

Re: XP Media Center Key Code Question

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.general/2009-04/msg03920.html>

- *From:* "Daave" <dcwashNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 25 Apr 2009 23:05:39 -0400
-

JS wrote:

When I inserted the CD I did not notice it was labeled XP Home. So when it asked for the key code I simply entered the code printed on the case label. Only found out I had installed Home after the install completed and then I looked at the CD label.

I'm surprised you were given a prompt to enter the Product Key. That's not normally supposed to happen with Dells!

So it did ask for a keycode and I enter a Media Center key code and it accepted it as being valid.

The big question is why did Dell ship the PC with a Home CD when Media Center was installed, the factory goofed I guess.

Are you sure this is what they did? In your other post, you stated:

Installed the Dell Windows CD he gave me
(box of all Dell CDs and applications)

Perhaps the XP Home CD was to a *different* Dell your friend (or someone he knows) once had. Those CDs are ubiquitous!

Since your friend has a license to run XP MCE (which has a few more features than XP Home), you should really perform another clean install, using *that* OS. Check again for a CD (sometimes it's a DVD). Or maybe that particular Dell has a hidden recovery partition. (Since the hard drive is failing, that would be a big problem.) Or maybe you need to contact Dell (that's what I would do).

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Since I'm waiting for the replacement drive to arrive
I can always try the install again and see what happens.

Thanks for taking the time to reply Daave :-)

YW. :-)

"Daave" <dcwashNOSPAM@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:eZP1ivgxJHA.4012@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

JS wrote:

I'm repairing a friend's computer.
His hard drive is failing. It's a Dell 8400.
Restore partition is kaput.

Installed the Dell Windows CD he gave me
(box of all Dell CDs and applications)
and did a "Clean Install" as any attempt
of a "Repair Install" failed using either his or
my Windows (Retail) CD.

Clean install completed without any issues.
winver showed "XP Home" was installed.

Double checked the sticker on the case and
it labeled Media Center.

How in the world did a Media Center key code
work on a "Dell" Windows XP Home CD?

That's not quite what happened.

Dell CDs simply install on Dell PCs (they look for specific
motherboards; notice there is no need to enter the Product Key --
this is what is known as System-Locked Preinstallation). What you
describe is not permitted by the EULA, but apparently it can happen.
:-)