

Re: Windows Product Activation workaround

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2006-08/msg00909.html>

- *From:* "RJ" <rjnothere@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 20 Aug 2006 17:28:38 -0400
-

I did some research. It doesn't work on a clean install, only on a reinstall. see below.....

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 restore your activation status following a reformat and clean install. --Alex Nichol, MS-MVP

"Bruce Chambers" <bchambers@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message [news:%23W70j0\\$wGHA.4300@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:%23W70j0$wGHA.4300@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

RJ wrote:

I did a clean install after reformatting my existing WinXPHomeSP2. Since there were no hardware upgrades I tried the workaround – copied the old wpa.dbl to a floppy , then copied it to System32 in safe mode after renaming the new one wpa.new. But I kept getting the message to activate. When I copied the file it was 14kb, but when I looked at it after reboot, it was only 6kb. So did the original 14kb file get replaced when I rebooted? Anyway, I moved the 'wpabl'n' file from System32 to a temp folder and now I don't get the annoying reminders to activate. Did the workaround work? What will happen after 30 days if I'm supposed to activate but didn't? Did I miss any steps in the workaround?

Why not just activate in the normal manner? Then you wouldn't need to wonder whether or not all that extra trouble you put yourself did any good.

Re: Windows Product Activation workaround

--

Bruce Chambers

Help us help you:

<http://dts-l.org/goodpost.htm>

<http://www.catb.org/~esr/faqs/smart-questions.html>

They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety. –Benjamin Franklin

Many people would rather die than think; in fact, most do. –Bertrum Russell