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Subject: M\$ shuts down windows activation  
Posted by [Ripintou](#) on Fri, 04 Mar 2005 15:37:04 GMT  
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As of February 28, Windows users who purchased their PC will no longer be able to reinstall without calling Microsoft and answering a series of questions. The move is part of an anti-piracy effort to close 'a loophole that enabled unscrupulous resellers to use Windows XP product keys that were stolen from large OEMs.'

Source: BetaNews

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I swear they do this deliberately because they know you'll pay for upgrades. One can always download updates from the P2P scene. Always keep a copy of win98 handy so you can easily get updates before your install.

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