**WEEK 4 ASSIGNMENT 2**

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| **Date:** | **Oct 04, 2014** |
| **To:** | **Mike MacDonald** |
| **From:** | **Christopher Sigouin** |
| **Subject:** | **Install a USB printer in a Windows Virtual Machine** |

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This learning exercise was to install a USB printer into a Windows 7 Virtual Machine using VMWare 10. It also required the driver’s specific to the printer being used in the exercise so that the Windows 7 default drivers would not be used.

Initially I attempted following the step by step procedure given in the exercise outline. I installed my manufacturer based printer drivers into the Windows 7 virtual machine. Most manufacturer based drivers, in my experience, wait for the operating system to see a connection from the printer before installation continues. Normally though you can proceed as a “ Manual “ installation which was required at this point because the virtual machine did not have the printer connected.

Once installed I proceeded to turn on the printer which was now connected to the host utilizing the manufacturer based printer drivers. I then hovered with the mouse pointer over “Removable Devices “, then over my printer, and finally over “Connect (Disconnect from Host) “. The Windows 7 VM advised me of the switch and I proceeded. It then started to install the necessary drivers which I thought would not be necessary because I had already installed them prior. It seems to install the Windows 7 default drivers as a separate printer which a trouble icon below it. The initial printer device that was showing from the manufacturer based drivers seem to work fine even though two devices were listed. I right clicked and chose the “Troubleshoot “option in the context menu. Windows advised that if the printer is shared in the home-group then other computers could use it. I chose the option to fix and it removed the second printer device with the trouble icon completely leaving the correct printer with its drivers.

I attempted again by removed all devices from the Windows 7 VM and starting from scratch. This time I did not install any drivers and only moved the printer from host to the VM. It proceeded to install drivers although I ended up with the Windows default drivers.

With a third attempt after removing the devices again I started installing the manufacturer based drivers. Upon reaching the screen where it says to connect and turn on the printer so that the installation could proceed, I switch the printer from host to guest. The Windows 7 VM saw the printer and the drivers installed successfully without issue. I did not get a second printer and have to go through the troubleshooting as I did in the first attempt.

This exercise taught me a valuable procedure when installing a printer to a virtual machine. Although I don’t understand why Windows 7 wanted to share the printer with its home-group and then afterwards it removed the device completely. Maybe it realized that the printer device was already there and did not bother to keep it.