



HYPACK® Compatibility with Windows® 8

By John Lindberg

As most of you who have had the misfortune of being forced to “upgrade” to Windows® 8 already know, we have been struggling with getting versions of HYPACK® up and running properly with the latest OS from Microsoft. Since we are pretty much locked into the Windows® operating system there is really no turning back.

Windows® 8 was officially released in October 2012, and without warning (with the infinite wisdom of Microsoft), removed every Windows® 7 PC off the shelves in an instant! Since HYPACK® 2012 was released in early 2012, and 2012a released in September, we were unready for the new OS! Not that we didn't try. Our security system was not ready for the Windows® 8 changes, and all we could do was wait for the fix.

With the release of HYPACK® 2013, our intentions were to be fully Windows® 8 compliant. Throughout our initial beta testing all was going really well! But one small change in a system file, just before our 2013 release, caused an issue where a few of our programs would NOT work in Windows® 8. “No good deed goes unpunished!”

Fortunately, for those of you having the misfortune to “upgrade” to Windows® 8, it is just a matter of installing HYPACK® 2013 and applying the fixes available on our 2013 Updates page (see image below):

FIGURE 1. *HYPACK® Programs Updated for Windows® 8 Compatibility*

Win8 Updates - Windows 8 ADCP In Situ, Adv. Channel Design, Channel Design, TIN Model

Version	Date	Change
Download 13.00.01.00	4/3/2013	Replace release versions that cause HYPACK to fail on Windows 8 computers.

The download link is <ftp://support.hypack.com/Updates/2013/Win8/040213/Win8.zip>. There are four programs contained in the zip file. All you need to do is unzip these files and copy them into the HYPACK® 2013 install folder, overwriting the existing programs.

While we are talking about Windows® 8, I wish you the best of luck trying to find your way around that OS! Fortunately, most of the hot keys are available, but guess what? No Start button anymore! And good luck trying to find the Control Panel, or even trying to turn off the computer! How do I get to Internet Explorer? Look for one of those stupid colored blocks on your desktop. You know, the blocks that all look the same! There are also a bunch of ridiculous swipes around the screen in order to perform some of these functions, and the seasoned Windows® user (like me) will be ready to toss that PC in the trash and start looking for reconditioned Windows® 7 computers.

Fortunately, there is a way to add a Start button, along with a few other Microsoft annoyances that have crept up with each subsequent release of the Windows® OS. Go to <http://www.classicshell.net/>, and download and install the Classic Shell Setup. Once you do that you will be rewarded with a brand new Start button in Windows® 8, along with choices to install a few other things, like enhancements to Windows® Explorer and Internet Explorer so they react more like the older style XP versions.

FIGURE 2. *Windows® 8 with the Classic Shell*

It may sound “old school” but, for seasoned Windows® users, the older versions made a lot more sense. Since Microsoft seems to cater to prospective new users and pass over those who actually use computers for work, rather than web surfing or social networking, hopefully Microsoft gets the message and returns some sanity back to Windows® with the next service pack. In the meantime, give Classic Shell a try.

Remember, once you upgrade to Windows® 8 you can no longer go to older versions of HYPACK®. Install HYPACK® 2013, along with the updates and you should be all set... at least until the next big change in Windows® comes about!

