

Re: Retrieve XP Pro OEM product key

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-07/25343.html>

From: Gregg Hill (*bogus_at_nowhere.com*)

Date: 07/25/04

Date: Sat, 24 Jul 2004 19:25:18 -0700

Bruce,

Thank you for the additional information. It was an OEM version and the label is no longer on the computer.

Gregg Hill

"Bruce Chambers" <bruce_a_chambers@h0tmail.com> wrote in message news:%23\$6601bcEHA.3096@tk2msftngp13.phx.gbl...

> Greetings --

>

> *The Product ID is created during the installation process and it prominently displayed on the General Properties tab of the My Computer icon.*

>

> *The Windows 25-character Product _Key_ (required to perform the installation) is stored on the CD packaging on a bright orange sticker that says "Do not lose this number." If it was an OEM (factory installed) license, it's stored on a label that the PC manufacturer affixed to the exterior of the PC case, or on the bottom of a laptop.*

>

> *To recover a lost Product Key:*

>

> *If your system still runs, you should be able to use Belarc Advisor from http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html to find the Product Key. (If you have a factory-installed OEM license, and haven't since reinstalled the OS, the revealed Product Key is probably of the drive image used at the factory and not _your_ specific Product Key; therefore, it probably cannot be -- and definitely should not be -- used for a re-installation.)*

>

> *If it was a retail license and you have proof of purchase:*

>

> *How to Replace Lost, Broken, or Missing Microsoft Software or Hardware*
> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB;en-us;326246>

>

> *If it was an OEM license, and someone has removed/destroyed the*

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> *label, you should contact you the computer's manufacturer; although*
> *very few manufacturers/vendors keep records of the Product Keys*
> *they've sold, it's worth a try before you have to buy a new license.*
>
>
> *Bruce Chambers*
> --
> *Help us help you:*
> <http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>
> <http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>
>
> *You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on*
> *having both at once. – RAH*
>
>
> *"Gregg Hill" <bogus@nowhere.com> wrote in message*
> *news:00vqmRcEHA.4092@TK2MSFTNGP11.phx.gbl...*
> > *Hello!*
> >
> > *We have a Win XP Pro OEM install on a computer that crashed. The*
> *sticker is*
> > *not on the computer, although it was a few weeks ago. Is there a way*
> *to*
> > *retrieve the key by placing the drive into another XP computer to*
> *read its*
> > *registry files? If I can get the original key, maybe I can call*
> *Microsoft to*
> > *get a duplicate license(?)*.
> >
> > *Thanks for the help!*
> >
> > *Gregg Hill*
> >
> >
> >
> >
> >