

Windows Genuine Advantage is here to stay!



“This copy of Microsoft Windows XP is not genuine.” Have you seen this message pop up on any of your workstations? If so, you may be a **victim of software piracy!**

Windows Updates has been installing the Windows Genuine Advantage (WGA) Validation Tool on Windows XP computers. This tool can verify the legitimacy of Windows running on your computer.

Microsoft is trying to reduce the attractiveness of using pirated software. They have been reducing the capabilities of computers that have not been verified as genuine. You will not be able to receive all available Windows updates or upgrade to Internet Explorer 7 or Media Player 11 if you have not used the WGA Validation Tool or if the tool has found your copy of Windows to be illegal. The list of functionalities that are disabled will continue to grow.

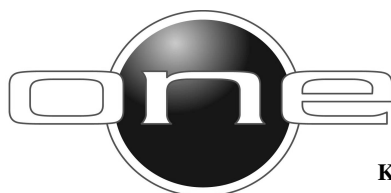
Here is how Microsoft puts it as quoted from <http://blogs.zdnet.com/Bott/?p=88>:

“Our genuine customers deserve the best experience, and so over time we have made the following services and benefits available only to them: Windows Update service, Download Center, Internet Explorer 7, Windows Defender, and Windows Media Player 11, as well as access to a full range of updates including non-security related benefits. We expect this list to expand considerably as we continue to add value for our genuine customers and deny value to pirates. Microsoft is fully committed to helping any genuine customers who have been victims of counterfeit software, and offer free replacement copies of Windows to those who've been duped by high quality counterfeiters.”

There is more information at our [website in our technical support knowledge base](http://www.oneit.ca/ONEWeb/dynamicContent/pressReleases/documents/howtotell.pdf) (<http://www.oneit.ca/ONEWeb/dynamicContent/pressReleases/documents/howtotell.pdf>)

Windows Genuine Advantage is here to stay and it will only become more restrictive for those who do not participate.

Please contact us if you have a warning that your Windows XP is not genuine or you have reason to believe it might not be genuine.



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Useful Links:

- Learn all about Microsoft's Genuine Advantage program:
<http://www.microsoft.com/genuine>
- Frequently Asked Questions about Windows Genuine Advantage:
<http://www.microsoft.com/genuine/downloads/FAQ.aspx?displaylang=en>
- Learn how to tell if you have Genuine Microsoft software:
<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/howtotell>
- View a gallery of fake versus real software:
<http://www.microsoft.com/resources/howtotell/en/counterfeit.msp>