

Re: Use my original COA (CD–KEY) in my Toshiba laptop

Source:

<http://www.tech–archive.net/Archive/Windows/microsoft.public.windows.mediacenter/2007–04/msg00621.html>

- *From:* "AllanF" <not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 13 Apr 2007 15:27:55 +1000
-

Jaime,

For two or three months, I ran Vista RC1 Ultimate with Aero and all the fancy features on this same computer that came with MCE2005. From memory, the only errors that I ever experienced were related to Unavailable Vista Hardware Drivers, some reported Third–Party Software Incompatibilities which actually didn't seem to cause any problems, and a few hiccoughs with IE and a Beta OneCare Live. My BSOD went away, and unlike MCE, my System never Froze.

Therefore, I can reasonably deduce that the Faults and Errors under MCE2005 have little to do with my Hardware. It is all in the Operating System. I think you are wrong to suggest that my problems are germane to my System.

If there is something peculiar about my System, then the fault lies with the Windows Hardware Certification System (whatever it's called... WHQL Testing, Logo Schemes, etc) I assumed that something is either Compatible (i. e. works properly) or it isn't. Perhaps someone might have taken a leaf out of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm':

"All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others."

"AllanF" <not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:OJSQkWYfHHA.2408@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Jaime,

Still going... :) I understand what you are saying.

The point that I am trying to make is that I am not particularly concerned about Customer Support... I quickly learned to live without it after the terms of my License were pointed out to me by Microsoft. But, without this Support, you need the Functionality of the OS Installation Discs, and these are not provided in order to cut costs by MS and the Manufacturers. (You mentioned Dell, but I cannot find any reference to them providing the full OS Installation Discs for XP MCE with any of their computers. If they do provide those Discs, then they are the exception.)

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Most of my experience has been with a Mac. I assume that Apple has Telephone Support, but throughout the six or seven years of running the Mac, I never even thought about looking up the phone number.

Now this thing called Media Center Edition is a different kettle of fish. Don't tell me you have never experienced what would appear to the average reasonable person as an Obscure, Absurd or Meaningless Error Message when performing a task that MS describes as routine. For example, read the hundreds of enquiries on the Web Forums about burning DVDs from within the Media center interface. Have a look at XBox.com about connecting your XBox to run Media Center on the TV. Sometimes these things just don't work. Welcome to the World of Windows!

Under these circumstances, the option to pay for Support from the Creators of this horrid OS does seem a reasonable Option. In fact, MS should feel a moral obligation to either provide Technical Support to its Customers, or divert that part of its Budget toward Training and Employing more Competent OS Designers and Programmers so that the need for Customer Support becomes a little more redundant.

Back to my main "beef": A lot of these Weird and Unexpected Errors are described in the MS Knowledge Base. Sure, most are for XP, totally ignoring MCE, but they describe the exact–same Error and Symptoms. Get to the part were it says simply insert your OS Disc, and forget it.... Reinstalling from the Recovery Disc is the only option, then spend the next three days downloading, installing, configuring, etc. What might have taken half an hour with the OS Discs.

Meanwhile, Luiz, the OP is wondering how he might go about Partitioning his HardDisk. I guess the only option is to go out and pay again for the Exact–Same License as the one he paid for when he originally purchased his Computer.

"Jaime" <nospamfor–jaimelobo@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:O8N5dRXfHHA.1388@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Alan,

But again, what you seem to be ignoring, is that much of what you are complaining about is only germane to *your* system. As I pointed out, many MCE system are sold with OS CD's, so the user can do advanced troubleshooting. So it really has nothing to do with some grand scheme, only a scheme by the vendor of your system.

And BTW, this is not unique to MCE, this is same arrangement that exists with any OEM copy of Windows – W2K, XP Home, XP Pro, whatever -- 6 or 8 years ago, people complained about recovery partitions on Windows 98 systems. It just boils down to simple economics, if you want the support, you have to pay for it. Years ago this was the case, a basic PC with

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1/100th of the power of a system today came with Windows 3.1 on it and phone support from MS and a \$2,500 price tag, in part because of the cost of the OS. Now MS sells the OS much cheaper, which helps make the whole system cheaper -- I really fail to see anything sinister about that. One can hardly expect MS to give the same support for \$30 in revenue that they do for \$300.

--
James
Orlando (Goofy says "Hey!"), FL

"AllanF" <not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:%23N6td6RfHHA.4176@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Jaime,

Thanks. Your explanation is clear and informative.

Microsoft palmed off all Support Obligations for MCE onto the Computer Manufacturers. Recovery Discs provide the Manufacturers with a quick fix in all situations (apart from Hardware Failure) to return a machine to a known operating state.... the minimum requirement for the contract for sale. So neither MS nor the Manufacturer have any need for Trained Technical Support Staff. A win for the MultiNationals.

Regarding Recovery Discs: All of that Functionality that is Disabled or Removed would have been of enormous assistance to any Consumer realising that they are in a Virtual Self–Help Situation. Without a Set of Installation Discs, many TroubleShooting and Maintenance KB Articles cannot be followed through to their conclusion. A loss for the Consumer.
Nothing new here.

"Jaime" <jaimelobo@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:e2ZxPwQfHHA.4872@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Allan,

I built my own system, so my costs were fairly low, my entire system was around \$600. When building your own system and buying an OEM copy of MCE, you are buying the same license

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that any PC makers buys. The difference in cost is merely a question of volume (buying a single OEM copy and not the thousands that Dell might buy). In essence, you are the builder and are assuming responsibility for support, MS has never sold a "retail" version of XP MCE.

Even when going this route, you still are saving money; in the U.S. a single OEM MCE license sells for around \$120. Since there is no such thing as a "retail" version of MCE to compare the price against, you can contrast this price to a retail copy of XP Pro (around \$300). Now that Vista Home Premium is out, you could buy a retail copy and get support for the Media Center features from MS or get Vista pre–installed on an off–the–shelf system and get your support from the PC maker. Although not exactly the same: if you buy a new Audi and it comes with their pre–installed Blaupunkt sound system, you probably can't call Blaupunkt for support, you have to go through Audi. The same applies to original tires on a vehicle, the automaker assume responsibility for the original set (and they get them at a deeply discounted rate because of that arrangement).

What a manufacturer ultimately charges for their system is not driven by the OS cost very much. Aside from the added cost of a tuner/remote addition (and possibly beefed–up specs), the PC makers are simply playing the supply and demand game when pricing their MCE system. In fact, their OS cost is probably cheaper per copy of MCE than for XP Pro (which is essentially the same OS).

I completely agree that you should get better support and options for fixing problems (and that should come with

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any PC). The quality of tech and other after–market support is something to consider when buy a PC (or a car, cell phone, etc.). Again, my point is, this is beef with your particular PC maker. If you buy a Dell PC, for example, with MCE or whatever OS, you get an honest–to–goodness CD with the OS on it. Granted, the COA is still tied to the Dell system and can't be used to load Windows on another system (per the license), but you can stick it in the CD drive, boot from it, do a full install, to a repair install, use the recovery console, partition, expand individual files, etc. just like it was right from MS. I also have cheapo E–Machine PC's here at work that came with bootable Windows CD's that allow the same features. Recovery partitions and all–or–nothing installation are not an absolute with pre–built PC's, although more and more makers have gone this route unfortunately.

I'm not necessarily defending MS or claiming they should not offer some other/better route for help and support, I'm merely saying that the situation you have run into is not endemic to all MCE systems or mandated by MS.

--
James
Orlando (Goofy says "Hey!"), Florida

"AllanF" <not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote in message
[news:OiK\\$oqPfHHA.1216@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:OiK$oqPfHHA.1216@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Jaime,

I don't know how much you paid for your Media center PC if you have one. Mine was the most expensive Laptop on the

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General Consumer Market
at the time. Over US\$300
more than others with
similar specs.
Admittedly, mine had a TV
Tuner and IR Remote.

Are you trying to justify that
none of the money I spent
went towards
some form of Support?
Apart from the lack of
functionality such as
Slipstreaming, OS Repair,
Partitioning, etc, Support
seems to be the
principal difference. There
was a One–Year Warranty
from the Computer
Manufacturer which was
pretty meaningless when all
the faults were
OS–related and the only
response was to Reinstall
the OS from the
Recovery Disc.

AFAIK, there is no Support
provided with the only other
alternative,
the so–called OEM Version.
So where is the difference in
cost?

"Jaime"

<nospamfor–jaimelobo@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:uwKzBSPfHHA.5044@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Allan,

I did point
out earlier
that one key
difference
in Licenses
is cost.
An OS
license
purchased

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with a
pre–built
PC is
literally
pennies on
the dollar
compared to
the \$300
you might
pay for a
full a retail
copy. So
why would
you expect
to have the
same rights,
that you
would
with the
retail copy.

Maybe if
enough
people felt
that they
would like a
full license
with
their new
Dell or
Sony or
whatever,
the
manufacturers
would make
the
option
available
with their
new PC, but
I think very
few people
would
be willing
to pay \$100
more for
their
system.

--

James
Orlando

Re: Use my original COA (CD–KEY) in my Toshiba laptop

(Goofy says
"Hey!"), FL

"AllanF"

<not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in
message

news:uWvIIQOfHHA.5052@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi
Nigel,

The
substantial
difference
in
Licenses
has
not
been
pointed
out.
You
did
respond
to
an
earlier
enquiry,
but
the
OEM
License
must
accompany
hardware
(at
least
in
theory)...
no
different
to
the
EULA.
I
assume
that
there
must
be

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a
difference
in
terms,
and
I'm
glad
you
picked
up
on
my
rant.
Perhaps
you
can
point
me
in
the
direction
of
a
copy
of
the
Licence
issued
separately
that
you
mention.
In
my
searching,
I've
hit
a
few
locks:
http://www.microsoft.com/oem/sblicense/Licensing_AntiPira

"Nigel
Barker"
<nigel@xxxxxx>
wrote
in
message
news:gvpr13tc73cjepiifcffi9iel2vba4ptmr@xxxxxxxxxx

Re: Use my original COA (CD–KEY) in my Toshiba laptop

On
Wed,
11
Apr
2007
11:27:55
+1000,
"AllanF"
<not.known@xxxxxxxxxxxx>
wrote:

It
is
disgraceful
that
MS
and
the
Manufacturer
force
you
to
pay
for
a
Brand–New
Licence,
even
though
you
paid
for
the
Exact–Same
Licence
when
you
purchased
the
Media
Center
Computer.

It's
probably
been
pointed
out
by

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others
but
you
did
not
buy
the
'Exact–Same
Licence'
when
you
buy
the
license
with
a
computer
as
when
you
buy
the
license
separately.

Cheers

Nigel
Barker
Live
from
the
sunny
Cote
d'Azur
MCE
MVP

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