

RE: Hiding MS SQL databases in Enterprise Manager

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To: tgm@elt.com

- > *If they are using Enterprise Manager to access the databases I don't think*
- > *you can stop that. From what I understand, Enterprise Manager uses the SA*
- > *login, not a user login. So anyone using it will have complete access and*
- > *control unless the database owner is not DBO. You could set the database*
- > *permissions so that certain roles can do what they need to do and other*
- > *roles can not do anything at all. They may still be able to see the tables,*
- > *but not what is in them. This would work with ODBC and other data access*
- > *methods.*
- >
- > *You should be able to set Enterprise Manager so that only users with*
- > *administrator rights could run it.*

I appreciate your advice. However, I think this is only valid for when Enterprise Manager is run from the SQL Server's machine. In this case, you're usually logging in as a trusted account from the machine rather than 'sa'.

You can use Enterprise Manager to connect to a remote SQL Server. You can log in with any account that has access to the SQL server rather than just the 'sa' user. (And I think logging in remotely with the 'sa' user is a rather silly and insecure idea. Although allowing developers remote access to your SQL Server may also be a silly and insecure idea.) These users do not need to have any sort of server role whatsoever to log in as long as the login has been created within the SQL Server.

While I'm on the topic, does anyone know of serious security issues with allowing developers access to the SQL Server remotely through Enterprise Manager or another such tool?

Sincerely,

Chris Ess

System Administrator / CDTT (Certified Duct Tape Technician)

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