Key Takeaways

- **Understanding the Error**: The "Device Descriptor Request Failed" error indicates Windows cannot recognize a connected USB device.
- **Common Causes**: Faulty USB ports, outdated or corrupted drivers, power supply issues, or malfunctioning USB devices.
- **Solutions Overview**:
  - Test USB devices on different ports and computers.
  - Disable Fast Startup and USB Selective Suspend Settings.
  - Update or reinstall USB drivers.
  - Run Windows Troubleshooters and update Windows.
- **Expert Tip**: Always back up important data from USB devices before troubleshooting to prevent data loss.

Step-by-Step Guide to Fixing the "Device Descriptor Request Failed" Error

As an IT specialist who has tackled numerous USB-related issues, I understand how frustrating the "Device Descriptor Request Failed" error can be. This guide provides practical steps to resolve the error efficiently.

1. Check for Hardware Issues

- **Plug into Different USB Ports**:
  - **Action**: Connect your USB device to a different USB port on the same computer.
  - **Reason**: Determines if the issue is with a specific port.
- **Test on Another Computer**:
  - **Action**: Try the USB device on another computer.
  - **Reason**: Checks if the device itself is malfunctioning.

Expert Advice: USB ports can wear out over time. Regularly using a single port can lead to physical deterioration.

2. Disable Fast Startup

- **Open Power Options**:
  - Press `Windows Key + R`, type `control`, and click **OK**.
  - In **Control Panel**, select **Power Options**.
- **Change Settings**:
  - Click **Choose what the power buttons do**.
  - Click **Change settings that are currently unavailable**.
- **Disable Fast Startup**:
  - Uncheck **Turn on fast startup (recommended)**.
  - Click **Save changes**.
- **Reboot Computer**:
  - Restart your computer to apply changes.

Why This Helps: Fast Startup can prevent USB drivers from initializing properly during boot.

3. Disable USB Selective Suspend Setting

- **Open Power Options**:
  - Follow steps in **Disable Fast Startup** to access **Power Options**.
- **Access Advanced Settings**:
  - Click **Change plan settings** next to your selected plan.
  - Click **Change advanced power settings**.

- **Disable Setting**:
  - Expand **USB settings** > **USB selective suspend setting**.
  - Set **On battery** and **Plugged in** to **Disabled**.
  - Click **OK**.
- **Reboot Computer**:
  - Restart your system.

Expert Insight: Disabling this setting prevents Windows from turning off USB ports to save power, which can resolve recognition issues.

4. Remove USB Device and Scan for Hardware Changes

- **Open Device Manager**:
  - Press `Windows Key + X` and select **Device Manager**.
- **Unplug the Device**:
  - Disconnect the problematic USB device.
- **Scan for Hardware Changes**:
  - In **Device Manager**, click **Action** > **Scan for hardware changes**.
- **Replug the Device**:
  - Reconnect the USB device.
- **Check for Recognition**:
  - See if the device appears without error in Device Manager.

Personal Anecdote: I've found this method effective, especially after improper ejection of USB devices.

5. Update Windows

- **Open Settings App**:
  - Press `Windows Key + I`.
- **Navigate to Updates**:
  - Click **Update & Security** > **Windows Update**.
- **Check for Updates**:
  - Click **Check for updates**.
  - Install any available updates.
- **Restart Computer**:
  - Reboot to complete installation.

Why This Helps: Updates can fix known issues and improve hardware compatibility.

6. Uninstall the USB Driver in Device Manager

- **Open Device Manager**:
  - Press `Windows Key + X`, select **Device Manager**.
- **Locate Faulty Device**:
  - Expand **Universal Serial Bus controllers**.
  - Find **Unknown USB Device (Device Descriptor Request Failed)**.
- **Uninstall Device**:
  - Right-click the device, select **Uninstall device**.
  - Confirm any prompts.
- **Reboot Computer**:
  - Restart your system to allow Windows to reinstall drivers.

Expert Tip: This can resolve driver corruption issues that standard updates might not fix.

7. Run Hardware and Devices Troubleshooter

- **Open Run Command**:

- Press `Windows Key + R`, type `msdt.exe -id DeviceDiagnostic`, press **Enter**.
- **Run Troubleshooter**:
  - Click **Next** in the troubleshooter window.
  - Follow on-screen instructions.
- **Apply Fixes**:
  - Let the troubleshooter detect and fix issues.

Why This Helps: The troubleshooter can automatically resolve common hardware problems.

8. Check Power Supply

- **Disconnect Power Supply**:
  - For laptops, disconnect the AC adapter.
- **Remove Battery (If Possible)**:
  - Detach the battery to ensure a complete power cycle.
- **Discharge Residual Power**:
  - Press and hold the power button for 30 seconds.
- **Reconnect Power**:
  - Reinsert the battery and connect the AC adapter.
- **Restart Computer**:
  - Power on the laptop and test the USB device.

Expert Insight: Power issues can affect USB port functionality; a full power cycle can reset the hardware.

9. Update USB Device Drivers

- **Open Device Manager**:
  - Press `Windows Key + X`, select **Device Manager**.
- **Update Drivers**:
  - Expand **Universal Serial Bus controllers**.
  - Right-click each USB controller, select **Update driver**.
  - Choose **Search automatically for updated driver software**.
- **Manual Driver