

Re: Install XP on a Vista laptop?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2008-06/msg03084.html>

- *From:* "JMF" <jfavar@xxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 17 Jun 2008 09:24:05 +0200
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"VanguardLH" <V@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:HdmdnVKJa8EDf8vVnZ2dnUVZ_gqdnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

"VanguardLH" wrote in
news:hMadnTEhLYrfcvVnZ2dnUVZ_rvinZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

"JMF" wrote in <news:#v0lkQ7zIHA.3968@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>:

I bought XP Pro for my desktop.

Now I'm in the market for a new laptop. The new laptops seem only to have Vista on them.

I'm curious about removing the OEM Vista and replacing it with my XP Pro that I bought.

That means you will have to wipe Windows XP Pro from your desktop since you only have 1 license of it to have it installed on 1 computer.

That raises two questions:

– am I allowed to take the XP Pro that I bought and also install it on my laptop?

No ... however ...

If and only if you have the Ultimate or Business version of Vista OEM on

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your new laptop, you have downgrade rights to install Windows XP. How you downgrade depends from whom you got the OEM version of Vista on your laptop. If it is a generic OEM version, one process that I've seen mentioned is to do the Windows XP install (format the OS partition and install a fresh copy of XP) and then activate but use the phone number to call a Microsoft rep by giving them the Vista product key for which they will give you back a product code to activate the XP install. Otherwise, you have to contact whomever is the OEM for whatever brand of laptop that you got to ask them how to downgrade.

– what kind of trouble am I asking for (and I'm sure there is trouble, ranging from "some" to "plenty") by replacing the original OEM Vista with XP Pro?

None if you follow their licensing.

Just to clarify: you have 2 Windows licenses. One will be used by your desktop (Windows XP). The other license is the Vista license (which you can use to downgrade to Windows XP). So you are allowed to use the Windows XP installation media on the laptop but you are NOT using its license there. Instead you are converting your Vista license via downgrade rights to a Windows XP license.

Be aware that some laptop manufacturers don't provide Windows XP drivers for their hardware. They may have designed their laptop to be usable with Windows Vista and they only supply Windows Vista drivers. This can result in losing hardware usability or some of its functionality when you downgrade to Windows XP. You need to check if the laptop's hardware has Windows XP drivers for it all.

Thanks, VanguardLH. Now I think I recognize what you're referring to from the Dell Computer site, where they seem to talk about the "XP Downgrade." Now I see how the licensing system works. I'm sure (well, not sure, but it would be pretty bad if it wasn't true ...) that if a manufacturer offers the downgrade then they must offer the drivers.

Thanks again,

John

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