Running Outpost on Windows 95 (WX-95)

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ABSTRACT:

It was reported that Outpost would not run on Windows 95 because the installation was not able to complete.

By following these instructions, it may be possible to run Outpost on the WX-95 operating system. The author has successfully done this on 4 laptops using the process described here without any problem.

This document walks the user through the process of installing key files needed by the Outpost setup program that are either not present or need to be updated in the WX-95 environment.

OPERATING ENVIRONMENTS:
For clarification, there are 2 computers discussed in this text.

1. The LAPTOP is in reference to the TARGET installation Machine, which in reality could be any WX-95 box that you wish to install Outpost. In the author's case, it is an IBM 486 laptop (Monochrome screen – YIKES!!), operating WX-95 ver. 4.00 950a (one of the oldest WX-95 versions). This machine is also running Office 97.

2. The SOURCE machine – running WX-98… where replacement files destined for the WX-95 TARGET machine were obtained. It is important to note that this machine is running Office 2000.

SYMPTOM:
It is assumed that a user has downloaded and exploded Outpost installation files to either floppy disk – CD-ROM or hard drive as detailed in the Outpost downloads – Installation instructions. In that process, a user is then instructed to start the SETUP.EXE program, but in a WX-95 platform, the installation process stops and an error message is displayed (missing an MSVBVM60.DLL file).

Conducting further tests, the author provided the requested file, but after starting the installation process again, another error message was encountered to the effect of the OLEAUT32.DLL file being out of date and a newer version was required.

TESTING \ POTENTIAL ISSUE:
The author suspects Windows 98 (Second Edition) and above obviously use a certain approach – command set to install programs, whereas the approach used in Windows 95 was quite different. Quite simply, to run Outpost on a WX-95 platform, you have to provide a file to complete the installation (MSVBVM60.DLL), **and** a command set within another file is also required, but is not included within the WX-95 version (OLEAUT32.DLL), both being driver \ Virtual Machine archived files.

KN6PE has observed that he attempted to perform this workaround process but still had difficulty getting Outpost operating on a Windows 95 platform. In that environment, he had performed a fresh install of WX-95 WITHOUT Office XX having been installed on the Outpost TARGET machine. It was suspected that when a user installs Office XX, some files in question on those machines were replaced with newer versions while others are added.

In further testing, this seems not to be the case and has been ruled out. The author reviewed another source machine that does NOT have Office XX installed and the MSVBVM60.DLL is present. That source machine had installed Outpost easily in the WX-98 Second Edition environment. Thus the author concludes that for the WX-95 environment, the issue is absence of the MSVBVM60.DLL file and a need to update the OLEAUT32.DLL file within the same.

It is important to know that the files in question are hidden archive files on the SOURCE machine in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory, which will NOT be visible in windows Explorer. As such, you have to search for and find them before copying them. AND… Since they are hidden files, you'll be required to search for the files on the floppy disks before copying them to the TARGET machine.

DISCLAIMER:
You perform the following at your own risk and a backup should be made of the files in question before proceeding (included within the instructions). The author assumes no responsibility for any damage or loss of data and or inability for your machine to operate afterwards. It is highly recommended that you be (and or obtain some help from someone who is) familiar with file replacements and directory structure.

This workaround has NOT been tested with source files obtained from WX-2000, NT, WX-XP environments.

Here is a short explanation of what you will be doing in this workaround…

1. Search for, locate and copy required files from the SOURCE machine onto floppy.

2. Search for and make backup copies of the required files currently residing on the TARGET machine.

3. Search for and copying the required files from the floppy disks created by the user from the SOURCE machine, and placing them on the TARGET machine.

SUGUSTED WORK AROUND – DETAILS:
1. You will need 3 (three – possibly 4) 1.44 MB Floppy disks, formatted with NO files on them.

   Get specific files off of the SOURCE Machine
2. Insert the first floppy disk into the SOURCE machine.

3. In Windows Explorer (Start-programs-explorer), select the TOOLS option on the taskbar, then FIND and then FILES AND FOLDERS.

4. Select the Names and Locations Tab. In the NAMED area, type in MSVBVM60.DLL … and be sure the search drive is set to C: in the LOOK IN area.

5. Click FIND NOW

6. You will see the search locating the file in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.

7. On the file name, RIGHT click to highlight the file icon and select COPY.

8. Click onto the A: drive (you may have to scroll up to the top).

9. RIGHT click onto the A: drive and click PASTE, and you'll see the file being transferred. What you have done is copied the MSVBVM60.DLL file to the floppy drive.

10. When complete, remove the floppy disk from the SOURCE machine and label it MSVBVM60.DLL

11. Insert your other blank floppy in the A: drive on the SOURCE machine.

12. Repeat steps #3 - #9 as described above, BUT INSTEAD changing the name in the file NAMED box to OLEAUT32.DLL

13. Once copied, remove and label the disk OLEAUT32.DLL

   Make backup file copies from the TARGET Machine
14. Insert the THIRD floppy into the TARGET machine.

15. Perform steps #3 - #9 on the TARGET machine, supplying the file name OLEAUT32.DLL

16. Once the file is copied, remove and label the disk OLEAUT32.DLL BACKUP

17. To be sure you don't have a MSVBVM60.DLL file on the TARGET machine, perform a search for this file. If you do (not likely), then copy and paste the file to the floppy in similar fashion as previously described. When done, remove the disk and label it MSVBVM60.DLL BACKUP

18. Exit the file search program.

Install the new files onto the TARGET Machine

19. Insert the disk in the TARGET machine of the MSVBVM60.DLL file copied from the SOURCE machine.

20. In Windows Explorer (Start-Programs-Explorer), select the TOOLS option on the taskbar, then FIND and then FILES AND FOLDERS.

21. Select the Names and Locations Tab. In the NAMED area, type in MSVBVM60.DLL … and be sure the search drive is set to **A:** in the LOOK IN area.

22. Click FIND NOW.

23. When you see the MSVBVM60.DLL file, RIGHT click on it and select copy.

24. In Explorer, work into the directory structure and paste the file into the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. It is vital that it is placed in this directory!

25. Once the file is copied, remove the disk from the TARGET machine and replace it with the disk you made from the SOURCE machine containing the OLEAUT32.DLL file.

26. In Windows Explorer (Start-Programs-Explorer), select the TOOLS option on the taskbar, then FIND and then FILES AND FOLDERS.

27. Select the Names and Locations Tab. In the NAMED area, type in OLEAUT32.DLL… and be sure the search drive is set to **A:** in the LOOK IN area.

28. Click FIND NOW.

29. When you see the OLEAUT32.DLL file, RIGHT click on it and select copy.

30. In Explorer, work into the directory structure and paste the file into the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. It is vital that it is placed in this directory!

31. You will be asked if you wish to replace the file, select yes … OR…

32. If you see an error (shared file in use), then stop this procedure and follow the DOS instructions below.

Install Outpost as usual:

33. You now have the files needed to install Outpost in their proper directories. There is NO need to reboot the TARGET machine. Just run the Outpost.exe install program as described in the installation instructions.

34. If you encounter problems and need to restore your original OLEAUT32.DLL file on the TARGET machine, simply copy and paste the file from your backup disk into the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. Don't worry about the MSVBVM60.DLL file… it's an archive file that you will not be able to see. Other than installing programs, WX-95 does not interact with it. As well, unless OLEAUT32.DLL seems to cause problems for your WX-95 environment, it can be left intact without cause for concern.

NOTE: COPYING FILES VIA DOS COMMANDS - INSTRUCTIONS

If you encounter a shared use error when trying to paste the OLEAUT32.DLL file in the c:\windows\system directory, you'll have to do things the old way… copy the file using DOS commands. The author has encountered this problem on one of the laptop file updates and had to perform this additional workaround. If you are comfortable using DOS commands, you can actually copy both files to the hard drive using this method, just substituting file names and disks respectively in the steps detailed below. Note that the MSVBVM60.DLL file is not on the TARGET machine in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory, so you will not get a prompt asking if you want to overwrite the file, but you will when copying the OLEAUT32.DLL file.

Assuming you are at the copy and paste point in the instructions from above (steps #30 & 31), exit the message window and other windows programs if any are open… and remove the floppy disk containing the OLEAUT32.DLL file.

    a.   Go to shut down the TARGET machine, but select RESTART IN DOS MODE.

    b.   When your DOS prompt comes up, insert the floppy containing the OLEAUT32.DLL file.

    c.   Type the following… and BE SURE to press the space bar where SPACE is noted…

                    copy SPACE A:*.* SPACE c:\windows\system*.*

    h.   Press enter…

    d.   If you were successful, <u>you'll be asked if you wish to overwrite the file</u>… press Y and then ENTER.

    e.   IF YOU DID NOT GET THAT MESSAGE, or got anything else, then try typing the command and enter again… as you probably did not issue the command correctly. It is vital that the file be placed in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.

    f.   Once successfully copied, remove the floppy, reboot, roll into windows and install outpost.

    g.   If Outpost does not install, perform a search for both of the files and ensure that they reside in the C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory. If not, copy and paste them to the proper location when found in the search process.

FEEDBACK:

Comments on this document can be directed to kc8vhr@arrl.net who would also like to hear from those who are successful in deploying Outpost on WX-95 machines. It may take me a bit of time to respond as my other day job keeps me quite busy!