

Free hints tips and tricks on selling digital key codes from your web site

PHP-KeyCodes <http://www.withinweb.com/phpkeycodes>

To sell software licence key codes, mobile phone codes or other registration codes from your web site you require a method where the key codes are securely stored and are only released when the customer makes a valid purchase.

Ideally this should be an automated process where the customer goes to a page on the web site, chooses the item and is then taken to the payment processor. After the payment has been fully completed, the key code is then made available to the customer.

The method that PHP-KeyCodes uses is for a list of codes to be entered into a database, and when the customer makes a purchase, it grabs the first in the list, sends it to the customer, and then removes that one from the list so that the list is ready for the next purchaser.

It is also possible to change the source of the licence codes. If you have the programming ability you could change the source of the codes to a text file instead of a database table.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SELLING KEY CODES

These are the typical requirements that you would need to run an application able to sell digital key codes from your web site :

- 1) a domain for you web site and web space from a hosting company
- 2) a script to do the processing which may also require a database
- 3) A Payment processor such as PayPal or Google
- 4) an ftp program so that you can upload the files to your web site

PAYMENT PROCESSORS

The most common payment processors are probably PayPal and Google. The advantage with these is that your customers can purchase 'across borders' so you are not restricted to your own country. If you are selling licence codes which are delivered by the internet then these payment processors are great for selling your products to different countries.

PayPal does have the advantage that you can decide the currency you want to sell in. I usually choose US Dollars because it is a currency recognised by many potential customers even if they are not based in the US. PayPal will take their currency and do the conversion automatically.

Google is a bit different in that at the moment you can only sell in US Dollars or British Pounds Sterling. If you are based in the UK then your Google account will be in pounds and you have to sell in pounds. This can be a bit annoying if you want to sell in US Dollars and as far as I know there is nothing you can do about it.

PHP-KeyCodes works with both PayPal and Google checkout.

Web servers

The two most common web servers are Linux based or Microsoft based. Linux normally use the Apache web server which is well known and used by many hosting companies and is able to deliver PHP web pages. Microsoft IIS web hosting is possibly a little more expensive and you will have to check with your host to see if PHP is supported. However, if PHP is supported, then you should have no problems working with an IIS server.

Linux server hosting is usually cheaper than Windows. You have to make sure that the server has PHP and that MySQL databases are available with your hosting package. Usually even the cheapest hosting package have these facilities. It should also be able to send emails using PHP scripting which is usually a standard function.

Apache is the name of the web server which runs on your host server, PHP is a the scripting program and Linux is the operating system. These, together with MySQL database system are very common.

Windows servers often have PHP and MySQL installed on them but you will need to check. Sending emails from PHP should also work although sometimes there may be some slight adjustments to the code depending on the host.

If you are looking for a suitable host for you site, we would recommend the basic web hosting plan from LunarPages <http://www.lunarpages.com> which has all the required features for this application.

Programming languages

Web applications often use the PHP programming language which is fairly straight forward to work with. PHP has been around for some time and hence there are many applications written in PHP.

To install an application like PHP-KeyCodes you do not need to be a programmer however it does help if you have installed a PHP web application before. Installation of PHP-KeyCodes is quite straight forward and just requires you to follow instructions.

PHP-KeyCodes

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