

An Insight Into The Win7 and Vista Platform Handling Of Multimedia

By Jeff N7YG

Translated to a pdf file, this article by Jeff was a post response to an audio problem someone was having with Digipan. Digipan is a digital mode software for ham operation. This could also affect other software of this type developed primarily for Win XP systems etc when running in Win7. de Dave G3VFP.

Windows 7 is a much better implementation of an Operating System over Vista, but it does present a few problem for Digital Software, especially some of the older software such as Digipan. I am writing this from the standpoint of a developer.

Unless the author of most software that was developed under Windows 9.X or XP, has updated their software to make it compatible with Vista/Win7, the likelihood of that software functioning under Windows 7/Vista is iffy. The reason is the difference in the Multimedia processing. Under Win 9.x and XP/NT all multimedia (sound card processing) was done using a library called winmm.dll. All sound card enumerations, selections and volume administration was handled via this library.

Along comes Vista and Windows 7 and a completely different way of handling multimedia. Microsoft came up with Audio Endpoints to describe and define a specific input or output, and with that came a new library called coreaudioapi. CoreAudio and winmm.dll are about as compatible as Linux and OS/2.

There is some saving grace though. Vista and Windows 7 does allow you to run most programs in something called Compatibility mode. This works especially well for those programs that were designed to run with the winmm.dll library.

I'm pretty sure DigiPan will run fine when used in and Windows XP/SP3 compatibility mode.

To get a program to run in compatibility mode, right click the launch icon and select properties from the popout menu. Select the Compatibility tab. Select the compatibility mode from the drop down box.

For those of you still using my old YGPSK program, version 4.3.x.x, XP/SP3 compatibility mode will allow the program to run correctly and enumerate the sound cards correctly and correctly set the volume levels.

Digipan will work using this method, but the waterfall and transmitter drive menu items will not work because they are trying to launch the old style Windows Mixers which does not exist in Vista/Win7. You can adjust the levels from the onboard mixers by right clicking the speaker icon in the system tray, select recording or playback device. From there select the endpoint you are using, click properties and select levels from the tab and you can adjust both levels this way.

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