

# [NT] Office Programs Can Browse Restricted Drives

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*Date:* 02/24/05

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Date: 24 Feb 2005 17:47:36 +0200

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Office Programs Can Browse Restricted Drives

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## SUMMARY

Due to a bug in the Office suite, drivers that been marked as restricted are not shown as such under the file browsing mechanism.

## DETAILS

Vulnerable Systems:

\* Microsoft Office Service Pack 2 and prior

Immune Systems:

\* Microsoft Office Service Pack 3 or newer

After you establish a group policy to restrict access to a drive by selecting the Hide these specified drives in My Computer and Prevent access to drives from My Computer options, you can use a Microsoft Office program to browse and read the contents of the drive.

The same condition occurs when you insert a flash-drive and a common dialog box is presented asking you what you'd like to do. If you select open drive you can then browse all of the hidden and restricted drives the

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same way that you can using MS office.

This problem occurs when your operating system is Microsoft Windows 2000. The problem occurs because of the way that policies are applied. When you restrict access to a drive by establishing a group policy, restrictions apply to users, but they do not apply to services and programs. Because the browse feature is performed through a program such as Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Word, the program is permitted to view the drive. As a result, when you define a group policy and select the Hide these specified drives in My Computer and Prevent access to drives from My Computer options on a specific drive, the drive is read-only with respect to Microsoft Office 2000 programs.

Vendor Response

This issue was reported to Microsoft on Feb 11, 2005.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The information has been provided by <mailto:Sonny.Discini@montgomerycountymd.gov> Discini, Sonny. The original article can be found at: <<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=302753>> Office Programs Can Browse Restricted Drives

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