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TECHNOLOGIES

How to remove DICE drivers on Windows XP

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1   Introduction:

This is a description of how to get rid of all old drivers on an XP system. This is not necessarily a recommended procedure for end-users but for beta testers with 'driver infested' machines, this is a good way to get everything out.

There can be several reasons for old drivers hanging in the system. On development machines old drivers with conflicting names might have been installed. In some cases the TCAT SDK drivers can conflict as the old drivers used the OUI to match the device and they might by mistake attach to the device.

This example is using the TCAT customization which is named TcatDice, you should replace that with your specific customization name.

When removing drivers you might see some with names which clearly indicates your drivers but slightly different if your configuration name has changed at some point. Remove everything you know relates to your device. There is no harm in removing too many drivers, windows will ask you to reinstall them when it sees the hardware again.

2   Initial Steps:

Before we start you need to make a few changes to your system.

Open the control panel and open 'System Properties"

Chose the 'Advanced' tab as shown below in Figure 1.

- Click on 'Environment Variables'
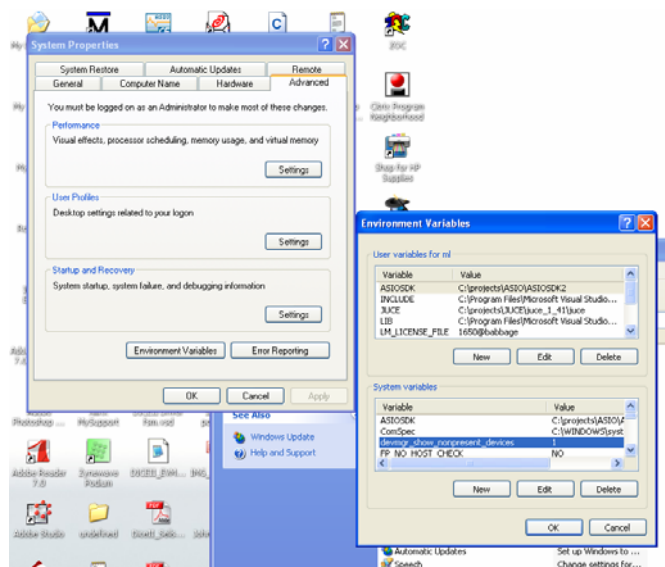- Add a new item to 'System variables'
- *devmgr_show_nonpresent_devices = 1*

Figure 1

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You also need to identify your Windows directory as you will need that later. On most machines this is C:\Windows but it can be different. In the 'System variables' list in Figure 1 you will see a variable called 'windir', remember what that is set to and in the text below use that instead of c:\windows.

3   Identifying the hidden devices

Open the ControlPanel->SystemProperties and select Hardware, click on Device Manager. As shown below in Figure 2 select View and check 'Show hidden devices'.

Then open the Speaker icon in the device list named 'Sound, video and game controllers'.
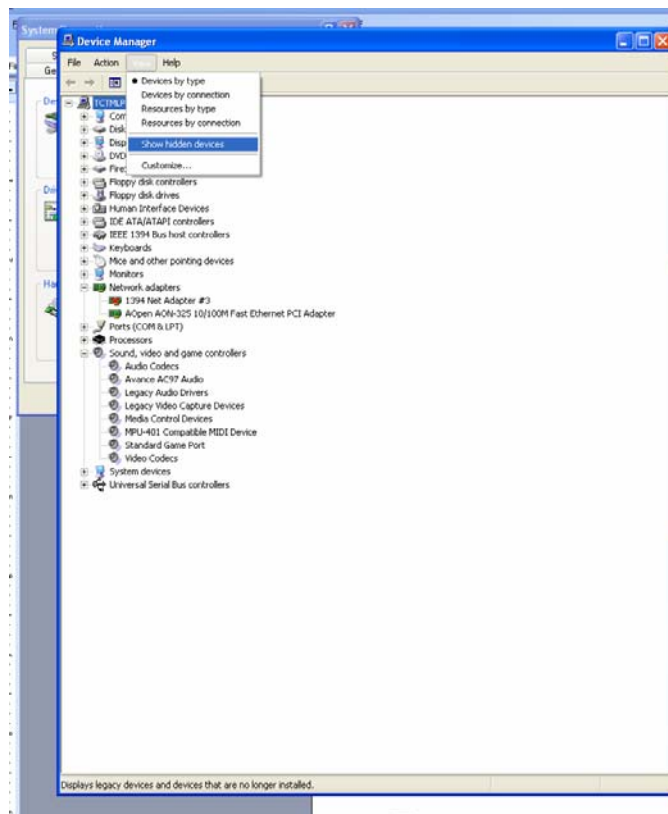

Figure 2

After doing this you will see a lot of devices some with a slightly grey color. The example below (Figure 3)shows the TC/AT Dice Evaluation Platform and its sub-items. Everything is shown twice because two devices (two different serial numbers) have been connected. On a development machine you might see many more devices.
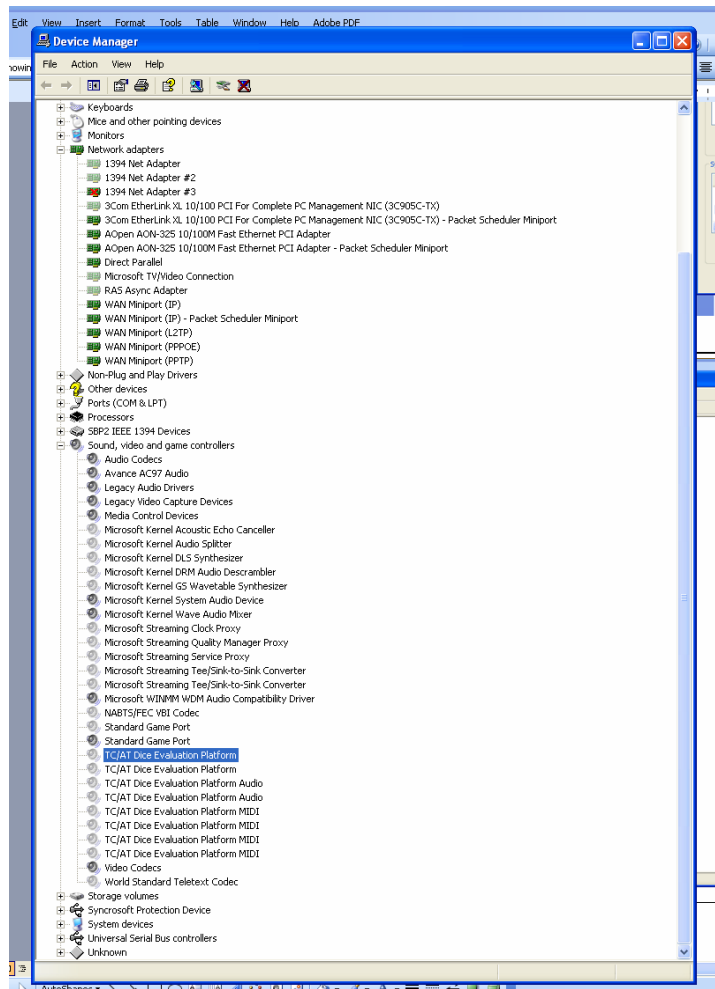
Figure 3

4 Uninstalling all device related drivers

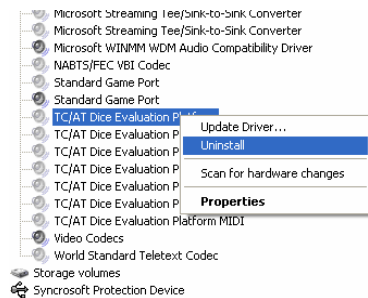Right click on each device and select Uninstall

Figure 4

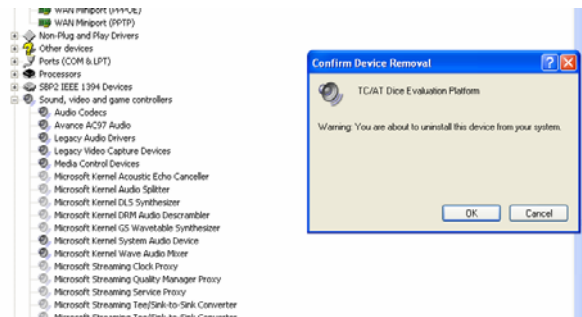You will be ask if you want to continue, select yes.

Figure 5

Continue for all the devices until the list does not contain anything relating to your device. At the end it will look like this:
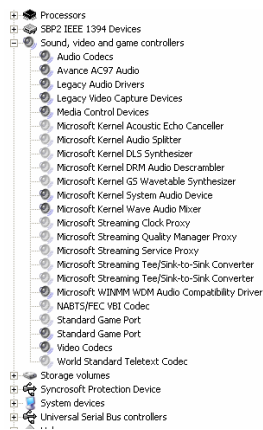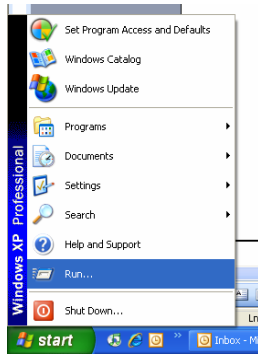

Figure 6

This is the most important part of the clean-up. There is some extra cleaning which should be done.

5   Unregistering ASIO dll

This has to be done manually. For the TCAT EVM drivers the name is TcatDiceAsio.dll, for your driver it will be <drivername>Asio.dll.
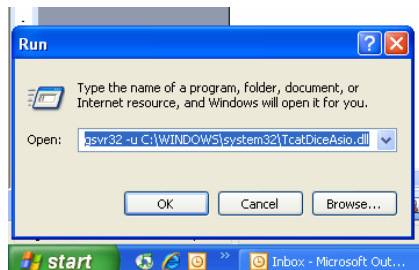
From the start menu chose Run... as shown in Figure 7.
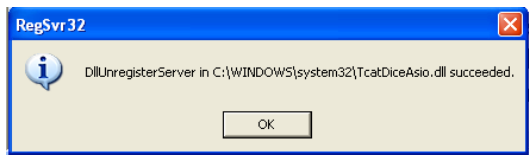
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Figure 7

You will now see the following dialog, enter the following text:

"regsvr32 -u C:\WINDOWS\system32\TcatDiceAsio.dll"

Remember to replace the C:\Windows with your windows directory and the name of the DLL with your DLL name.

Figure 8

You should see the following dialog:

Figure 9

6 Deleting old driver files

You should identify where your control panel is located and delete the files. The control panel would be overwritten when the new install program is run or if you use the uninstaller that should remove it as well.

Let's find the driver install files. They reside under the **Windows\System32** directory, remember that this might be called something else on your computer as described in the initial step section.

Open the browser and select the directory called 'system32'. If you cant see the files in the Windows directory you might need to click on the right pane to allow showing of system files.

Right click and select 'search…' as shown below in Figure 10.
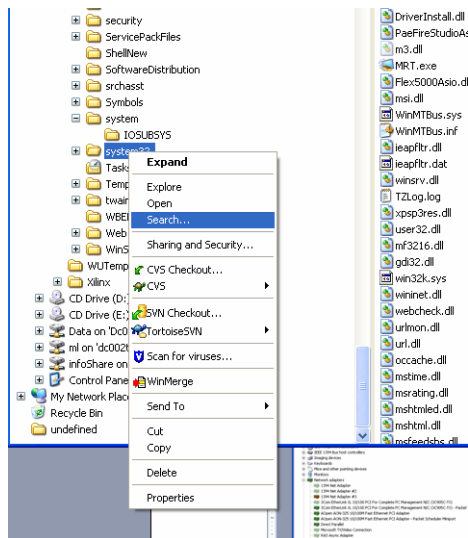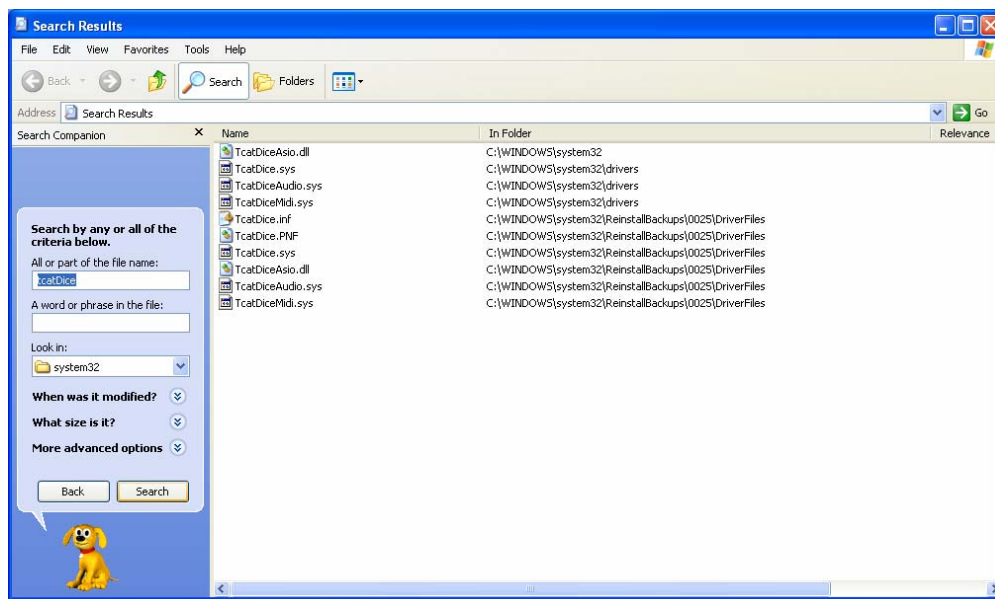
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Figure 10

In the search window search for all files with the name of your driver. In our case that is 'TcatDice'. The result of the search would look like the screen below. The files in the ReinstallBackups directory are not important and need not be deleted. It is the files in 'System32' and 'System32\drivers' which need to be deleted. Select those files and delete them.

So now we got rid of the driver binary files. When windows install drivers for removable devices it generates its own .inf files called oem<number>.inf. The numbers are not important. Find the C:\Windows\Inf directory and select that. Right click and select 'Search" as shown in Figure 11.
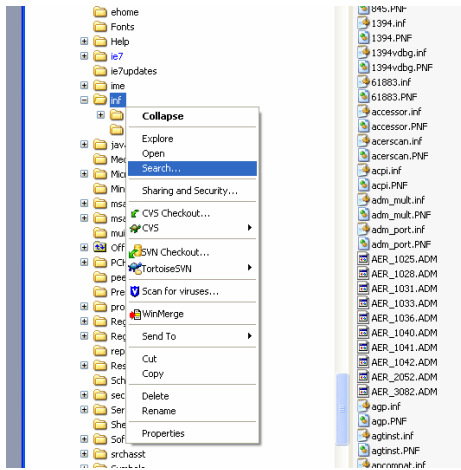
Figure 11

In the search dialog search for the appearance of your driver name in all the inf files. In our case that is 'TcatDice' and the files to look at will be *.inf.
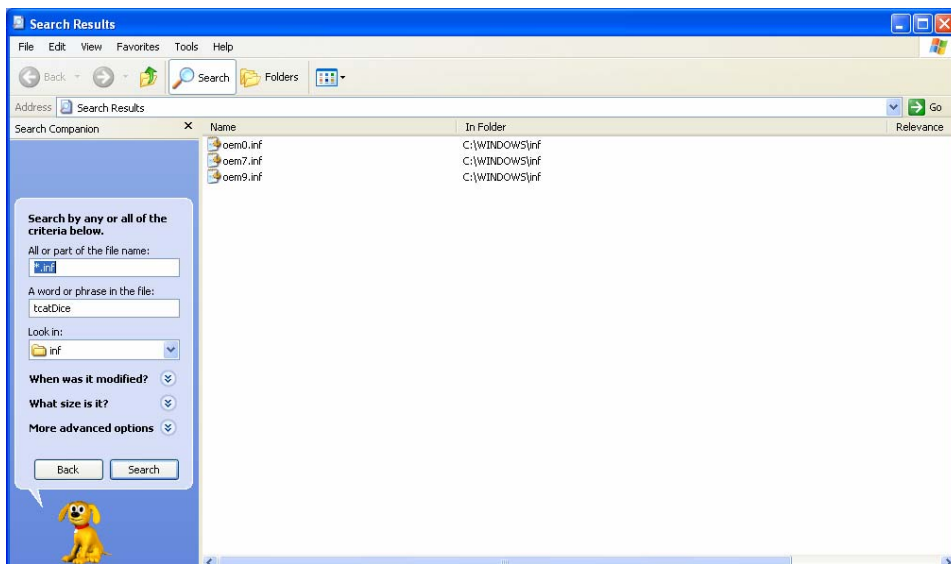

Figure 12

Delete all those files.

For each oem<num>.inf file there might be an oem<num>.PNF. You should delete the corresponding .PNF file as well.

7 More things to do

As mentioned earlier development machines might have drivers from older days when your driver had another name or some old TCAT drivers which are matching by OUI. This means that when removing drivers and files you might want to look for anything with your company name in (unless your company name is Microsoft, System or something unambiguous).

At this point windows should not have any prior knowledge of your drivers.

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