VAcard Install Guide

The software VAcard is not a Barix software, it was developed by Lake of soft Ltd.
It is compatible with the very most Windows operating systems and you can download it for free
from www.barix.com (under Downloads - Software).

It works as virtual soundcard driver, it encodes the audio which is coming from any application
to MP3 format and sends it to the Exstreamer . It works with the very most applications like
Winamp, Windows Media Player, iTunes, Musicmatch and many many more .

The software offers also a TCP/IP MP3 Receiver feature which acts like a virtual soundcard input
and can be used with the Barix Instreamer or the Annuncicom IC. This could be used also for
recording .

Note, the test installation was done on a German Windows XP. For this guide I translated some button names and hope
to meet the names of the English Windows version !

Software Installation

First you have to download the software and to unzip it in separate folder on your PC.
Then open your Windows Explorer, visit the new folder where you will find the file
"SETUP_VACARD_09d.EXE" , please doubleclick it to start the installation.
This directory contains also the file "setuphelp.htm", which shows how to set up some
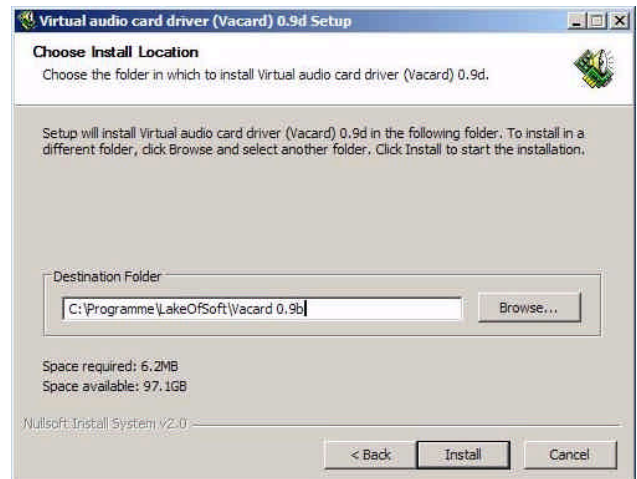players (Winamp or Windows Media Player) !

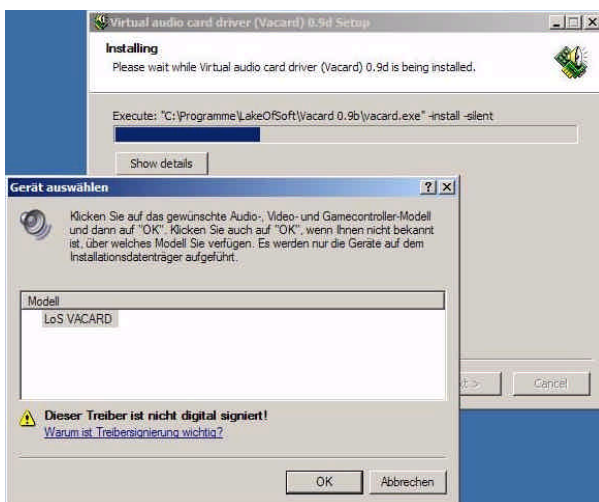1; Installation starts, please click on "next".
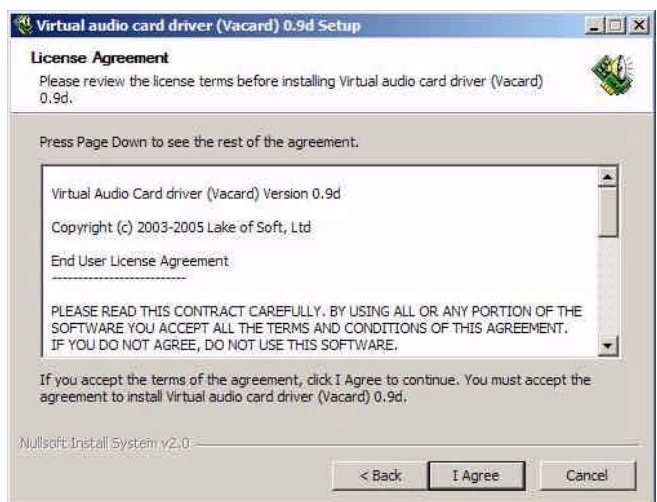
2; The license agreement you should read and if
you agree, click on "I agree" .
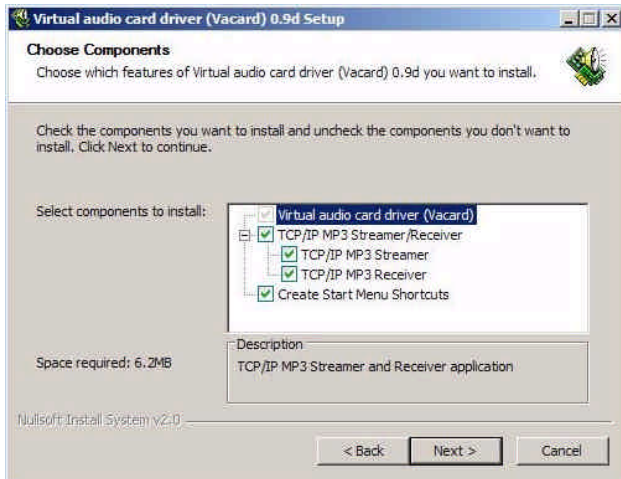
3; This screen shows you the install options. If you want you can mark also the option "TCP/IP MP3 Receiver" but this makes only sense by using a Instreamer or Annuncicom IC. Click on "Next" to continue .

4; On this screen you will be asked where the program should be installed. Confirm the path by clicking the button "Install" or change it.

5; The install process starts and on newer operating system will appear some information about the driver signature. Please click on "OK" to continue.

6; The next screen finishes the setup program. Click on "Finish". Some older operating systems (Win9x /ME) may need a reboot of the computer after a successful installation.

The installation is now done. The next steps are configuring the PC, the Vacard - MP3 Streamer software and your Exstreamer.

Extreamer Configuration

Your Exstreamer needs additional to
his IP network settings also special
STREAMING settings.
You have to use:
Mode: 4 Streaming Receiver
and check also the "TCP Streaming
Listen Port" number. Port 2020 is
default, this port number must be the
same in the MP3 Streamer software.

Windows System Configuration

The VAcard software is a driver for a
virtual audio device and this you have
to activate now.
Click on CONTROL PANEL in the
START menu there you will find the
"Sound and Audio devices". Selecting
this will open the properties. Click on
"Audio" and select in the "Sound
output" section "Vacard 1 Out" as
default device and confirm by clicking
the "OK" button.

**Note, for some applications it is
additional necessary to define a
output device, please see the file
"setuphelp.htm" which is contained
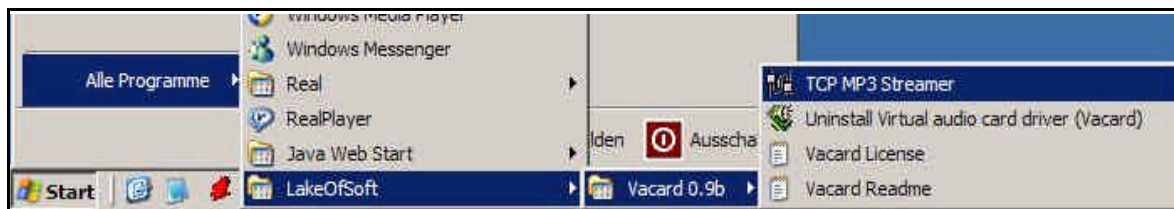in the zip file !**
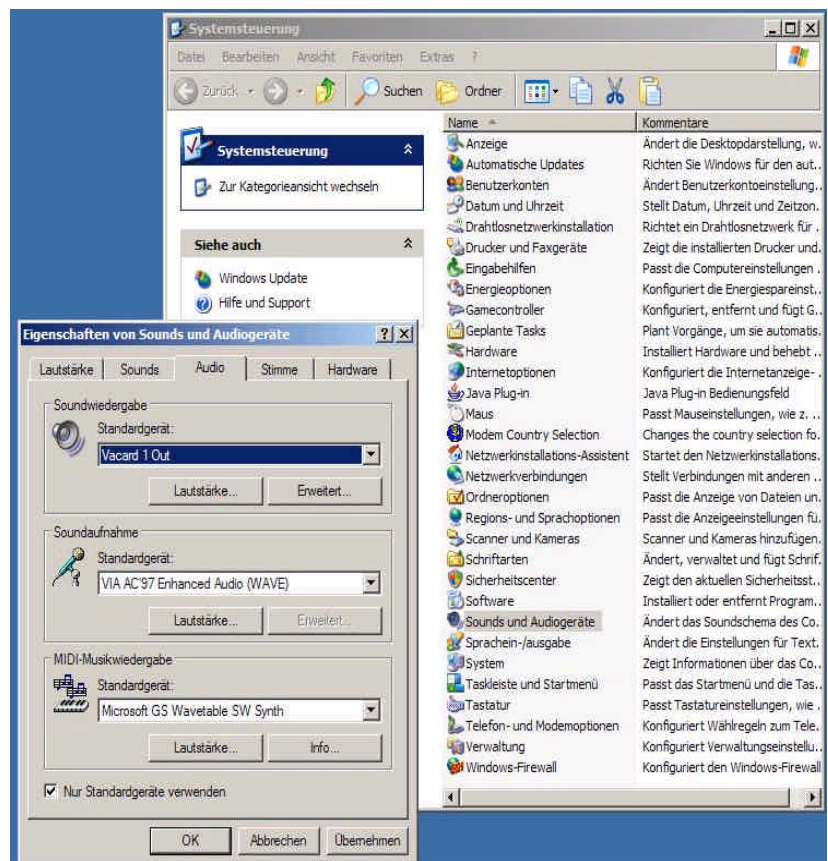
MP3 Streamer Configuration

If the option "Run MP3 Streamer" was enabled on the last installation screen the application is started and you can see the MP3 Streamer icon in the system tray.
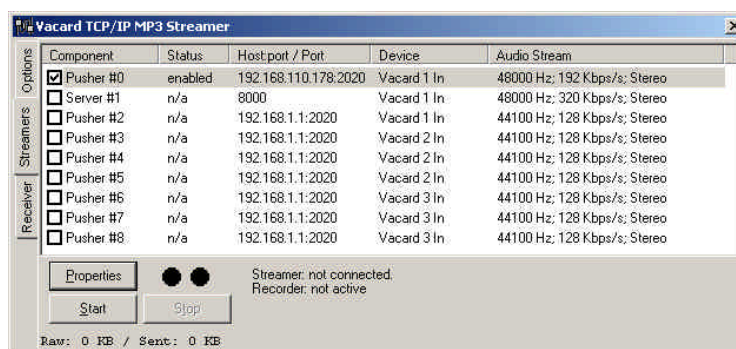
If the option "Run MP3 Streamer" was disabled, you have to start it over the START menu.

Make a click with the right mouse button on the icon in the system tray

This opens the MP3 Streamer.
There change to the Streamers section.

Here you have to define a fix IP address of the Exstreamer and the TCP port number which is also defined in the Exstreamer (see Exstreamer Config.).
Port 2020 is default here and in the Exstreamer setup.

Also you can choose your desired audio quality for the MP3 stream to the Exstreamer here.
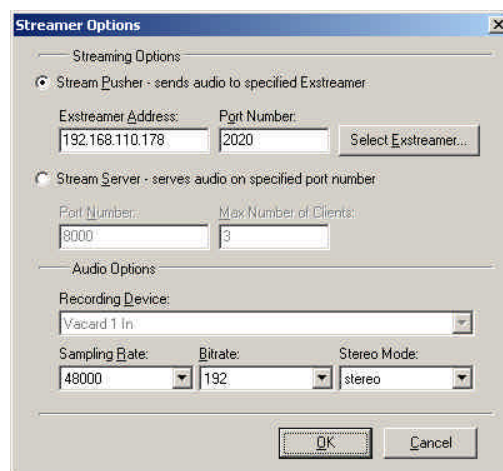
If you have done all steps before then by clicking "Start" your PC will begin to stream the sound output to your Exstreamer. If everything was successful the virtual green LED is blinking.

Do not forgot the earlier mentioned Windows System configuration !
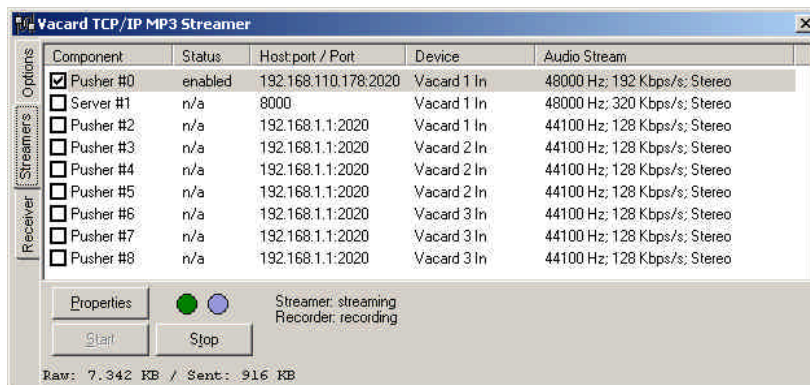
Click on the X in the right upper corner of the application windows to close / minimize it.
Open your favourite jukebox or audio player and enjoy the music you like over your Exstreamer !

Optional "Stream Server" mode

This setup could be interesting if :
- you use Vacard on a Laptop which you also use different locations
- you will use only sometimes VAcard (e.g for computer games) else you will use zServer (you could create a playlist on zServer for the use of VAcard and select them on the Exstreamer, needs default zServer settings in the Exstreamer !)
- multiple Exstreamers should pull the same stream (not in SYNC !)

In this mode the Exstreamer connects to the VAcard server on port 8000.

Here you can set the settings for the server, Choose "Stream Server" and define a local port number where the clients (Exstreamer) should connect to.

TCP/IP MP3 Receiver

The VAcard TCP/IP MP3 Receiver works like a virtual soundcard input.
It opens a TCP port where it listens for RAW TCP streams. This virtual input can be use also for recording or mixing purposes . The TCP/IP MP3 Receiver accepts RAW TCP streams from the Barix Instreamer, the Barix Annuncicom IC and also from the Barix IPAM .
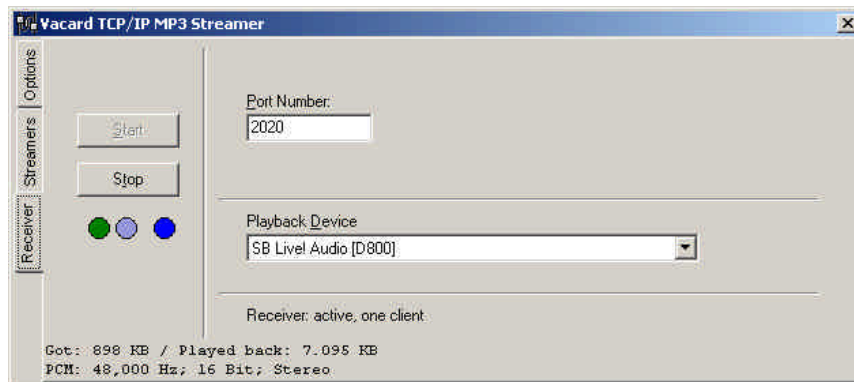

VAcard options

In the VAcard options you can define some VAcard start options.
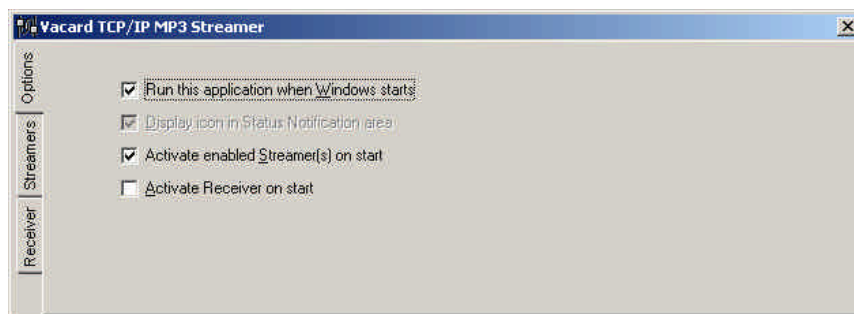
VAcard errors and problems.

A typical VAcard error is Error 10061. This comes when the Exstreamer work is a wrong mode or the Exstreamer TCP port is not available (not free, wrong port number, and so on). Please check the settings, if this happens to often then please try the Stream Server mode (please see above) .
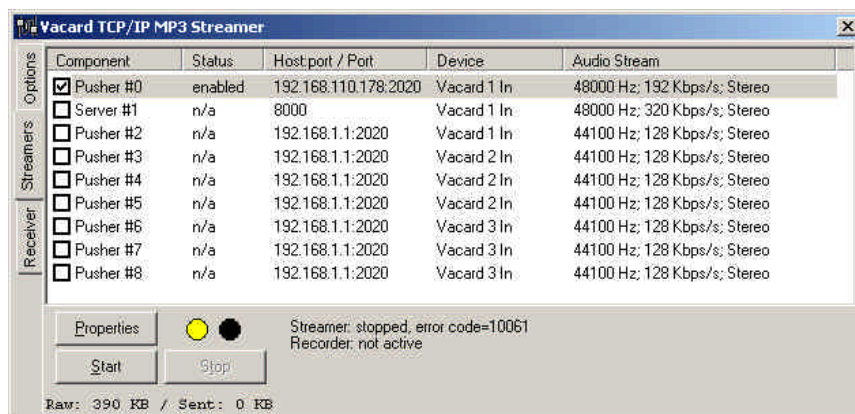
Another typical problem is the use of Windows Media Player together with a full screen visualisation/animation. The full screen visualisation needs a lot of system performance (sometimes 98 % and more, also without VAcard), in this case it could happen that you have sometimes dropouts in the stream. In this case please decrease the window size of the animated visualisation !