

Re: installing vista onto second hard drive

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Vista/microsoft.public.windows.vista.installation_setup/2008-06/msg01098.htm

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Not if it is the same XP product key you are already using on the first drive. There is no need to install anything on the second drive before Vista because Vista upgrade Setup is going to already see the XP on the first drive. After all, you have to start Setup from there anyway.

If you have already purchased the Vista upgrade edition and you want to continue using XP you can, but you need a third license to do it. You do not have to install any software (the XP on the first drive will satisfy the Vista installer) but you do need to own another Windows license. The fact that you have XP already installed lets you perform the mechanics of the parallel installation using an upgrade edition product key. You get to decide if the license for the existing XP is the one you are going to tie to Vista (and not be able to use anymore) or not.

The Vista upgrade license only requires you to OWN a license for Windows that is eligible for upgrade to Vista. It does not require it to be installed on the computer. This may seem pretty advanced, but stay with me.

The editions of Windows that are eligible for upgrade to Vista are Windows 2000 and later. If you have an old copy of Windows laying around unused right now it may solve the problem.

It needs to be a retail copy (no OEM).

It cannot be in use on any computer right now.

It needs to be Windows 2000, XP, or Vista (of course it won't be Vista but I am covering the bases).

And of course it is not the XP already on your computer.

Do you have any software like that?

If not, then I would go to eBay and buy a retail copy of Windows 2000. The seller should say whether or not the item is available for transfer to a new computer. That is what you want to hear. Buy it. When you receive it put it on your shelf and forget about it. You will then be in compliance with the Vista upgrade edition license. You will not have voided your XP license just because Vista Setup found it on your system during the installation of Vista on your second drive. That is just the way the software is written but the licensing questions are yours to answer, not the software's.

This is the kind of thing I have in mind. I searched on on eBay for "windows 2000 professional upgrade".