

Re: Activation

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2004-04/1695.html>

From: Michael Stevens (*xpnews_at_notmvps.org*)

Date: 04/22/04

Date: Thu, 22 Apr 2004 01:18:42 -0700

Original post reformatted for clarity. 8-)

The Unknown P wrote:

There is no problem to reactivating your copy of XP. You can do this as many times as you like on the same machine.

There is a way of not having to either phone or go on line that will allow you to activate the reinstall yourself. Once you have installed an XP OS and have activated it either over the phone or through the internet a file called wpa.dbl is place in your windows\system32 folder. You may need to go into your control panel\folder options and then the view tab to set XP so that you can see hidden operating and system files like the windows\system32. This is a heavily encrypted file so don't bother trying to read it. It contains your activation and system configuration information.

Copy the wpa.dbl to a floppy disk and label it for future reinstalls. Then once you have reinstalled XP and are asked if you want to activate you can choose not to and once on the desktop you can then copy the wpa.dbl back to the windows\system32 folder and you have activated your copy of XP.

This will only work on the original machine with the original hardware that XP was activated on.

Welcome to the eXPeriance. {:~)

Michael Stevens replies to the oblivious Unknown P

Once again you give incorrect information in a format that is incredibly difficult to read plus you seem to have never heard of paragraphs. On a clean install, the backup of the wpa.dbl file is of no use whatsoever. You say you know how to use the CDO ["web format" in case you don't know what "CDO" is] format, but you seem to miss critical replies that have repeatedly pointed out this error to you.

Once again, the backup of the wpa.dbl file is only useful if you do a inplace [i.e. repair install] upgrade and nothing has changed with the hardware since the file was backed up or if the activation information was corrupted. There is no other use for the wpa.dbl and it's backup.

to quote Alex Nichols web page on activation and the usability of the wpa.dbl file, see below.

HINT No. 3: It is valuable to back up the two files WPA.DBL and WPA.BAK from the Windows\System32 folder. Then, should they get damaged, or should you do a 'Repair' reinstallation of Win XP, these files can be copied back to restore the prior activation status. However, this only works in those limited circumstances. The contents of these two files is matched to the specific Windows setup; therefore, contrary to what many journalists and members of the user community have written in recent months, restoring these files will not resto