

Loss of FM radio and live TV in MCE 2005; other apps can use TV tu

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In an otherwise well-working rig of MCE 2005 with rollup 2 [3 GHz processor, 1 GB ram, nVidia GeForce 6200 video card, original "Conexant 2388x Tuner (Philips 1236 MK3)" TV tuner card which came with the HP m470n desktop system, solitary coaxial non-digital cable TV input to TV tuner card, original HP FM antenna wire plugged into appropriate input], I began to experience an inability to display live TV within the Media Center [MC] application.

Starting Live TV caused the MC application to have a black screen for a few seconds [with the exception of displaying the television channel and program name] after which the MC screen turned blue and gave the "Loss of Signal" error text:

"Loss of Signal | Media Center has stopped capturing data due to low data rate in the TV signal. This may be a temporary situation. If this persists, make sure the cable for the TV signal is connected properly, restart the computer, and then try tuning to a channel."

Curiously, however, I note that I am able to use another Microsoft application [Movie Maker 2.0] to capture live TV from the same card [File | Capture video | <selected "Conexant 2388x Video Capture" from "Available devices"> | <ensure Video input source: TV Tuner> | Next | Next | Next |and the Preview window clearly shows a beautiful (if somewhat small) live TV stream ready for clip-capture. Furthermore, if Media Center is still running, I can change the viewed channel in the Movie Maker preview screen by pressing '+' or '-' within Media Center. This leads me to believe that the TV tuner is still functioning, and that the problem is inherent with Media Center.

I have not yet been able to independently test the function of the FM tuner on the Conexant TV tuner card. Using the 'Radio' application within Media Center and then pressing "Start FM," there is no audio generated. Pressing "Seek" appears to make the tuner find and lock into local broadcast frequencies (not just my still-present presets). This loss of FM radio audio was noticed the same day that the "Loss of Signal" issue above arose.

Audio is generated while playing .mp3 files within Media Center's "My Music"

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and most recorded .dvr–ms files play back from "Recorded TV." Another curiosity: after the above issues arose, one or two old war movies recorded directly from AMC [American Movie Channel] suddenly became recognized as protected content and would stop playback after 2 to 3 seconds. Audio and video playback halt, the MC screen turns blue, and this text appears:

"Restricted Content | Restrictions set by the broadcaster and/or originator of the content prohibit playback of the program on this computer."

Attempted playback of the same .dvr–ms files within Windows Media Player 10 on the same machine brought the same type of error ID ["C00D0BC1: Cannot perform the requested action", which includes the text "A protected .dvr–ms file can only be played on the computer on which it was recorded."]. Note that these same files had already been successfully played back on the original capturing machine.

From what I've read online so far, this all points to one (or more) of several issues, the roots of which appear to be within the Media Center 2005 / DRM complex. Why this all happened spontaneously on Thursday 28 June at around 20:30 hours HST is hard to say; my Windows Update settings are to download recommended updates but require my selection and approval for installation.

I've been through online chats with several of HP's best and brightest technicians, who dutifully guided me through checking all wire and cable connections and ultimately suggesting that I need to do a complete from–scratch Windows Media Center edition re–install. Reverting to previous system–states with System Rollback has not changed the behavior of Media Center or the issues above.

Certainly there is a way to determine (and hopefully remedy) Media Center's blindness to the TV tuner which appears operable to other applications.

Reviewing Control Panel's "Add or Remove Programs" | "Currently installed programs and updates" shows the following:

Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005
Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 KB888316
Update Rollup 2 for Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005
Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 KB925766
Windows XP Media Center Edition 2005 KB919803

The latest installed Hotfix for Windows XP is KB926239.

To add insult to injury, now I receive the dreaded "Error: 23" message when attempting to download Guide data for the cable provider Media Center itself identifies based on my provided ZIP code. I had not seen this problem for over two years, until the past week.

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I would welcome any input, suggestions, or advice from anyone who has experienced the above scenario or might otherwise be able to help. Please let me know if the text of any log files would be of use in better diagnosing the problem.

Thanks again.