Advanced Windows XP SIG
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1. Administrative Tools

- Start ➔ Control Panel ➔ Performance and Maintenance ➔ Administrative Tools
- Or to display permanently on your Start menu:
  Right click on Taskbar ➔ Properties ➔ Start Menu ➔ Customize ➔ Advanced ➔ scroll down to bottom and make selection

Component Services

Used by system administrators to deploy and administer COM+ programs from a graphical user interface, or to automate administrative tasks using a scripting or programming language. Software developers can use Component Services to visually configure routine component and program behavior, such as security and participation in transactions, and to integrate components into COM+ programs.

Computer Management

Used to manage local or remote computers from a single, consolidated desktop utility. Computer Management combines several Windows XP administrative tools into a single console tree, providing easy access to a specific computer's administrative properties.

Data Sources

Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) is a programming interface that enables programs to access data in database management systems that use Structured Query Language (SQL) as a data access standard.

Event Viewer

Used to view and manage logs of system, program, and security events on your computer. Event Viewer gathers information about hardware and software problems, and monitors security events. The Help And Support Center offers an alternative view of the system logs. This view merges the content from all three logs, but it shows only the errors (not warnings or information events)—which are typically the most significant events. To see this view of events, go Start ➔ Help And Support Center ➔ Use Tools To View Your Computer Information And Diagnose Problems ➔ Advanced System Information ➔ View The Error Log.

Performance

Used to collect and view real-time data about memory, disk, processor, network, and other activity in a graph, histogram, or report form.

Services

Used to manage the services on your computer, set recovery actions to take place if a service fails, and create custom names and descriptions for services so that you can easily identify them.

2. Workaround for Product Activation on Reinstallation

The trick is to copy and re-use the c:\windows\system32\wpa.dbl file. It's small so it will easily fit on a floppy. Or, you can copy it to another safe location on your hard drive. Once that's done, go about your reinstallation task normally.

After you've reinstalled XP, either boot to a DOS floppy or start in XP's Safe Mode/Command Prompt (i.e. hit the F8 key when your system "beeps" during the boot process). Then copy your original wpa.dbl from its safe location back into the c:\windows\system32 folder, and then reboot.

Because nothing on your system has changed--- it's the same BIOS, CPU, RAM, etc., and because you're installing the same copy of XP that was previously installed, the "old" WPA key should be accepted as valid, saving you the hassle of re-Activating the software.

Note that this won't work if you try moving the file to a different machine, so it's not a way to pirate software. But if you want to simply reinstall a valid and already-activated copy of XP onto the same hardware on which it was originally installed, this may save you from having to re-Activate the new installation.

3. Update on Win XP Service Pack 1

- Based on proposed settlement agreement
- Include support for Mira wireless devices
- PC makers have received test copies
- Released slated for late summer
- Will let consumers and PC makers remove access to Microsoft's "middleware" technologies integrated into XP:
  - a. Internet Explorer
  - b. Microsoft's Java Virtual Machine
  - c. Outlook Express
  - d. Windows Media Player

       e. Windows Messenger
- PC makers will benefit
- For more details see ZDNet News April 5, 2002

4. Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer

- On April 1, Microsoft released a new WinXP and 2K tool called the Microsoft Baseline Security Analyzer (MBSA)
- Used to analyze Windows systems for common security misconfigurations. Version 1.0 of MBSA includes a graphical and command line interface that can perform local or remote scans of Windows systems. MBSA runs on Windows 2000 and Windows XP systems
- Download: http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/release.asp?releaseid=37761
- More info: http://support.microsoft.com/default .aspx?scid=kb;en-us;q320454
- Finds security patches you may have missed

5. Startup Applications

- The intention of these pages is to provide a central resource for PC users and Tech Support staff alike who are concerned about the poor performance of their PCs due to the number of programs running in the background at system start-up. The following information is provided:
  - a. Background to the problem
  - b. Techniques that can be used to disable start-up programs from running
  - c. A comprehensive list of programs that are loaded at start-up
- Here is the URL: http://www.pacs-portal.co.uk/startup_content.htm