Why is VMWare Prompting me for a Windows Product Key?

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Background

MIT's License of Microsoft Windows is activated automatically using a No key Management Service (KMS) while users are connected to MITnet. There is no Windows License Key to enter. Users who are installing MIT's License of Windows on a computer should never be prompted for a key, but users who are installing MIT's License on a Virtual Machine may be prompted to a Windows Product Key as part of the installation process.

Answer

To avoid this step you need to disable the Easy Install option when setting up your VM*.*

1. Select the Installation Media. Choose install from disc or image.



2. Create a New Virtual Machine Choose an operating system disc or image.

0	New Virtual Machine
	Create a New Virtual Machine
This will guid	de you through installing Windows or another operating system in a virtual machine on your Mac.
Ch	oose an operating system installation disc or image:
	xp-sp2.iso Show in Finder Windows XP Professional
	Use another disc or disc image
Cancel	Go Back Continue
_	

3. Microsoft Easy Install Uncheck Use Easy Install.

0 0	New Virtual Machine		
	Microsoft W	indows E	asy Install
With Easy Insta	II, VMware Fusion wil P Professional from ye	l use the informatio	on provided here to automatically and install drivers to optimize you
	Use Easy Install		
	Display Name:		
	Account Type:	Administrator	
	Password:		(optional)
	Confirm Password:		
w	indows Product Key:		
?) Cancel			Go Back Continue
? Cancel			Go Back Contin

4. *Complete the Windows install as expected. You will not be prompted for a Windows License Key.

As an alternative you could instead download and use a pre-built MIT Virtual Machine from the IS&T Software Grid.