UCI Division of Finance and Administration
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How to Locate Computer Identification Information

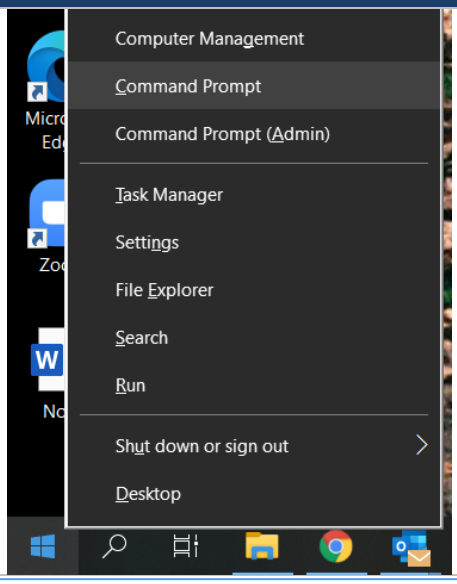
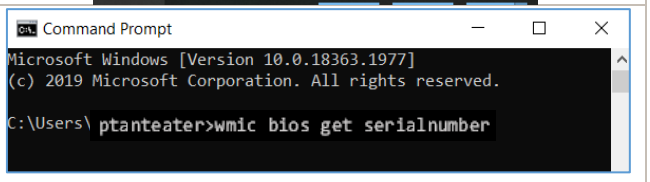
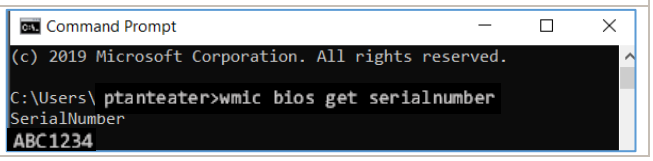
The following provides possible solutions for locating your computer identification information, including:

- **Serial number**: a unique number used for identification and inventory purposes
- **Computer name**: a unique identifier that is given to each computer and is used by IT to locate and connect to a computer to perform routine maintenance, as well as provide remote technical assistance
- **Warranty expiration date**: standard manufacturer's warranty expiration date

How to Locate Computer Serial Number

Windows Operating System – Laptop & Desktop

- Command prompt option:

Step	Visual
1. Right-click the Start/Windows button and select "Command Prompt".	
2. At the Command Prompt, type the following command and then press "Enter": `wmic bios get serialnumber`	
3. The computer's serial number will be displayed beneath the text "SerialNumber".	

- Laptop Device Hardware option:

Step	Visual
1. Flip laptop over.	
2. On the back of the laptop, you'll see the serial number listed on a sticker. On others, you'll see the number printed directly on the metal or plastic the laptop is made from.	

- Desktop device hardware option:
  - Look at the back, top, or side of the case for desktop PC tower for a sticker with the serial number.

Apple/Mac Operating System – Laptop & Desktop

Depending on the product, you can find your serial number:

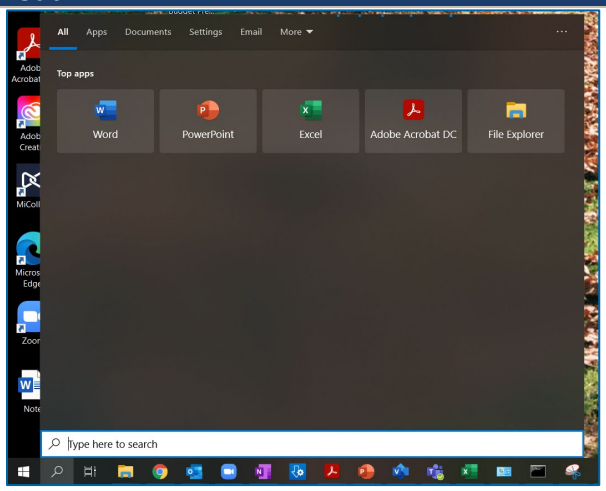
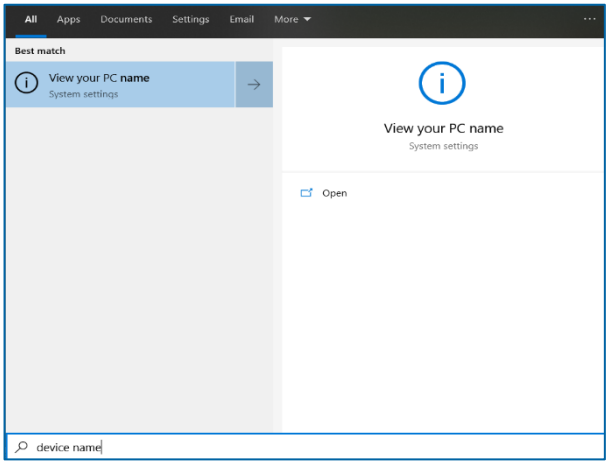
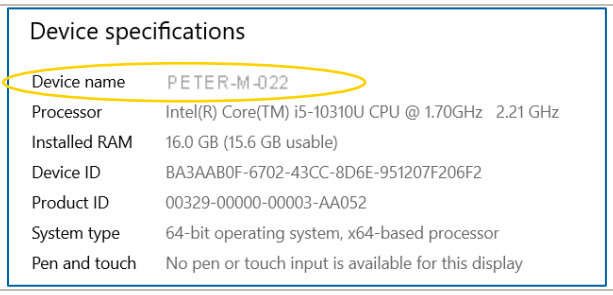
- On the surface of your product.
- On a Mac, by choosing About This Mac from the Apple menu.
- On an iPhone, iPad, iPod touch, iPod, or Apple Watch, in Settings > General > About.

Source: https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT204308

How to Locate Computer Name

Windows Operating System – Laptop & Desktop

- "Settings" Option:

Step	Visual
1. Click on the magnifying glass next to the Start/Windows button.	
2. At the “Type here to search” bar, type the following and then press “Enter”: device name	
3. You’ll see the computer’s name displayed next to “Device Name” under “Device specifications”.	

Apple/Mac Operating System – Laptop & Desktop

Steps:

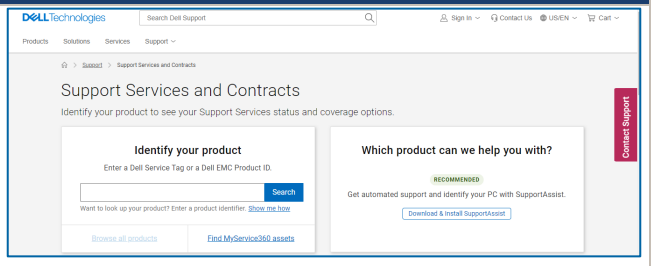
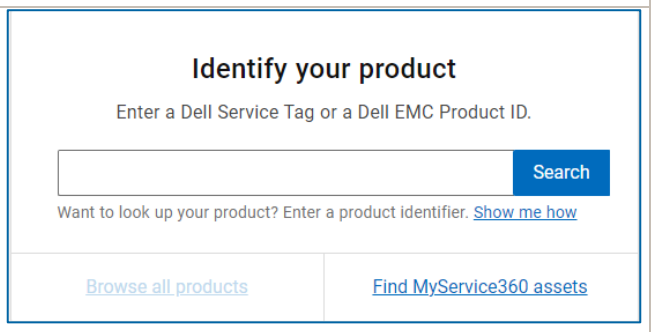
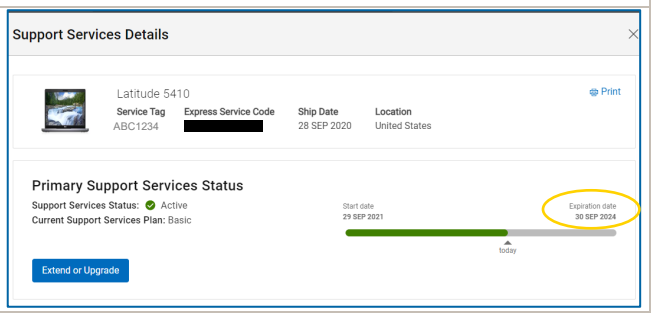
1. Click on the **Apple** menu and select **System Preferences**.
2. Click on the **Sharing** pane.
3. Locate the computer name on the Sharing screen.

How to Locate Computer Manufacturer's Warranty Expiration Date

Windows Operating System – Dell Laptop & Desktop

Laptops and Personal Computers should be replaced when they reach the end of their manufacturers standard warranty period as older machines are hard to repair and at some point, can no longer be patched. The replacement/refresh cycle recommended by OIT for laptops and PCs is 4 years. Devices that are past their expiration dates may no longer be supported by OIT and hardware/software vendors and thus are vulnerable to cybersecurity threats.

For other device manufacturers, please refer to their website.

Step	Visual
1. Enter the following web address in an internet browser: https://www.dell.com/support/home/en-us/Products/?app=warranty	
2. In the "Identify your product" box search bar, type the computer serial number and then click "Search."	
3. You'll see the computer's warranty expiration date displayed in a pop-up box titled "Support Services Details" next to "Primary Support Services Status."	

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