

Re: Installing Win XP Pro (just use another product key)

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http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/WinXP/microsoft.public.windowsxp.setup_deployment/2009-05/msg00145.htm

- *From:* "Shenan Stanley" <newshelper@xxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 27 May 2009 12:32:18 -0500
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stulemanski wrote:

My wife's Toshiba Satellite laptop was bought in 2006 with Win XP Pro preinstalled. (So we own a license to run XP Pro on this machine – I assume this is an OEM license). Unfortauntely, the laptop recently developed a software fault and would not boot.

The recovery disks that were supplied with the laptop were unable to recover this problem, so I tried to reinstall Windows XP Pro onto this laptop from scratch.

I have a genuine OEM Win XP Pro SP2 disc (from when I built my desktop PC) and I used the 25-digit Product Key on the COA that is stuck on the underside of the laptop (i.e. what I assume is the OEM license that relates to the laptop).

During installation, when I was asked to input the product key I was then told that the product key was not valid! This product key is 100% genuine and was running perfectly well on this laptop from the day it was purchased until now.

Can anyone tell me how to get Win XP Pro installed on this machine again? Considering the number of illegal copies tha MS tell us are in use out there, it is particularly frustrating to own a license and not be able to install the software!

smlunatick wrote:

Toshiba's OEM XP License seems to be "tweaked" to only use the officially supplied XP "recovery" media version of the install CD.

XP Guy wrote:

First of all, you will get no satisfaction from Macro\$haft. According to their EULA, you are restricted from obtaining even a

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correct copy of the XP CD for your laptop by any means. If you no longer have the original CD that came with your laptop, or (if it never came with one) the recovery partition that would have a copy of the XP installation files is no longer functional, then you have no "legit" way (according to Microsoft) to put XP back onto your laptop other than buying a new license key.

But don't worry.

Take your XP-pro SP2 cd and the license key it came with and use that instead.

Don't let it bother your conscience. Meekro\$oft is an illegal, criminal monopoly that has been convicted of countless crimes around the world. Think of them not like a respectable, decent company, but more like the Mafia. Just like how you can't steal from the Mafia, reusing an XP license key is no real crime.

And for any Milkro\$oft appologists or sycophants that want to take issue with what I've just said, then be prepared for several paragraphs of verbal abuse if you attempt to defend your precious, stinking piece-of-shit Microsoft and their corrupt and illegal business practices.

Shenan Stanley wrote:

Or the op could just get a Windows XP generic CD (the one they have maybe) and change the SETUP.INI so that it works with whatever particular type of product key they need it to...

Seems like the easiest thing to do.

Verbal abuse away – although not sure what I would have said to offend your sensibilities. Should be funny.

stulemanski wrote:

Thanks to everyone for your replies.

Shenan – your initial suggestion won't work for me because unfortunately, Toshiba tell me that "For your device no recovery medium can be ordered, because it comes either not from the region of Toshiba Europe, or it is too old for this service." [Since the laptop was bought at John Lewis in the UK, I can only assume that they feel 3 years is too old for someone still to be running the same laptop. If that's what they consider to be beyond the upper limit of the lifecycle for their product, it will make be seriously consider alternatives next time a laptop purchase comes around!]

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SMLunatic – this is a bit worrying as it implies that unless I can get a Toshiba recovery disk (which they've already told me is not available) then my license has just effectively been revoked?

XP guy – thanks for your viewpoint. I'd rather stay legit as far as using the licenses that I've paid for. I suspect that parts of the EULA may not stand up in a European court, and since we've actually paid for the license on the laptop I think I should be entitled to use it.

Shenan – I have an OEM XP Pro SP2 CD. Can you explain in a little more detail what I need to do in order to the SETUPP.INI file in order to get it to work with the Toshiba laptop license key? (I don't know whether this breaks some of the terms of the EULA, but given that I have paid for a license, I believe I have a legal right to use it – after all it is the license you are paying for not the media it comes on!)

Mike Hall – I assume by "re-using a license key" you mean re-entering the license key that was originally used on the laptop, and not *ahem* "re-using" the license key that came with my OEM XP Pro SP2 CD (as this license is already in use on my desktop). [I guess XP guy wouldn't have a problem with this – and since I've paid for two licenses, I guess he would be right from a moral standpoint]. Given Toshiba's inability to help so far, can you suggest how to get the appropriate media?

Thanks again to all for your help – you can e-mail me direct if you want at: stuart_lemanski (at) hotmail.com

XP Guy wrote:

I doubt anyone here will be able to walk or talk you through a method of modifying your XP CD such that it would be recognized as a correct Toshiba installation media by the product key that came with your Toshiba.

I doubt that it's as simple as modifying a single .ini file.

The only complication from re-using the product key that came with your XP-cd is that you will need to avoid downloading the WGA thing from Micro\$haft when ever you perform a windoze update on that system. So never set that system to perform automatic updates. Always perform supervised, interactive updates where you can see what is available and choose to NOT download WGA when offered.

Shenan Stanley wrote:

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Modifying the OPS CD so it can work? Who knows – maybe so. Depends on what the actual issue is when the original poster is trying to use the CD and a few other points...

First – verification is needed... These points, one by one, must be verified:

– The product sticker on the Toshiba Satellite laptop (the one with the problem) – what does it say it is for? (Windows XP Professional? Windows XP Home? Windows Media Center?) – The "genuine OEM Win XP Pro SP2" CD you have, are you sure it is Windows XP Professional with SP2 integrated OEM? (See below for what to look for in the CD's SETUPP.INI to verify generic OEM.) – The "genuine OEM Win XP Pro SP2" CD you have, since you said it was "from when I built my desktop PC", is it a generic CD – unmodified – bought from someplace virtually alone (not bought with a PC like an IBM, Dell, HP, etc...)?

If the sticker on the bottom of the Toshiba Satellite laptop is for Windows XP Professional and that CD is truly generic – it should be no problem to use that product key *unless* that product key has been deemed leaked (possible, unlikely.)

But the sticker on the bottom of the Toshiba and the CD needs to match flavor and type (Home, Professional, Media Center, etc; OEM, Retail, MSDN, etc.) If – by chance – Windows XP Home is involved – you may have to concern yourself with SP2b <– a special release where the product keys changed up a bit. If Windows XP Home is not involved – no big deal.

Modifying (as I said) a Windows XP generic CD so it can use differing product keys (OEM, Volume, Retail, etc)? As for actually doing what I said, "change the SETUPP.INI" – just assuming I made no typos (in the quoted part, I did not) it looks like I could use other advice I give all the time:

Now is a great time to point you to one of the easiest ways to find information on problems you may be having and solutions others have found:

Search using Google!

<http://www.google.com/>

(How-to: <http://www.google.com/intl/en/help/basics.html>)

One could search for no more than "setupp.ini" and find plenty of ways to modify the CD.

<http://www.google.com/search?q=setupp.ini>

Like:

<http://www.thetechguide.com/howto/setuppini.html>

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Which gives you the basics of what you need to change on the CD itself (before burning a new bootable CD from the results) to accept a given type of key. You could use this knowledge to confirm the CD you have is an OEM CD. Locate "SETUPP.INI" on the CD itself, open it with Notepad, find the "Pid" line and see if it ends with "OEM". Then you will know what you might have to do next...

If the OP will come back with the requested verifications – we can try to go from there. Some people would love to help the op instead of pushing their own opinions. ;-)

In the end – all the OP loses is time in trying.

Worst case scenario – once versions are verified the same – they can install using the product key that came with the CD they are trying to use, get it installed and use a Microsoft tool to change the product key to the one on the sticker on the bottom of the laptop.

The Genuine Advantage Product Key Update Tool is only valid for users attempting to change their current non-genuine Product Key to a genuine COA sticker or genuine Product Key – all without a reinstall!

<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=50346&clcid=0x409>

That may be – in the end – the fastest solution. Although the workaround would have to be remembered for any future needs (or better backup techniques/tools used – like imaging software.)

XP Guy wrote:

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The Pid value is what we're interested in. What's there now looks like a standard default. There are special numbers that determine if it's a retail, oem, or volume license edition. First, we break down that number into two parts. The first five digits determines how the CD will behave, ie is it a retail cd that lets you clean install or upgrade, or an oem cd that only lets you perform a clean install?

The last three digits determines what CD key it will accept. You are able to mix and match these values. For example you could make a WinXP cd that acted like a retail cd, yet accepted OEM keys.

Now, for the actual values. Remember the first and last values are interchangeable, but usually you'd keep them as a pair:

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Retail = 51882 335
Volume License = 51883 270
OEM = 82503 OEM

So if you wanted a retail CD that took retail keys, the last line of your setupp.ini file would read:

```
Pid=51882335
```

And if you wanted a retail CD that took OEM keys, you'd use:

```
Pid=51882OEM  
=====
```

Ok, this is useful information. I had always thought that there were differences in some of the actual files (key kernel files for example) between different flavors (OEM, VLK, System Builder) of the same version of XP.

Here's more examples of Pid numbers. These are taken from the "System Builder" version of XP-pro (specifically the "2002" version). The System Builder CD is what small or medium-sized PC builders use when assembling systems from scratch.

This is from an XP-Pro SP1 CD with files dates March 31, 2003:

```
[Pid]  
ExtraData = 786F687170637175716954806365EF  
Pid=55274OEM
```

This is the same product, except with SP2. These numbers are the same even for different file or release dates (and even for the last version which included SP3):

- Aug 4, 2004 (sp2)
- Feb 28, 2006 (sp2)
- April 14, 2008 (sp3)

```
[Pid]  
ExtraData = 786F687170637175716954806365EF  
Pid=76487OEM
```

Okay. Yes. I did provide that information via links and keywords a while back. ;-)

Shenan Stanley
MS-MVP

How To Ask Questions The Smart Way

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