Activating the Windows Operating System

Faculty, staff and students can activate the Windows operating system on their computer.

Activating Windows 7

1. Click the **Start Button** in the bottom left corner.
2. Right-click on Computer and select **Properties** from the drop down list.
3. At the bottom of the system properties window, there will be an activation status under the "Windows Activation" heading. If Windows is not activated, there will be a link allowing you to do so.

Activating Windows 8

Windows 8 will show a watermark in the bottom right corner (see below) if it was not activated during installation. The steps to activate it are as follows:

1. Raise cursor to upper or lower right-hand corner to access the Charms bar. You can also press Windows Button + C.
2. Click **Settings** (the gear icon).
3. Select **Change PC Settings** in the bottom right-hand corner of the settings menu.
4. Select **Activate Windows** from the top of the list that appears.
5. Click **Activate**. You will then be prompted to enter your **product key**. Enter it to activate windows.

To check the status of your activation:

1. Hit the **Windows Key**
2. Type "slui"through the search feature and click on the icon. This will pull up the Windows Activation section of Action Center where you can check your status.

Activating Windows 10

There are two main methods for activating your copy of Windows 10. You can activate it through slui.exe, or through the command prompt.

**Activating through slui.exe:**

1. Hit the **Windows Key** to bring up the search function.
2. Type in "slui.exe" and hit enter.
3. User account control will ask if you want to make changes to your PC. Select **Yes**.
4. A screen will appear where you can enter the **product key**. The product key will automatically attempt to activate once all of the characters have been entered.

**Activating through the command prompt:**

1. Hit the **Windows Key** to bring up the search function.
2. Search for "Command Prompt" and open it by right clicking the icon, and selecting **Run as Administrator** from the drop down list.
3. Type out the command "slmgr–ipk" followed by a space and then the **product key**, including the hyphens and hit **Enter**.
4. Once you run the command, a Windows Script Host window will pop up and tell you if the activation was successful or unsuccessful.

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