

Re: sound driver enabled but not started

Source:

http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.device_driver.dev/2004-11/0018.html

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Date: Thu, 4 Nov 2004 09:03:11 -0600

Raul Rey Aso wrote:

> **okay I'm getting this message when I click properties for
> my sound card. This happened after I upgraded to from XP
> to SP2. The driver is the correct driver and everything
> in the Device Manager looks fine. Now if I go into
> Control Panel, Sound and Audio Devices it says "No Audio
> Device", everything in the tabs is greyed out. But the
> the Device Manager, I see that the driver is there.
> Please dont tell me that I dont have the right drivers
> because I have the latest WDM drives for the sound cards I
> tried. My guess is its a registry or driver problem that
> got corrupted in the upgrade. A lot of people have been
> having this problem, as I have been searching over the
> internet.*
>
> *I know this is an XP problem because I did it with 3
> different sound cards and they all had the same problem.
> For some reason "the drivers are enabled not started". I
> have an Aureal Vortex 8830 in there now, previous to that
> I tried putting Creative Labs Sound Blaster PCI 128 and
> ESS sound card too. This is a problem known throughout
> the internet. Somebody help me. Reply to me here or
> email. Thanks. **

I had a similar sounding problem on my Windows 2000 box. My guess is that the same problem exists in Windows XP. My sound card stopped working. The Device Manager showed the status: "Driver is enabled but has not been started". Uninstalling and re-installing the driver mad no difference. There were not IRQ conflicts. I found a program that worked directly with the sound card hardware and the sound card was working, but nothing that used the sound card drivers worked. I tried all of the possible solutions posted on the internet at this time and none of them worked. Of course, re-installing the OS was a solution that I'm sure would work, but it was too drastic of a solution for me to want to implement.

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Here's the solution that worked for me:

I went into the boot.ini file and add the /BOOTLOG option. After rebooting I looked at the NTBTLOG.txt file and saw the following:

Did not load driver Audio Codecs
Did not load driver Legacy Audio Drivers
Did not load driver Media Control Devices
Did not load driver Legacy Video Capture Devices
Did not load driver Video Codecs
Did not load driver Creative SB Live! Basic (WDM)
Did not load driver Creative Game Port

That gave me the clue that the problem really is that my sound drivers really weren't loading even though the driver status "Driver is enabled but not started" gives you the impression that they did load. A more precise message might have been "The device has a driver associated with it, but the driver did not load".

NOTE: If you are not getting the same results from this first test then the solution that follows is probably not going to work for you.

I then went back into boot.ini and removed the /fastdetect option. I left the /bootlog option still in place. After rebooting I once again looked at the NTBTLOG.txt file and noticed that the drivers that use to not load, were now loading again. I think the sound card was still not working at this time. (I really didn't check)

I then uninstalled the sound card drivers and rebooted. The driver automatically re-installed. I went into the Device Manager and lo and behold my sound card was no longer saying "Driver is enabled but has not been started" but rather "driver is enabled and functioning properly". I tried my sound card and it was once again working.

My speculation is that the /fastdetect boot option leaves the system in some kind of state which is not repaired by a driver uninstall and re-install. Who would have thunk it! I certainly don't know how my system got into that state in the first place. It took a long time to come up with this solution. Hope this is the solution your looking for! From my research on the internet, I'm under the impression that many people are experiencing this same problem.

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T Rut

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