



HYPACK® and Windows® 7 Compatibility

By John Lindberg

Most people that know me know that I really hate Microsoft Vista! When I got my current notebook about two years ago, there wasn't a choice. I was forced into it and I've been cursing Vista ever since (even more so after Dell was offering a Windows XP downgrade about a month after my purchase). In fact, I was so disgusted with Microsoft that I was actually going to switch to a Mac for my home PC. I know absolutely nothing about Mac, but I figured nothing could be as god-awful as Vista (well, at least the Mac commercials are funny!)

About 2 months ago, a virus got hold of my laptop and wreaked enough havoc that I was forced to reformat and start all over. Should I reinstall Vista or should I be adventurous and try out Windows 7? Well, since all the new PCs come equipped with Windows 7, and a lot of HYPACK users would be getting new PCs, I decided to go all out and install Windows 7 Ultimate 64 bit. I think I was pretty numb from the whole Vista experience, and being the glutton for punishment that I am, I decided to go for it.

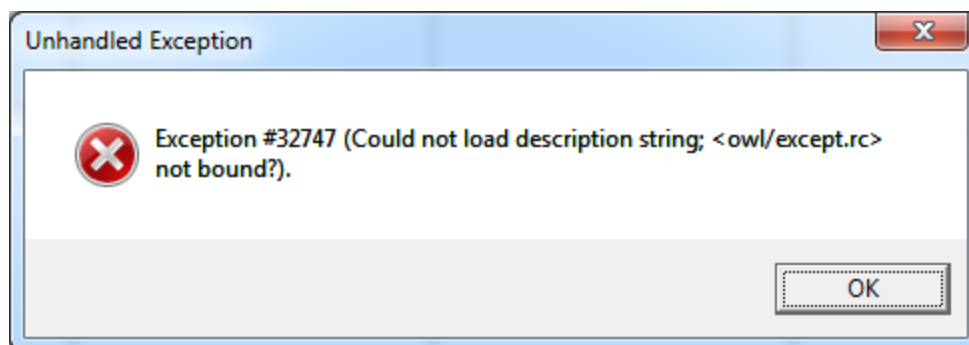
Well, 2 months later, I'm happy to say that my general experience with Windows 7 has been quite favorable (really!). Sure, there are things that really annoy me (bring back the old Windows Explorer functionality!), but I have had no major issues and HYPACK® 2009A and HYPACK® 2010 run with no problems!

Note: I have been using the new dongles. I expect the old hardlocks should work with a bit of tweaking but, since they are soon to be obsolete, I would suggest that everybody upgrade to the new key to avoid any issues.

Anyway, all had been going so well with Windows® 7, and I have been giving it my blessing when folks ask me if they should upgrade, and everybody seems to be happy.....or so I thought.....

One customer contacted me with the following error when trying to open a few programs like Geodetic Parameters and HYPACK® Survey:

FIGURE 1. *Unhandled Exception Error*



Well, needless to say, I have never seen this error, could not duplicate it, and tried everything to make it go away. While at the conference I talked to Mircea Neacsu, one of our senior programmers, and he said he actually came across this once and found a fix.

1. In the Windows® 7 Control Panel, go to **System and Security**, and click on the **System** link. You will then come up with the Computer Information page.

FIGURE 2. Accessing the Windows® 7 Control Panel

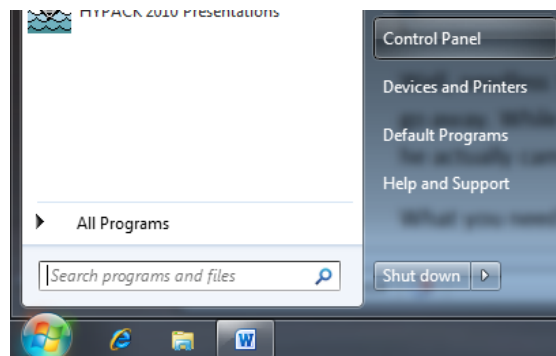
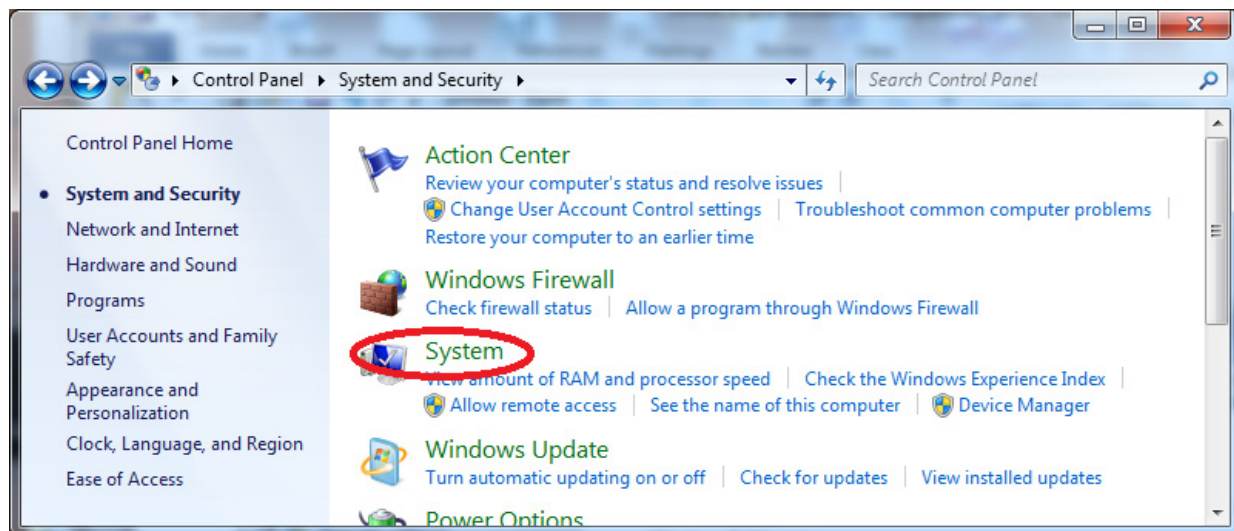
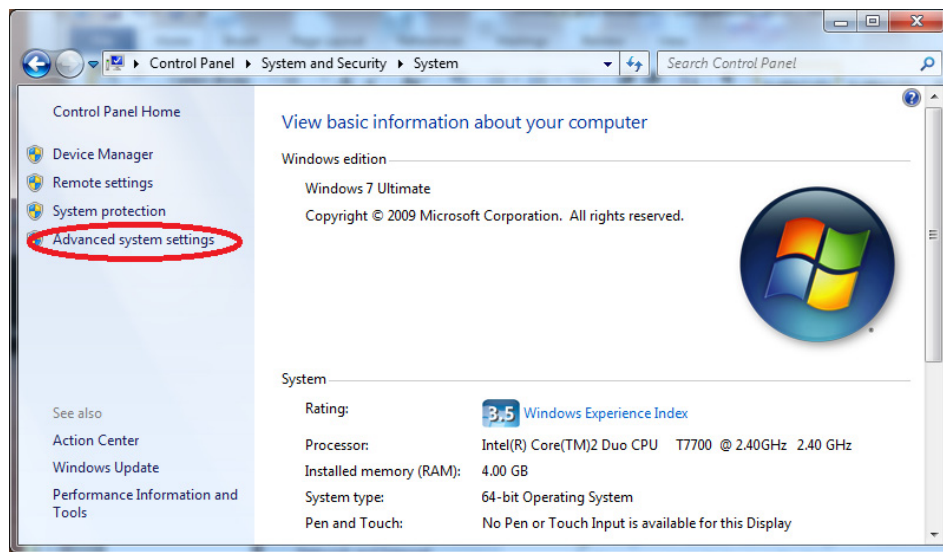


FIGURE 3. Selecting the System Link



2. Click on **Advance System Settings** to access the System Properties Window.

FIGURE 4. *Selecting Advanced System Settings*



3. **In the Advanced Tab, click on Performance Settings.** This will bring you to the Performance Options window.

FIGURE 5. *Accessing the Performance Settings*

4. **Click on the Data Execution Prevention tab.**
5. **Select “Turn on DEP for essential Windows Programs and Services Only.” and click [OK].**

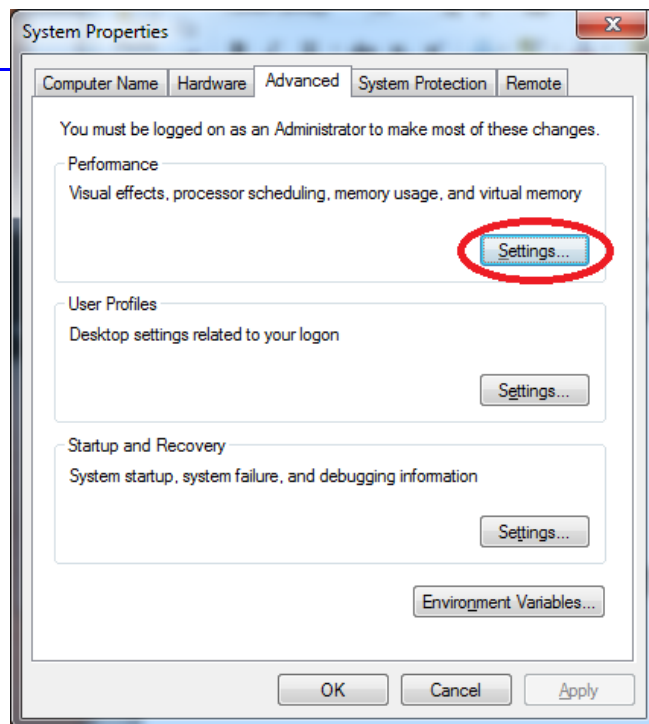


FIGURE 6. *Selecting the Data Execution Prevention Option*

Windows® will prompt you to restart and, once you restart, you should be able to run any of the HYPACK® programs in Windows® 7.

Well, hopefully your experiences with Windows® 7 are as good as mine. It is not the greatest thing in the world, but at least Microsoft seems to be heading in the right direction.....and I think I'll stick with a Windows® 7 PC for my next home computer!

