

Re: need to reinstall xp, cant find my product code...anything i can d

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2004-11/17847.html>

From: Bruce Chambers (bruce_a_chambers_at_h0tmail.com)

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djhoerauf wrote:

- > *i have heard you can find it in reg-edit but i cant seem to, i did the*
- > *classic, was deleting some crap on an old computer, ate some important files*
- > *and cant seem to get xp install to work cause i cant find my original*
- > *paperwork to install xp. what can a person do??*

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." It is not on the installation CD in any way, shape, or form. 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, you should contact 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.

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Bruce Chambers
Help us help you:

microsoft.public.windowsxp.general: Re: need to reinstall xp, cant find my product code...anything i can d

<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