

Re: MCE and Haupagge Digital

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2008-03/msg00352.html>

- *From:* "Paul King" <paul@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 13 Mar 2008 23:19:41 -0000
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John,

Many thanks for the in-depth feedback and this is gratefully appreciated.

I guess reading between the lines, is that if I wanted a single PCI card that is a dual digital tuner then I could go for the Nova T-500, yet the remote control will not be MCE compatible.

Yet, I could go for 2x HVR1700 tuners which would do the same as above, yet be controlled by a single MCE compatible remote control.

I guess I find it amazing that the Nova T-500 isn't MCE remote aware, yet the product itself is MCE compatible.

In terms of HD content it would be great to know this was on the horizon rather than paying the extensive fee imposed by Sky.

Cheers
Paul.

"John Lockwood" <john.lockwood@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:C3FEDA28.2B995%john.lockwood@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

On 12/3/08 22:50, in article [Owo2\\$NjHIA.2084@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Owo2$NjHIA.2084@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx), "Paul King" <paul@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Dear all,

I have a spare PC which I want to connect up to my HDTV downstairs. I run Windows Vista Home Premium Edition but it only has the standard stuff (ie 1GB memory, Sata HDD) but no TV tuner.

I was looking at the Haupagge Digital PCI card as this allows me to view Freeview channels in the UK.

Would this card integrate with MCE and is it caperble of downloading HD

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content to my super TV?

Cheers

Paul

Hauppauge make lots of different TV tuners however none of them as far as I am aware are called "Hauppauge Digital PCI card".

On the assumption you indeed want a PCI card to use with MCE and that it should support Freeview (which uses DVB-T) the following Hauppauge products are suitable :-

http://www.hauppauge.co.uk/pages/products/data_hvr1300mcekit.html

This is a hybrid card meaning it can do Analogue OR Digital (not both at the same time, since Media Center does not allow that).

http://www.hauppauge.co.uk/pages/products/data_hvr1700mckit.html

Same as above except this is for PCI Express slots.

http://www.hauppauge.co.uk/pages/products/data_novat500.html

This card also looks like it will work with MCE, this one has two DVB-T tuners meaning you can record two channels at the same time or record one and watch one. However it does not have analogue, also the included remote control does not work in Media Center, you would have to use a standard Media Center remote.

Moving on to the next issue.

You asked is it capable of downloading HD. By that I presume you mean receiving HD TV broadcasts over Freeview.

The answer to this is that currently there are no HD broadcasts over Freeview. If/when that does eventually happen it could be done in one of three ways.

1. It could either be transmitting HD in MPEG2 format over DVB-T (like in Australia),
2. It could be HD transmitted in H.264 over DVB-T (like the BBC trial last year)
3. It could be HD transmitted in H.264 over DVB-T2 (as is being proposed but has never yet been done).

I can confidently state that option 1 will never happen in the UK and probably not in the whole of Europe. Option 2 is still a possibility and

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would theoretically work with these Hauppauge tuners but not currently in Microsoft Media Centre, this is because Microsoft do not yet support H.264.

Option 3 is what the UK might eventually end up using and this will not work on these tuners as there are currently no DVB-T2 tuners available.

If when a DVB-T2 tuner becomes available I would expect it to be backwards compatible.

Note: Any existing Freeview TVs and set-top boxes are all DVB-T and will not be able to do DVB-T2 either.