

## Correlation of key to license number

**Source:**

[http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup\\_deployment/2004-10/1088.html](http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2004-10/1088.html)

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**Date:** 10/11/04

Date: Sun, 10 Oct 2004 21:39:11 -0700

I have several computers at home, running WinXP (both Home and Professional, depending on the computer). I didn't bother writing down which computer has which 'key', and I now find myself in the situation of not knowing which 'license and key' belongs to which computer (because I didn't paste the sticky things on the outside of the box, since I sometimes end up upgrading the machines).

For example, I have two different machines with WinXP Pro. And I have two valid licenses and CDs for them, but I don't know which one goes with which installation. I need to re-install the installations because of a virus or trojan or some such, and since the activations do the hash code with the machine configurations and the product key, I don't want to mix them up because I don't want there to be problems when I have to re-activate the product keys. In other words, if I manage to use the same keys on the machines, the numbers in the activation database should be close, but if I have swapped the keys, then the numbers would be wholly different, and I may have problems.

I called Microsoft today and they appeared totally clueless, and just told me to install WinXP on any machine (since I have the licenses) and it wouldn't matter...

Any comments/feedback?

David Erbas-White