

## Re: XP Serial Number Questions

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help\\_and\\_support/2004-10/3797.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2004-10/3797.html)

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**From:** choro-nik (*choro-nik\_at\_tvcom.net*)

**Date:** 10/12/04

Date: Tue, 12 Oct 2004 04:43:09 GMT

It was merely a theoretical assumption. Obviously I am the only user of my OEM version as I managed to register and activate it with no problem. But it is obviously something that one has to be aware of when buying the software.

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choro-nik
*****
"D.Currie" <dmbcurrie.nospam@hotmail.com> wrote in message
news:2t14hmFlqpm1oU1@uni-berlin.de...
> It's hard enough to read the number when you're installing it, it's
> doubtful someone could have casually read & remembered it if they happened
> to glance at it.
>
>
> Retail versions have the number hidden in the packaging; oem versions come
> in sealed multipacks. So if you trust whoever you bought the oem version
> from that they didn't copy down the number and use it, you should be fine.
>
> "choro-nik" <choro-nik@tvcom.net> wrote in message
> news:4EIad.38982$BI5.17988@fe2.news.blueyonder.co.uk...
>> That was my original thinking too but now that you have corroborated my
>> original view, how can I ever be sure that the key for the OEM Win XP I
>> bought recently has not been used before by someone else? After all the
>> serial number was visible inside the shrink wrap. Shouldn't all such
>> numbers be hidden from view until one breaks the seal?
>> --
>> choro-nik
>> *****
>> "D.Currie" <dmbcurrie.nospam@hotmail.com> wrote in message
>> news:2t12avFlqbg16U1@uni-berlin.de...
>>> No part of the serial number is on the CD. The differences are in the
>>> version Windows -- OEM, retail, upgrade, etc., that will only recognize
>>> the corresponding set of serial numbers. But other than that, the CDs
>>> are interchangeable as far as the serial numbers are concerned.
>>>
>>> "choro-nik" <choro-nik@tvcom.net> wrote in message
>>> news:8GEad.30263$ay5.18435@fe1.news.blueyonder.co.uk...
>>>> Quite Simple. Some of those "characters" (numbers and/or letters) might
>>>> be split up from the rest. So you have 2 groups of characters. One
>>>> group might be a installation CD batch number. The second group might
>>>> not in fact be on the CD at all . Or more likely there will be a whole
>>>> range of thousands of combinations that have been assigned to that
>>>> particular batch of CDs with your particular key being one of those
>>>> possible combinations.
>>>>
>>>> It would thus be possible to burn, say a batch of 1,000 CDs with
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