

# Lack of Drivers in Windows Server 2008 Standard Trial?

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Hello Group,

I recently downloaded Windows Server 2008 Standard Trial and installed it on a test machine, ie.

MB: Asus  
CPU: 800Mhz PIII  
RAM: 512MB  
HD: 10GB ATA133  
Video: NVidia GeForce 256  
Ethernet: Intel Pro 10/100 (or maybe RealTek)  
Audio: SoundBlaster Live!

The installation went very smoothly, but afterward I noticed I didn't have Audio or Ethernet connectivity.

I looked in Device Manager and sure enough there are two "Other Devices" labeled "Ethernet Controller" and "Multimedia Audio Controller", and the icons for these devices have a black on yellow exclamation mark. I also noticed my Display Adapter is set to a "Standard VGA Graphics Adapter".

I tried to manually update the driver for these devices, but found hardly any built-in drivers listed, and none that matched my hardware. I then used another computer to search online regarding this issue.

What I believe I have found is Windows Server 2008 has shipped with very few device drivers, and if you need one it is probably best to use a Vista driver for the device if there is not one specifically for Windows Server 2008. This reminds me alot of how Windows NT was shipped, i.e. very few "built in" device drivers. I find this rather disappointing because XP detects and installs built-in Windows device drivers for all of the devices (Audio, Video, Ethernet) in the test computer.

Because the devices in the test computer are so common, I hoped

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drivers might be found by allowing Windows Server 2008 to search the Internet for an updated driver. To do this I attached an USB to LAN adapter to the test computer, and loaded the XP driver from a CD. Adding the USB to LAN adapter worked OK (using the XP driver) and I am able to connect to the Internet fine, but unfortunately Windows Server 2008 did not find any updated device drivers when asked to look on the Internet for an updated driver.

I find this even more disappointing. I kinda hoped Microsoft was following Linux's idea of Repositories, but for Microsoft device drivers. I hoped my (very common) hardware would be detected OK and a driver downloaded from Microsoft. But this does not appear to be the case. Note: from this experience, I suspect Linux servers will gain an even stronger foothold on the server market, because Sys Admins will hate trying to find device drivers when installing Windows Server 2008.

To try to make it easier I have made a copy of a Windows Vista Ultimate DVD with the hopes that it has built-in device drivers for my hardware. So far I haven't had much luck with using it when prompted for a driver. I fear I may have to visit each of the hardware vendors websites to try to locate device drivers for my hardware. I wouldn't mind doing this for one or two devices, but I expect I will need to do it for all three devices. I also expect I will need to do this for each server I install Windows Server 2008 on (unless it comes already installed on a new server).

If anyone has insights in to this issue (lack of built-in device drivers), please share them to make it easier for Sys Admins migrating to Windows Server 2008.

Thanks,  
Keller Beyer