

Re: Old HP PC running OEM XP

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-05/msg00661.html>

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On Fri, 2 May 2008 08:24:00 -0700, mcstout
<mcstout@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have an old(10 years) HP Pavilion desktop, running the original XP OS. I want to reinstall the OS, but do not have any of the original CDs. Can I use the MS change product key program to create a new key, and then use one of my legal copies of XP to reinstall the OS?

It depends.

First find your product You can find the Product key with any of these:

ViewKeyXP www.webtree.ca/windowsxp/ViewKeyXP.exe (for Retail versions only, and for pre-SP2 versions only)

ProduKey http://nirsoft.net/utils/product_cd_key_viewer.html

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

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

Magical Jellybean www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder.shtml

Belarc Advisor www.belarc.com/free_download.html

Then, you can use a CD you already have in conjunction with the product key you found *if* the CD matches the installed version with respect to Home vs. Professional, Retail vs. OEM, and Full vs. Upgrade. If any of those don't match, your key won't work.

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Ken Blake, Microsoft MVP – Windows Desktop Experience
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