



Guide for Windows XP End of Support: PNA Family of Network Analyzers

PNA Models: * E8361A/C, E8362A/B/C, E8363A/B/C, E8364A/B/C, and N5230A/C
* E8356A/E8357A/E8358A
N5241A, N5242A, N5244A, N5245A, N5247A
N5221A, N5222A, N5224A, N5225A, N5227A
N5231A, N5232A, N5234A, N5235A, N5239A
N5264A

* = Has smaller 8.4 inch display

Introduction

As of April 8, 2014 Microsoft has ceased supporting the Windows XP operating system. No further security patches will be delivered by Microsoft beyond this date. This document will help you answer the following questions:

- How do I know if my instrument runs on Windows XP?
- What are the risks of using my instrument connected to a PC or the LAN?
- How do I minimize the risks?
- What do I do if I find an infection I can't remove?

How do I know if my instrument runs on Windows XP?

All PNAs with the smaller 8.4 inch screen (see list above) can only run XP and cannot be upgraded to Windows 7.

All PNAs shipped after April 1, 2014 should have Windows 7 already installed. Because the exact transition of XP to Windows 7 is difficult to determine, and because it is unknown if any particular unit was already upgraded, it is best if the unit can be powered on to see which operating system is installed. Once powered up, click on Help, About Network Analyzer. If the Application Code Version is A.10.00.00 or above, then the PNA is running Windows 7; otherwise it is running XP.

What are the risks of using my instrument connected to a PC or the LAN?

This instrument internally consists of the measurement hardware and it also has a PC built inside which is running Windows XP. Therefore the same rules and precautionary measures that apply to laptop and desktop PCs apply to this instrument as well.

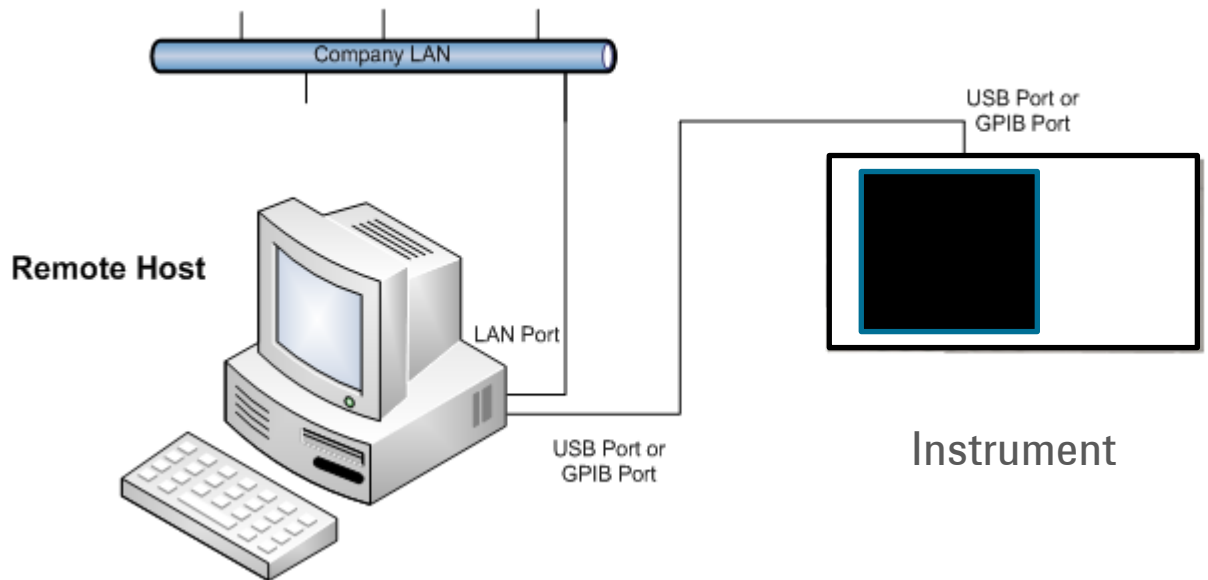


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Almost all threats are spread via the internet or via USB thumb drives. If the instrument is connected to an infected thumb drive, PC or to a LAN that is not adequately protected, it may become infected. The instrument can then pass the infection on to other PC's, and/or its speed of operation may be significantly slowed.

How do I minimize the risks?

- **Upgrade to Windows 7.** Our products will continue to function to published specification on Windows XP. Customers needing to make their product Windows 7 compatible will find there is an available option to purchase a Windows XP-to-Windows 7 migration kit through their local Agilent sales office.
Eligible PNAs can be upgraded to Windows 7 by ordering upgrade kit N8983A. Some PNAs will also need a new CPU or other modifications. Full requirements, eligibility, and other information is located on our PNA Windows 7 web page at:
<http://na.tm.agilent.com/pna/win7.html>
- **Keep your antivirus program and definitions up to date.** If your instrument is running an antivirus program for XP, your vendor may continue to provide virus definitions for new threats that emerge.
- **Disconnect the instrument from the LAN.** Disconnecting the instrument from the LAN is the simplest procedure to reduce the risk or to comply with the rules setup by your IT department. Do not disable the LAN ports, as that may affect the licensing mechanism. If you disable the LAN ports in Windows you may lose all licenses.
- **Use USB or GPIB connectivity for remote programming using a PC.** If you are presently sending commands to the instrument from a remote PC to automate your tests and you are using the LAN port to connect to the instrument please consider the following approach (see diagram). Most of our instrument support 3 different communication interfaces to send commands: USB, GPIB and LAN. The instrument uses a SCPI interface for communicating with the outside world. To communicate with it from a remote computer, the Agilent IO Libraries Suite must be installed on this remote host computer. The Agilent IO libraries are used to connect to the instrument regardless what interface is used. It may be USB, GPIB or LAN. Successful communication only depends on the correct VISA identification string (destination address). The correct string can be retrieved with help of the Agilent IO Libraries. The whole structure of your program can stay the same and you can reuse them as is. Only the addressing level has to be changed as indicated above.



What do I do if I find an infection I can't remove?

Performing a system recovery will return the PNA to its factory shipped condition by completely overwriting the C partition. The C partition contains the operating system and therefore this should remove any infection. Data files are stored on the D partition, which will not be affected, so that partition should also be scanned for any infected files. If all else fails, a new hard drive could be ordered. Refer to the Service manual for recovery instructions.