

# MICROSOFT PRODUCT ACTIVATION Q & A

## What is Microsoft Product Activation (MPA)?

Microsoft Product Activation is an anti-piracy software technology that has been integrated into each unit of Microsoft® Windows® XP. The technology is referred to as Windows Product Activation for Windows XP.

## What does Windows Product Activation require?

Product activation is very easy. Windows XP is activated via a simple wizard either over the Internet or by a telephone call to a Microsoft customer service center.

## Does the product have to be activated right away?

A 30-day grace period is provided before Windows XP must be activated. The grace period begins with initial launch of the product by the end-user.

## What happens if Windows XP is not activated?

If you do not activate within the 30-day grace period, activation prompts will appear onscreen to remind you to activate. When the 30-day grace period expires, the product will only allow

activation to occur at any subsequent login. If activation is not completed at that time, the end-user will be logged out. Once activation occurs, full functionality of Windows XP will be regained.

## How is the product activated?

Simply follow the onscreen instructions to activate your product. You may choose to activate over the Internet or by a telephone call to a Microsoft customer service center. Either way, the process is very simple.

## How long does it take to activate the product?

Activation over the Internet takes just a few seconds while activation through a Microsoft customer service representative takes just a couple of minutes.

## What information does Microsoft require when the product is activated?

Only an installation ID is required to activate. This installation ID is an encrypted value made up of the Product Key and a hardware identifier. No personally identifiable information is required for product activation.

**BE SURE**  
**It's Legal**  
[www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell/](http://www.microsoft.com/piracy/howtotell/)



## Microsoft **Product Activation**

**Windows** Product Activation

# WHAT IS PRODUCT ACTIVATION?

## Microsoft Product Activation

Microsoft Product Activation (MPA) is a new anti-piracy technology that has been integrated into each unit of Microsoft® Windows® XP. MPA simply requires the user to activate the product with Microsoft in order to ensure that the product is legitimate. The process is quick, simple, and unobtrusive. Activation is anonymous and customer privacy is protected.

**Microsoft respects your right to privacy. Product activation requires NO personally identifiable information.**

## How does Product Activation work?

Product Activation for Windows® XP is invoked during initial setup. Simply follow the onscreen instructions to activate via the Internet or telephone. Windows XP may be used for 30 days from initial launch by the end-user without product activation. After the 30 days have expired, Windows XP must be activated in order to continue using the product.

If Windows XP is not activated within 30 days, the next time a user logs in, only activation will be allowed. If activation is not completed at that time, the end-user will be logged out.

When activation occurs using the Internet, the installation ID is sent automatically.

Activation is simple and quick and once complete, you won't have to think about it again!

To activate Windows XP, simply locate the Product Key found on the Certificate of Authenticity (COA) and follow these 5 steps:

**1**

## **Follow the Activation Prompt.**

There is a 30 day grace period before activation is required. Activation prompts will appear onscreen as a reminder. After 30 days, activation will be required to continue using the operating system.

**2**

## **Choose Your Activation Method.**

Follow the activation prompts that appear on your screen to choose an activation method. Activate Windows XP through the Internet, where the installation ID is sent automatically to the Microsoft Activation Center, or call a regional call center to speak with a customer service representative. The call will be toll-free where available.

**3**

## **Installation ID Processed.**

As soon as the installation ID is received, it is verified and a confirmation ID is issued.

**4**

## **Confirmation Received.**

The confirmation ID is entered, either automatically through the Internet, or manually if the activation process takes place by phone.

**5**

## **Product Activated.**

Once the confirmation ID is entered, the product is activated.