How do I determine the serial number of a computer using the operating system?

Q: How do I determine the serial number of a computer using the operating system?

Answer

Windows

Open a command prompt (by choosing the Command Prompt item from the Start menu, or typing cmd in the Start menu's "Run" box), and type the following:

```
wmic bios get serialnumber
```

Note: Windows 8 and 8.1 users may get to the Command Prompt by right clicking on Start button, or by typing "cmd" on Start screen to search it.

Mac OS X

Go to Utilities. Open the Terminal application and type:

```
ioreg -l | grep IOPlatformSerialNumber
```

Linux

Open a shell and type:

```
sudo dmidecode -t system | grep Serial
```

Note: The user will need to have root access to the system.