

## USB DLM V4.5.6 - USB Drive Letter Manager for Windows 2000, XP und höher

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### What it is

USB DLM is a Windows service that gives control over Windows's drive letter assignment for USB drives. Running as service makes it independent of the logged on user's privileges, so there is no need to give the users the privilege to change drive letters.

It automatically solves conflicts between USB drives and network or subst drives of the currently logged on user. Furthermore you can define new default letters for USB drives and much more.

### What it not is

USB DLM isn't a wonder tool. If Windows has problems with USB drives then USB DLM cannot fix it. Here are some [tips for solving problems with USB drives](#).

### Getting Started

When a removable drive (USB flash drive, flash card reader, portable hard drive) is attached for the first time, Windows mounts it to the first available 'local' drive letter. If there is a network share on this letter, Windows XP will use it anyway for the new USB drive because since XP network shares are specific to the current user and not visible in the context of the system where the letter is assigned. The USB drive then appears to be invisible. This is fixed by SP3 in most situations.

You can change the letter assignments in the Windows Disk Management Console with a lot of mouse clicks but you have to do it again for every new device.

And, for USB devices that have no serial number (in violation of the USB standards) you have to do it too when you attach it to a different USB port.

USB DLM can for newly attached USB drives

- check if the letter is used by a network share of the currently logged on user and assign the next letter that is really available
- reserve letters, so they are not used for local drives
- assign a letter from a list of new default letters, also dependent on many different criteria as the active user, drive type, connection (USB, FireWire), USB port, volume label, size and others
- assign letters for a specific USB drive by putting an INI file on the drive
- remove the drive letters of card readers until a card is inserted
- show a balloon tip with the assigned drive letter(s)
- define autorun events depending on many different criteria
- many other things, see help file, available [online as HTML version](#) too

All functions are applied to USB drives at the moment they are being attached, when the USB DLM service starts up and when a user logs on.

USB DLM runs as Win32 service under Windows 2000, XP, Server 2003, Vista, Windows 7 and Server 2008. An x64 version for the x64 Edition of Windows is available too.

### Installation

Unzip the distribution (USB DLM.ZIP) file to "C:\Program Files" (an USB DLM folder is included). Under Vista and Win7 I suggest a different folder, for instance "C:\Tools" to prevent trouble caused by the Windows "Virtual Store" where the USB DLM.INI might be redirected to without telling the user.

Then enter your preferred configuration into the USB DLM.INI (see below). There is a sample file included called USB DLM\_sample.INI. Either create a new USB DLM.INI or rename the sample.

If you are logged on with administrator privileges you can simply install it by starting the

```
_install.cmd
```

Without administrator privileges you will be prompted for them.

You can change the USBDLM.INI without restarting the service because it's checked each time a new drive is attached.

You can uninstall the service using parameter -uninstall:

```
_uninstall.cmd
```

Both can be done without the message box by using the following USBDLM commandline parameters

```
USBDM -silentinstall  
USBDM -silentuninstall
```

It returns Errorlevel 0 on success, 1 on failure.

You can stop and start the installed service by means of the \_stop.cmd and \_start.cmd.

## Configuration

Running without a configuration USBDLM only prevents that a new drive gets the letter of a network share or a subst drive of the currently logged on user. It remounts then to the next letter that is really available.

USBDM is configured thru a text file, the USBDLM.INI. The USBDLM.INI is read from the folder of the USBDM.EXE.

If required, read at Wikipedia how [INI files](#) work.

## New default letters for new USB drives (flash or harddrive)

```
[DriveLetters]  
Letter1=U  
Letter2=Y  
Letter3=Z
```

USBDM can have up to 9 'LetterX' entries in each section. They don't have to be continuous. You can also use the short notation:

```
[DriveLetters]  
Letters=U,Y,Z
```

Have a look into the help file **USBDM\_ENG.CHM** for more details. If you get the 'cannot display the webpage' error then the help file has the NTFS file attribute 'downloaded from untrusted source' and Microsoft doesn't trust its own CHM file format. To fix this right click the USBDM\_E.CHM, select Properties and click Unblock. The help file is available [online as HTML version](#) too.

## Card Readers

The typical 20-in-1 card reader eats one drive letter for each of its slots - if we have a card for or not. USBDM can remove the reader's drive letter until a media is inserted.

```
[Settings]  
NoMediaNoLetter=1
```

USBDM assigns then a drive letter as configured. If you need different drive letters for a multislot cardreader, then use the criterion 'DeviceType' in a DriveLetters section (MSCR is short for MultiSlotCardReader):

```
[DriveLetters1]  
DeviceType=MSCR  
Letters=R,W
```

## Network drive letters

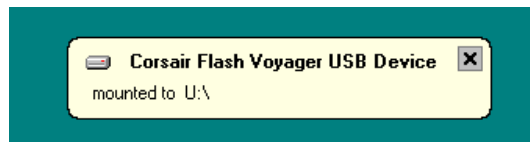
You can prevent Windows mounting local drives to certain letters by putting them into section NetworkLetters. This is especially useful for letters of network shares which Windows may assign to USB drives while booting. Do not configure other letters than network, subst and TrueCrypt drives here!

```
[NetworkLetters]  
Letters=F,G
```

## Balloon Tips

USBDM can show a balloon tip with information about the drive letter(s) or mount points used for a just attached drive:

```
[BalloonTips]  
Enabled=1
```



There is much more USBDLM can do, just take some time and read the help file...

## History

For the complete history check out the help file which is available [online as HTML version](#) too.

### V4.3.0 (30 April 2009)

- Bugfix: Volume Label sometimes not read after media change under Vista, see <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/943632>
- New: ListUsbDrives shows the sections from the USBDLM.INI which are used for a drive
- New: Faster operation by gathering required drive information only
- New: Multiple NTFS folders can be assigned as mount points, also in addition to a drive letter
- New: In sections [OnArrival], OnRemoval etc up to 10 commands can be executed (open1 to open9 and the known open)
- New: [OnArrival] and AutoRun.inf for TrueCrypt volumes
- New: When a DeviceID is configured then the BusType for non USB drives can be omitted, same for the DriveType e.g. for CDROM drives
- New: [OnArrival] can start a program under Vista with full rights ("elevated")
- New: Criteria UserIsAdmin is under Vista related to the "elevated" user, so it is 1 for an Admin under UAC
- New: Criteria for absence of a file (FileNotExists)
- New: [OnRemovalFailed] is executed asynchronously to avoid event ping pong when using RemoveDrive
- New: AutoRun on System Events
- New: Handling of first time arrivals under Windows 2000 optimized
- New: Using [OnArrival], OnRemoval etc there is the new default criterion MinVolumeSize=1, so a media must be present
- New: Drive letters can be checked on resume from standby and hibernation mode
- New: Drive letters by Volume Serial Number
- New: Drive description for USB drives in the menu of "Safely Remove Hardware"
- New: Balloons under Vista in almost correct design
- New: Balloons with fade out effect and shadow (if activated in the Windows settings)
- New: Using USBDLM Variables for environment variables can (and should) be configured in detail

### V4.3.1 (1 June 2009)

- Bugfix: Delay on Windows standby and hibernation removed
- Bugfix: Slow responding drives handled more tolerant
- Bugfix: Firewire drives have again the short, "handmade" name in the balloon tip

### V4.3.2 (7 July 2009)

- Bugfix: When only NTFS mountpoints are configured in a section then an assigned drive letter was not removed
- Bugfix: Text color in the balloon tips always black even configured different in Windows
- Bugfix: ListUsbDrives shows for harddrives and removable drives the correct "Disk DosDevName" (so far it showed the PDO name)
- New: On startup USBDLM can swap drive letters in some situations if required
- New: Section numbers from 1 to 9 can be noted as 01 .. 09, e.g. [DriveLetters01]
- New: Items Letter, Letters, Letter1 bis Letter9 - all understand all formats (single letter, list of letters, mountpoint, INI file)

### V4.4.0 (1 November 2009)

- Bugfix: BusTypes in list notation (e.g. BusTypes=USB,SCSI) didn't work
- Bugfix: Deactivating System Restore for new drives didn't work
- Bugfix: OnArrival did not work for drives with no media present, even MinDiskSize=- was configured
- Bugfix: ListUsbDrives now shows all sections effective for a drive
- New: x64 version available
- New: Determining USB port names causes no more delays
- New: Startup of the USBDLM service accelerated
- New: Additional search path for executables
- New: Alternative notation of the USB Port Name
- New: Letters by USB-Port much faster now
- New: Label and Icon from autorun.inf files can be used
- New: From autorun.inf on x64 systems the section [autorun.amd64] is read first
- New: autorun.inf can be read even redirected by IniFileMapping
- New: VolumeSerial criteria can be used with wildcards
- New: "BitLocker To Go" encrypted drives are recognized as such

### V4.4.1 (11 November 2009)

- Bugfix: Hiding drives from the "Safely Remove Hardware" might not work under Vista, under Window 7 it

still does and will not work for "Removable" drives

- Bugfix: ListUsbDrives always showed a warning about a USBDLM.INI in the Vista/Win7 virtual store
- Bugfix: Delay on service startup on some systems removed
- Bugfix: Close button on the BalloonTip might be drawn incomplete under XP

#### V4.4.2 (13 December 2009)

- Bugfix: Variable %UsbSerial% was empty since V4.4.0
- Bugfix: Drive letter swapping on startup not performed when the USBDLM service started after the user's logon
- Bugfix: FileExists when used with wildcards worked only when exactly one file was found
- New: Swapping driveletters on startup can deal with more than two letters

#### V4.5.0 (9 May 2010)

- New: Passwords for drives
- New: AutoRun for other devices than drives
- New: AutoRun works for remote users
- New: Multiple AutoRun sections on system events depending on criteria
- New: Vista "Scan and Fix" can be suppressed

#### V4.5.1 (13 June 2010)

- Bugfix: On resume from standby or hibernation non responding card readers got assigned a drive letter even they should not because of NoMediaNoLetter=1
- Bugfix: When dismounting a TrueCrypt volume in an OnRemovalRequest section then the removal message for the TrueCrypt volume was not processed by USBDLM; in result no OnArrival and autorun.inf was processed on next arrival of this TrueCrypt volume
- Bugfix: The password dialog was not shown on some systems
- Bugfix: ListUsbDrives tool crashed with latest usb.id file
- New: Password can be received with an anonymous logon

#### V4.5.2 (1 August 2010)

- Bugfix: BitLocker drives often not detected as such
- Bugfix: USBDLM timeout error in the Windows Event Log on some slowly starting systems
- Bugfix: non responding drives was not tested again, so their OnArrival section was not executed
- Bugfix: Delay on startup of the USBDLM service removed
- Bugfix: OnArrival sections sometimes executed twice
- Bugfix: Problems with Balloontips for devices with quotation marks in the name
- Bugfix: Several fixes for Windows 2000
- New: Letters by Computer Name
- New: Letters by running process
- New: ListUsbDrives shows USB 3.0 Super Speed

#### V4.5.3 (5 September 2010)

- Bugfix: USBDLM prevented roaming user profiles written back to the server on user logoff or shutdown
- Bugfix: Text\_mounted\_to\_plr for the balloon tips works now
- New: Dock and Undock system events
- New: Handling large USBDLM.INI files accelerated
- New: Some optimization

#### V4.5.4 (10 September 2010)

- Bugfix: With USBDLM V4.5.3 OnBalloonClick stopped working after standby or hibernation

#### V4.5.5 (12 October 2010)

- Bugfix: OnDeviceArrival did not work with USBDLM V4.5.4
- New: Some grammar for slavonic language balloon tips

#### V4.5.6 (14 October 2010)

- Bugfix: With five or more drives in the balloon tip the word "drives" was missing in V4.5.5
- New: Multiple DeviceArrival events for the same device are ignored

## Download

For home users I suggest the ZIP file. Just unzip to "C:\Program Files" and run the \_install.cmd.  
Under Vista I suggest a different folder, for instance "C:\Tools" to prevent trouble caused by the Vista "Virtual Store" where the USBDLM.INI might be redirected to.  
The MSI is for admins who want to deploy the software in their network.

The software is fully functional and does not expire. There is no 'full version'.

Download latest release V4.5.6:

Win32:

<http://www.uwe-sieber.de/files/usbdm.zip>

(about 483 KB)

<http://www.uwe-sieber.de/files/usbdm.msi>

(about 560 KB)

x64:

[http://www.uwe-sieber.de/files/usbdlm\\_x64.zip](http://www.uwe-sieber.de/files/usbdlm_x64.zip)

(about 525 KB)

No x64 MSI so far.

#### Previous releases:

Version	Win32 ZIP	Win32 MSI	x64 ZIP
V4.5.5	<a href="#">usbdlm455.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm455.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm455_x64.zip</a>
V4.5.4	<a href="#">usbdlm454.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm454.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm454_x64.zip</a>
V4.5.3	<a href="#">usbdlm453.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm453.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm453_x64.zip</a>
V4.5.2	<a href="#">usbdlm452.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm452.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm452_x64.zip</a>
V4.5.1	<a href="#">usbdlm451.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm451.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm451_x64.zip</a>
V4.5.0	<a href="#">usbdlm450.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm450.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm450_x64.zip</a>
V4.4.2	<a href="#">usbdlm442.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm442.msi</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm442_x64.zip</a>
V4.1.0	<a href="#">usbdlm410.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm410.msi</a>	---
V3.4.2	<a href="#">usbdlm342.zip</a>	<a href="#">usbdlm342.msi</a>	---

#### Conditions and Prices USBDLM

USB DLM is Freeware for private and educational (schools, colleges, universities) use only. The students shall outnumber all others.

Otherwise one licence per computer is required after a 30 day test period even though the software does not expire.

To support admins in schools which are often voluntary workers I made USB DLM freeware for schools, colleges and universities. But that's the line I've drawn and even your organization is non profit, good and important I have to say, it's beyond that line. Ask me for a discount in this case.

#### Prices with effect from June 2010

(Euro prices are constant, USD prices are floating):

Quantity:	Price per licence
1 - 9	13.50 USD
10 - 99	8.00 USD
100 - 999	6.00 USD
1000 - 9999	4.00 USD
>10000	2.00 USD
Site Licence	2000.00 USD
World-Wide Licence	8000.00 USD

A Site License allows anyone in the organization making the purchase, within a 160 km (100 mile) radius of the purchasing location, to use the software. This includes people from that organization location who are travelling but it does not include people with locations outside of the 160 km radius.

A World-Wide License allows anyone in the organization making the purchase, who is on the planet Earth, to use the software.

You can order directly at me, I send offer and invoice on request.

An online order is possible at the KAGI online Shop (USA, California) with credit card, check or cash. VAT is charged depending on your country and can be skipped by having a VAT ID number.

The licence is delivered as licence number by eMail or on the invoice. It's not required for the software, the software is not limited in any way and it does not expire.

[KAGI Online Shop \(USA, California\)](#)

All licences are not limited in time and valid for future versions too. All updates are free of charge. Purchasers of V1.x, 2.x and 3.x are free to use V4.x.

#### Plans

No more big plans at the moment. Everything I ever had in mind for USBDLM is implemented in USBDLM V4.5.

Plans for a graphical configuration tool are stalled at the moment because I've no idea how it should look like to be more efficient than the INI files.

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Counter since Feb. 1998

**3354248**

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