

## Re: Install Issues

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-10/27909.html>

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Jim Unwin wrote:

- > *I bought XP Pro to upgrade an old laptop. Two weeks later the*
- > *computer died – it's now unusable. I purchased a new laptop from a*
- > *local store, and it came with XP Home preinstalled.*
- > *Question 1: can I use my XP Pro CD to upgrade the new laptop*
- > *(without*
- > *buying a new license)? Since the old laptop is dead, XP Pro won't be*
- > *used on more than one computer.*

Assuming a retail license (OEM licenses are not transferable under any circumstances), simply remove WinXP from the computer it is currently on (a moot point if the first PC is dead, of course), and install it onto the new one. If it's been more than 120 days since you last activated that specific Product Key, you'll most likely be able to activate via the Internet without problem. If it's been less, you might have to make a 5 minute phone call.

Here are the facts pertaining to activation:

Piracy Basics – Microsoft Product Activation

<http://www.microsoft.com/piracy/basics/activation/>

Windows Product Activation (WPA)

<http://www.aumha.org/a/wpa.htm>

- > *Question 2: If the answer to #1 is no – the preinstalled XP Home was*
- > *setup with the store as the primary user (administrator). While I*
- > *was*
- > *able to change the name/password, I cannot change the name*
- > *associated*
- > *with the primary folder under Documents and Settings. I have trouble*
- > *making some system changes I'd like to do, and I suspect it has*
- > *something to do with the initial admin account. If I reinstall XP*
- > *Home, will I be able to wipe out the original admin account and*
- > *start*
- > *over?*
- >

>

The C:\Documents and Settings\Username folders cannot be renamed, even if the associated user account has been. So, your best course of action would be to log on using the built-in Administrator account, create a new user account, with the username desired. You can then delete the old user account(s).

HOW TO Create and Configure User Accounts in Windows XP  
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:279783>

How to Copy User Data to a New User Profile  
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb:en-us:811151>

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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