

[Home](#) [Buyer's Guide](#) [Installation Guide](#) [Forum](#) [Guides](#) [Downloads](#) [Rules](#)

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An iDiot's Guide To iMessage

Tags: [config.plist](#) [guide](#) [help](#) [imessage](#) [tutorial](#)[1](#) [2](#) [3](#) [4](#) [5](#) [6](#) → [48](#) [Next >](#)**P1LGRIM**
Moderator

Joined: Mar 2, 2012
Messages: 12,914
Mobo: Lenovo ThinkStation p300
CPU: Intel i5-4570 3.2 GHz
Graphics: Radeon RX560 OC 4GB
Mac:
Classic Mac:
Mobile Phone:

Jun 30, 2016 at 9:47 PM

#1

Delivered

Actually this is less of a guide and more of an explanation of the procedures that I use in my own builds in order to enable access to the App Store, iMessage and FaceTime. Do not be offended by the term 'iDiot', it is not intended as an insult but more my attempt at a humorous play on words in the vein of AppleSpeak (iPod, iMac, iPhone etc).

It is acknowledged that it will not work in all cases but should assist a great many people if only by giving an understanding of the processes involved to enable iMessage.

It is not intended as a help thread, requests for help will be deemed off-topic and removed. For help with iMessage refer to the comprehensive [How to Fix iMessage](#) Guide thread.

Links to all of the referenced files are at the end of this first post.

Despite them being at the end of the instructions, now is a good time to download them.

If you have tried and failed previously then there are some steps to take before you start again.

Open Safari and log in to iCloud.com

Click on **Find iPhone**

Click the down arrow next to **All Devices**

If there are spurious devices in the list from previous failed attempts click each one and **Remove from Account**.

You should also remove any unwanted devices from your Apple ID through the link on the iCloud page,

or by directly logging in to your Apple ID page.

Sign Out of iCloud.com

Close Safari

Open System Preferences - iCloud : Click **Sign Out**

Disconnect from the network then Restart

Open a Finder window and click on your User Name then in a blank area right click and select **Show View Options** and from the resulting window select **Show Library Folder**.

Open the newly revealed Library folder and select Caches

From the Caches folder delete all files and folders beginning with :

- com.apple.iCloudHelper
- com.apple.imfoundation.IMRemoteURLConnectionAgent
- com.apple.Message

In Finder navigate to Username/Library/Preferences and delete all files and folders beginning with

- com.apple.iChat.
- com.apple.icloud.
- com.apple.ids.service
- com.apple.imagent.
- com.apple.imessage.
- com.apple.imservice.

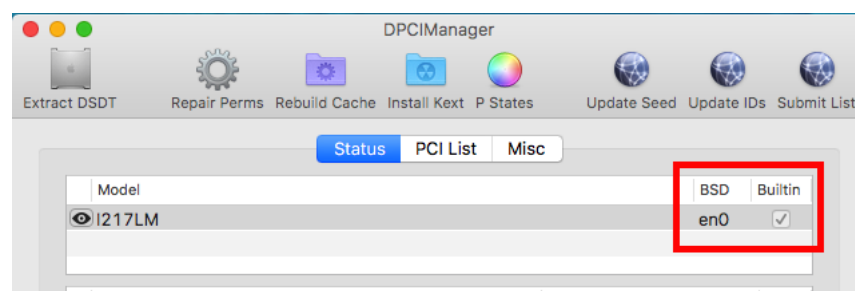
Empty the Trash and Restart.

Start here

It has been said that you must have a credit card registered with your AppleID in order to use iMessage,

I can neither confirm or deny this as I have never tried it without.

Edit : Replies to this guide have confirmed that a registered credit card is not required.



You **must** have a working Ethernet connection which is defined as **BuiltIn** and **en0**.

An easy way to determine this is with the DPCIManager app.

It is possible to connect with a Wireless adaptor but you must have working Ethernet which is BuiltIn and en0 too.

This is the most basic fundamental and the one that is overlooked most by laptop users although it is equally valid for desktop users too.

The exception to this is when you have a machine that does not have Ethernet, in this case it is acceptable (with the appropriate SMBIOS) to have the Wireless adaptor as en0 but it **must** be identified as BuiltIn too.

If your Ethernet interface is identified as anything other than en0 you may need to reset your network configuration files.

Open Finder and browse to /Library/Preferences/SystemConfiguration/ then delete these two files :

- NetworkInterfaces.plist
- preferences.plist

Empty the Trash and then Restart.

You may then have to add your Ethernet connection in System Preferences -> Network.

The next requirement is a correctly configured SMBIOS.

In the interests of simplicity the examples shown will use the CloverConfigurator app but it should be noted that this is not the only (or best) way to achieve the required result. What is certain is that you should **never** edit your config.plist file with a text editor as this can corrupt the formatting. A corrupt config.plist is the same as having no config.plist at all.

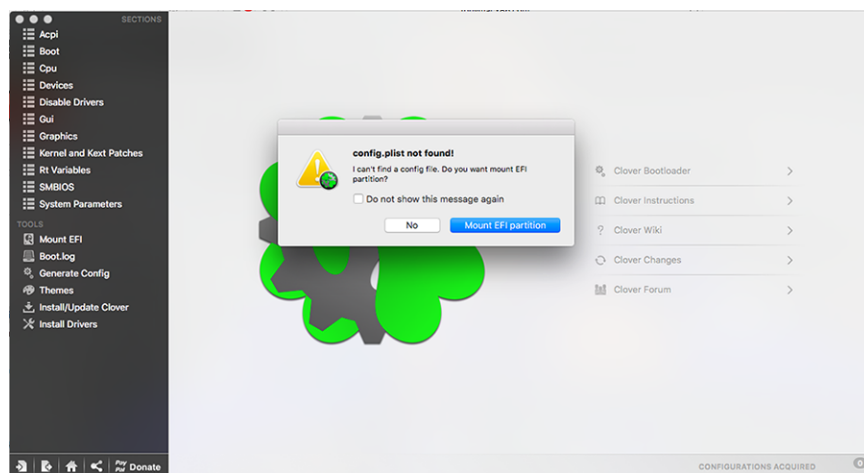
You should already have determined the optimum System Definition for your hardware. If you subsequently change your System Definition you must run through the procedure detailed in this guide again.

Before starting to configure for iMessage you should ensure that your config.plist is otherwise correctly set up for your specific hardware.

The following examples refer only to changes required to your existing config.plist.

It is not suggested that anything not shown in the examples should be removed from your own config.plist unless specifically mentioned.

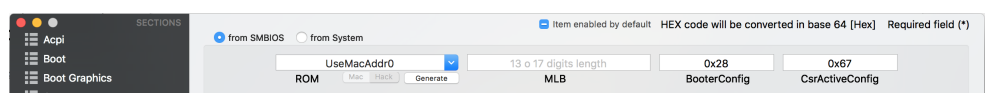
If you haven't already, install CloverConfigurator to your /Applications folder.



From the /Applications folder run Clover Configurator

Mount the EFI partition

File - Open - EFI/CLOVER/config.plist



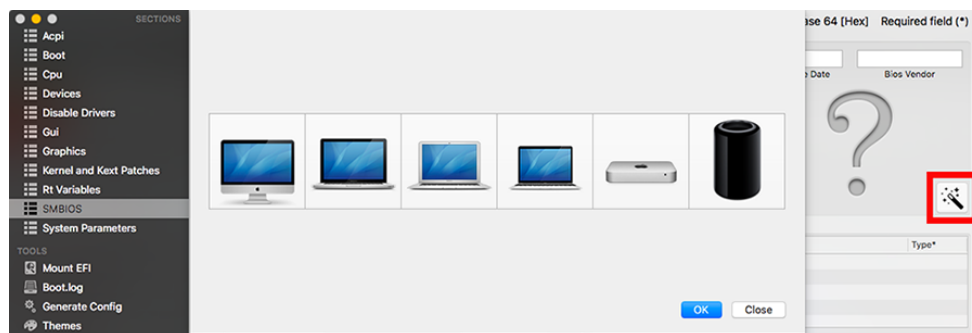
In the left pane select Rt Variables

From the ROM dropdown list select UseMacAddr0

Make sure that the MLB box is empty

Set BooterConfig to 0x28

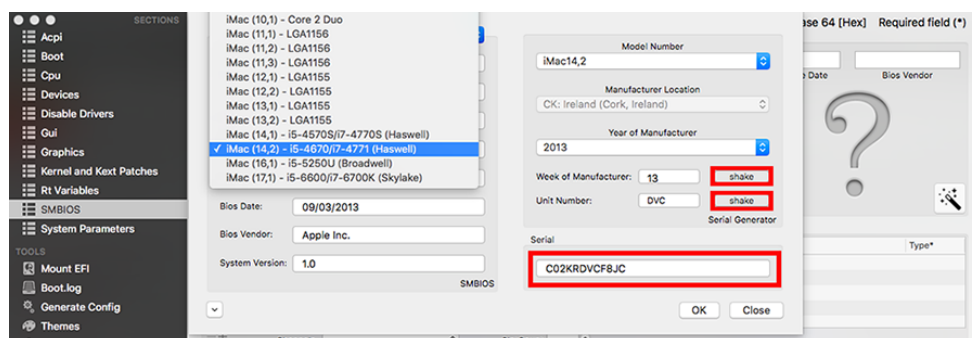
Set CsrActiveConfig to 0x67



In the left pane select SMBIOS

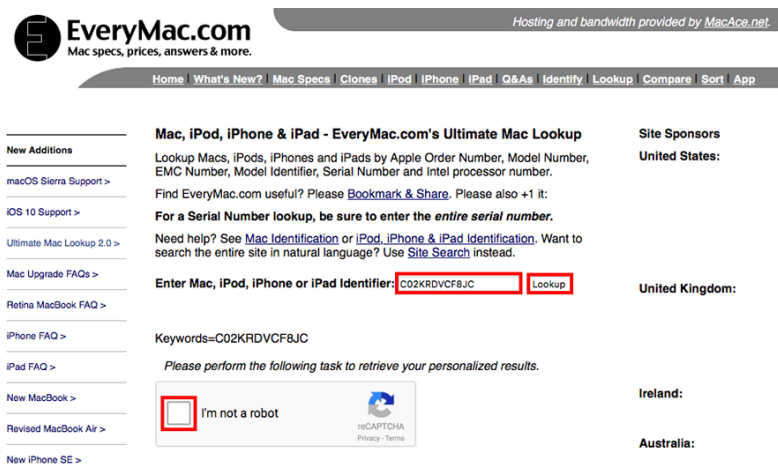
Click the Magic Wand tool

Click on the picture appropriate for your intended System Definition.



From the dropdown list, choose the desired System Definition.

Click the shake buttons several times to generate a Serial Number - Click OK.



Copy the Serial Number and check it on <http://www.everymac.com/ultimate-mac-lookup/>

Paste the Serial Number into the box and click Lookup

Prove that you are not a robot

EveryMac.com

Mac specs, prices, answers & more.

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Lookup Macs, iPods, iPhones and iPads by Apple Order Number, Model Number, EMC Number, Model Identifier, Serial Number and Intel processor number.

Find EveryMac.com useful? Please [Bookmark & Share](#). Please also +1 it:

For a Serial Number lookup, be sure to enter the entire serial number.

Need help? See [Mac Identification](#) or [iPod, iPhone & iPad Identification](#). Want to search the entire site in natural language? Use [Site Search](#) instead.

Enter Mac, iPod, iPhone or iPad Identifier:

Keywords=C02KRDVCF8JC

No results were found. [Return home](#) or use the Lookup box above to try again.

Most likely, no results were found due to one of the following:

1. A typo was made. Please try again, but make sure that all characters are correct. For a Serial Number, enter the entire Serial Number. You may find it easiest to copy and paste the eleven or twelve character Serial Number into the lookup box. [More info](#).

2. Something other than a supported identifier was entered. EveryMac.com supports Order Numbers, Model Numbers, EMC Numbers, Model Identifiers, Serial Numbers, and Intel processor numbers. It does not support words. Please try again, but use a supported identifier or instead try [Site Search](#) for language queries.

3. EveryMac.com has yet to document the identifier you entered. If a model could not be retrieved by its Serial Number or Order Number, try searching by Model Number (Example: A1278), EMC Number (Example: 2254), or Model Identifier (Example: MacBook5,1).

If you can retrieve a Mac or Apple device by one identifier but not another, please [get in touch](#) and share what is missing.

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If you see this response your serial number is invalid - Go back to the magic wand and generate another one.

EveryMac.com

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Lookup Macs, iPods, iPhones and iPads by Apple Order Number, Model Number, EMC Number, Model Identifier, Serial Number and Intel processor number.

Find EveryMac.com useful? Please [Bookmark & Share](#). Please also +1 it:

For a Serial Number lookup, be sure to enter the entire serial number.

Need help? See [Mac Identification](#) or [iPod, iPhone & iPad Identification](#). Want to search the entire site in natural language? Use [Site Search](#) instead.

Enter Mac, iPod, iPhone or iPad Identifier:

Keywords=C02KRDVCF8JC

Showing 1 - 2 of 2

This serial number could refer to either "Late 2013" iMac model below. Please independently verify the processor speed of your iMac for precise identification.

(iMac "Core i7" 3.5 27-inch (Late 2013))

3.5 GHz Core i7 (I7-4771)

Intro.	September 24, 2013	Disc.	May 19, 2015
Order	MF125LL/A	Model	A1419 (EMC 2630)
Family	Late 2013	ID	iMac14,2
RAM	8 GB	VRAM	2 GB
Storage	1 TB* (7200 RPM)	Optical	None*

[Complete iMac "Core i7" 3.5 27-inch \(Late 2013\) Specs](#)

Site Sponsors

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United Kingdom:

Ireland:

Australia:

Southeast Asia:

If you see a response similar to this it means that you have generated a serial number in a recognisable format and it is ok to proceed to the next stage.


Check Your Service and Support Coverage

Review your Apple warranty status and eligibility to purchase additional coverage.

Enter your hardware serial number

[See how to find your serial number >](#)

Please enter the code



[Refresh code](#) [Vision impaired](#)

Open the <https://checkcoverage.apple.com> site and paste your Serial Number into the box Enter the required code and click Continue

Your Service and Support Coverage



OBS MacBook Pro (15-inch Late 2008)

Serial Number:

[Check another serial number >](#)

This is the part of the process which confuses people the most so pay particular attention :

If you see the message "Your Service and Support Coverage" and a picture of a computer then you have generated the Serial Number of a computer that is already recorded in Apple's database.

Do not use this Serial Number - Go back to the Magic Wand tool and generate a new one.

Check Your Service and Support Coverage

Review your Apple warranty status and eligibility to purchase additional coverage.

Enter your hardware serial number

We're sorry, but this serial number is not valid. Please check your information and try again.

[See how to find your serial number >](#)

If you see the message "**We're sorry, but this serial number is not valid. Please check your information and try again**" **and** the Serial Number has passed verification at everymac.com then it is OK to use this Serial Number for your config.plist.

This is so important that it is worth repeating :

You need a Serial Number that everymac.com confirms is in the correct format and that Apple says is not valid.

It does not mean that it is not a valid Serial Number - It means that it is not already registered.

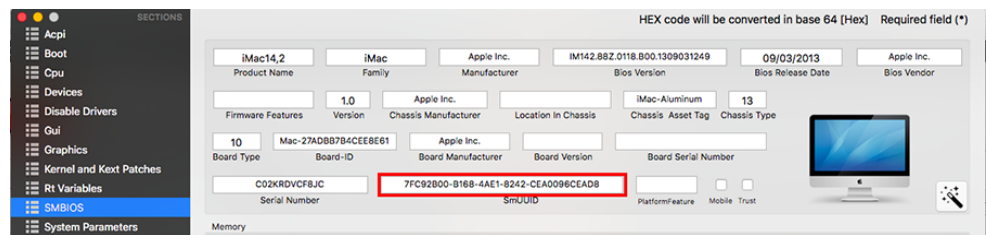
Quit Safari

```

Last login: Thu Jun 30 12:33:37 on console
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
721F7B4F-9821-40D1-8AB2-912E659C75EB
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
65D806E3-6EA0-4AC9-9098-D9279AC32DB4
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
B162D2DE-8150-4676-98F9-CBF9572B4A87
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
3C5C8012-2973-44E0-B0D2-E362EB303B24
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
BBD7079E-78FE-40DA-98F4-5765D40AEB83
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
43BE7980-8168-4512-A70F-DCB813CAE776
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
81182480-E004-44D2-A6EE-03A78B786CB6
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$ uuidgen
026CE7C0-F6B4-4707-AA12-1787D094C2F8
MacBook-Pro:~ P1LGRIM$

```

Open a Terminal window and type `uuidgen` (and press Return) several times to generate some random UUIDs.



Copy one of your random UUID numbers from the Terminal window and paste it into the SmUUID box in Clover Configurator.

In Clover Configurator select File - Save
Quit Clover Configurator.

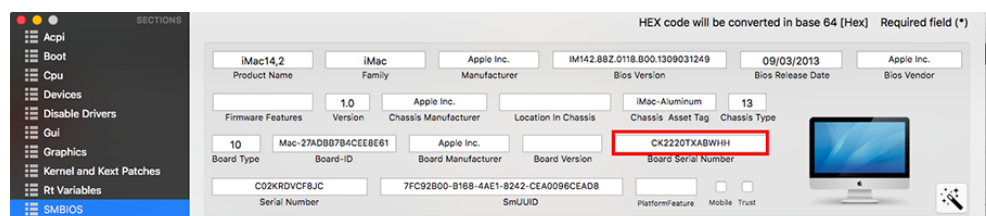
Restart

From your /Applications folder run Clover Configurator,
Mount the EFI partition.
Select File—Open—EFI/CLOVER/config.plist

Once your config.plist file has loaded into Clover Configurator :

Open a Terminal window

Open a Finder window and browse to the location where you downloaded simpleMLB.sh
Drag simpleMLB.sh from Finder onto the Terminal window, click inside the Terminal window and press Return



Copy the generated number then paste it into Clover Configurator—SMBIOS—Board-Serial Number.

In Clover Configurator select File—Save

Quit Clover Configurator and Terminal.

Restart

Edit : Clover Configurator is now able to generate Board Serial Numbers - simpleMLB.sh is no longer required.

Open a Finder window, browse to the location where you downloaded iMessageDebug and run it.

Press y and Return to save a copy called iMessageDebug.txt.

Restart

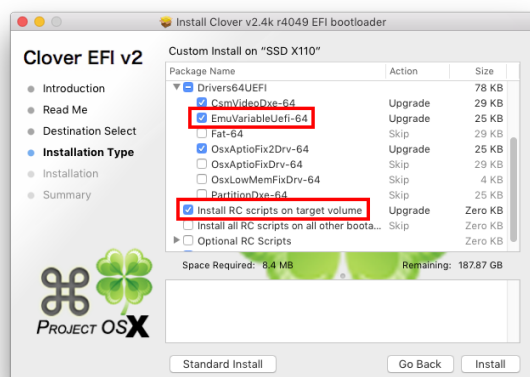
Open a Finder window and browse to the location where you downloaded iMessageDebug and run it.

Compare the output with the saved copy.

If the two copies are the same you may reconnect to the network and proceed to set up iMessage.

The last line in the output of iMessageDebug is subject to change but does not appear to be a cause for concern.

It is important that your system should have support for NVRAM. If your system does not have native support for NVRAM then you should emulate it by the installation of EmuVariableUefi-64 and RC Scripts with the Clover installer. This seems to particularly apply to those with Gigabyte 100/200 series motherboards but others are similarly afflicted.



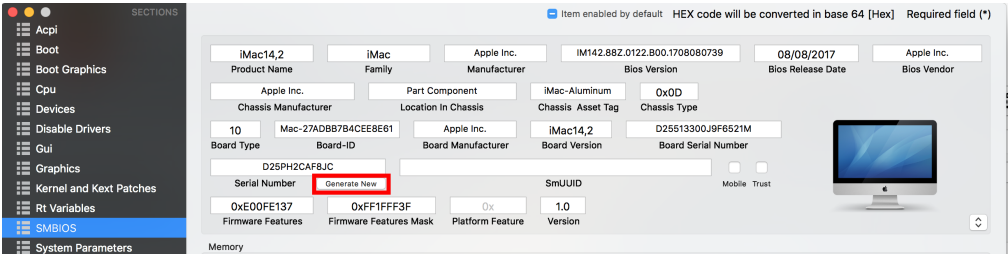
The examples shown are for the Clover boot loader that has been installed in UEFI mode. If you have installed Clover in Legacy mode then the procedure is the same except that your config.plist is located in the /EFI/CLOVER folder on your System disk.

For brevity the guide is for users of El Capitan as this is the operating system that most people will be using at the time of writing.

If you use a different version of the operating system then you should adapt these instructions to your own requirements.

This is not intended as a help thread, requests for help will be deemed off-topic and removed. For help with iMessage refer to the comprehensive [How to Fix iMessage](#) Guide thread.

UPDATE : Clover Configurator is now able to generate Board Serial Numbers (MLB)



[Clover Configurator](#) - [iMessageDebugv2](#) - [simpleMLB](#) - [DPCIManager](#)

FelixNYC, BallyS16, penginto and 72 others like this.

Last edited: Monday at 6:39 PM



P1LGRIM
Moderator

Joined: Mar 2, 2012
Messages: 12,914
Mobo: Lenovo ThinkStation p300 8
CPU: Intel i5-4570 3.2 GHz
Graphics: Radeon RX560 OC 4GB
Mac:
Classic Mac:
Mobile Phone:

Jun 30, 2016 at 11:02 PM

#2

powerpcg5 said: [↑](#)

What if the check coverage says

We're sorry, but we are unable to complete your request at this time. Please try again later.

My problem with iMessage is sometiems it works, sometiems it doesn't. Sometimes, I can receive, but not send. Sometimes I can both send and receive...

This is not intended as a help thread, requests for help will be deemed off-topic and removed. For help with iMessage refer to the comprehensive **How to Fix iMessage** Guide thread.

hacklapomme and ScoRp323 like this.



wildwillow
Moderator

Joined: Jun 26, 2012
Messages: 4,640
Mobo: GA-Z87X-OC
CPU: i7-4770K
Graphics: HD4600+R9 380 4GB
Mac:
Mobile Phone:

Jun 30, 2016 at 11:19 PM

#3

Idiot, ouch - a simple guide.....would suffice.

tabarus likes this.



P1LGRIM
Moderator

Joined: Mar 2, 2012
Messages: 12,914
Mobo: Lenovo ThinkStation p300 8
CPU: Intel i5-4570 3.2 GHz

Jun 30, 2016 at 11:22 PM




#4

wildwillow said: [↑](#)

Idiot, ouch - a simple guide.....would suffice.

No offence meant



It just means that it IS a simple guide.

Graphics: Radeon RX560 OC 4GB
 Mac: 
 Classic Mac: 
 Mobile Phone: 

Last edited: Jun 30, 2016



RehabMan
Moderator

Joined: May 3, 2012
 Messages: 166,289
 Mobo: Intel DH67BL
 CPU: Core i7-2600K
 Graphics: Intel HD 3000
 Mac: 
 Mobile Phone: 

Jul 1, 2016 at 2:02 AM



#5

I think this should be sticky.

kjohns68, canyondust, IcePiq and 4 others like this.



Helmi74

Joined: Jun 23, 2016
 Messages: 83
 Mac: 
 Mobile Phone: 

Jul 1, 2016 at 7:22 PM

#6

This is an awesome guide, [@P1LGRIM](#) - Thanks for working that out. This should definitely be the first step for people to go through. It's comprehensive and gives a good touch to learn to know things.

Additionally it worked for me on first try

isnpms, themick4u and joalmoju like this.



P1LGRIM
Moderator

Joined: Mar 2, 2012
 Messages: 12,914
 Mobo: Lenovo ThinkStation p300 8E
 CPU: Intel i5-4570 3.2 GHz
 Graphics: Radeon RX560 OC 4GB
 Mac: 
 Classic Mac: 
 Mobile Phone: 

Jul 1, 2016 at 7:26 PM

#7

Helmi74 said: [↓](#)

This is an awesome guide, [@P1LGRIM](#) - Thanks for working that out. This should definitely be the first step for people to go through. It's comprehensive and gives a good touch to learn to know things.

Additionally it worked for me on first try

Thanks for the feedback - You are the first (acknowledged) successful user of the guide.
 Glad to see that it worked for you.



ShawnRaven

Joined: Jan 21, 2011
 Messages: 3
 Mobo: OSX 10.10.2
 CPU: Intel Core 2 Quad Q6600
 (overclocked to 3.3Ghz)

Jul 3, 2016 at 2:58 AM

#8

Thank you, thank you and THANK YOU!

My iMessage broke way back in 2014 and even on Mountain Lion, Mavericks or Yosemite, nothing I could do even with Clover (after a major headache upgrading from Chimera), could fix it.

I wasn't so lucky the first time around, however you highlighting the iMessagedebug output brought to my attention that my ROM and MLB number were not consistent upon reboot. Turns out filenvram.kext was still stuck in S/L/E. Once I removed that and rebooted again, I was able to sign back in with no problems.

Graphics: nVidia GTX750
Mac:
Mobile Phone:

Migrated my messages from another laptop, and I'm happy as a pig in mud.
So thank you so much!



larrikinaus

Joined: Jan 17, 2016
Messages: 29

Jul 3, 2016 at 3:45 AM

#9

Does this mean that, using this method, you no longer need to use a cloned (real) ROM / MLB from another MAC for RT Variables and also that you no longer need to use that same MLB as the Board Serial Number in SMBios?



trs96
Moderator

Joined: Jul 31, 2012
Messages: 8,355
Mobo: GA-Z97X-UD3H-BK
CPU: I5-4690K
Graphics: Intel HD4600
Mac:
Mobile Phone:

Jul 3, 2016 at 4:01 AM

#10

larrikinaus said: [↑](#)

Does this mean that, using this method, you no longer need to use a cloned (real) ROM / MLB from another MAC for RT Variables and also that you no longer need to use that same MLB as the Board Serial Number in SMBios?

It's clearly stated in this guide that you generate a serial number with Clover Configurator which should not match a pre-existing one from a real Mac. This is why you also check it at checkcoverage.apple.com to make sure it's not already been registered.

"From the dropdown list, choose the desired System Definition.
Click the Shake buttons several times to **generate a Serial Number** - Click OK."

Likewise you generate a new SMBIOS board serial number instead of reusing one that already exists.

justmmi likes this.

Last edited: Jul 3, 2016

1 2 3 4 5 6 → 48 Next >

(You must log in or sign up to reply here.)



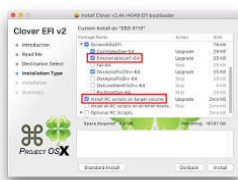
Deutschlands neuer Fünfer

Ad MDM



Die Anleitung für Ihren Mac - "Einfach Mac"

Ad einfach-mac.de



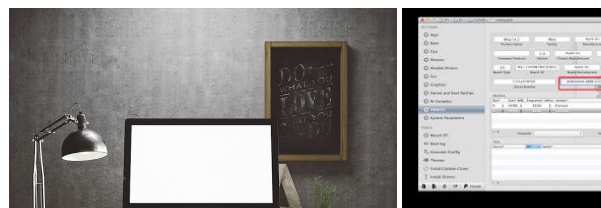
[Solved] iMessage Not registered

tonymacx86.com



Troubleshooting iMessage Login Issues

tonymacx86.com



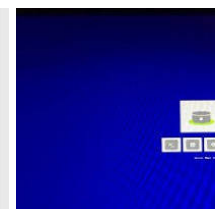
How To Clean Up A Mac - How to Fix iMessage Read Step By Step Instruction.

Ad macpaw.com



Fix iMessage in Yosemite iMessage Help

tonymacx86.com



tonymacx86.com

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