

## Re: Microsoft making vendors remove drivers

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- *From:* Jeff Liebermann <[jeffl@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jeffl@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 19 Jun 2008 21:15:14 -0700
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On Fri, 20 Jun 2008 02:57:53 +0000, Guy Macon  
<<http://www.guymacon.com/>> wrote:

I had the same experience recently with a laptop. Microsoft made the manufacturer delete all XP drivers so as to force people to buy Vista. A web search turned up dozens and dozens of sites that had linked to the manufacturer's website instead of serving up local copies. I finally found the XP drivers on the vendor's European website.

Any particular laptop vendor and model?

It's kinda old news with HP and Compaq for Win95/98/ME:

<<http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/genericDocument?lc=en&cc=us&lang=en&docname=c01080344>>

I haven't seen any XP drivers intentionally pulled from the major PC vendor sites. I do some repair work and am constantly downloading drivers for older hardware. What I have seen are web site reorganizations, that break links to such things as driver downloads.

Hardware vendors would be nuts to comply with such a request. Many of them developed those drivers without MS certification or help. They're not owned by MS. In addition, having the drivers on their web site results in a huge reduction in support calls, where customers don't have to bug support asking "where's the driver"?

Other than a few unfounded accusations, Google search didn't find any evidence of MS "forcing" vendors to remove XP drivers. Got anything better?

Incidentally, MS is still back pedalling on killing off Vista. Dell no longer offers only XP on their products. However, they offer something called "transition", where XP is pre-installed, but a Vista SP1 license and CD is included for eventual "upgrade".

<[http://www.dell.com/content/topics/global.aspx/sitelets/solutions/software/business/xp\\_smb?c=us&cs=04&l=en&s=b](http://www.dell.com/content/topics/global.aspx/sitelets/solutions/software/business/xp_smb?c=us&cs=04&l=en&s=b)>

I haven't checked if the price was jacked up to include both licenses.

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