL ERROR from PBI-driver. TRACE32 USB device not connected" - it seems that only power cycling the debugger can recover from a T32 session that was not closed by a PowerView 'quit' command.
Wiem Wala Benayed
9 months ago

For multicore setups, you only need to specify the appropriate core configuration when launching TRACE32 (`CORE=1` for the first core and `CORE=2` for the second core).

The interactive mode, including the command `CONNECTION.ResetDevice`, has been officially supported since the 09/2024 release.