

# ThinkGear Connector User Guide

## Introduction

ThinkGear™ Connector is a program that runs in the background on your Windows PC, allowing special games and applications to react to your state of mind as they're detected by the headset with NeuroSky's ThinkGear sensor. No configuration is required — just pair your headset with your computer, launch ThinkGear Connector, and start using TGC-enabled applications!

## Installation

ThinkGear Connector is automatically installed when you install the MindWave™ Application Compact Disc. If necessary, the installer will prompt you to install .NET Framework 3.5.

## Using the Connector

### Windows XP/Vista/7

#### Starting the Connector

**Important:** Before starting up ThinkGear Connector, make sure to pair your headset with your computer. For pairing instructions, refer to the documentation that came with your headset.

ThinkGear Connector can be run from the **Start** menu, by navigating to **Programs, NeuroSky MindWave, Utilities**, and then clicking on the **ThinkGear Connector** icon. When ThinkGear Connector is running, an icon will appear in the System Tray. This is the default state of ThinkGear Connector.



Figure 1: Idle icon

#### Running TGC-Enabled Applications

When a ThinkGear Connector-enabled application tries to connect, ThinkGear Connector will **automatically** search for and connect to the paired headset. While ThinkGear Connector is searching for the headset, an hourglass icon will be shown in the System Tray.



Figure 2: Searching for a headset

## Section 3 – Using the Connector

If the search was successful and ThinkGear Connector was able to connect to a headset, a notification bubble will appear, and the System Tray icon will change to a bright-blue "brain" icon.



Figure 3: Connected to a headset

However, if the search was unsuccessful, ThinkGear Connector will display a notification bubble stating the error, and the System Tray icon will change to a red exclamation.



Figure 4: Unable to find a headset

To ask the ThinkGear Connector to try to connect to a headset again, you can click on the notification bubble, click the "Retry headset connection" item in the right-click menu, or click the appropriate button in the [Preferences panel](#).

**Important:** If ThinkGear Connector was unable to connect to a headset, please ensure the following:

- The headset's battery has enough charge and is turned on
- The headset is paired with your computer

If you are still having problems connecting to the headset, refer to the [Troubleshooting guide](#).

## Mac OS X

### Starting the Connector

**Important:** Before starting up ThinkGear Connector, make sure to pair your headset with your computer. For pairing instructions, refer to the documentation that came with your headset.

ThinkGear Connector can be run from the **Applications** folder, by navigating to **MindWave, Utilities**, and then clicking on the **ThinkGear Connector** icon. When ThinkGear Connector is running, an icon will appear in the Menu Bar. This is the default state of ThinkGear Connector.



Figure 5: Idle icon

### Running TGC-Enabled Applications

When a ThinkGear Connector-enabled application tries to connect, ThinkGear Connector will **automatically** search for and connect to the paired headset. While ThinkGear Connector is searching for the headset, an hourglass icon will be shown in the System Tray.



Figure 6: Searching for a headset

If the search was successful and ThinkGear Connector was able to connect to a headset, a notification bubble will appear, and the System Tray icon will change to a bright-blue "brain" icon.



Figure 7: Connected to a headset

However, if the search was unsuccessful, ThinkGear Connector will display a notification bubble stating the error, and the System Tray icon will change to a red exclamation.



Figure 8: Unable to find a headset

To ask the ThinkGear Connector to try to connect to a headset again, you can click on the notification bubble, click the "Retry headset connection" item in the right-click menu, or click the appropriate button in the [Preferences panel](#).

**Important:** If ThinkGear Connector was unable to connect to a headset, please ensure the following:

- The headset's battery has enough charge and is turned on
- The headset is paired with your computer

If you are still having problems connecting to the headset, refer to the [Troubleshooting guide](#).

## Configuration

### System Tray

By right-clicking on the System Tray icon, you can quickly be notified of the status of ThinkGear Connector, as well as perform a variety of actions.

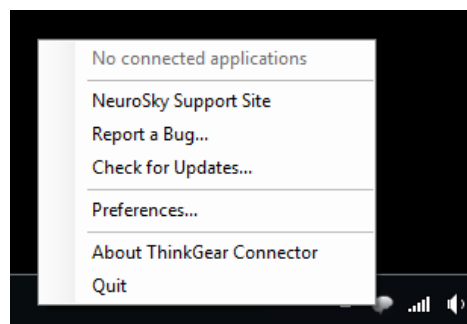


Figure 9: Tray Menu (Windows)

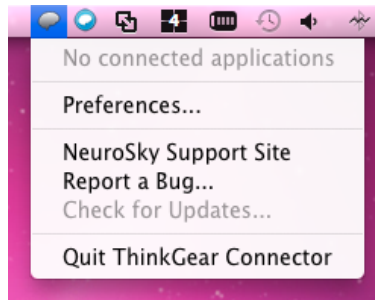


Figure 10: Tray Menu (Mac)

Item	Description
<i>Status</i>	Display the number of applications connected to ThinkGear Connector (figure shows no active connection)
Retry headset connection	Attempt to connect to the headset again. This only shows up when there was a failed connection attempt
NeuroSky Support Site	Open a browser window to the <a href="#">NeuroSky support site</a>
Report a Bug...	Open up your e-mail client to report a bug to NeuroSky
Check for Updates...	Checks online for any updates to ThinkGear Connector, and notifies the user if there is.
Preferences...	Open up the <b>Preferences</b> panel
About ThinkGear Connector	Open up a panel showing miscellaneous information about ThinkGear Connector (e.g. version numbers)
Quit	Quit ThinkGear Connector

## Preferences Panel

By opening the Preferences panel, you can configure a number of operating and startup options.

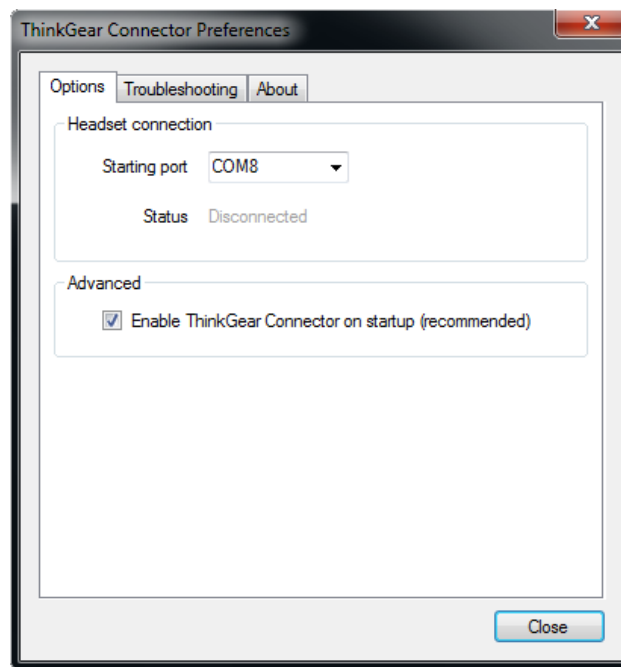


Figure 11: Preferences Panel (Windows)



Figure 12: Preferences Panel (Mac)

Item	Description
Starting port	Specifies the default serial port searched by ThinkGear Connector
Status	Show the status of the headset connection
Enable ThinkGear Connector on startup	If checked, ThinkGear Connector will also be started when Windows starts up

## Troubleshooting

### ***ThinkGear Connector doesn't seem to be able to connect to my headset***

Check that the headset is turned on and paired to your computer, then retry the connection attempt several times by either clicking on the error notification balloon, or by clicking *Retry connection* in the Preferences panel. If that doesn't work, re-pair the headset, then restart ThinkGear Connector.

### ***ThinkGear Connector won't start properly, because it wasn't able to listen on the desired port.***

If you see an error message trying to start ThinkGear Connector, restart your computer and try starting ThinkGear Connector again.

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