

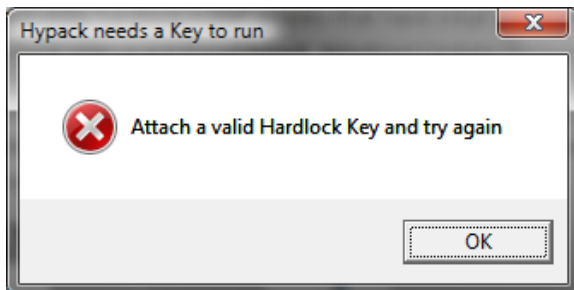
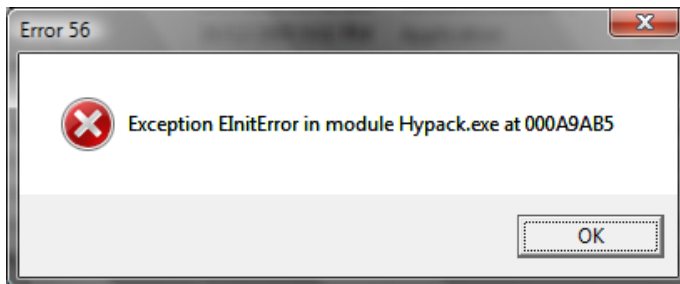
HYPACK® Hardlock Drivers and Vista

By John Lindberg

I HATE Vista!!! I know “hate” is a pretty strong word, and I rarely “hate” something (“I hate lobster” or “I hate the New York Yankees” are the only things that come into mind!), but when you have become used to an OS like XP, 2000, 98, etc., and you take tried and true functions and remove them, or attempt to stupefy the OS so that a power user cannot use the shortcuts they have used for years, you begin to understand why Linux, Mac or other alternatives exist! I suppose Microsoft thinks that all anybody uses a PC for these days is to manage photos and music, rather than for work! And don't get me started on Office 2007!!!

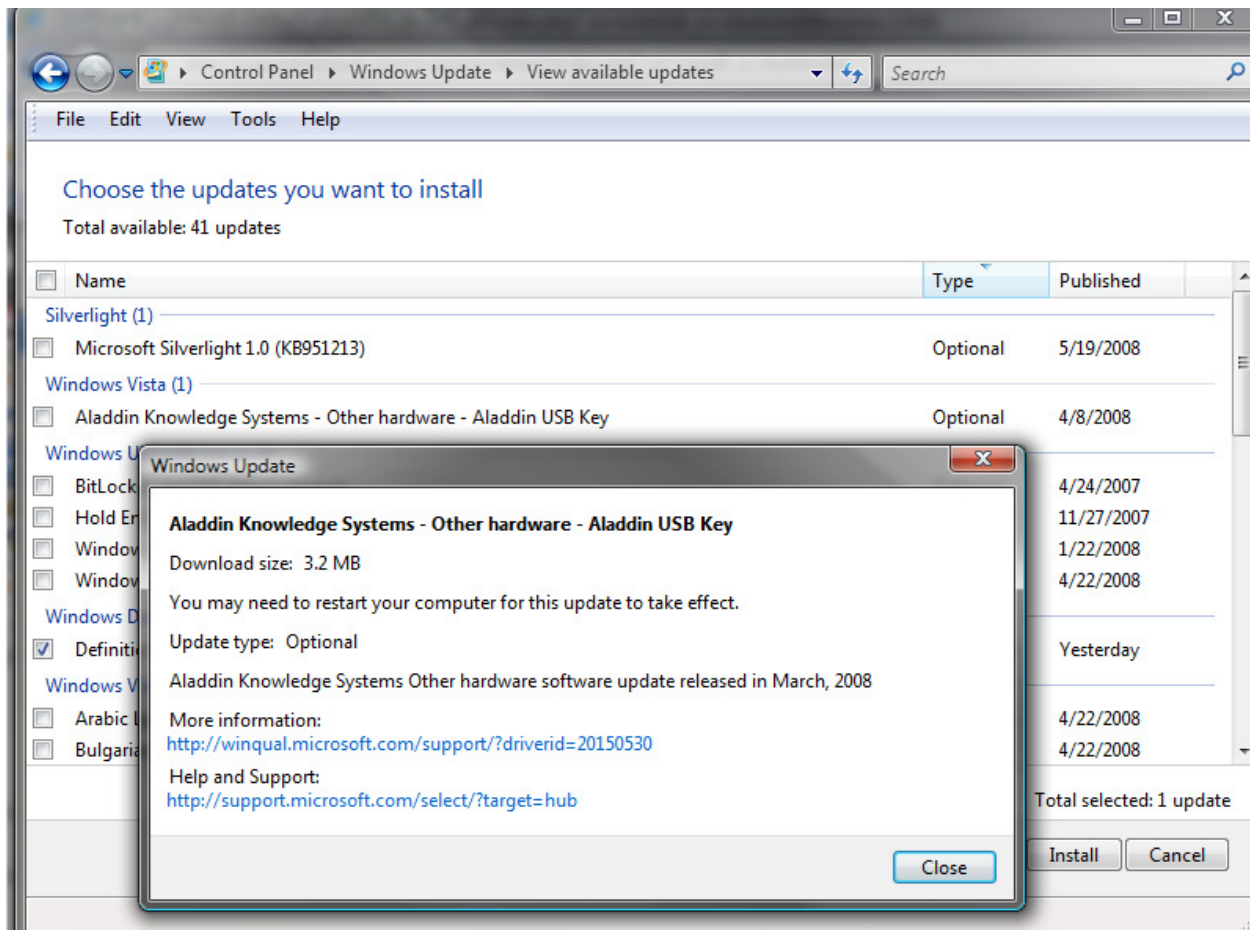
Now that I got that out of my system, I'll move onto the hardlock crisis we sometimes have with Vista. You have seen hardlock install articles that have been posted on our website from time to time, and just when you think you've got everything working, a Windows™ update throws you for a loop!!

For example, we have recently had users call the Support Department complaining that their hardlock is suddenly not working. It had been working with no problem, and then one day they turn on the PC, click on the HYPACK® icon, and:



It is a relatively easy fix, but we were trying to figure out the actual cause, and we finally narrowed it down! It turned out our good friends at Microsoft are updating your computer with updates that are incompatible with HYPACK®.

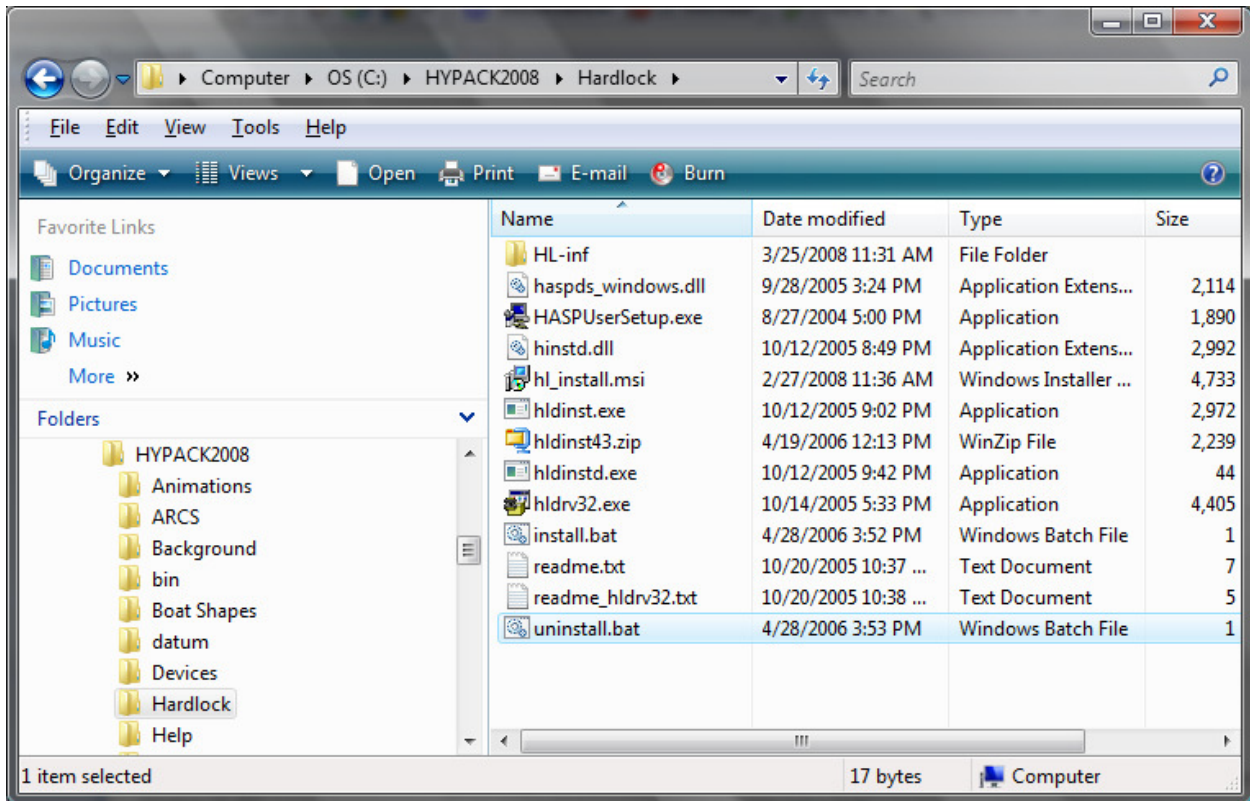
I happened to notice this because I have my installation of updates turned off. They are downloaded to my PC but I get prompted to install them. If I choose the normal install route I never see what is getting installed, but if I choose custom install I get to pick and choose what gets installed. This is when I noticed that Windows was going to install an updated hardlock driver, as shown below:



This is what I suspect is happening, and you can simply uncheck the Aladdin option, or completely disable the Windows updates. Of course, when you disable Windows updates, you get annoying pop-ups and warnings that tell you this is not recommended, and you finally turn them on because you're completely sick of these annoyances!

Needless to say, I saved myself some grief for a while, but somehow the new drivers installed anyway, and my HYPACK® ceased to work! So I had to revert to our usual fix. For those who also got caught up in "Windows Update Limbo", just follow these instructions. (By the way, be sure you are in administrative mode or have an IT minion do it for you.)

1. **Go to Windows Explorer** (Try finding that in Vista!)
2. **Navigate to your HYPACK® install folder.**
3. **Open the 'Hardlock' subfolder** and you will see a number of files as shown in the following image:



4. **Double-click on uninstall.bat.** This should remove the current “updated” hardlock driver. During this procedure you will see a command prompt appear, pop up some ‘mumbo-jumbo’, then disappear.
5. **Once this is done, double-click on install.bat.** You will see a similar command prompt appear and disappear when installed.

This procedure should render your computer useful again – at least until Big Brother Microsoft decides it’s time to “improve” your computer with incompatible updates!