

# Re: How should I buy XP Pro?

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.newusers/2007-01/msg00243.html>

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- *From:* [unclepeteDEL@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:unclepeteDEL@xxxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* Thu, 11 Jan 2007 10:01:14 -0500
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Chris <tornadorex@xxxxxxxxxxx> said:

for compatibility. If it's that difficult for MSN to figure it out what chance to I have?

Jim L

What compatibility are you talking about? Hardware or Software?

I'm going to be brutally honest here, and maybe it's just me, but your questions are worded very weird and tend not to make a lot of sense. It's like you're avoiding an actual question. Be more specific or something because I'm having a hard time understanding what you're asking.

OK, I'll be brutally honest too. I'm on the new user newsgroup because I don't know what's going on and don't know HOW to ask questions in guru language.

I've read all kinds of things about how you can restore your system. System restorations seem to come in two varieties, something that puts you back to square one and forces you to spend what, for me, is weeks of time installing everything I had on the system before the system or teh drive crashed. The other option is, theoretically, something that does NOT trash all your previous work.

I have spent hours trying to find the latter searching on words like "recover" and "restore." I find articles about slipstreaming, which sounds like a whole vocation in itself, and I've found link following link on MSN indicating that if you can retrace exactly which CD you used to install the system, what color the print on the CD is and whether it has wavy lines or straight lines – which is all beside the point

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because, as seems to be very common, laptops don't come with a CD.

I am attempting to prepare for the inevitable and that on a very limited budget. My question is simply this. What do I do when windows comes crashing down around my ears for ANY reason, hardware or software? If the drive fails I need a way to install the operating system I ostensibly purchased on a new drive, but this has been precluded by the elimination of CD's from the laptop sales system.

I've requested updates from MSN and gotten them, so something seems right. I've requested confirmation, varification or whatever buzz word XP Pro users use, of whether my installation is legal. MSN refuses to confirm that and asks for information from or about my CD which puts me in a catch 22 because I have none (The manufacturer apparently saved trillions of dollars by not supplying a CD). Judging from all this it would appear that I have a d\_\_\_ mess on my hands and do NOT have the option of shelling out a lot of cash to fix it. As I said, I don't have a list of on-the-mark buzz words to make clear what I am trying to find clarification for myself, but every direction I look I read something saying you had better have exactly the right CD or it will make things worse.

I have an old TP770E with W98 on it. Before putting on a zillion utilities MS failed to supply I reinstalled it almost daily. No one will convince me that XP is totally foolproof and beyond failure. So I'm trying to find out how to get ahead of the failures.

I bought a used T42 with the original XP Pro "clean installed" by an ostensibly reputable dealer. But it appears that someone is very serious about making laptop users get by without recourse in the case of disasterous failures – hardware or software. I don't know what else to tell you. I bought XP on this T42, but chances are that it will rear up one day and wave goodbye.

Thanks

Jim L

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"Feel inadequate? Destroy stuff and kill people." Confucious, Socrates, Benjamin Franklin.

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