

Cry for Help

Computer Tips & Tricks for the novice to the advanced.

Is Your Software Genuine?

More and more these days I see computers with that annoying message saying that Windows is NOT Genuine. Over recent months Microsoft, as part of their regular and free updates, has been installing modules on everybody's computer to check whether or not the Windows License is genuine or not. Then if it identifies that windows is not genuine it continually flashes up nag screens to alert the user to this fact, and secondly stops the entitlement to future windows security updates.

As a software developer I can in no way condone the use of illegal or stolen software, which in most cases is what non-genuine means. However to be fair, I am sure that the majority of people receiving these messages, weren't told this fact at the time they purchased the computer.

So what can you do? Firstly, you can get a new copy of windows and load it onto your computer (XP is still available). Be sure of course to have a full backup of all data, documents and e-Mail before you start. The other method is to follow the prompts offered by Microsoft to make your software genuine over the internet. Both methods are good, but this second one ensures that your data and documents are untouched by the "Make Genuine" process. Either way, this is NOT the time to upgrade an old computer to windows Vista. This is inappropriate for an existing computer.

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