

Re: Key of Installation

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-01/msg07721.html>

- *From:* "Rock" <rock@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 21 Jan 2007 12:15:42 -0800
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<e> wrote

But I do not have information of the KEY directly going in registry of Windows XP?

"Bruce Chambers" wrote

e wrote:

The Key of Installation of Windows XP is possible locates it for registry?

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

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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.

Use the link Bruce gave you to Belarc Advisor to retrieve it from the registry of a running installation. It's encoded so it can't be read directly. Here are some other utilities that will read it.

Magical Jellybean <http://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder.shtml>

Everest <http://www.lavalys.com/index.php?page=product&view=1>

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Rock [MVP – User/Shell]

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