

Re: How to find which Office Product Group an installation belongs

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Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Office/microsoft.public.office.misc/2007-08/msg01044.html>

- *From:* "Beth Melton" <bmelton@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 28 Aug 2007 08:20:53 -0500
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You might try the Belarc Advisor:

http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Many have used this for the same purpose and have been successful.

Please post all follow-up questions to the newsgroup. Requests for assistance by email cannot be acknowledged.

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Beth Melton  
Microsoft Office MVP

Coauthor of Word 2007 Inside Out:

<http://www.microsoft.com/MSPress/books/9801.aspx#AboutTheBook>

Word FAQ: <http://mvps.org/word>

TechTrax eZine: <http://mousetrax.com/techtrax/>

MVP FAQ site: <http://mvps.org/>

"jmedd" <[jmedd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:jmedd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
[news:75019587-9A73-496C-B95B-D457FD5F8D57@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:75019587-9A73-496C-B95B-D457FD5F8D57@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Thank you for the helpful response.

Basically we have a licensing exercise running and with the tools we have it is very difficult to differentiate what version of Office is installed on machines. For instance consider the following scenario on three different machines:

Office Professional 2003  
Office Standard 2003 + Access 2003  
Word 2003, Excel 2003, Powerpoint 2003, Outlook 2003, Access 2003 all installed individually.

The end result is that the same applications are on each machine, but from a licensing point of view they are different. We need to be able to tell

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which  
group of Office applications are installed to match against what licenses  
we  
have – at the moment with the tools at our disposal we can only tell which  
individual applications are installed.

Any further clues would be most helpful.

"Beth Melton" wrote:

It's not stored in one specific location. That would be too easy. ;-)  
Each  
Office version has their own Registration data in the Registry that  
includes  
product names that can be used in the Help About. For example:  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Office\<version>\Registration

Note that just because an application is listed that doesn't mean it is  
installed or that the application is part of that version. There's a GUID  
that is also associated with the application that is installed and is  
used  
elsewhere in the Registry, such as in the Windows Installer content, such  
as  
what is found under:  
HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Installer\UserData

This tracks the installed products, the install source and each uses the  
GUID as a cross-reference. I can't tell you what Microsoft looks for  
specifically, or how it connects everything (such as which keys are used  
specifically) when presenting the About information -- I just know where  
the  
bits and pieces are.

What are you trying to do exactly? Perhaps if we know more about what you  
want we can provide some ideas. For example all you are trying to do is  
determine which application was installed as part of which suite then I  
believe there's at least one utility available that can provide this type  
of  
information.

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"jmedd" <jmedd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:AB87FB18-0229-46CA-A711-FC7461859A68@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thank you. Could you please point me to the location within
the
registry
where it is stored?

"Beth Melton" wrote:

From the Registry, which is where Help
About obtains its information.

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"jmedd" <jmedd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message  
<news:DA297A8A-33E8-4995-8921-15EDB40CCD7C@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Office Professional  
Office Standard + Access  
Individual Office  
Applications

There are obviously  
different flavours of Office  
you can install. If  
you  
view Help, About Microsoft

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Office Word for instance it  
gives you the  
version  
and on the second line down  
is either blank or tells you  
something  
similar  
to  
the below:

"Part of Microsoft Office  
Professional Edition"

My question is how can you  
get this information without  
using Help,  
About?  
For instance if you view the  
properties of Word.exe it  
does not tell  
you  
whether it is part of Office  
Professional.