

Windows 25-Character Product Key (PID)

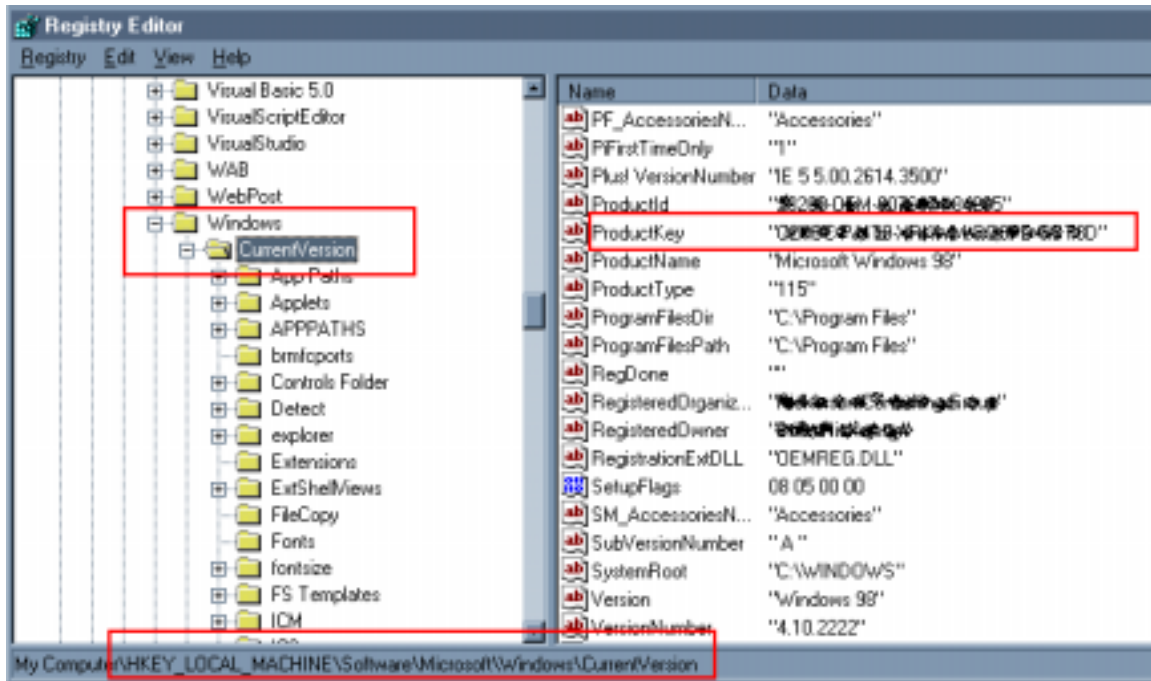
Every time you install or reinstall Windows, the Setup program demands that you type in a 25-character Product Key as an anti-piracy measure. The key is typically on a sticker on the CD's jewel case, or with the software license on some OEM copies. If you've lost the Product Key for Windows 98 or Windows Millennium Edition (Windows Me), don't despair. You can find it in the Registry on your current machine.

Open the Windows Registry Editor (click the Start button, choose Run, and enter **Regedit**). In the left-hand pane, expand branches of the tree until you find this key:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Current Version

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\WindowsNT\Current Version

Click to select the key in the left pane, then scroll through the right pane and look for ProductKey. **Note that this tip won't work for Windows 2000.**



Windows 2000 Step-up Options

After installing Windows 2000, the setup program makes a copy of the answer file it used. The copy is **\$Winnt\$.inf** in **%SystemRoot%System32**.

The setup program removes passwords from this copy of the answer file.

Listing 1 shows a sample answer file with everything you've learned to date. It leaves the local Administrator account's password blank, so you can set it later using CusrMgr or allow the user to change it.

Listing 1: Sample Answer File with Passwords

```
[Unattended]
  FileSystem=ConvertNTFS
  OemSkipEula=Yes
  UnattendMode=ReadOnly

[GuiUnattended]
  AdminPassword=*
  OEMSkipRegional=1
  OEMSkipWelcome=1
  TimeZone=020

[UserData]
  OrgName="Jerry Honeycutt"
  ProductID=YOUR-PRODUCT-KEY-HERE

[Identification]
  JoinDomain=HONEYCUTT
  DomainAdmin=IDOM_HONEYCUTT
  DomainAdminPassword=Password

[Networking]
  InstallDefaultComponents=Yes
```

