

Re: Quest VMCL. OK

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2007-03/msg00536.html>

- *From:* "AllanF" <not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 9 Mar 2007 11:15:45 +1100
-

Hi marnix_moed,

Glad we sorted that out! :)

You will need to search the Manufacturer's Websites for new models with the "Designed for Vista Premium" logo, and also described as "Media Center Notebooks/Laptops". I expect that, as with XP MCE, the new "Media Center" machines will all come with built-in TV Tuner, MC Remote and IR. The type of Tuner will vary depending on the Broadcast System in your Region/Country (DVB-T, ATSC, or whatever). I think Digital TV is world-wide now, so the "Media Center Laptops" might all come with built in Hybrid Analogue/Digital Tuners like the later-model Toshiba Qosmos did. You won't need a SetTop Box or USB TV Tuner.

I really don't know what is currently available, or if any "Media Center Notebooks" for Vista have been released yet. But, I would like to know. So if you find a model, post back so I can have a look at it. Cheers.

"marnix_moed" <marnixmoed@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:465F89DA-BD90-4510-8479-0BAF6D00AC20@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Oeps... AllenF,

I am the real dummy here! After your note about PMC, I looked it up... and found out that they were like some extended mp3/mp4 players. And I am looking for a laptop with Media Center functionality.

So sorry for the confusion, but I am looking for a Vista Media Center Laptop (vmcl).

^_^

No I did not upgrade my sisters laptop with those hardware drivers. Only updating the new service and security packs through windows live update. On my current mega-senior Sony laptop (I am working 7 years with it now), I upgraded it from win98se to win2000 and noticed that indeed a lot of

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hardware
drivers were not standard installed. And it was quite a hassle to get
everything working properly (some still don't... O_o)
Is it also as bad or even worse with Vista? I mean I want to buy a new
vmcl
and stick with Vista home premium a long time. Do the problems even occur
if
you stick with vista?

With a laptop I don't intend on changing much internally with the device,
so
not changing internal HD, or blueray drive etc. Will I still have these
problems if I stay with the same internal hardware components?
I do plan on buying external components, like an external Harddisk or
external TV tuner... will this hardware problems still exists? I mean, the
external components still come with their own drivers on CD, right?

Grt,
Wing

I mean hardware components liked your laptop's monitor, video card, sound
card, modem, speakers, NIC, DVD-Drive, etc, etc. Have you tried upgrading
them on your sister's laptop?

When these things get outdated, you can not whip out and buy the latest
hardware to run your latest software. You depend on Driver Updates most
of
which will only be available from the Laptop's Manufacturer because the
Hardware Components are custom-built to fit into your laptop. Some
Drivers
are available from Windows Updates or from the Component Manufacturer,
like
some common Intel or TexasInstruments Drivers.

"AllanF" wrote:

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Hardware Components are custom-built to fit into your laptop. Some
Drivers

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You'll have to excuse me. I didn't know what a "Portable Media Center" machine was. I thought you were on a quest, and enquiring about pre-installed "Media Center Notebooks". They're different.. eh? Geeez, I'm dumb! :)

"marnix_moed" <marnixmoed@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:00AE33DE-2C91-4EFC-8E33-62A9BB3F47FF@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hey AllenF,

thank you for your reply.

Wow, I didn't knew it was that "bad". But what do you mean with "Many of the components" which I can not change or upgrade? On my sister WinXp Acer laptop I could help her update it with service packs without problems. Is this the same issue or something completely different with what you mean? With a PMC (Portable Media Centre, as MS describes these machines) can I still get Vista service packs, security and other updates?

Grt,
Wing

"AllanF" wrote:

Hi marnix_moed,

The hardware in any laptop is often customized for (or by) the Manufacturer. Many of the components, you cannot change or upgrade, so you will be

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dependent on the Manufacturer to provide driver updates and support when things don't work. And believe me, with Media Center, things don't work a lot! I have read about Windows Diehards recently switching to Mac because it just works, or others saying sarcastically that they are "Upgrading from Vista to XP Pro" because XP Pro works.

Regarding software, read this from Microsoft (found in any KB Article referring to MCE):
"Media Center Technical Support Because Microsoft Windows XP Media Center Edition was included with your hardware device or system, the hardware manufacturer provides technical support and assistance for this software. Your manufacturer may have customized the installation with unique components such as specific device drivers and optional settings to maximize the performance of that manufacturer's hardware. If you require technical help with Windows XP Media Center Edition, contact your manufacturer directly because the manufacturer is best qualified to support the software that the manufacturer has installed on the hardware."

On the Windows Marketplace Website, there are only two Laptops described as "Media Center Notebooks" (<http://www.windowsmarketplace.com/category.aspx?bccatid=717&tabid=3>), and a few "Media Center DeskTops". Of course,

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the "Designed for Media
Center"

logo

program is being retired and replaced with a
logo program for Home

Premium

and Ultimate. (see:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/mediacenter/partners/directory.msp>)

"marnix_moed"

<marnixmoed@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:73540FDF-C78F-4811-96D4-F86412316137@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Dear AllanF,

thank you for your reply.

What do you mean with
good support? I thought
upgrading hardware had
nothing
to do with the laptop
manufacturer. Isn't it that a
Windows Vista
computer
is
the same as from any other?
Euh... I haven't heard of
Operating System discs or
Recovery
Partition
before. I only have dealt
with Recovery Discs".

About the mobile phone
remote... in the store the
salesman told me
that
some
mobile phones with
bluetooth can be used as a
remote control for
some
of
the
computers applications, like
Windows Media Player. So
that you can
play,
pause, stop, etc. the music

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and video on a computer.
He told me that
Sony
Ericsson has this feature
standard in some of their
newer phones.
Since I mainly use Nokia, I
haven't heard of this either. I
placed a
post
with Nokia to check with
them. I plan to do at Sony's
as well.

About the PMC of XP vs
Vista differences, I placed a
post about this
as
well. I am curious too.

I am aware of the USB TV
tuners. I am keeping them as
option in the
back
of
my head if I can't find any
that has it integrated. I don't
like to
have
all
kind of things plugged into
my laptop. It makes it real
bulky to
take
away.
But thank you for the
advice.

Grt,
Wing

"AllanF" wrote:

Hi
marnix_moed,

Number 1:
Good
Support....

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Telephone,
etc You
may not be
able to
Upgrade
Hardware,
and you
will be
dependent
on the
Laptop
Manufacturer,
so
check
it's website
for regular
Driver
Updates....
even now
for new
Vista
Drivers.
Also, a set
of
Operating
System
discs, rather
than a
"Recovery
Disc",
or
"Recovery
Partition"....
but this is a
rarity in the
world of
Media
Center.

I haven't
heard of the
Mobile
Phone
bizzo.
Interesting...
do you
have
any
specifics?

I can't

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recommend
anything
because I
don't know
what's in
the field
following
the release
of Vista. Do
they still
have
"Media
Center
Computers"
now that
you can go
out and
purchase a
copy of
Home
Premium or
Ultimate?
In
the old
days,
machines
were made
specifically
for Media
Center and
a.f.a.i.k, the
only way
for a
consumer to
obtain the
OS was to
buy
one
of
these
machines.
That has
changed.

An
integrated
TV Tuner
with a
co-ax (via
an dapter)
connection

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is a
requirement.
But you can
also buy
good USB
TV
Tuners... the
only
way I
could
upgrade
from
analogue to
digital TV.

"marnix_moed"
<marnix_moed@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in
message
news:753DC758-3170-440A-99AD-8030B4EA06CC@xxxxxxxxxx

Hey,

I
am
looking
for
a
new
laptop
computer.
I
want
to
use
it
for
recording
TV
shows
(just
for
own
use),
so
I
thought
a

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media
centre
laptop
would
fit
me.

But
I
don't
know
anything
about
media
centre
(laptop)
computers
and
too
often
the
shops
don't
either.

Could
you
give
me
some
advice
on
buying
a
Windows
Vista
media
centre
laptop?
For
example,
what
are
the
more
specialized
brands
on
this
field?
Do

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all
media
centre
laptops
have
a
co-axial
connection
for
TV
reception?
Is
it
right
that
new
mobile
phones
can
remotely
control
the
media
player
of
a
media
centre
laptop
through
Bluetooth?
What
are
the
things
to
pay
attention
to
on
buying
a
Vista
media
centre
laptop?
And
what
model
would
you

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recommend?

Thanks
you!

Grt,
Wing