

Re: WinXP, Ghost, Licensing, OEM's, and more

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-10/26944.html>

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Matt outputte 't volgende:

> Greetings –

>

> *I'm wondering if I can do the following legally and physically to make life
> easier :-)*

>

> *I work for a small shop that does home PC repair. We get a lot of machines
> in for repair, and some need rebuilds. The delimma is when a customer needs
> a PC rebuilt, owns a legal license (sticker on outside of case) but either
> can't find/doesn't have their restore CDs, which happens a LOT. Since I
> have much experience w/ Ghost and sysprep (in the corporate world) I'd like
> to make some kind of ghost image that will prompt for their serial on boot,
> which I know can be done. What I run into is, certain builds don't accept
> certain serial numbers. For example, if I use a general OEM CD to build,
> and put in, say a Gateway serial off their PC, it gets rejected. I have to
> hope that they can find their restore CDs usually. Basically I'm looking
> to cut down turnaround time for the customers, while still doing this all
> right and legal.*

>

> *What I need to know is:*

> *a> Can I do what I'd like to do legally? The serial numbers would be the
> ones already owned by that customer who needs the PC rebuilt. So to my
> mind, this should be all legal but if anyone knows any reason why it
> wouldn't be, please tell me and I'll be happy to cease looking into it.*

>

> *b> Can I make a ghost image that would work across multiple OEMs, or will I
> just need to make and sysprep an image for each OEM, i.e. a WinXP for
> Gateway, WinXP for Dell, WinXP for HP (if it's trashed on the HD stored
> version), etc. I don't know enough about how the serials are separated to
> know if it's by OEM, or by some kind of software generation release. Or
> would this even work?*

>

> *c> Same questions for other OS's.. Windows ME is still prevalent around
> here, as is Win98 first and second edition.. as well as a scattered W95
> machine here and there. Granted W95 and 98, and possibly ME may not be able
> to be prepped how I like, but XP is the going foward*

>

> *d> Anything I'm missing here?*
>
> *I appreciate any ideas and info that anyone has!*
>
> *Thanks,*
> *Matt*

I have had the same problems, especially with the OEM recovery media

since an investigation on several client's pc's I saw that OEM's sometimes have 3 different keys for the same build
1 is in the unattended file, another on the original sticker and a third actually in use for the current installation
go figure

I too hate the fact that you cannot use any media at hand and use it with any official key at hand
but I have a work around for this, you can do this by having a "standard empty" ISO of a valid WindowsXP CD and copy the i386 of the recovery media in to it

burn the copy and voila, you have a "normal" windows XP install CD with slipstreaming of SP2 (or whatever) if you want

for A-brand products you can use the same image over and over again there will be a mini installation for some changed hardware but mostly XP recovers quit nicely
(also with win2K and even Win98se I never experienced real issues with not to different models)

if a key is not valid I use a key that always works for the installation cd I legally own (corporate) and change it afterwards with the client's own official sticker key, later on the client is then required to activate his copy

I also make an image of every new client's installation on his own hard drive (hidden partition) and another copy on CD wich I keep to myself for future use

I have had no hassles with this so far, it's quite some administration to keep up and a huge stack of CD's but once setup it works like a charm :)
a second re-installation is done within 15 minutes

grtz