

## Tech Note: Using InterWrite with Third-Party Bluetooth Drivers

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The information in this Tech Note applies to users whose computers—mainly newer laptops—have built-in Bluetooth devices. We recognize that using an existing built-in Bluetooth device is preferable to having to attach a second Bluetooth device to communicate with InterWrite devices. However, Bluetooth software is not sufficiently standardized to always make this possible. This Tech Note will attempt to describe the problem, the situations where using a built-in device may work, and a possible workaround, if it does not work correctly.

InterWrite Bluetooth devices ship with a TDK Bluetooth device and TDK Bluetooth software. GTCO Calcomp does not test with Bluetooth software from other manufacturers, but in many cases, InterWrite will work well with these third-party Bluetooth software packages. The important factors to consider are:

1. The source of the Bluetooth Software.
2. The version of the Bluetooth Software.

GTCO Calcomp is currently aware of two major suppliers of Bluetooth software for computers running Microsoft Windows. Microsoft provides Bluetooth software that runs only on Windows XP, and Widcomm provides Bluetooth software that runs on all current versions of Microsoft Windows. The Widcomm Bluetooth software provides a great deal of functionality not included in the Microsoft Bluetooth software. As a result, the Widcomm software is far more popular with Bluetooth device manufacturers, and is far more likely to be pre-installed on a computer. As of the date of this Tech Note, InterWrite works only with the Bluetooth software supplied by Widcomm. This software ships with the Bluetooth adapters manufactured by many companies, such as TDK Systems, Dell, and others.

Each manufacturer has Bluetooth software that works only with their device, even though the software is nearly identical to the other manufacturers' Bluetooth software. This is enforced by Widcomm by means of a licensing scheme that, for example, prevents the TDK Bluetooth software from working with a Dell TrueMobile Bluetooth device. It is imperative that you do not attempt to update Bluetooth software distributed by one manufacturer with Bluetooth software distributed by another without first removing all the existing Bluetooth software on your system. Doing otherwise could render both sets of Bluetooth software non-functional.

Each manufacturer can customize the Bluetooth software provided by Widcomm, and each ships different versions. These different versions can have differences ranging from subtle to catastrophic, making it difficult to tell if a particular manufacturer's Bluetooth version is compatible with InterWrite. Fortunately, it appears that each manufacturer uses the version numbering sequence defined by Widcomm, making it easier to determine the likelihood of compatibility.

The InterWrite 4.0 release was tested with the TDK Bluetooth software, version 1.4.2 Build 10. InterWrite will attempt to use any Bluetooth software originally written by Widcomm that starts with version "1.4" and will not use either older or newer versions of that software. To check the version of the Bluetooth software installed on your machine, please see the Tech Note titled "Determining your Bluetooth Software Version." As of the date of this Tech Note, we have verified that InterWrite works with Dell TrueMobile Bluetooth software, version 1.4.1 Build 4, although we have not done extensive testing with this release.

It is possible that InterWrite will attempt to use existing Bluetooth software and fail, although we have not yet seen this particular circumstance. There is a possible workaround to this situation: Remove your current Bluetooth software and then, install the TDK Bluetooth software that shipped with your InterWrite release.