

## Re: lopst cd key

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2007-07/msg00050.html>

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- *From:* "Rock" <[Rock@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:Rock@xxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sat, 30 Jun 2007 16:31:05 -0700
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<jig@xxxxxxx> wrote

can any body help??  
i have a windows xp pc but have lost the disc to reset it, i have a windows xp disc but no key, can i get the key from my machine using any programmes??

Your post is unclear. First you say you "have lost the disc to reset it". Then you say you have a windows XP disk but no key. So what exactly is the issue? Have you lost the restore CD that came with the computer? Do you have a different XP installation CD but no key for it? Is there a product key on a sticker attached to the case? Is this a computer from one of the major OEMs like HP or Dell, that came with the OS preinstalled?

Here are some utilities that will retrieve the product key from a running installation:

ViewXP <http://www.webtree.ca/windowsxp/ViewKeyXP.exe>

AIDA32 <http://www.aumha.org/freeware.htm>

Belarc Advisor [http://www.belarc.com/free\\_download.html](http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html)

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

If XP was pre-installed by the OEM, the product key retrieved by these utilities will likely be the same product key used by the OEM for all systems created with that same image. That key won't work with another XP installation CD. Normally, if the OEM supplied recovery or installation CD is used, it's BIOS locked to the motherboard, and no product key is needed. If this is your situation, contact the computer manufacturer to get a replacement recovery CD.

A product key on a sticker attached to the case will usually work with a generic OEM XP installation CD of the same type – Home or Pro, and same language version. You could borrow one from someone who has the same thing and copy their CD.

If the version of XP is retail, either full or upgrade, or generic OEM, then the product key retrieved by these utilities should work with any CD of the same type. The product key and CD have to match as to:

Home vs. Pro

Full retail vs. upgrade vs. generic OEM, vs. branded OEM, vs. Volume license

Language version

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If the version of XP is retail and you have proof of purchase see this link for info on getting a replacement:

How to Replace Lost, Broken, or Missing Microsoft Software or Hardware  
<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=326246>

MS will also help if the OEM from whom you got XP has gone out of business. The info is in the above link.

Otherwise contact the OEM from whom you got XP to see if they can help.

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Rock [MS-MVP User/Shell]

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