

Passcape Win CD Keys

USER MANUAL

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Passcape Software**

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Introduction

1 Introduction

1.1 About the program

Often you have to access your Windows or Office CD keys in order to install/reinstall the software or to find out if it's legally purchased. **Passcape Win CD Keys** is a program that can help you recover your lost CD keys for the currently installed Microsoft products:

- Microsoft Windows
- Microsoft Office
- Microsoft Visual Studio
- Microsoft FrontPage
- Microsoft OneNote
- Microsoft Visio
- Microsoft Money
- Microsoft SQL
- other products (not listed here) that store their keys in the registry.

The main and the most important feature of the program is custom keys retrieval. We included definitions for more than 390 software products. You can use your own templates to retrieve custom keys.

PWCDKEY can decrypt CD keys directly from Windows registry files. See [MANUAL recovery mode](#) for details.

1.2 Features and benefits

With this program you can:

- Recover CD keys stored in Windows Registry
- Choose between two (automatic and manual) recovery modes
- Export passwords to text, html or excel files
- Prevent an unauthorized program execution
- Decrypt passwords directly from Windows registry files. If your system is unbootable, just copy 'Software' registry file to a floppy or flash drive and then feed it to **PWCDKEY**.
- Extract Windows OEM license key from BIOS

1.3 System Requirements

Requirements

Windows NT+, less than 2Mb on your hard drive.

Compatibility

Actually we have not tested the program with all versions and products. Please inform us about YOUR recovered products (and versions). Your help will be appreciated. Microsoft Office 2000 is not supported. That's due to the fact that this version of Office doesn't store its product key anywhere.

Known issues or bugs

The program although contains no harmful code, may be detected by some anti-virus/anti-spyware software as potentially dangerous or "potentially unwanted program". This is also known as "False Alert", and it's quite a common problem for all password recovery software.

Working with the program

2 Working with the program

2.1 Main window

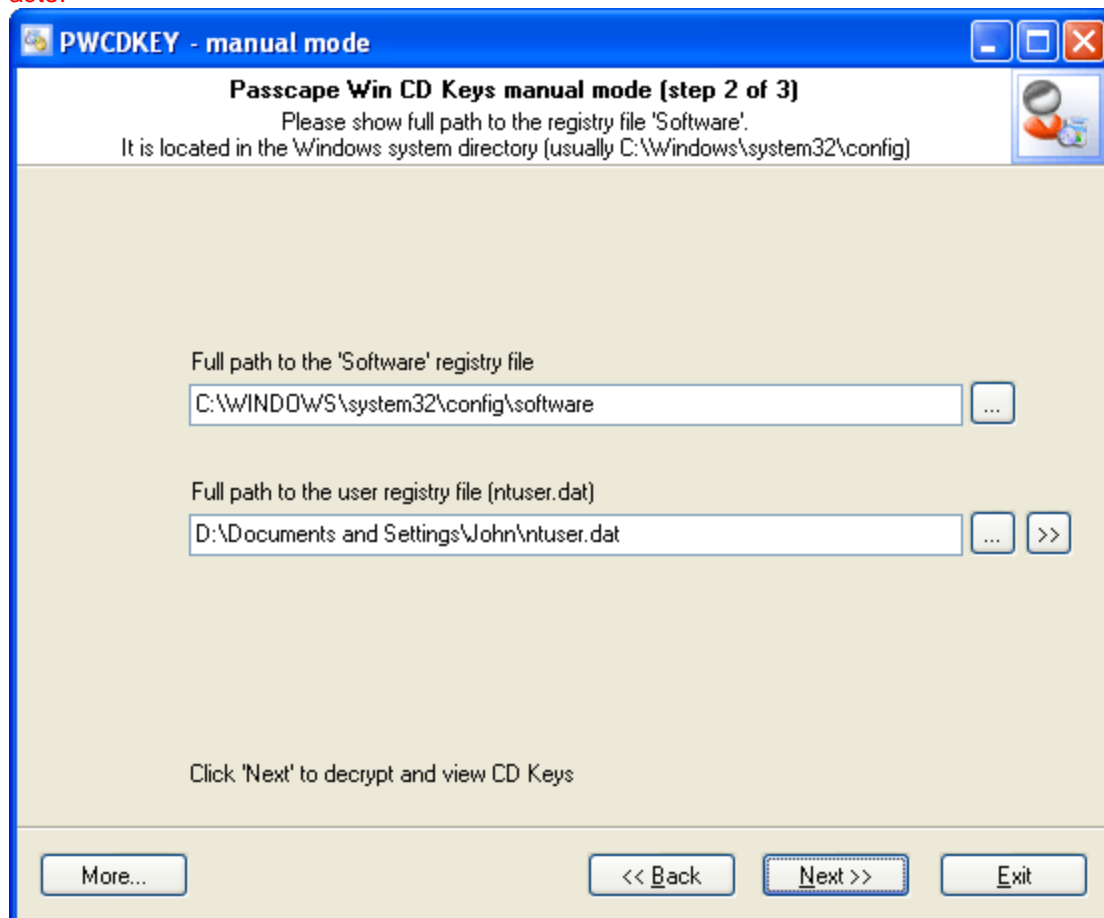
The main window of the program allows you to choose one of the two recovery modes:

- **AUTOMATIC** - select this mode to recover all product keys of the current system
- **MANUAL** - recover product keys directly from Windows registry files

2.2 Manual recovery mode

Almost all Microsoft product keys are stored in the Windows registry. But you may lose all these keys after your reinstall Windows. PWCDKEY can help you recover lost CD keys directly from Windows registry files. Just specify the full path to the 'Software' file. It is located in the Windows system directory (typically C:\Windows\system32\config\Software). Some product keys however can be stored in the current user registry (HKEY_CURRENT_USER tree). So you should provide ntuser.dat registry file. It is located in the user profile directory (typically C:\Documents And Settings\<USERNAME>, where <USERNAME> is the name of the user account).

Important! Using the program provided that you are the legal owner of all files or data you are going to recover through the use of our software or have permission from the legitimate owner to perform these acts.



If your system failed to boot up, please follow the steps shown below:

- 1) Create any bootable CD or USB flash drive to boot from. Use WinPE or BartPE for example.
- 2) Boot the dead system from this drive.
- 3) Find and copy the registry file C:\WINDOWS\System32\Config\software to an USB or Floppy drive. Assumed that C:\WINDOWS is your Windows directory.
- 4) Copy ntuser.dat file to an USB or Floppy drive. Typically ntuser.dat located in the user profile directory.
- 5) Run **PWCDKEY** in the manual recovery mode and enter the full path to the saved registry file.

Note. Sometimes a system does not start because of corruption in the registry. When you try to start or restart your Windows, you may receive the following error message:

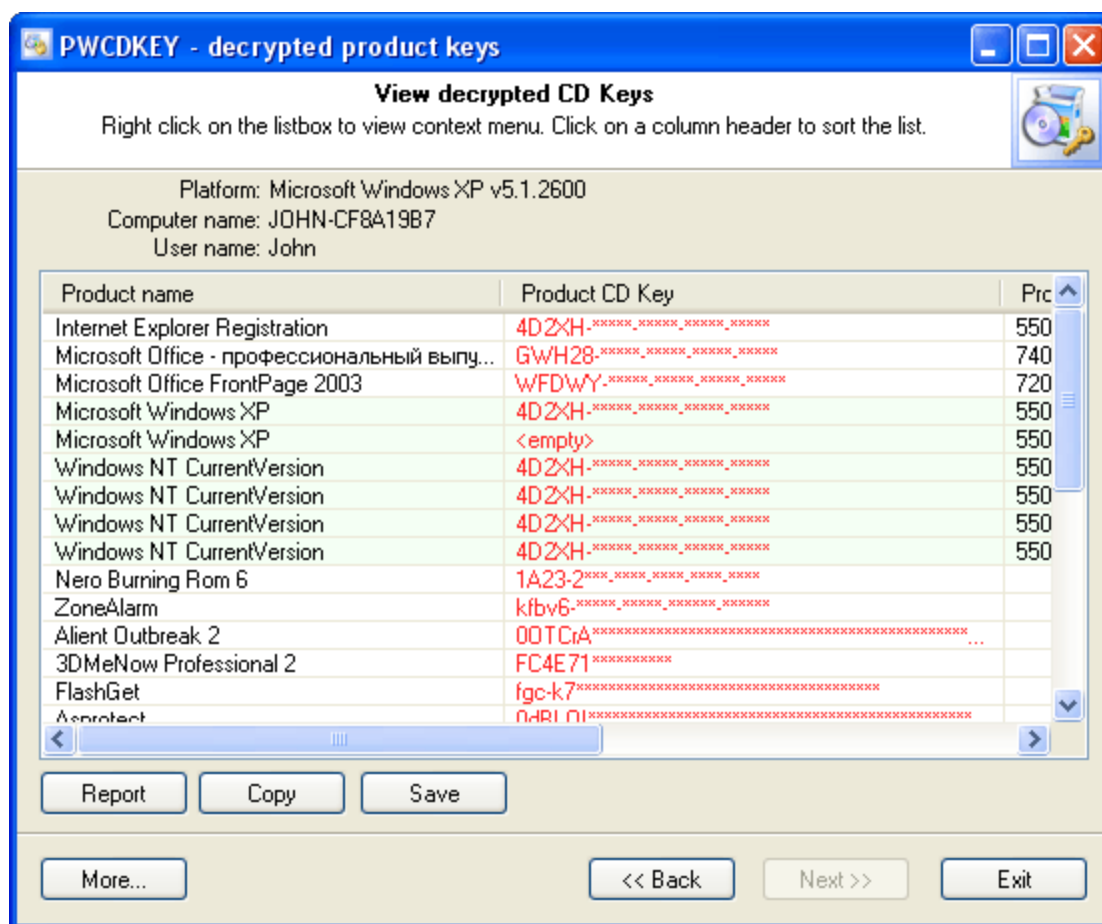
Stop: c0000218 (Registry File Failure) The registry cannot load the hive (file):

\SystemRoot\System32\Config\SOFTWARE or its log or alternate

So you need to refer to [this](#) article to fix the problem first.

2.3 Passwords window

The password window contains found and decrypted CD keys:



Right click on the password list to view the context menu.

Windows product key is highlighted in green.

2.4 Setting a Program Access Password

Setting an access password can help to avoid the program execution by unauthorized persons. To open the "Set Access Password" dialog box, click 'more...' (in the **PWCDKEY** main window) and select the 'Set/change access password' from the popup menu.



To set an access password, you have to enter a new password and confirm it by retyping it in the confirmation field.

Remember! The access password is case-sensitive.

To remove the current password, leave the password fields blank.

Next time you run the program, you will be asked for the password as shown below.



Type your current password in the password box and click **OK** to run the program.

License and registration

3 License and registration

3.1 License Agreement

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SOFTWARE LICENSE AGREEMENT

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IMPORTANT-READ CAREFULLY: This is the End User License Agreement (the "Agreement") is a legal agreement between you, the end-user, and Passcape Software, the manufacturer and the copyright owner, for the use of the "Passcape Win CD Keys" software product ("SOFTWARE").

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The program that is licensed to you is absolutely legal and you can use it provided that you are the legal owner of all files or data you are going to recover through the use of our SOFTWARE or have permission from the legitimate owner to perform these acts. Any illegal use of our SOFTWARE will be solely your responsibility. Accordingly, you affirm that you have the legal right to access all data, information and files that have been hidden.

You further attest that the recovered data, passwords and/or files will not be used for any illegal purpose. Be aware password recovery and the subsequential data decryption of unauthorized or otherwise illegally obtained files may constitute theft or another wrongful action and may result in your civil and (or) criminal prosecution.

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3.2 Registration

Detailed instructions for all kinds of orders are available online at [Passcape ordering page](#). Online orders are fulfilled in just a few minutes 24 hours a day 7 days a week.


On payment approval (for online orders, usually within a few minutes), we'll send you the registration code which will remove all limitations of the unregistered version. Your registration will be valid for all future versions of **PWCDKEY**.

The ordering pages are on a secure server, ensuring that your confidential information remains confidential. As soon as your order is processed (usually in one business day for on-line payments), you will be provided with the registration code for your copy of the program. If you've made a payment, but haven't received a confirmation letter with your registration code within a reasonable amount of time (two business days for credit card payments or two weeks for other payments), please notify us!

Important: when completing the order form, please double-check that your e-mail address is correct. If it will not, we'll be unable to send you the registration code.

To complete the registration process

- Run the program
- Click **more...** button
- Select **Registration** from the popup menu
- Enter your registration code and name (optional) into the related fields and press **Register** button.

A screenshot of a Windows-style registration dialog box titled "Registration". The dialog has a blue title bar with a close button. Below the title bar, it says "Please enter your registration code...". There is a "Registration information" section with two text input fields: "Your name (optional):" containing the text "John" and "Registration code:" which is empty. Below these fields, there is a paragraph of text: "Enter the registration code exactly as given to you in the registration e-mail. If you experience any problems during registration process, please refer to program help." At the bottom of the dialog is a "Register" button.

It is recommended to use the Copy and Paste commands instead of typing the code by hand. To do that, select the license key text in the registration message you have received with the mouse or using the text selection keyboard shortcuts (**Shift + arrow keys**). Then press the **Ctrl + Ins** shortcut on the keyboard to copy the selected block to Windows' Clipboard. Then open the registration window in the program, place the cursor in the registration key field and then press the **Shift + Ins** shortcut on the keyboard to paste the text from clipboard to that field. Next, place the cursor in the user name field, enter your name and then click on the **Register** button. If you have done everything right, the program will display the confirmation message.

3.3 Limitation of unregistered version

An unregistered version of **Passcape Win CD Keys** shows only first 5 characters of decrypted keys and has some functional limitations. To cancel these limitations please consider [purchasing](#) the full version.

Technical support

4 Technical support

4.1 Reporting problems

If you have a problem, please contact us at support@passcape.com. Please inform us about the following:

- Windows version including service packs and other fixes installed
- Program full version (see **About** dialog)
- Program registration information if any
- Detailed description of your problem (as much information as possible)

If you're reporting about program error, please attach **Crash.log** and **Pwcdkey.log** files located in the **Passcape Win CD Keys** installation directory.

4.2 Suggesting features

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions about the program or would like more information, email us at: info@passcape.com. Please don't forget to mention the program name and version. Also make sure you have the latest program version installed. Your feedback helps us to improve our products and work more effective.

4.3 Contacts

Please don't hesitate to send your questions regarding our products to e-mail support@passcape.com. You will get reply during one or two days. Note, that registered users have priority in technical support.

If you experience any problems during registration process, please send a letter to sales@passcape.com. We will be happy to assist you with the registration.

Please write in English!

You can find other password recovery utilities at <https://www.passcape.com>.