

888 Tasman Drive Milpitas, CA 95035 (408) 486-8000 Fax: (408) 486-8001

Application Note

Product Name: 82C930A 16-Bit Sound Controller

Title: Running in Microsoft® Windows® 95

Date: October 31, 1995

Scope

Being a new operating system/environment for PCs, Microsoft Windows 95 features Plug 'n' Play (PnP) capability for add-on cards and adapters. This document will explain how to use the 82C930A with Windows 95.

Discussion

For those controller cards which comply with the "Plug 'n' Play Specification 1.0a" from Intel® and Microsoft, Windows 95 automatically recognizes the card during "first-time" bootup and assigns the resources used by the card (e.g., I/O port address, IRQ, DMA channels, etc.) Together with the software drivers provided by the PnP controller chip manufacturer, the add-on card can perform different functions, MultiMedia, CD-ROM control, etc. The PnP capability simply moves the task of hardware configuration from the end-user to the operating system (Windows 95) in such a way that the end-user does not need to worry about any hardware resource conflicts.

PnP is only one of the many features provided by Windows 95 and is not necessary for the hardware to run in Windows 95 successfully. For controller chips that do not have PnP capability, like OPTi's 82C930A, they can still run in Windows 95 without sacrificing performance and functionality. The key for these legacy devices to run in Windows 95 is a robust software driver (provided by the chip manufacturers).

As a legacy device, the 82C930A will not be automatically recognized by Windows 95 during "first-time" boot-up Therefore, 82C930A users must install the Windows 95 drivers through the 'Add Hardware' icon of the Windows 95 Control Panel. With a few simple and straightforward steps, the installation program of Windows 95 will copy the necessary drivers for the 82C930A from the driver diskette (provided by OPTi) to the system. After installation, the 82C930A can operate in the Windows 95 environment and perform all the PnP MultiMedia functions that it is designed for (i.e., digital wave playback and capture, Sound Blaster™ Pro emulation, etc.).

As a MultiMedia controller chip vendor, OPTi provides the drivers of the 82C930A for all popular PC operating systems: DOS/Windows 3.1, OS/2 Warp, and of course, Windows 95. Although the 82C930A cannot take advantage of the PnP functions provided by Windows 95, the drivers provided by OPTi do allow the 82C930A to be fully functional in this new operating environment, making the 82C930A device a competitive product with the emergence of this new operating system.

The latest Windows 95 drivers for the 82C930A can be obtained through OPTi's World Wide Web Home Page (http:\\www.opti.com).

Note: Prepared for OPTi's OEM customers only. Please do not distribute to end user of audio cards using the OPTi 82C930A.

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