

Computer Upgrade and Windows 11 Install

7 Nov 2021

I recently upgraded my DAW in readiness for windows 11.

The upgrade included:

- Swapping out the motherboard for an ASUS Prime B460 Plus;
- installing a I9 10900KF Intel CPU;
- installing 64gb RAM;
- installing a 1TB M.2 PCIe SSD as the primary drive

Built the new mobo and replaced the existing MSI X58A-GD65 in the PC.

Plugged in my existing Geforce GTX 750 Ti GPU and XITE-1 PCIe card.

Connected the original SSD and HDDs via SATA and following establishment of the required BIOS boot configuration, switched on and Windows ran first time.

Xite-1 fired up and Scope V7.0.1706 ran with no BIOS tweaking or optimization (No audio crackling has been encountered to date).

Cloned the old SSD to the new faster M.2 PCIe and removed the old SSD from the system.

The PC booted without issue from the new drive (Windows key required to activate on the new SSD).

A deeper dive found several issues that needed addressing:

- primary Drive was in BIOS 'Legacy Mode' and hence was not ready for win 11;
- Dongles (disk and physical) and elicensers in the main were not working or supplying activated licenses;
- Certain plugins were no longer available (e.g. Waves Legacy V9 plugs).
- Programs which use HDD licensing were no longer running.

BIOS Legacy Mode Issues

Updated the BIOS Firmware. (This of course does not fix the legacy mode issues, but is worth doing).

The Primary drive was configured as a MBR drive and needed to be converted to a GPT.

Used EaseUS software to convert it.

Set the boot mode to 'UEFI Only'.

The PC booted and 'Sys Information' showed the BIOS Mode as UEFI.

Running the Windows 11 'PC Health Check' tool from Microsoft I found the PC was finally Win 11 ready.

Dongles

All the **Native Instruments** plugs (I have NI Komplete 11) worked without issue. Native Access runs and **updates loaded as expected.**

Steinberg eLicenser Control Center (LCC) gave some interesting results when loading Cubase 11 and/or WaveLab 10. All sorts of error messages came up regards connecting to the dongle.

Ran LCC 'Maintenance Tasks'.

Finally got things working, but some messages regard 'audio alignment' still appeared, but can be worked around. All my Steinberg Licenses are on a dongle and not drive dependent. I suspect if you have a Software LCC dongle setup you will likely need to re-establish the configuration on the new SSD.

Waves Central (which uses the HDD to validate licenses) no longer showed my legacy V9 plugs as valid, and I was not able to recover them. I can renew the licenses by upgrading them to V13 and I may do that in time but that requires \$\$.

iLok License Manager refuses to run and as yet I have not addressed this problem.

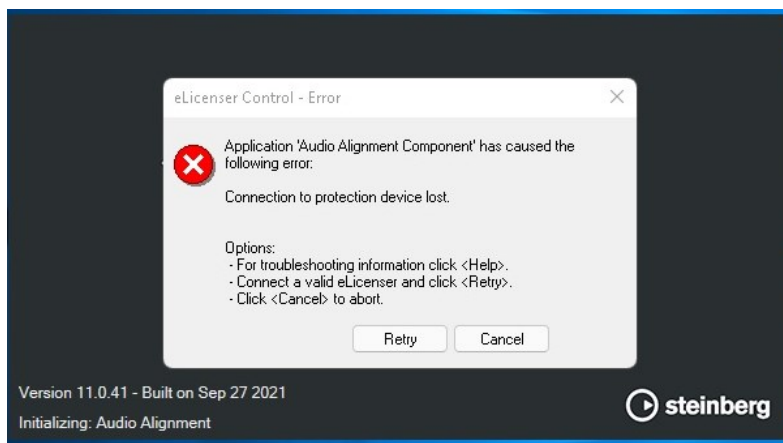
Windows 11 Arrived!

Win 11 downloaded and installed without issues.

Scope runs with no issues.

Steinberg LCC again gave error messages when loading Cubase and/or WaveLab.

Ran Maintenance scripts and it works, but still gives a message regarding 'Audio Alignment' (Hit 'Retry' several times and it loads). I suspect it is reading licenses for certain plugins (e.g. Padshop) but have not yet confirmed what exactly is going on.



Reinstalled **iLok License Manager** and it still won't run!

Conclusion

All in all the upgrade was relatively painless and most issues were easily addressed.