

Re: Windows XP hardware upgrade

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2006-09/msg00072.html>

- *From:* Bruce Chambers <bchambers@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 31 Aug 2006 18:17:37 -0600
-

Graham Bennet wrote:

Hello All,

I have just upgraded my PC with a new Motherboard, Processor, and Graphics card. I now find that I am unable to start Windows. I have tried to start Windows in Safe Mode, but when the system files are loading, I get to the same point before the PC reboots.

I have contacted Gigabyte, but they have said that I will have to reload Windows. Does anyone have any ideas, as to how to get the PC to a state where I would be able to load the drivers for the new motherboard.

Thank, Graham

Normally, and assuming a retail license (many factory-installed OEM installations are BIOS-locked to a specific chipset and therefore are **not** transferable to a new motherboard – check yours before starting), unless the new motherboard is virtually identical (same chipset, same IDE controllers, same BIOS version, etc.) to the one on which the WinXP installation was originally performed, you'll need to perform a repair (a.k.a. in-place upgrade) installation, at the very least:

How to Perform an In-Place Upgrade of Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/directory/article.asp?ID=KB:EN-US:Q315341>

Changing a Motherboard or Moving a Hard Drive with WinXP Installed

http://www.michaelstevensstech.com/moving_xp.html

The "why" is quite simple, really, and has nothing to do with licensing issues, per se; it's a purely technical matter, at this point. You've pulled the proverbial hardware rug out from under the OS. (If you don't like -- or get -- the rug analogy, think of it as picking up a Cape Cod style home and then setting it down onto a Ranch style foundation. It just isn't going to fit.) WinXP, like Win2K before it, is not nearly as "promiscuous" as Win9x when it comes to accepting any old hardware configuration you throw at it. On installation it "tailors" itself to the specific hardware found. This is one of the reasons that the entire WinNT/2K/XP OS family is so much more stable than the Win9x group.

As always when undertaking such a significant change, back up any important data before starting.

Re: Windows XP hardware upgrade

This will also probably require re-activation, unless you have a Volume Licensed version of WinXP Pro installed. 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.

--

Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://dts-1.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.
-Benjamin Franklin

Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do. -Bertrand Russell

.