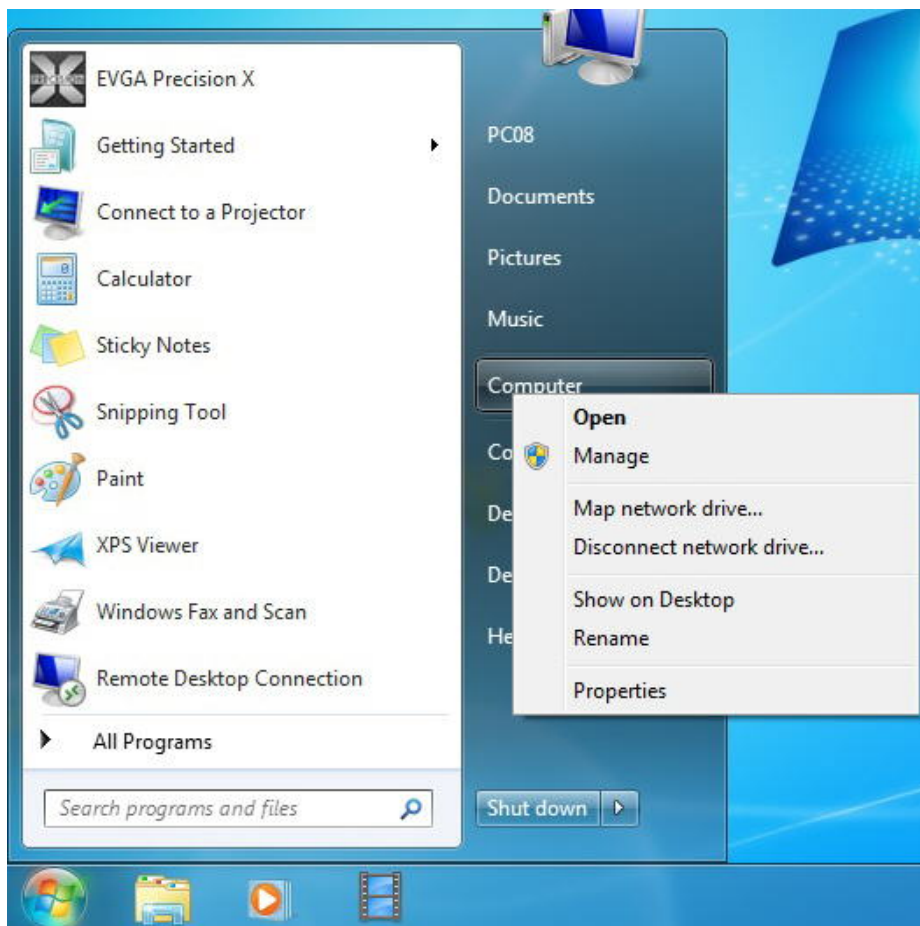


## How to change your Windows Product Key

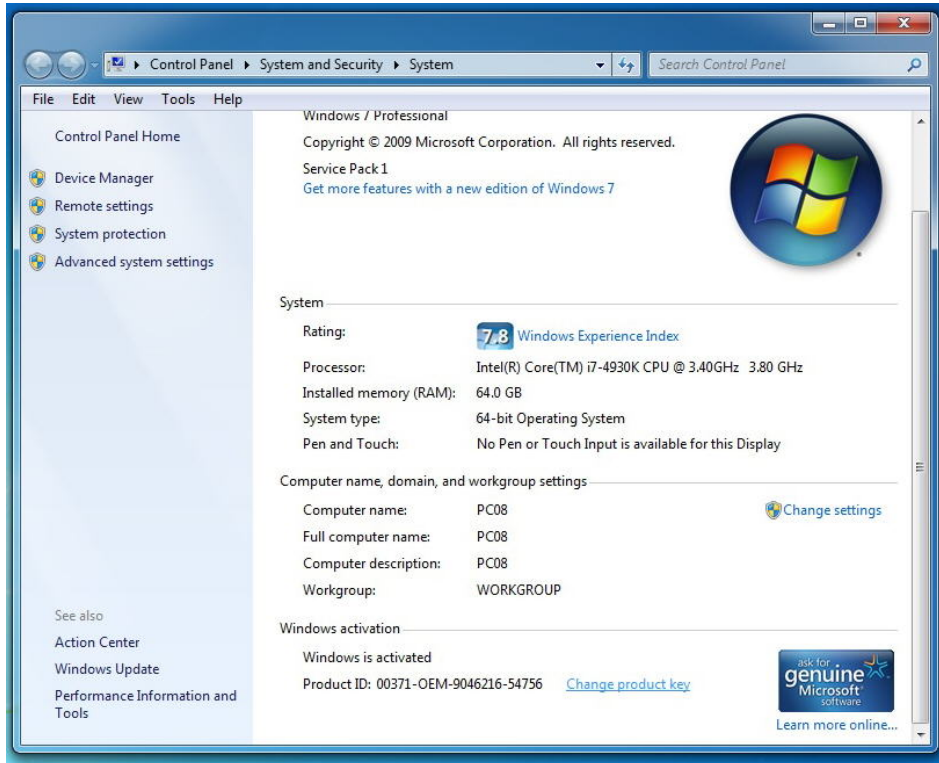
### Change your Windows product key – Windows 7

Follow these steps to change your product key in Windows 7 – an internet connection will be required.

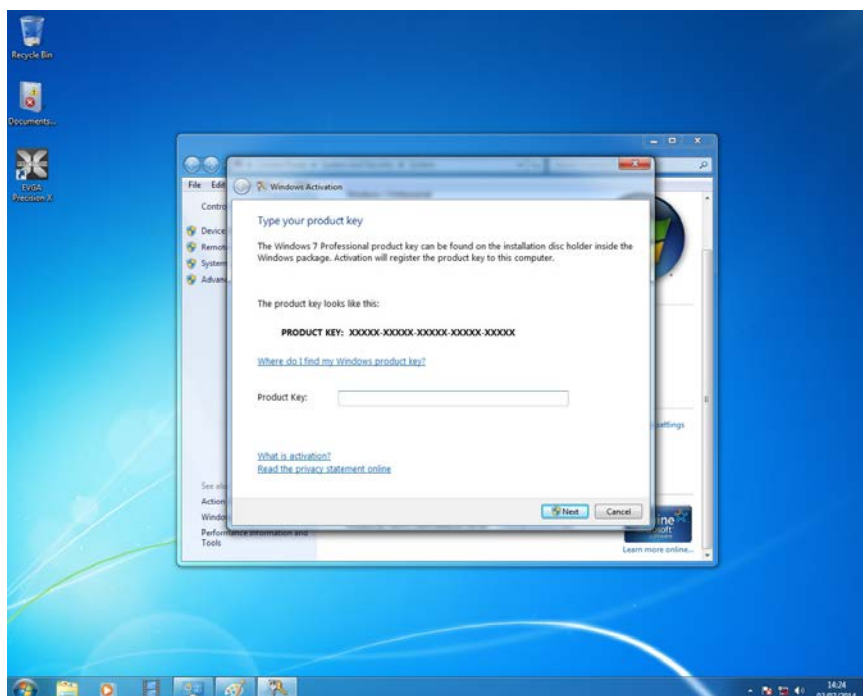
1. Click the Start button, right-click Computer, and then click Properties.



2. Scroll down to the bottom of the window that appears, and then, under Windows activation, click Change product key. If you're prompted for permission to continue the process, click Continue.



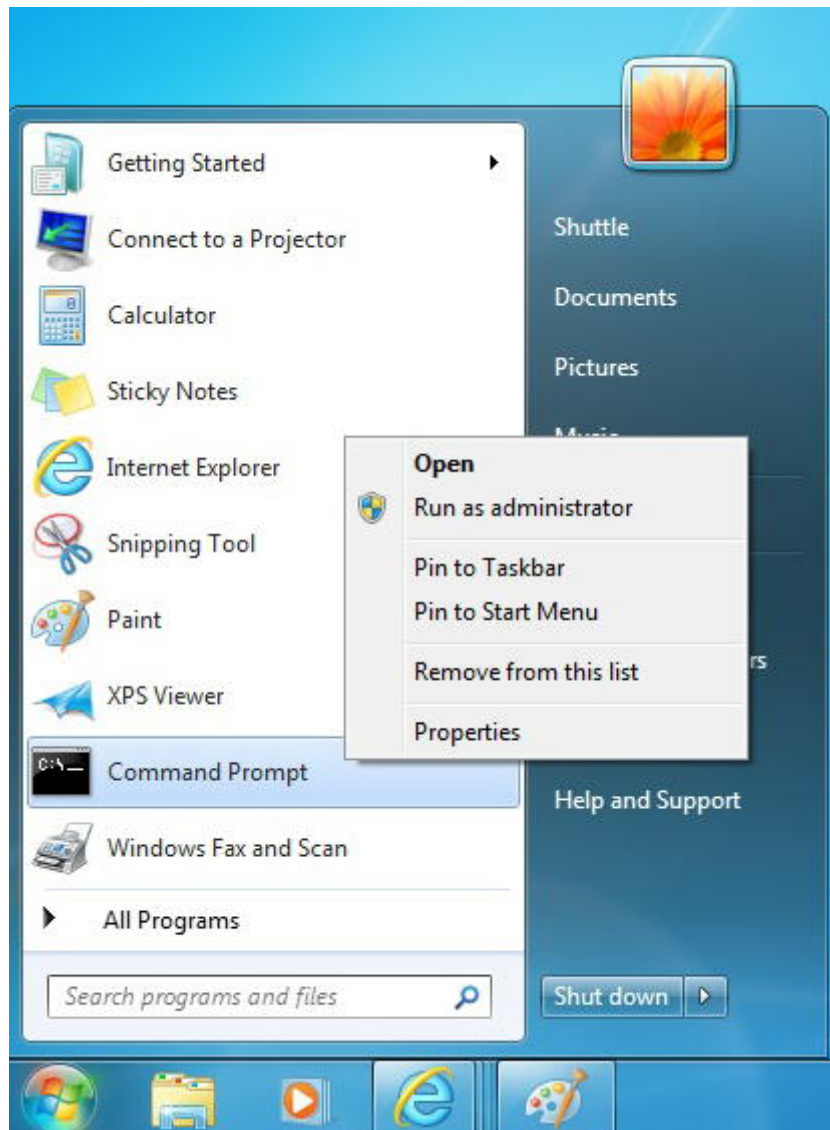
3. Type in the new Windows 7 code Follow the instructions to change your product key and activate your copy of Windows 7.



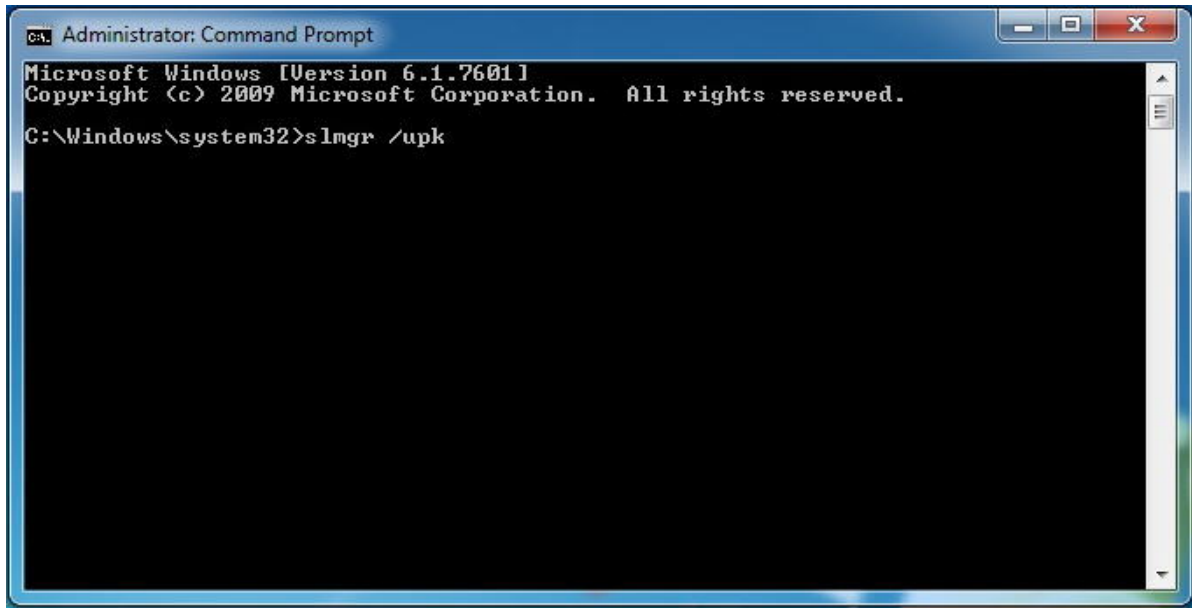
## How to force Windows 7 to an un-activated state

Windows 7 can be persuaded to return to an un-activated state by adding and changing hardware. However an easier method is to run some line commands when logged in as an administrator.

1. Open a command prompt as an Administrator.



2. Enter `slmgr /upk` and wait for this to complete. This will uninstall the current product key from Windows and put it into an unlicensed state

A screenshot of a Windows Command Prompt window titled "Administrator: Command Prompt". The window has a blue title bar and standard Windows window controls (minimize, maximize, close). The text inside the window reads: "Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601] Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. C:\Windows\system32>slmgr /upk".

```
Administrator: Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 6.1.7601]
Copyright (c) 2009 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.
C:\Windows\system32>slmgr /upk
```

3. Enter `slmgr /cpky` and wait for this to complete. This will remove the product key from the registry if it's still there.
4. Enter `slmgr /rearm` and wait for this to complete. This is to reset the Windows activation timers so the new users will be prompted to activate Windows when they put in the key.