

Re: NDIS IM Layering

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Development/microsoft.public.development.device.drivers/2007-07/msg00212.h>

- *From:* Anton Bassov <AntonBassov@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 10 Jul 2007 02:10:02 -0700
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Thomas,

Agreed that the doc isn't crystal clear, but sometimes you have to experiment a little to find what they really meant.

This is EXACTLY what the problem is all about – sometimes, in order to understand what the doc **wants** to say, you have to experiment with your code and/or disassemble the OS, and sometimes you may discover that something the doc **wants** to say is somehow different from what it **actually** says. However, at this point the practical usefulness of the doc becomes questionable – after all, the very idea of documentation is to help you with the development and to spare you all the trouble of doing your own investigations.....

I think the problem lies with misunderstanding between those who write docs and those who write the actual code. Unfortunately, in a company as large as MSFT it is just inevitable, so that MSDN bugs are, apparently, not going anywhere anytime soon (if ever).....

Anton Bassov

"Thomas F. Divine" wrote:

"Anton Bassov" <AntonBassov@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:6D79BA59-382C-4918-B738-2B808429CC22@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

In practice, I was able to install the WDK sample PassThru and our own driver which is based on PassThru with no observable problems. Both drivers have their FilterClass specified as failover in their respective INF

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files.

Am I misunderstanding something here? Is the documentation making a recommendation instead of stating policy?

As you have experimentally established, this is just one more MSDN claim that proved to be false, at least in respect of failover drivers. Another similar claim can be found in NDIS 6 documentation – MSDN claims that you cannot have more than one modifying LWF in the same stack, and this claim is false as well.....

I believe that you can read this claim a little differently.

In particular, you can only have one instance of your own modifying LWF on the same stack. For example, if you have a LWF that can bind to 802.3 and WLAN, then it will bind to one or the other but not both. In this case, the modifying driver will probably bind as 802.3 above the Microsoft Native Wi-Fi driver but will not bind a second time below the Native Wi-Fi filter.

A modifying filter setup to bind to 802.3 and WLAN will behave differently and will, in fact, bind itself twice on the same stack.

Agreed that the doc isn't crystal clear, but sometimes you have to experiment a little to find what they really meant.

Thomas F. Divine

Anton Bassov

"tnili" wrote:

According to the WDK documentation, you cannot have more than one NDIS IM driver of a particular FilterClass (scheduler, loadbalance, failover) in a stack. This is found under the topic "Filter Intermediate Driver Installation (NDIS 5.1)".

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