Installing the AVR Pocket Programmer Drivers on a Vista/Windows 7 x64 System

Unfortunately, Microsoft has seen fit to make installation of so-called unsigned drivers on x64 systems a real pain. Unless a driver is signed, a process which can cost a developer several hundred dollars to let Microsoft "bless" it, it can be put on the system, but Windows refuses to use it because it may be a security risk. Why this is different than a x86 system is beyond me. Anyway, the Pocket Programmer drivers are unsigned as are most others for programmers. Several people have asked Sparkfun to make a signed driver, but they haven't done so yet, and I wouldn't hold your breath.

My recommendation is to skip this headache if you have a 32bit system you can use. If the only thing you've got is a x64 system, then you will have to go thru this.

I have not included all of the dialog boxes and graphics in this guide. If there is enough demand, I will do so. But if you are here, you are willing to wade in pretty deep into the bowels of Windows anyway, so following these instructions shouldn't phase you.

You will need two more programs to fool Windows into thinking your driver is signed, and get rid of a "watermark" that Windows puts on your desktop as a result of this fix. Get the following programs:

Driver Signature Enforcement Overrider 1.3b, available here:

http://www.softpedia.com/get/Tweak/Video-Tweak/Driver-Signature-Enforcement-Overrider.shtml

RemoveWatermark

http://soft3.wmzhe.com/download/deepxw/RemoveWatermark_20090509.zip

I successfully did this on an x64 computer I have. There have been no ill effects of doing this, but your experiences may be very different from mine.

 Instructions:

Follow my guide for 32 bit systems for installing the driver for the Pocket Programmer. Windows will still complain about unsigned drivers, and will install the the x64 version, and you will think all is good. But, it won't actually use them. They will be blocked from working, if you look in the Device Properties for the Pocket AVR.

First, go to the Start menu, and select items in the following order:

Start/Control Panel/User Accounts/Change User Account Control settings

In the resulting dialog box, set the control to "Never Notify". You can change this back later if you wish.

Right click on the Driver Signature Enforcement Overrider (dseo) Program that you downloaded, titled "dseo13b.exe". Select "Run as Administrator" in the menu that comes up. You will get the usual Windows warning, click thru it, and then you will get a couple of windows from dseo itself. Good

reading if you are so inclined. Anyway, click thru them, and you will get a dialog box with a bunch of buttons.

Select "Enable TestMode", and click Next.

You will get a dialog box, saying that TestMode has been enabled, and restart the computer. Go ahead and do so now.

After restarting the computer, restart dseo as an administrator, and select the button "Sign a System File", and click Next. You will now get a dialog box where you have to type in the complete path to the file you want to sign. So what files do you sign? Well, go to the Device Manager in the Control Panel, and click on "LibUSB-Win32 Devices". "AVR Pocket Programmer" should now appear. Double click on it, and select the "Driver" tab in the resulting window. Click on the "Driver Details" button in the resulting window. The three driver files there, with their paths (e.g. c:\Windows\System32\drivers\libusb0.sys) are the ones you have to type in the the dseo window. I haven't been able to figure out how to cut and paste them from the window, so just type them into dseo EXACTLY as they appear. Type in the first one, and hit "Ok". You will get a window saying that it has been fixed, and that if you restart, it should load. Don't restart yet. Click ok, and do the same thing for the other two files in the Driver File Details window. After you have done all three, restart your computer. Now if you go to the Device manager and look at the AVR Pocket Programmer info, it should be loaded.

HOWEVER, now you will probably have a watermark in the lower right hand portion of your screen with "Test Mode" and some other info in it. It won't harm anything, but if you want to get rid of it, do the following:

Open the folder for RemoveWatermark_20090509. I'd advise reading the ReadMeEn.txt file. Right click on the "RemoveWatermarkx64.exe" program you downloaded. It will start up a command line window. Type "y" . It will run a few seconds, and complete. Close the window, and restart your computer. If the watermark is still there, restart RemoveWatermark64, and hit "R" . It will take a few seconds and rebuild a cache. When it is done, either log off and back on, or restart. Now your watermark should be gone.

By the way, dseo has a button called "Remove Watermark" but all it does is take you to webpage to download RemoveWatermark.

The rest of my regular guide should now work ok.

Now wasn't that a pain in the butt? Why Microsoft made x64 different than x86, I don't know.

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