

Centurion Technologies

USB Blocking

Technical Support AvailableMonday to Friday hours: 8:00 AM until 9:00 PM EST/EDT1-844-569-6599 Option 2support@centuriontech.com



Introduction

If you have ever wanted to lock your computers down to disallow access to USB devices, SmartControl can offer you that protection. There are 15 different specific USB classes we can block and 3 generic classes available to protect against.

Enabling USB Blocking

To enable USB blocking, highlight the machine or machines you would like to add the feature to. Go to "Client Control" > "Protection Mode" > "Block USB". A new window will pop up, asking which USB classes you would like to block. Once you have made your selection, press "Ok".

USB Classes

SmartControl uses the hardware ID of a USB device to determine which category it belongs to. By default, the following classes are blocked:

- Communications/CDC
- Image
- Printer
- Mass Storage
- CDC-Data
- Smart Card
- Content Security
- Video
- Diagnostic Devices
- Wireless Controller
- Miscellaneous
- Application Specific
- Vendor Specific

Please note that combination devices may use several hardware IDs for the same single USB connector. For instance, a keyboard with a smart card reader embedded in it may only have a single USB plug. If you block the "Human Interface Device" USB group to block keyboards, the Smart Card reader may still function.

USB blocking will only be enabled when SmartShield is in a Protected state.



Examples of USB Devices

Sometimes there is ambiguity as to which category a device is a part of. While each device depends greatly on the manufacturer's classification and codes, here are some general guidelines for determining which class a device falls into:

Description	Examples
Unspecified ^[14]	(Device class is unspecified. Interface descriptors are used for determining the required drivers.)
Audio	Speaker, microphone, sound card, MIDI
Communications and CDC Control	Modem, Ethernet adapter, Wi-Fi adapter
Human interface device (HID)	Keyboard, mouse, joystick
Physical Interface Device (PID)	Force feedback joystick
Image	Webcam, scanner
Printer	Laser printer, inkjet printer, CNC machine
Mass storage	USB flash drive, memory card reader, digital audio player, digital camera, external drive
USB hub	Full bandwidth hub
CDC-Data	(This class is used together with class 02h—Communications and CDC Control.)
Smart Card	USB smart card reader
Content security	Fingerprint reader
Video	Webcam
Personal Healthcare	Pulse monitor (watch)
Diagnostic Device	USB compliance testing device
Wireless Controller	Bluetooth adapter, Microsoft RNDIS
Miscellaneous	ActiveSync device
Application-specific	IrDA Bridge, Test & Measurement Class (USBTMC), ^[16] USB DFU (Direct Firmware update) ^[16]
Vendor-specific	(This class code indicates that the device needs vendor specific drivers.)