Optimizing Windows 95 for Cubase Audio and Cubasis Audio

You can improve Windows 95's performance for Cubase Audio and Cubasis Audio by two ways:

Read-ahead Optimization

Windows 95 provides this functionality to improve the disk performance. When the disk read-ahead optimization is turned on Windows 95 will read data in bigger chunks from disk than an application requested. This increases the disk performance on a lot of hard disks. Incidentially this parameter can also have a negative effect on some systems, it will decrease the disk performance. We suggest that you check whether 0kB (None), 16kB, 32kB or 64kB (Full) gives you optimum performance.

1. Click the Start button on the Taskbar.

2. From the menu that appears, select "Settings" and then "Control Panel".

3. In the Control Panel, double click on "System".

4. Click the "Performance" tab at the top.

5. Click the "Filesystem..." button.

6. Change the slider to another position.

7. Click OK and OK again in the next window that appears.

8. Close the Control Panel.

9. Start the Performance Tester and check its results. Alternatively you can startup Cubase Audio and check whether it performs "smoother" than beforehand.

Repeat this operation until you find the best setting for your computer configuration.

File caching

Windows 95 has a built-in file caching mechanism. This file caching mechanism implements a very sophisticated way to improve disk performance for certain applications. Contrary to Smartdrive in for Windows 3.x, the File System Cache of Windows 95 does not have a fixed size. Instead it can grow within the physical memory when the demand on disk data access is high. For Multimedia and hard disk access intensive applications this becomes a problem. When the File System Cache increases its size application and data memory will be paged out into the swap file by the virtual memory system. These virtual memory paging activities will perform additional disk accesses. Unfortunately this imposes a performance penality onto Cubase Audio, Cubasis Audio or other disk extensive applications. You can avoid the performance degradation by setting a maximum size for the Dynamic File System Cache.

Microsoft did not provide a user interface for the file system cache. You have to manually edit the SYSTEM.INI file. Please perform the following instruction:

1. Click the Start button on the Taskbar.

2. From the menu that appears, select "Programs", then "Accessories" and finally "Notepad".

3. After the Notepad started up, select "Open..." from the "File" menu.

4. For the file type select the option "All files". Locate and select the SYSTEM.INI file in the Windows 95 directory. Click the "Open" button.

5. Search for a line which consists of [vcache], the word "vcache" in square brackets.

6. Add a new line after the [vcache] line. Type "MaxFileCache=2048" on that line.
If you have a computer with only 8 MByte of RAM you should type "MaxFileCache=512" instead.

7. Select "Save" from the "File" menu.

8. Click the Start button on the Taskbar.

9. Select "Exit" and choose "Restart Windows"

10. Click OK.