

## Re: Windows Server 2003 Audio drivers

*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.server.general/2004-12/1894.html>

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I have found a simple way to install drivers in win2003 for devices that otherwise were supported in XP and HOME.

You will need access to the following directories on your old XP or HOME installation

C:\windows\system32\drivers

C:\windows\inf

Some times a few dlls from C:\windows\system32 are also needed. So my advise is to have this folder available too.

Go to device manager and update/install the driver for your sound card (or any other device). Choose the 'inf' directory as the location from which you want to install the drivers.(this inf directory is the directory on your old xp/home installation, not the one on your new win2k3). As the installation proceeds, it may ask for some files located in the C:\windows\system32\drivers. Point to the appropriate location. It may occasionally say that the file you have is newer than the one it is copying. In that case choose to keep the newer files. (the files you have are newer because win2k3 is newer than xp/home).

Absolutely dont worry about compatibility. All xp, home and Win2k3 drivers are same. I just started learning to write device drivers and learnt this from the windows device driver development kit tutorials.

During installation of the drivers, windows will tell you that the drivers you are installing did not pass windows logo testing for the os you are installing. Ignore this and continue. It just means that the inf file does not have information that the driver is tested by microsoft. Pretty obvious.

I know that having a backup of the drivers, inf, and system32 folders from your old xp/home installation takes lot of space. But it is difficult to identify which files are specifically needed for your device. You can identify the driver files by viewing properties of the installed drivers for your device on your old xp/home. But it is much

difficult to identify the inf file for your device. That's why I suggest having the complete directory.

I have a old PII desktop on which I installed win2k3 and could not get sound working. I couldn't get any better information on google than what I am writing now. I was so determined to even write a driver myself to make my soundcard work. But after reading through a few chapters from the ddk tutorial kit, I found out I could use xp drivers and I also found out where to look for them.

Hope this helps. Email me if you need help.

All you geeks out there, go install win2k3 on your old pIIs!!

Rob Boyle wrote:

> *Hey all,*  
>  
> *Just upgraded one of our computers (A Dell) to Windows*  
> *Server 2003. Conversion to 2003 went fine, except sound*  
> *didn't work afterwards. Turns out a sound driver doesn't*  
> *exist for Win2k3 for the sound card the came with the*  
> *computer. We really need sound on the server (wierd I*  
> *know) and so we were planning to buy a new sound card for*  
> *the server, ideally one for which sound drivers exist in*  
> *Win2k3, and that is relatively cheap. (We don't need good*  
> *sound, just sound). However, I can't seems to find*  
> *anywhere a list of sound cards compatabile with Win2k3,*  
> *nor even a reputable sound card manufacturer that provides*  
> *Win2k3 sound drivers.*  
>  
> *Any help would be most helpful!!*  
>  
> *Rob Boyle*