

Larry's newsLETTER

Preventing XP Installation

Problems:

How To: Using XP Features

How to prevent problems when installing XP SP3

If you still haven't gotten around to installing Service Pack 3, you're not alone. I hear from many readers who have heard about problems other had with the SP and want to know if they should risk it. SP3 includes important security updates so it's a good idea to install it. There are steps you can take to help prevent common problems with installing the Service Pack:

1. Make sure you have enough free disk space (1500 to 1800 MB).
2. Remove these updates first if you've installed them: Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit, Remote Desktop Connection 6.0 MUI pack
3. If you use a wireless network adapter, make sure it is supported (check for XP SP3 drivers)
4. You might need to disable your antivirus software to install the SP. Be sure to re-enable it after the installation.
5. If you're using a laptop, plug it into AC power. Bad things can happen if the battery dies during installation.

It's also a good idea to do a full backup of your data and if you're using XP Pro, create an automated system recovery set so you can repair the computer if the installation fails. Although most Service Pack installations go smoothly, it's better to be safe than sorry. Feel free to give us a call if you are still unsure. We are here to help.

XP Security News

Did your computer get an ugly Valentine's Day gift?

A bot-net called Waledac took advantage of the holiday to send out malicious spam telling the recipients that they've been sent Valentine's Day cards. When they click the link, they're rewarded with a malware infection. They say love hurts, but this is going too far. There are an estimated 20,000 bots in the Waledac botnet. If you or someone you know clicked on one of those card notifications, be sure to update your antivirus software and run a thorough scan. Read more here:

<http://www.eweek.com/c/a/Security/Malware-Writers-Use-Multiple-Botnets-to-Spread-Valentines-Day-Love/>



Techie Term: PDF

Stands for:

Portable Document

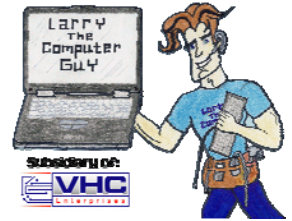
Format. (Adobe Acrobat)

PDF is used for representing two-dimensional documents in a manner independent of the application software, hardware, and operating system.^[1]

Each PDF file encapsulates a complete description of a fixed-layout 2-D document (and, with Acrobat 3-D, embedded 3-D documents) that includes the text, fonts, images, and 2-D [vector graphics](#) which compose the documents.



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Retrieve a lost product key for Windows

- "Is it possible to recover a product key from MS for a registered copy of XP Home Edition? "A PC I set up for a family member a couple of years ago had needed service, and some thoughtful nephew decided that the only way to proceed was to format the drive and reinstall XP from the original disc, only to find the original product key was missing. As I was only visiting for a limited time, I bought another copy of XP and started afresh. "We still have the box and purchase details for the original copy of XP. Is there some way I can contact MS and recover the original product key?"

Whenever this happened to me, long ago in the early days of product keys, I would call Microsoft tech support for help and they would simply generate and issue a new key. You may have to explain what happened to cause you to lose the key, but Microsoft phone support has always been helpful to me.

BTW #1, I now use a felt-tip permanent marker to write unlock and activation keys (and whatnot) right on each product's setup disks. That way, even if I lose the software's box or sleeve, as long as I have the actual setup disk, I automatically have the required install codes.

BTW #2, if you've lost the codes or install keys to software that's running on your PC, programs such as the free, open-source Magical Jelly Bean Keyfinder tool <http://www.magicaljellybean.com/keyfinder/> can show you the installed keys for Windows, Microsoft Office, and other programs.

Article provide by: Fred Langa, editor of "Window Secrets."



Quotes of the Week

It is not advisable, James, to venture unsolicited opinions. You should spare yourself the embarrassing discovery of their exact value to your listener. - Ayn Rand (Atlas Shrugged)

Silence is one of the hardest arguments to refute. - Josh Billings

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