Cannot SSH Raspberry Pi Zero W on Windows via USB

Asked 4 years, 1 month ago Modified 1 year, 1 month ago Viewed 5k times

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I am using Raspberry Pi for the first time. I did the conventional setup that most people mentioned. This includes

1.Flashing Raspbian onto a SD card

2. Edit Config/cmdline files and add an ssh file (without an extension)

3. Download Bonjour

4. Load SD Card into the Raspberry Pi

5. Connect via USB and SSH host raspberry.local

The result is the error that the connection does not exist. I tried pinging from cmd but I got the same result.

I am not sure what the error could be. Something interesting I noticed is that the ssh file keeps disappearing after I boot up the raspberry pi. Is this normal?

networking usb ssh pi-zero pi-zero-w

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asked Sep 26, 2018 at 13:21

James Kl
21 1 3

Are you plugged into the correct µUSB port? Only the one closer to the center of the board works for this. – evildemonic Sep 26, 2018 at 15:06

What do you do with the downloaded Bonjour? Raspbian uses `avahi` for auto configuring network and has it installed by default. Where is the RasPi connected? To a Laptop? Is there a DHCP server running on the network? – Ingo Sep 26, 2018 at 16:06

connected? Is a Laptop? Is there a DHCP server running on the network? Ingo Sep 26, 2016 at 16:00

5 Answers

Reset to default Sorted by: Date modified (newest first)

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I have crawled a lot of forums with the solution below. The main issue encountered in Windows 10 is that, the raspi zero maybe identified as USB COM port device. We have to install a **RNDIS driver** instead of the auto-installed USB serial port driver.

0. Download RNDIS driver from here : RNDIS driver, originated from here

- unzip the file and put them in a [folder1]

1. Open Device Manager, scroll to Ports (COM&LPT)
2. Do this step if you do not know which com port your raspi zero is on

- Unplug and replug your raspi w

3. Right click the "COM PORT X" and select “Update Driver Software”.

- Browse my computer for driver software
- Select the path of [folder1]
- Install the driver

4. After successful installation, the "com port" device will be treated as "USB Ethernet/RNDIS gadget"
5. You can now ping raspberrypi.local

- So is ssh, if you have completed all procedures for USB-TO-OTG

Sources from https://www.factoryforward.com/pi-zero-w-headless-setup-windows10-rndis-driver-issue-resolved

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answered Sep 24, 2021 at 16:56

astroflyer
161 5

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It might happen that windows has **no proper mDNS client**. This might cause that `raspberrypi.local` is not registered. You can resolve this by installing something like **Bonjour**.

Check the adafruit guide on zeroconf networking for further information.

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edited Jul 31, 2019 at 8:07

answered Jul 30, 2019 at 13:46

thi gg
403 1 3 12

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You may wanna read this Raspberry Pi Zero W Headless setup – Windows 10 RNDIS Driver issue resolved tutorial and pay attention in the section on *RNDIS Driver from MOD (Musical Operating Devices)*. Most Rpi0/W installation on a Windows OS 9particularly v10) runs into some sort of problem and can be simply resolved with the RNDIS Driver from MOD (Musical Operating Devices). I hope this helps.

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answered Oct 3, 2018 at 17:48

user91822
412 2 4

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It just worked after one point. I cannot remember what exactly changed but looking back the post my assumption is that I stupidly tried to ssh into raspberry.local not raspberry**pi**.local.

I also had other issues that made it difficult to find the raspberry pi's ip address (which I would rather ssh to) and may have contributed to the connectivity issues. This includes that *ipconfig* shows that the port which the raspberry pi is connected to is disconnected

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answered Oct 3, 2018 at 0:13

James Kl
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You have to enable the USB Ethernet Gadget module before continue.

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Here the tutorial https://cdn-learn.adafruit.com/downloads/pdf/turning-your-raspberry-pi-zero-into-a-usb-gadget.pdf

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answered Sep 26, 2018 at 22:40

MadPapo
231 1 8