

Re: lost product key

Source:

http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin/2004-07/3253.html

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Date: 07/22/04

Date: Wed, 21 Jul 2004 20:08:09 -0600

Greetings --

The Windows 25-character Product _Key_ (required to perform the installation) is stored on the CD packaging on a bright orange sticker that says "Do not lose this number." If it was an OEM (factory installed) license, it's stored on a label that the PC manufacturer affixed to the exterior of the PC case, or on the bottom of a laptop.

To recover a lost Product Key:

If your system still runs, you should be able to use Belarc Advisor from http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html to find the Product Key. (If you have a factory-installed OEM license, and haven't since reinstalled the OS, the revealed Product Key is probably of the drive image used at the factory and not _your_ specific Product Key; therefore, it probably cannot be -- and definitely should not be -- used for a re-installation.)

If it was a retail license and you have proof of purchase:

How to Replace Lost, Broken, or Missing Microsoft Software or Hardware
<http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=KB;en-us;326246>

If it was an OEM license, and someone has removed/destroyed the label, you should contact you the computer's manufacturer; although very few manufacturers/vendors keep records of the Product Keys they've sold, it's worth a try before you have to buy a new license.

Bruce Chambers

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Help us help you:

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

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

You can have peace. Or you can have freedom. Don't ever count on having both at once. - RAH

"Brianna" <brianna@mindcontrolmusic.com> wrote in message news:102b01c46ed4\$803ba090\$a301280a@phx.gbl...

> I lost my certificate of authenticity for my backup disks

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microsoft.public.windowsxp.security_admin: Re: lost product key

> so i can reinstall XP onto my computer. Is there any way
> that i can get find them out??