

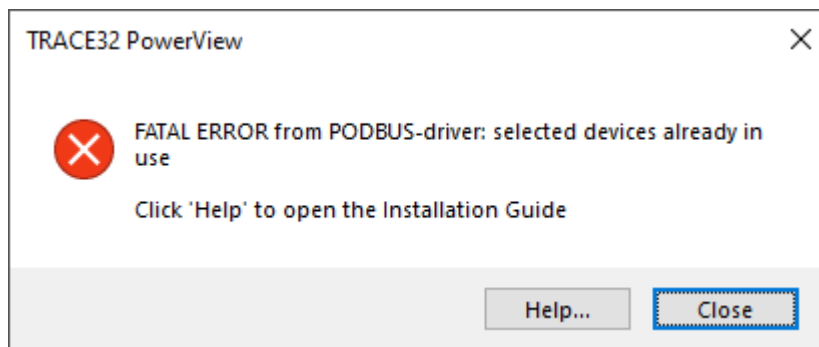


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## How to force a connection to a debug module which is already in use?

2026-01-15 - [Comments \(3\)](#) - [Setup / update](#)

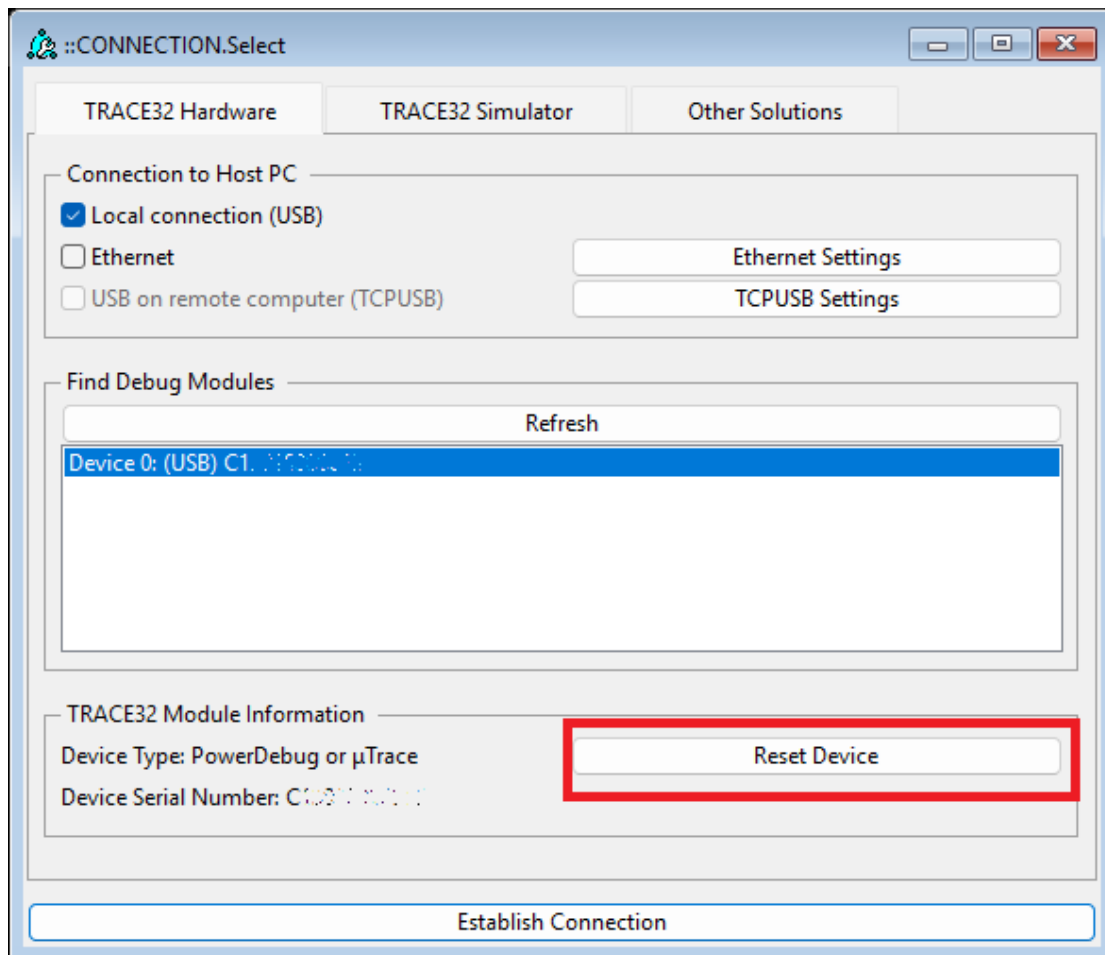
If you encounter the message "**TRACE32 device already in use**", one of the following scenarios may have occurred:



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:

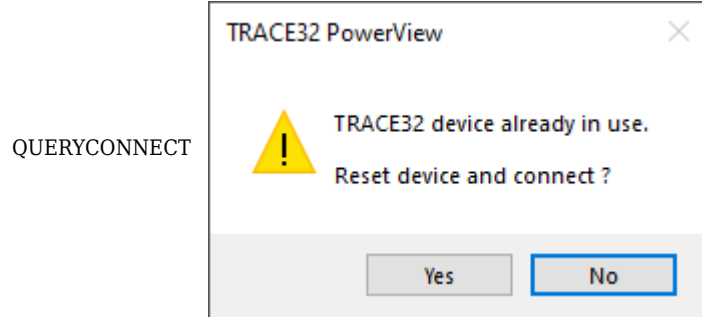
```
PBI=
USB
CONNECTIONMODE=AUTOABORT
```

## 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.
- 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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**KK Kariman Karam**

2 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**

3 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**

3 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.