

Activation questions and potential problems

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.help_and_support/2005-05/msg04355.htm

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Hello,

In short, I am looking to completely upgrade the hardware of my desktop and swap XP operating systems between the desktop (XP Home) and my laptop (XP Professional). I can't see this as going smoothly, and hope to get some advice/ recommendations before I start.

Here is the hardware/software I currently have:

Desktop:

Asus P3B-F motherboard
PIII 550 processor
Windows XP Home

Laptop

Dell Inspiron 2500
Windows XP Professional

Source of the operating systems

The desktop had Windows 98 on it; the laptop came with Windows ME and a coupon for an XP Home upgrade. When I received the XP Home disks, I kept ME on the laptop and upgraded the desktop to XP Home (I spoke extensively with Dell about this to make sure there were no license issues). I eventually purchased a Windows XP Professional Upgrade. I used this to upgrade the laptop from WinME to XP Professional. Both operating systems are fully functional and have SP2 installed. I own an original licensed copy of Windows 98 and the original Dell setup disks for Windows ME.

I would like to switch the operating systems, so that the desktop is running XP Professional and the Laptop has XP Home. (The desktop is part of a home network with a Mac, the laptop now sits dormant much of the time).

Is there any chance that there is an easy way to do this? What will happen if I put the XP Pro upgrade disk in the desktop? Will it move the desktop

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from Home to Pro without losing anything? What about when I put the XP Home disk in the laptop? How do I downgrade that machine without a complete reinstall? Lastly, should I do this before or after the desktop hardware upgrade (does it matter?)?

Upgrading the hardware

I am taking the desktop's Intel based system and replacing it with one that is AMD based. Given the integrated sound and network of the intended MIS board, everything is going to be different except the hard drive. In my nice, safe, comfortable dream world, I would like to swap out the board, processor, and graphics card, boot up and have XP recognize new hardware, ask for the original Windows disk for driver files, maybe ask to re-activate, and be done with it. Odds of that happening?

After being configured for the Pentium system, will the drive as-is be able to even boot up on the AMD system? Would it work in Safe Mode? Is there anything I can do ahead of time to prepare it?

If it comes to it, I have a spare, blank drive that I could format, install Win 98, then install the XP upgrade. But that strikes me as a nightmare of an alternative I don't want to lose/redo all of the customizations and tweaks I've done to my desktop.

I think that covers everything. FWIW, before I do anything, I'll be using Ghost to make a complete image of my current drive to a new drive and locking that away in a cabinet until all is over (then repartitioning and using it as a data drive on the new system).

Thanks in advance if you can offer any help or point me to other sources.

Jeff

• *Follow-Ups:*

◆ ***Re: Activation questions and potential problems***

◇ *From:* Ron Martell

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