

## Re: Software activation codes and storage, your thoughts please

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/DotNet/microsoft.public.dotnet.languages.csharp/2005-03/6040.html>

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**From:** Nicholas Paldino [.NET/C# MVP] (*mvp\_at\_spam.guard.caspershouse.com*)

**Date:** 03/24/05

Date: Thu, 24 Mar 2005 15:00:37 -0500

Joe,

Your only option here is going to be to use the registry. You should probably store it in the HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE hive, under the software key. This is the only thing that one could guarantee would work on windows 98.

Honestly though, I don't know how much longer 98 is going to be around, and I personally wouldn't target an app for that OS. Then again, my needs are different =)

If you could eliminate 98 from the picture, I would recommend using Isolated Storage, as it would give your application a space that it could read/write files from/to, without having to worry about access rights and whatnot.

Hope this helps.

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- Nicholas Paldino [.NET/C# MVP]  
- mvp@spam.guard.caspershouse.com

"Joe\_Black" <JoeBlack@newsgroups.nospam> wrote in message  
news:u\$Y1f1GMFHA.1396@TK2MSFTNGP10.phx.gbl...

> Hi all,

>

> I have an app that I want to have activation codes for, it has plugin dll  
> files each of which have an activation code as well. I need to generate a  
> unique code that is specific to the machine that the software is installed  
> on, when the user contacts the registration server the key that they get  
> to activate there software will be unique to there machine as it will be  
> generated from the code above. Please could you look at these possibilities  
> and advise on which you think is the right way to do this, or if you know  
> of a better way I would appreciate any links/code samples you may have.

>

> I could create a GUID the first time I start the app, this would be stored  
> in the registry, when validating codes I would read this value from the  
> registry, check it and activate the software if all is OK.  
> BUT, I hear that the use of the registry is not a great idea any more,  
> Microsoft recommends XML files, I must store this value outside of the  
> apps directory in case the user simply copies the entire directory to a  
> new PC and all would work, maybe I could store it in Windows directory in

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> a .cfg file or something.  
>  
> I could use WMI to get the serial number of the mother board, I would not  
> need to store this value as it would be available through WMI at any time.  
> BUT I want to the app to run on Win 98 upwards, I have heard that WMI is  
> not supported on Win 98, also I can't find any examples of how to retrieve  
> the mother board serial number.  
>  
> This app will be developed in VS2005, the Beta2 has a Go Live license with  
> it and the development time will be 6 - 12 months, Is there something in  
> VS2005 that would negate the need to do either of the above?  
>  
> Is there another way?  
>  
> And why do my posts always seem so long :-)  
>  
> Thanks Joe

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