

# Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2005-06/msg02150.html>

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- *From:* "kurttrail" <[dontemailme@xx](mailto:dontemailme@xx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 4 Jun 2005 15:12:01 -0400
- 

Steve N. wrote:

> kurttrail wrote:

>

>> Stephen wrote:

>>

>>> kurttrail wrote:

>>>

>>>> Stephen wrote:

>>>>

>>>>> kurttrail wrote:

>>>>>

>>>>>> Mtimerding wrote:

>>>>>>

>>>>>>> On 30-May-2005, "Tim.T" <[timatee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:timatee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> For example, I didn't realise the number of times you could

>>>>>>>> activate it was

>>>>>>>> limited. I know this may be a precaution against piracy, but

>>>>>>>> MS should realise that people have to reinstall their OS for

>>>>>>>> many reasons, and just because they do it often

>>>>>>>>

>>>>>>>> I have to agree with Tim T, and disagree with all the

>>>>>>>> replies to his post .... I too have run into the 'activation

>>>>>>>> limit' as well, Not on one, but

>>>>>>>> three different computers I own, 3 different vendors, with 3

>>>>>>>> different copies of Windows XP. (2 have HOME on them, and this

>>>>>>>> machine has

>>>>>>>> PRO) ... As I am retired, and disabled, and thus have nothing

>>>>>>>> better to

>>>>>>>> to but play around on these computers and try different

>>>>>>>> things, and as I usually screw up whatever it is I am trying,

>>>>>>>> I tend to just format, reload Windows, and all my

>>>>>>>> applications (until I blow it again) and reformat, start all

>>>>>>>> over ....(Currently on my 5th system, in the last 7 years)

>>>>>>>> ... and three times now, I have run into the 'Exceeded number

>>>>>>>> of allowed activations on this copy of Windows' message when

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>>>>>>>> trying to activate. This last time, there was no phone number  
>>>>>>>> given or opportunity to activate via a different method. It  
>>>>>>>> just popped up a window telling me to enter a Product key  
>>>>>>>> from another/different copy of windows xp, and no other  
>>>>>>>> options. Fortunately, for me I had another (legal) copy of  
>>>>>>>> Windows XP Pro laying here,  
>>>>>>>> not being used ... so I just formatted again, reinstalled  
>>>>>>>> using that copy, and activated it. But,  
>>>>>>>> in this case, it was the copy of XP that came with this  
>>>>>>>> Alienware computer that  
>>>>>>>> would not activate again. (But, it had activated at least 5  
>>>>>>>> times since I got this  
>>>>>>>> computer 2 years ago) In fact, I had just reactivated it two  
>>>>>>>> weeks ago, before  
>>>>>>>> having to reformat again a week later.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Before this, it occured on a Micron computer, with it's OEM  
>>>>>>>> windows cd.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> I also have a DELL system, with its copy of XP home downstairs  
>>>>>>>> for the  
>>>>>>>> kid to use.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> It seems to me, that the 'to many activations' message pops  
>>>>>>>> up, when trying to activate it somewhere around 3 times in a  
>>>>>>>> two week period.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> I am not arguing it is right or wrong, or bashing Microsoft  
>>>>>>>> for it's WPA, but I am just disagreeing with the MANY people  
>>>>>>>> who post on this group  
>>>>>>>> and others that there is NO limit to activating on the same  
>>>>>>>> system, with OEM or Retail.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> Because I know for a fact, as the original poster learned,  
>>>>>>>> THERE MOST DEFINATELY IS A LIMIT. (maybe it is imposed on what  
>>>>>>>> OEM you got your  
>>>>>>>> XP from, I don't know ...but the fact that it happened to me  
>>>>>>>> on 3 different machines from 3 different vendors tells me it  
>>>>>>>> apparently isnt all that rare.)  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> There is no limit. The wording of the message is just  
>>>>>>>> fallacious. And Dell systems are BIOS-Locked, so unless you  
>>>>>>>> change the mobo, or flashed with a non-Dell BIOS you should  
>>>>>>>> never need to activate it.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> I'm not one to give MS any slack over PA, but it should like  
>>>>>>>> you got something else going on, virus, or virus-like, maybe.  
>>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>> What were you doing to get these computers to ask for  
>>>>>>>> activation? --  
>>>>>>>> Peace!

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>>>>>>> Kurt  
>>>>>>> Self-anointed Moderator  
>>>>>>> microscum.pubic.windowsexp.gonorrhea  
>>>>>>> <http://microscum.com/mscommunity>  
>>>>>>> "Trustworthy Computing" is only another example of an Oxymoron!  
>>>>>>> "Produkt-Aktivierung macht frei"  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> A copy of my WinXP Home got caught up in an "number of times"  
>>>>>>> Internet activation limit.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> The message that pops up is a horribly written message. I  
>>>>>>> personally think it is done on purpose, but there really is no  
>>>>>>> limit to the number of times you can activate.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> It isn't a virus .. it's some routine in WPA.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Not a virus, then maybe you got a flakey BIOS, or hardware that is  
>>>>>>> on the blink.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> I  
>>>>>>> don't know what triggers it .. someone suggests some sort of  
>>>>>>> 'three times in 90 days'.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> FUD.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> I wonder if they have a button at Microsoft,  
>>>>>>> because for one copy of mine which quickly reached that limit I  
>>>>>>> phoned in. Thereafter, I could activate over the Internet like  
>>>>>>> there was no tomorrow as if some magic button had been pushed in  
>>>>>>> their database for my product key .  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> I don't think WPA is 'simple'. I think the software has a few  
>>>>>>> complications built in... or bugs!  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> Certainly aren't quoting me. I don't think activation is simple.  
>>>>>>> It is a pain in the ass. It can be buggy and flakey, but there  
>>>>>>> really is no limit to the number of times you can activate. You  
>>>>>>> may have to phone up MS to activate, and that is a pain in the  
>>>>>>> ass, but there is no limit to the amount of times you can do that  
>>>>>>> either.  
>>>>>>> No, I'm not pirating, I was tinkering alot, reinstalling a heck  
>>>>>>> of a lot.  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> And I know how that is, and as long as you paid for you copies  
>>>>>>> there really is little legal problem for you to circumvent PA for  
>>>>>>> your own "fair use."  
>>>>>>>  
>>>>>>> There are ways around PA, and in your boat I'd avail myself of

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>>>>> that option.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> --  
>>>>> Peace!  
>>>>> Kurt  
>>>>> Self-anointed Moderator  
>>>>> microscum.pubic.windowsexp.gonorrhea  
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>>>>> "Trustworthy Computing" is only another example of an Oxymoron!  
>>>>> "Produkt-Aktivierung macht frei"  
>>>>>  
>>>> Well, in another thread I suggest a change in BIOS settings might  
>>>> somehow trigger a WPA event.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> Yep, and sometimes driver changes too.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> There is definitely a WPA message that one has exceeded how many  
>>>> times one may activate.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> "The message that pops up is a horribly written message. I personally  
>>>> think it is done on purpose, but there really is no limit to the  
>>>> number of times you can activate."  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>> Perhaps you have not seen it but it is there.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> How many times do I have to repeat myself? Can you quote me saying  
>>>> the message doesn't exist?  
>>>>  
>>>> THE MESSAGE IS WRONG! DECEPTIVE! ERRONEOUS! FALLACIOUS!  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>> It is not a virus, and people, including me, have experienced it.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>> I said that to one person, as a possibility.  
>>>>  
>>>>  
>>>>> I  
>>>>> realize it is a bogus message as far as actual activation .. but it  
>>>>> does block further attempts at activating over the Internet. A phone  
>>>>> call, of course, 'fixes' it.  
>>>>>  
>>>>> In other words, I don't know how it works but I know what I saw and  
>>>>> it told me I had exceeded my numerical limit. These guys aren't  
>>>>> saying it happened for nothing – they actually got that message.  
>>>>>

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>> I understand that, and even some of the most fervent pro-PA MVPs in  
>> this group would agree that the message does exist, but is very  
>> poorly written, and doesn't accurately reflect MS's PA policy.

>>

>> The message should read something like "You have installed this copy  
>> on a computer that has substantially different hardware than your  
>> previous activation. Please call 800-555-5555 to explain this  
>> difference and activate by phone."

>>

>> My personal opinion is that MS has left the message with its  
>> deceptive word to get the uneducated consumer to buy another copy of  
>> software. I can't prove this FRAUD, but I suspect it because this  
>> wording has been a part of WIN XP since before it was released to  
>> the public, and MS knows its misleading at best and has had 2  
>> subsequent Service Packs to reword it, and hasn't.

>

> Three, if you count SP1, SP1a and SP2. Interestingly they chose to  
> change the startup splash screen from displaying Windows xp  
> Professional and Windows xp Home to just Windows xp with SP2. What is  
> the purpose in that? Why would they go to the trouble of changing  
> that and not something more meaningful and so potentially misleading,  
> such as the "installed too many times" horsecrap message?

>

> BTW & FWIW, I have very recently installed OEM Pro SP1 and SP2 on the  
> same exact hardware using the same OEM key no less than six times in  
> less than a week and it has never failed to activate online. However,  
> some months back I installed using the same key and installation media  
> on the same hardware, replaced the HDD and did a clean install within  
> two weeks and got the "installed too many times" horsecrap message,  
> shut down, went to bed, started up in the morning and it activate  
> online with no problem.

>

>>

>> It is my opinion that this fraudulent behavior is nothing new to MS.

>> It

>> is a proven predatory monopoly and a proven patent and copyright  
>> infringer.

>

> Monopoly, yes, but patent and copyright infringement suits were  
> settled out of court as I recall.

[http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/11/14/HNorder\\_1.html](http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/11/14/HNorder_1.html)

And the Eolas case is still in appeal, but the did lose that.

As for copyright infringement, I haven't found it yet but I'm fairly  
certain they have lost at least one case.

>

>>

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>> MS is not to be trusted.

>

> Maybe not, but WPA is definitely not to be trusted. You'd think that  
> the maker of the world's most used software would be able to make  
> their stinking WPA technology more consistent, reliable and accurate.

>

> Steve

Its like the Auto Industry is capable of building a car that will run  
for a million miles, but why should they if you are willing to by a new  
one every 100,000 miles.

--

Peace!

Kurt

Self-anointed Moderator

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"Trustworthy Computing" is only another example of an Oxymoron!

"Produkt-Aktivierung macht frei"

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• **Follow-Ups:**

- ◆ **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**  
◇ From: Steve N.

• **References:**

- ◆ **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**  
◇ From: Mtimerding
- ◆ **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**  
◇ From: kurttrail
- ◆ **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**  
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- ◆ **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**  
◇ From: Steve N.

- Prev by Date: **Re: WMP 10 -- can it edit a CD list?**
- Next by Date: **Re: !!!Do not load SP2!!!**
- Previous by thread: **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**
- Next by thread: **Re: ok, let's clear this up MS – is Product Activation really restricted?**
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