

In order to find the Windows Install Date we used to look at :

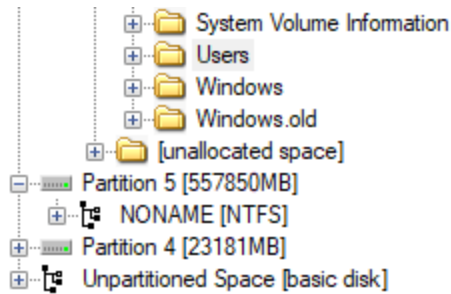
“HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\InstallDate” or  
 at the SOFTWARE registry key the “\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\InstallDate” value

Windows Media Device Manager	4	2017-07-30 07:38:05	CurrentVersion	RegSz	6.3
Windows Media Foundation	0	2017-07-30 07:38:05	EditionID	RegSz	Core
Windows Media Player NSS	0	2017-07-30 07:38:05	EditionSubstring	RegSz	
Windows Messaging Subsystem	1	2017-07-30 07:38:05	InstallationType	RegSz	Client
Windows NT	0	2017-07-30 07:38:07	InstallDate	RegDword	1501403437
<b>CurrentVersion</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2018-02-01 17:17:59</b>	ProductName	RegSz	Windows 10 Home
Accessibility	0	2018-02-01 16:46:04	ReleaseId	RegSz	1703
AdaptiveDisplayBrightness	0	2017-07-30 07:38:07	SoftwareType	RegSz	System
AeDebug	1	2017-07-30 07:38:07	UBR	RegDword	850
AppCompatFlags	4	2018-01-30 09:20:06	PathName	RegSz	C:\WINDOWS
ASR	1	2017-07-30 07:38:07	ProductId	RegSz	00326-10000-00000-AA063
BackgroundModel	2	2017-03-18 21:04:13			
ClipSVC	0	2017-03-18 21:04:13			

InstallationType	RegSz	Client
InstallDate	RegDword	1501403437
ProductName	RegSz	Windows 10 Home
ReleaseId	RegSz	1703
SoftwareType	RegSz	System
UBR	RegDword	850
PathName	RegSz	C:\WINDOWS

In this example, we see a **Win 10 Home** system with an install date of 1501403437 (Unix seconds) or **30-Jul-17 08:30:37**. Are we sure about that?

But what if the installation was upgraded? Is there a "Windows.old" in the system drive? Then the install date above is most likely the date of the latest major update. The %user% folders would then have the creation date of the update/upgrade install and NOT the original dates.



Properties	
Name	Users
File Class	Directory
File Size	56
Physical Size	56
Date Accessed	30-Jul-17 7:51:45 am
Date Created	18-Mar-17 11:40:20 am
Date Modified	30-Jul-17 7:51:45 am

Here for example we see the same Modified and Accessed Date with the Install Date.

We can check the System event logs for :

Event ID [19](#): Installation successful: Windows successfully installed the following update  
 Event ID 1074: The process .... has initiated the restart of computer ... on behalf of user .. for the following reason: Operating System: Upgrade (Planned)

But what if the logs don't go back enough?

The update history logs may or may not give provide more info as seen in the two MS docs below:

[https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-7/ee851579\(v=ws.10\)](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/previous-versions/windows/it-pro/windows-7/ee851579(v=ws.10)) and

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/deployment/upgrade/resolve-windows-10-upgrade-errors#log-files>

But they require a lot of time and digging, and apparently they are not enough to find the original install date. Just indications that the system was updated/updated, and when.

If we check `\HKLM\SYSTEM\Setup\` or the Setup subkey in the SYSTEM key of the registry we can see a list (if one more than one upgrades/updates were installed) similar to this:

Setup	16	2018-02-01 17:19:30
> AllowStart	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08
BuildUpdate	2	2017-07-30 08:29:56
> DeviceCompat	0	2018-01-02 19:05:00
DJOIN	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08
> FirstBoot	1	2017-07-30 07:38:08
> MoSetup	1	2018-01-13 07:18:17
Pid	1	2017-07-30 07:38:08
> Service Reporting API	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08
> SetupCl	6	2017-07-30 07:38:08
SetupPlatform	1	2018-01-02 22:26:05
Source OS (Updated on 3/14/2016 19:35:53)	22	2017-07-30 07:38:08
Source OS (Updated on 7/30/2017 01:20:06)	28	2017-07-30 07:38:08
Source OS (Updated on 9/8/2016 17:03:01)	27	2017-07-30 07:38:08
> SQM	0	2017-07-30 07:38:12
> Status	0	2017-07-30 08:29:21
> Timers	0	2017-07-30 08:30:37
> Upgrade	0	2018-01-02 22:52:03
> Software	0	2017-07-30 07:38:09

Opening the oldest "Source OS (Updated on" subkey we can see something like this:

AllowStart	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08	BuildGUID	RegSz	cec17a6c-b0e5-4215-873b-f16875...
BuildUpdate	2	2017-07-30 08:29:56	BuildLab	RegSz	7601.win7sp1_gdr.160211-0600
DeviceCompat	0	2018-01-02 19:05:00	BuildLabEx	RegSz	7601.19160.amd64fre.win7sp1_g...
DJOIN	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08	CSDBuildNumber	RegSz	1130
FirstBoot	1	2017-07-30 07:38:08	CSDVersion	RegSz	Service Pack 1
MoSetup	1	2018-01-13 07:18:17	CurrentBuild	RegSz	7601
Pid	1	2017-07-30 07:38:08	CurrentBuildNumber	RegSz	7601
Service Reporting API	0	2017-07-30 07:38:08	CurrentType	RegSz	Multiprocessor Free
SetupCl	6	2017-07-30 07:38:08	CurrentVersion	RegSz	6.1
SetupPlatform	1	2018-01-02 22:26:05	DigitalProductId	RegBinary	A4-00-00-00-03-00-00-00-30-30-3...
Source OS (Updated on 3/14/2016 19:35:53)	22	2017-07-30 07:38:08	DigitalProductId4	RegBinary	F8-04-00-00-04-00-00-00-30-30-3...
Source OS (Updated on 7/30/2017 01:20:06)	28	2017-07-30 07:38:08	EditionID	RegSz	HomePremium
Source OS (Updated on 9/8/2016 17:03:01)	27	2017-07-30 07:38:08	InstallationType	RegSz	Client
SQM	0	2017-07-30 07:38:12	InstallDate	RegDword	1338309333
Status	0	2017-07-30 08:29:21	MigrationScope	RegDword	5
Timers	0	2017-07-30 08:30:37	PathName	RegSz	C:\Windows
Upgrade	0	2018-01-02 22:52:03			

EditionID	RegSz	HomePremium	C8-D0-7A-00
InstallationType	RegSz	Client	7A-00-C8-A9-7A-00
InstallDate	RegDword	1338309333	
MigrationScope	RegDword	5	
PathName	RegSz	C:\Windows	00-00-00-00-00-00
ProductId	RegSz	00359-OEM-8992687-00015	00-00-00-00
ProductName	RegSz	Windows 7 Home Premium	00-00-00-00-00-00

Where we have another InstallDate value. We see that the system under examination had **Win 7 Home Premium** with an install date of 1338309333 (Unix seconds) or **29-May-12 16:35:33**, which is 5 years earlier than the InstallDate we found at the beginning.

Let's check another system to verify what we just found:

Windows NT			
CurrentVersion			
Accessibility			
AdaptiveDisplayBrightness			
AeDebug			
AppCompatFlags			
ASR			
Audit			
EditionSubstring	REG_SZ		
InstallationType	REG_SZ	Client	
InstallDate	REG_DWORD	0x59f5d37b (1509282683)	
InstallTime	REG_QWORD	0x1d350b76ba8b14b (131537562839331147)	
PathName	REG_SZ	C:\WINDOWS	
ProductId	REG_SZ	00330-80000-00000-AA803	
ProductName	REG_SZ	Windows 10 Pro	

This is a Windows 10 Professional system with install date of 1509282683 (29-Oct-17 13:11:23).

If we check the "SYSTEM\Setup" subkey we can see a list of Source OS subkeys







Setup	
AllowStart	
BuildUpdate	
DJOIN	
FirstBoot	
MoSetup	
Pid	
Service Reporting API	
SetupapiLogStatus	
SetupCI	
Source OS (Updated on 10/26/2017 14:20:25)	
Source OS (Updated on 10/29/2017 12:56:12)	
Source OS (Updated on 11/13/2015 02:47:12)	
Source OS (Updated on 3/22/2017 23:04:05)	
Source OS (Updated on 4/7/2017 16:54:02)	
Source OS (Updated on 8/3/2016 14:48:44)	
Source OS (Updated on 9/27/2015 11:55:44)	
Status	
Timers	
Upgrade	

So let's open the oldest one "Source OS (Updated on 9/27/2015 11:55:44)":

InstallationType	REG_SZ	Client
InstallDate	REG_DWORD	0x52607ed8 (1382055640)
MigrationScope	REG_DWORD	0x00000005 (5)
PathName	REG_SZ	C:\Windows
ProductId	REG_SZ	00181-00004-73330-AB885
ProductName	REG_SZ	Windows 8.1 Pro with Media Center

we see that this system started its life as a Windows 8.1 Professional back in 18-Oct-13 12:20:40.

But let's open the next 'Source OS' subkey, "Source OS (Updated on 11/13/2015 02:47:12)":

 InstallDate	REG_DWORD	0x5607be5c (1443348060)
 InstallTime	REG_QWORD	0x1d0f90b69b4b7e2 (130878216607152098)
 MigrationScope	REG_DWORD	0x00000005 (5)
 PathName	REG_SZ	C:\Windows
 ProductId	REG_SZ	00330-80000-00000-AA726
 ProductName	REG_SZ	Windows 10 Pro

We can see that after the system was upgraded "Source OS (Updated on 9/27/2015 11:55:44)" from Win 8.1 pro to Win10 pro, the install date changed to 27-Sep-2015.

Happy hunting :)

PS: This applies to Win 10 PCs - Haven't checked any Win 8/8.1 or earlier versions but I bet that the above also apply.