

PICAXE Testing with Windows 11 (ARM64 processor)

Section 1: Test Details

Test Date:	17 Feb 2026
Technician:	CPS (Revolution Education Ltd)
PICAXE Hardware:	AXE091 Experimenter Board with PICAXE-08M2/18M2/28X2 microcontroller
Device:	Microsoft Surface Laptop (7 th edition, model 2036, 13.8-inch screen)
Processor:	Snapdragon(R) X 12-core X1E80100 @ 3.40 GHz (ARM64)
Installed RAM:	32.0 GB
OS:	Windows 11 Pro (24H2)

Revolution Education Ltd would like to thank Microsoft for providing the Surface laptop for review and software testing. The test machine RAM was 32GB however 16GB would also be sufficient for all PICAXE software titles.

Section 2: PICAXE Software

The following PICAXE software apps were installed and tested after downloading the standard public MSI installer from <https://picaxe.com/software>

- PICAXE Editor 6.2.0 Fully compatible (*see note 1*)
- Blockly 1.5.1 Fully compatible
- Axepad 2.0.0 Fully compatible

No issues were found with installation or operation of any of these software products.

Section 3: PICAXE USB Download Cables

The following three PICAXE USB cable variants were also tested, following installation of the FTDI USB driver.

- AXE027 USB Download Cable Fully compatible after reprogramming PID (*note 4*)
- AXE027D USB Download Cable Fully compatible.
- AXE028 Adapter + CAB027 Cable Fully compatible.

No issues were found with installation or operation of any of these USB cable products. See notes 2 and 3 below for the USB driver installation information.

Summary

Revolution Education Ltd are pleased to confirm that the PICAXE system is fully compatible with Microsoft Surface laptops using ARM64 processors under Windows 11.

Notes

Note 1: PE6 requires that the .Net 3.5 Framework is enabled. This is a standard Windows OS feature and can be enabled via Search > Turn Windows features on or off> .Net 3.5 checked

Note 2: The WHQL certified ARM64 driver for the PICAXE USB cables is provided by FTDI and is a free download from <https://ftdichip.com/drivers/vcp-drivers/>

- Driver Version Tested CDM-v2.12.36.20-for-ARM64-WHQL-Certified

Note that the ARM64 variant of the driver must be used. This ARM64 driver is Microsoft WHQL certified but not currently available via Windows Update.

Note 3a: The FTDI driver may be preinstalled on individual machines or networks using pnputil.

1. Go to the FTDI website and download the .zip containing the ARM64 driver files and extract.
2. Run command prompt as admin, change folder to the '**CDM-v2.12.36.20-for-ARM64-WHQL-Certified**' extracted folder and then run this command:

```
pnputil /add-driver arm64\release\*.inf /install
```

Note 3b: The FTDI driver may alternately be installed manually on an individual machine via Device Manager (instead of using pnputil):

1. Go to the FTDI website and download the .zip containing the ARM64 driver files and extract.
2. Insert the PICAXE USB cable into computer.
3. Run 'Device Manager' and find the "Other Devices>AXE027 PICAXE USB" entry.
4. Right click and select Update Driver. Browse to the extracted driver folder and click Next.
5. After installation repeat this process for the "Other Devices > USB Serial Port" entry.
6. A new COM port labelled 'USB Serial Port' should then be seen in the "Ports (COM & LPT)" section. This is the COM port number to select within the PICAXE software.

Note 4: The older AXE027 cable is provided with a custom product ID (PID) of bd90, whereas the FTDI ARM driver expects the default PID of 6001. This default PID is already used within the newer AXE027D and CAB027 cables.

Therefore for use on ARM64 systems the AXE027 cable requires a one time reprogramming back to the default 6001 PID. This is a 20 second process using the free reprogramming tool available at <https://picaxe.com/axe027-programming-tool/>

AXE027 cables with the default PID will also continue to function on other (non-ARM) operating systems, but will now appear with a 'USB Serial Port' (rather than 'AXE027 PICAXE USB') description.