



**Future Technology Devices International Ltd.**

## **Application Note AN\_120**

### **Aliasing VCP Baud Rates**

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The purpose of this document is to provide instruction on how the VCP driver calculates the baud rate used by FTDI devices in UART mode and how non-standard baud rates may be implemented.

**Future Technology Devices International Limited (FTDI)**

Unit 1, 2 Seaward Place, Centurion Business Park, Glasgow G41 1HH, United Kingdom

Tel.: +44 (0) 141 429 2777 Fax: + 44 (0) 141 429 2758

E-Mail (Support): [Support1.support@ftdichip.com](mailto:Support1.support@ftdichip.com) Web: <http://www.ftdichip.com>

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## **1 Introduction**

One of the most basic operations with the FT232H, (UART mode), FT2232H (UART mode), FT4232H (UART mode), FT232R, FT2232D (UART mode), FT232B, FT230X, FT231X and FT234X devices is setting a Baud rate. This application note describes the various ways that this can be done. It also describes how to use non-standard baud rates with FTDI's USB-Serial IC devices, including a technique called 'aliasing' - where one Baud rate is substituted by the driver in place of another baud rate.

The second generation FT232B USB UART IC added additional granularity to the divisor used to generate the device Baud rate. This allows a much larger number of baud rates to be used with the FT232B and subsequent devices when compared to its predecessor, the FT8U232AM.

## 2 Setting the Baud Rate

When using FTDI Virtual COM Port (VCP) drivers, the Baud rate can be set in the Device Manager or from an application. When the Baud rate is set from an application program it is done in exactly the same way as with a standard legacy Windows COM Port - by simply passing the required Baud rate to the port using the Windows VCOMM API calls or a COM Port library. Both standard and non-standard baud rates can be set in this manner.

When using FTDI's D2XX direct driver the function `FT_SetBaudRate` can be used to set both standard and non-standard baud rates. See the [D2XX Programmer's Guide](#) for further details on using `FT_SetBaudRate`.

If a non-standard Baud rate is required, the formulae in this application note can be used to determine if it is possible.

If the required non-standard Baud rate is possible simply pass it to the driver as normal and the required divisor will be calculated by the driver. For D2XX there is no longer any need to use the function `FT_SetDivisor`, but it has been left in for backward compatibility.

### 3 Baud Rate Calculation

A Baud rate for the FT230X, FT231X, FT234X, FT232R, FT2232D (UART mode) or FT232B is generated using the chip's internal 48MHz clock. This is input to the Baud rate generator circuitry where it is then divided by 16 and fed into a prescaler as a 3MHz reference clock. This 3MHz reference clock is then divided down to provide the required Baud rate for the device's on chip UART. The value of the Baud rate divisor is an integer plus a sub-integer prescaler.

This is also true for the FT232H, FT2232H (UART mode) and FT4232H (UART mode) up to 3MBaud. For higher baud rates the reference clock is an internal 12MHz clock and will be discussed later in the document.

The original FT8U232AM only allowed 3 sub-integer prescalers - 0.125, 0.25 or 0.5.

The FT2232H (UART mode), FT4232H (UART mode), FT230X, FT231X, FT234X, FT232R, FT2232D (UART mode) and FT232B support a further 4 additional sub-integer prescalers - 0.375, 0.625, 0.75, and 0.875.

Thus, allowed values for the Baud rate divisor are:

Divisor =  $n + 0, 0.125, 0.25, 0.375, 0.5, 0.625, 0.75, 0.875$ ;  
where  $n$  is an integer between 2 and 16384 (214).

**Note: Divisor = 1 and Divisor = 0 are special cases. A divisor of 0 will give 3 MBaud, and a divisor of 1 will give 2 MBaud. Sub-integer divisors are not allowed if the main divisor (n) is either 0 or 1.**

Therefore the value of the divisor needed for a given Baud rate is found by dividing 3000000 by the required Baud rate.

The exact Baud rate may not be achievable - however as long as the actual Baud rate used is within +/- 3% of the required Baud rate, then the link should function without errors. When a Baud rate is passed to the driver where the exact divisor required is not achievable the closest possible Baud rate divisor will be used as long as that divisor gives a Baud rate which is within +/- 3% of the Baud rate originally set.

For example:

A non-standard Baud rate of 490000 Baud is required.

Required divisor =  $3000000 / 490000 = 6.122$

The closest achievable divisor is 6.125, which gives a baud rate of 489795.9, which is well within the allowed +/- 3% margin of error. Therefore 490000 can be passed to the driver and the device will communicate without errors.

## **4 Aliasing Baud Rates**

### **4.1 Aliasing**

The file FTDIPORT.INF contains entries that are used as the divisors for standard Baud rates. By changing these it is possible to alias standard Baud rates with non-standard values - for instance replacing 115kBaud with 512kBaud. Users would then set up the devices to operate at 512kBaud by selecting 115kBaud for the appropriate serial port.

---

## 4.2 Aliasing Using the Original Sub-Integer Divisors

The FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg section of FTDIPORT.INF contains the ConfigData string and it is this string that controls the baud rate calculation.

The FTDIPORT.inf file may be viewed and edited with any text editor e.g. WordPad or Notepad

```
[FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]
HKR,,ConfigData,1,01,00,3F,3F,10,27,88,13,C4,09,E2,04,71,02,38,41,9c,80,4E,C0,34,00,1A,00,0D,00,0
6,40,03,80,00,00,d0,80
```

Each field consists of a pair of bytes, ordered as follows: Byte0, Byte1. Bits 13 through 0 denote the integer divisor while bits 16, 15 and 14 denote the sub-integer divisor, as follows

15,14 = 00 - sub-integer divisor = 0  
15,14 = 01 - sub-integer divisor = 0.5  
15,14 = 10 - sub-integer divisor = 0.25  
15,14 = 11 - sub-integer divisor = 0.125

The divisor can be extracted for each entry in a few simple steps, as shown here for the entry 9c,80

Step 1 - re-order the bytes: 9c,80 => 809c Hex  
Step 2 - extract the sub-integer divisor; 15 = 1, 14 = 0 => sub-integer = 0.25  
Step 3 - extract the integer divisor: 13:0 = 009c Hex = 156 Dec  
Step 4 - combine the integer and sub-integer divisors: 156.25 Dec  
Step 5 - divide 3000000 by the divisor=> 3000000/156.25 = 19,200 baud

The following lists the standard values and their respective baud rates

10,27 => divisor = 10000, rate = 300  
88,13 => divisor = 5000, rate = 600  
C4,09 => divisor = 2500, rate = 1,200  
E2,04 => divisor = 1250, rate = 2,400  
71,02 => divisor = 625, rate = 4,800  
38,41 => divisor = 312.5, rate = 9,600  
9C,80 => divisor = 156.25, rate = 19,200  
4E,C0 => divisor = 78.125, rate = 38,400  
34,00 => divisor = 52, rate = 57,692  
1A,00 => divisor = 26, rate = 115,384  
0D,00 => divisor = 13, rate = 230,769  
06,40 => divisor = 6.5, rate = 461,538  
03,80 => divisor = 3.25, rate = 923,076  
00,00 => RESERVED  
D0,80 => divisor = 208.25, rate = 14,406

To alias a baud rate of 920k baud to the standard 56k baud menu option under windows:

- change the 34,00 entry to 03,80 (simple as both of the values are available from the previous list)

To alias a rate of 197k baud to the standard 4,800 baud menu option under windows:

- find the best divisor, check that it is sufficiently accurate and then modify the appropriate INF file entry.

$3,000,000/197,000 = 15.228$ . The best divisor is 15.25.

$3,000,000/15.25 = 196,721$ .

$196,721/197,000 = 99.8\%$ .

This is well within the required 3% tolerance.

Set bit 15:14 to 10 for a sub-integer divisor of 0.25, and the lower bits to 0F.

- replace the 71,02 entry with 0F,80.

Incorporating these two changes the FTDIPORT.INF entry becomes

```
[FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]
HKR,,ConfigData,1,01,00,3F,3F,10,27,88,13,C4,09,E2,04,0F,80,38,41,9C,80,4E,C0,03,80,1A,00,0
D,00,06,40,03,80,00,00,00,00
```



### 4.3 Aliasing Using the Additional Sub-Integer Divisors

The standard FTDI.PORT.INF ConfigData Baud rate table only supports the original FT8U232AM sub-integer prescalers and not the new ones added for the FT232B and subsequent devices. To allow the addition sub-integer prescalers to be used when aliasing a Baud rate the following ConfigData entry is needed:

```
[FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]
HKR,,ConfigData,1,11,00,3F,3F,10,27,00,00,88,13,00,00,C4,09,00,00,E2,04,00,00,71,02,00,00,38,
41,00,00,9C,80,00,00,4E,C0,00,00,34,00,00,00,1A,00,00,00,0D,00,00,00,06,40,00,00,03,80,00,00,
00,00,00,00,D0,80,00,00
```

(Note - The current ftdiport.inf file contains both formats for the config data string. You select/disable the correct string by using a ; at the start of the line to comment out the one you do not want. Only one entry for Config Data should be used.)

In this case each field consists of 4 bytes, ordered as follows: Byte0, Byte1, Byte2, Byte3. Bits 13 through 0 denote the integer divisor while bits 16, 15 and 14 denote the sub-integer divisor, as follows:

```
16,15,14 = 000 - sub-integer divisor = 0
16,15,14 = 001 - sub-integer divisor = 0.5
16,15,14 = 010 - sub-integer divisor = 0.25
16,15,14 = 011 - sub-integer divisor = 0.125
16,15,14 = 100 - sub-integer divisor = 0.375
16,15,14 = 101 - sub-integer divisor = 0.625
16,15,14 = 110 - sub-integer divisor = 0.75
16,15,14 = 111 - sub-integer divisor = 0.875
```

Note that this ConfigData entry is the same as before except that each field consists of 4 bytes instead of 2 bytes. The first highlighted byte in ConfigData is the Flags byte and format of the fields is determined by Bit4 of the Flags byte. In the example above, setting Flags byte to 11 means that Bit4 is set and 4 byte fields are being used.

The divisor can be extracted for each entry in a few simple steps, as shown here for the entry 35,40,01,00

```
Step 1 - re-order the bytes: 35,40,01,00 => 00014035 Hex
Step 2 - extract the sub-integer divisor; 16 = 1, 15 = 0, 14 = 1 => sub-integer = 0.625
Step 3 - extract the integer divisor: 13:0 = 0035 Hex = 53 Dec
Step 4 - combine the integer and sub-integer divisors: 53.625 Dec
Step 5 - divide 3000000 by the divisor => 3000000/53.625 = 55944 baud
```

The following lists the standard values and their respective baud rates.

```
10,27,00,00 => divisor = 10000, rate = 300
88,13,00,00 => divisor = 5000, rate = 600
C4,09,00,00 => divisor = 2500, rate = 1,200
E2,04,00,00 => divisor = 1250, rate = 2,400
71,02,00,00 => divisor = 625, rate = 4,800
38,41,00,00 => divisor = 312.5, rate = 9,600
9C,80,00,00 => divisor = 156.25, rate = 19,200
4E,C0,00,00 => divisor = 78.125, rate = 38,400
34,00,00,00 => divisor = 52, rate = 57,692
1A,00,00,00 => divisor = 26, rate = 115,384
0D,00,00,00 => divisor = 13, rate = 230,769
06,40,00,00 => divisor = 6.5, rate = 461,538
03,80,00,00 => divisor = 3.25, rate = 923,076
00,00,00,00 => RESERVED
D0,80,00,00 => divisor = 208.25, rate = 14,406
```

To alias a rate of 920k baud to the standard 56k baud menu option under windows:

- change the 34,00,00,00 entry to 03,80,00,00 (simple as both of the values are available from the previous list)

To alias a rate of 197k baud to the standard 4,800 baud menu option under windows:

- find the best divisor, check that it is sufficiently accurate and then modify the appropriate INF file entry.

$3000000/197,000 = 15.228$ . The best divisor is 15.25.

$3000000/15.25 = 196,721$ .

$196,721/197,000 = 99.8\%$ .

This is well within the required 3% tolerance.

Set bits 16:15:14 to 010 for a sub-integer divisor of 0.25, and the lower bits to 0F.

- replace the 71,02,00,00 entry with 0F,80,00,00.

Incorporating these two changes the FTDIPORT.INF entry becomes

```
FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]
HKR,,ConfigData,1,11,00,3F,3F,10,27,00,00,88,13,00,00,C4,09,00,00,E2,04,00,00,0F,80,00,00,38
,41,00,00,9C,80,00,00,4E,C0,00,00,03,80,00,00,1A,00,00,00,0D,00,00,00,06,40,00,00,03,80,00,00
,00,00,00,00,D0,80,00,00
```

## 4.4 Aliasing the FT232H, FT2232H and FT4232H for Baud Rates up to 12MBaud

The instructions in section 4.3 are still applicable for the FT232H, FT2232H and the FT4232H up to 3MBaud.

The calculations for sub integers still apply.

To alias baud rates between 3MBaud and 12MBaud it is necessary to use driver version 2.4.20 or later and the most significant bit (MSB) of the divisor must be a 1. This will ensure the divisor is dividing a 12MHz clock and not a 3MHz clock.

Example:

Each field consists of 4 bytes, ordered as follows: Byte0, Byte1, Byte2, Byte3. Bits 13 through 0 denote the integer divisor while bits 16, 15 and 14 denote the sub-integer divisor, as follows

16,15,14 = 000 - sub-integer divisor = 0  
16,15,14 = 001 - sub-integer divisor = 0.5  
16,15,14 = 010 - sub-integer divisor = 0.25  
16,15,14 = 011 - sub-integer divisor = 0.125  
16,15,14 = 100 - sub-integer divisor = 0.375  
16,15,14 = 101 - sub-integer divisor = 0.625  
16,15,14 = 110 - sub-integer divisor = 0.75  
16,15,14 = 111 - sub-integer divisor = 0.875

The following lists the standard values and their respective baud rates.

10,27,00,80 => divisor = 10000, rate = 1,200  
88,13,00,80 => divisor = 5000, rate = 2,400  
C4,09,00,80 => divisor = 2500, rate = 4,800  
E2,04,00,80 => divisor = 1250, rate = 9,600  
71,02,00,80 => divisor = 625, rate = 19,200  
38,41,00,80 => divisor = 312.5, rate = 38,400  
9C,80,00,80 => divisor = 156, rate = 76,923  
4E,C0,00,80 => divisor = 78, rate = 153,846  
34,00,00,80 => divisor = 52, rate = 230,769  
1A,00,00,80 => divisor = 26, rate = 461,538  
0D,00,00,80 => divisor = 13, rate = 923,077  
06,40,00,80 => divisor = 6.5, rate = 1,846,153  
03,80,00,80 => divisor = 3.25, rate = 3,692,308  
00,00,00,80 => RESERVED  
D0,80,00,80 => divisor = 208.25, rate = 57,623

**Note: Divisor = 1 and Divisor = 0 are special cases. A divisor of 0 will give 12MBaud, and a divisor of 1 will give 8MBaud. Sub-integer divisors are not allowed if the main divisor (n) is either 0 or 1.**

To alias a rate of 38400 baud to the standard 300 baud menu option under windows:

- change the 10,27,00,00 entry to 38,41,00,80 (simple as both of the values are available from the previous list)

To alias a rate of 5.5M baud to the standard 19200 baud menu option under windows:

- find the best divisor, check that it is sufficiently accurate and then modify the appropriate INF file entry.

$12000000/5,500,000 = 2.1818$ . The best divisor is 2.125.

$12000000/2.125 = 5,647,000$  (approx).

$5,647,000/8,5000,000 = 102.67\%$ .

This is just within the required 3% tolerance.

Set bits 16:15:14 to 011 for a sub-integer divisor of 0.125, and the lower bits to 10.

MSB must be a 1 as the master clock is 12MHz

This gives 0 1100 0000 0000 0010. This gives the 4 bytes as 80 00 C0 02.

These are re-arranged as 02,C0,00,80

- replace the 71,02,00,00 entry for the 19200 baud with 02,C0,00,80.

Incorporating these two changes the FTDIPORT.INF entry becomes

FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]

HKR,,ConfigData,1,11,00,3F,3F,10,27,00,00,88,13,00,00,C4,09,00,00,E2,04,00,00,02,C0,00,80,38  
,41,00,00,9C,80,00,00,4E,C0,00,00,03,80,00,00,1A,00,00,00,0D,00,00,00,06,40,00,00,03,80,00,00  
,00,00,00,00,D0,80,00,00

---

## 5 Contact Information

### Head Office – Glasgow, UK

Future Technology Devices International Limited  
Unit 1, 2 Seaward Place, Centurion Business Park  
Glasgow G41 1HH  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 (0) 141 429 2777  
Fax: +44 (0) 141 429 2758

E-mail (Sales) [sales1@ftdichip.com](mailto:sales1@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (Support) [support1@ftdichip.com](mailto:support1@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (General Enquiries) [admin1@ftdichip.com](mailto:admin1@ftdichip.com)

### Branch Office – Taipei, Taiwan

Future Technology Devices International Limited  
(Taiwan)  
2F, No. 516, Sec. 1, NeiHu Road  
Taipei 114  
Taiwan, R.O.C.  
Tel: +886 (0) 2 8797 1330  
Fax: +886 (0) 2 8751 9737

E-mail (Sales) [tw.sales1@ftdichip.com](mailto:tw.sales1@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (Support) [tw.support1@ftdichip.com](mailto:tw.support1@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (General Enquiries) [tw.admin1@ftdichip.com](mailto:tw.admin1@ftdichip.com)

### Branch Office – Tigard, Oregon, USA

Future Technology Devices International Limited  
(USA)  
7130 SW Fir Loop  
Tigard, OR 97223-8160  
USA  
Tel: +1 (503) 547 0988  
Fax: +1 (503) 547 0987

E-mail (Sales) [us.sales@ftdichip.com](mailto:us.sales@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (Support) [us.support@ftdichip.com](mailto:us.support@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (General Enquiries) [us.admin@ftdichip.com](mailto:us.admin@ftdichip.com)

### Branch Office – Shanghai, China

Future Technology Devices International Limited  
(China)  
Room 1103, No. 666 West Huaihai Road,  
Shanghai, 200052  
China  
Tel: +86 21 62351596  
Fax: +86 21 62351595

E-mail (Sales) [cn.sales@ftdichip.com](mailto:cn.sales@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (Support) [cn.support@ftdichip.com](mailto:cn.support@ftdichip.com)  
E-mail (General Enquiries) [cn.admin@ftdichip.com](mailto:cn.admin@ftdichip.com)

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## Appendix A – FTDIPORT.INF Example

```
; FTDIPORT.INF
;
; Copyright © 2000-2016 Future Technology Devices International Limited
;
; USB serial port driver installation file for Windows 2000, XP, Server 2003, Vista, Server 2008,
; Windows 7, Server 2008 R2, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Server 2012 R2 and Windows 10.

[Version]
Signature="$Windows NT$"
DriverPackageType=PlugAndPlay
DriverPackageDisplayName=%DESC%
Class=Ports
ClassGUID={4d36e978-e325-11ce-bfc1-08002be10318}
Provider=%FTDI%
CatalogFile=ftdiport.cat
DriverVer=03/09/2016,2.12.16

[SourceDisksNames]
1=%DriversDisk%,,,

[SourceDisksFiles]
ftser2k.sys=1,i386
ftserui2.dll=1,i386
ftcserco.dll = 1,i386

[SourceDisksFiles.amd64]
ftser2k.sys=1,amd64
ftserui2.dll=1,amd64
ftcserco.dll = 1,amd64

[DestinationDirs]
FtdiPort.NT.Copy=10,system32\drivers
FtdiPort.NT.CopyUI=10,system32
FtdiPort.NT.CopyCoInst=10,system32

[ControlFlags]
ExcludeFromSelect=*

[Manufacturer]
%FTDI%=FtdiHw,NTamd64

[FtdiHw]
%VID_0403&PID_6001.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6001
%VID_0403&PID_6010.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6010
%VID_0403&PID_6011.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6011
%VID_0403&PID_6014.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6014
%VID_0403&PID_6015.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6015
%VID_0403&PID_6031.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6031
%VID_0403&PID_0000.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NT,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_0000

[FtdiHw.NTamd64]
%VID_0403&PID_6001.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6001
%VID_0403&PID_6010.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6010
%VID_0403&PID_6011.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6011
%VID_0403&PID_6014.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6014
%VID_0403&PID_6015.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6015
%VID_0403&PID_6031.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_6031
%VID_0403&PID_0000.DeviceDesc%=FtdiPort.NTamd64,FTDIBUS\COMPORT&VID_0403&PID_0000

[FtdiPort.NT.AddService]
DisplayName = %SvcDesc%
```

```
ServiceType = 1 ; SERVICE_KERNEL_DRIVER
StartType = 3 ; SERVICE_DEMAND_START
ErrorControl = 1 ; SERVICE_ERROR_NORMAL
ServiceBinary = %10%\system32\drivers\ftser2k.sys
LoadOrderGroup = Base
```

```
; ----- Serenum Driver install section
```

```
[SerEnum_AddService]
DisplayName = %SerEnum.SvcDesc%
ServiceType = 1 ; SERVICE_KERNEL_DRIVER
StartType = 3 ; SERVICE_DEMAND_START
ErrorControl = 1 ; SERVICE_ERROR_NORMAL
ServiceBinary = %12%\serenum.sys
LoadOrderGroup = PNP Filter
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.AddReg]
HKR,,EnumPropPages32,, "ftserui2.dll,SerialPortPropPageProvider"
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.Copy]
ftser2k.sys
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.CopyUI]
ftserui2.dll
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.CopyCoInst]
ftcserco.dll
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT]
CopyFiles=FtdiPort.NT.Copy,FtdiPort.NT.CopyUI
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.AddReg
```

```
[FtdiPort.NTamd64]
CopyFiles=FtdiPort.NT.Copy,FtdiPort.NT.CopyUI
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.AddReg
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.HW]
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg
```

```
[FtdiPort.NTamd64.HW]
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.Services]
AddService = FTSER2K, 0x00000002, FtdiPort.NT.AddService
AddService = Serenum,,SerEnum_AddService
DelService = FTSERIAL
```

```
[FtdiPort.NTamd64.Services]
AddService = FTSER2K, 0x00000002, FtdiPort.NT.AddService
AddService = Serenum,,SerEnum_AddService
DelService = FTSERIAL
```

```
[FtdiPort.NT.HW.AddReg]
HKR,,"UpperFilters",0x00010000,"serenum"
;HKR,,"ConfigData",1,01,00,3F,3F,10,27,88,13,C4,09,E2,04,71,02,38,41,9c,80,4E,C0,34,00,1A,00,0D,00,06,40,03,80,00,00,d0,80
```

```
HKR,,"ConfigData",1,11,00,3F,3F,10,27,00,00,88,13,00,00,C4,09,00,00,E2,04,00,00,71,02,00,00,38,41,00,00,9C,80,00,00,4E,C0,00,00,34,00,00,00,1A,00,00,00,0D,00,00,00,06,40,00,00,03,80,00,00,00,00,00,00,D0,80,00,00
HKR,,"MinReadTimeout",0x00010001,0
HKR,,"MinWriteTimeout",0x00010001,0
```

---

HKR,,"LatencyTimer",0x00010001,16

[FtdiPort.NT.CoInstallers]  
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.CoInstallers.AddReg  
CopyFiles=FtdiPort.NT.CopyCoInst

[FtdiPort.NTamd64.CoInstallers]  
AddReg=FtdiPort.NT.CoInstallers.AddReg  
CopyFiles=FtdiPort.NT.CopyCoInst

[FtdiPort.NT.CoInstallers.AddReg]  
HKR,,CoInstallers32,0x00010000,"ftcserco.Dll,FTCSERCoInstaller"

;-----;

[Strings]  
FTDI="FTDI"  
DESC="CDM Driver Package - VCP Driver"  
DriversDisk="FTDI USB Drivers Disk"  
PortsClassName = "Ports (COM & LPT)"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6001.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6010.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6011.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6014.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6015.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_6031.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
VID\_0403&PID\_0000.DeviceDesc="USB Serial Port"  
SvcDesc="USB Serial Port Driver"  
SerEnum.SvcDesc="Serenum Filter Driver"



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## Appendix B – Revision History

Document Title: AN\_120 Aliasing VCP Baud Rates  
Document Reference No.: FT\_000161  
Clearance No.: FTDI# 122  
Product Page: <http://www.ftdichip.com/FTProducts.htm>  
Document Feedback: [Send Feedback](#)

Revision	Changes	Date
1.0	First Release	06/11/2009
1.1	Corrected issues about baud rates between 6Mbaud and 12Mbaud in Ft4232H and Ft2232H	02/11/2010
1.2	Updated errors. Removed copyright year & updated contact information	25/05/2016