

## Re: protecting a folder

**Source:** <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2005-11/0051.html>

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**From:** Ted Zieglar (*teddyz\_at\_notmail.com*)

**Date:** 11/01/05

Date: Tue, 1 Nov 2005 13:29:11 -0500

What a great thread this has been. Thank you, Steven and Malke.

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Ted Zieglar

"You can do it if you try."

"Steven L Umbach" <n9rou@nospam-comcast.net> wrote in message  
news:%23\$vnBBx3FHA.1188@TK2MSFTNGP12.phx.gbl...

> You don't mention the operating system but there is no native way to  
> password protect folders. If you are using an operating system that uses  
> ntfs file system such as Windows 2000 or XP you can use ntfs permissions  
to

> allow only authorized user accounts to access the folder within the  
> operating system but there are some problems even with that. Any user that  
> is a local administrator can access files he does not have permissions to  
> and it is trivial to become an administrator on a computer that is not  
> physically secured. Also someone who wanted access to your files could  
> simply remove the hard drive and put it into another computer to read/copy  
> them or boot from a cdrom such as Bart's PE. If the files were encrypted  
> then they could be possibly be denied access to the data.

>  
> <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;308418> --- file  
> permissions in XP.

>  
> So depending on how confidential that data is you may want to store it on  
> another computer that is locked up somewhere securely or at minimum  
encrypt

> the data. Encryption has it's own hazards and many encryption programs use  
a

> password as the key to encrypt the data. A malicious user could install a  
> keyboard logger on your computer to capture your password to access you  
> encrypted file. Windows XP Pro has a very secure implementation of file  
> encryption called EFS. Your logon password is used to protect access to  
your

> EFS private key that is needed to decrypt your files. IF you export and  
> delete your certificate/private key from the computer then your EFS  
> encrypted files would not be available to someone even if they knew your  
> password. Of course repeated importing and then deleting your EFS private  
> key to work with your data is tedious and easy to forget to delete the  
> private key after each work session or the end of the work day. If you  
> consider EFS or any encryption PLEASE be very careful as it is easy for  
you

> to lose permanent access to your data and best practice would be to have  
> your EFS certificate/private key backed up to a password protected .pfx  
file

> to external media in a couple safe places and to also backup your  
encrypted

microsoft.public.security: Re: protecting a folder

> work as clear text to external media and stored securely. --- Steve  
>  
>  
> "kable58" <kable58@discussions.microsoft.com> wrote in message  
> news:38BF4CCF-A92C-49A1-AA8E-1D5F75E09A54@microsoft.com...  
> >I own a restaurant and keep all my financial information in one folder  
and  
> > have managers that have access to the computer. Is there a way I can  
> > password protect a folder?  
>  
>