

Re: EFS Certificate Needed

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.security/2007-10/msg00167.html>

- *From:* HonoredWriter <honoredwriter@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 23 Oct 2007 20:19:00 -0700
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Dear GreenieLaBrun;

Thanks for the information. Some of which I have read. Thanks to all of you guys for your assistance. The other major thing I did to help myself was to make a backup DVD, so I now have a copy of some of the files, not all, to restore. For sure I will follow "Windows Recommendations". Thanks.

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HonoredWriter

"GreenieLeBrun" wrote:

HonoredWriter wrote:

Dear Brian and Roger;

The certificates I have were recently installed days after the files were encrypted. And I think that I am in a no win situation, because I re-installed Windows after the encryption. I should have deciphered the files prior to re-installing Windows. The keys have probably been discarded/changed. Also I changed the name of the User. It was foolish of me to believe that I could decrypt files after I had re-installed Windows. The files were not deleted because they are located on another drive and partition. I was pulling for straws by assuming I could use another certificate to decipher the files. Me think I will keep one or two of them on my system to remind me what not to do (smile). Thanks for all of your good help with the sharing of your knowledge. It is amazing how much smarter one gets when one makes a foolish mistake. "If any man thinks he is wise let him become a fool so he can become wise."

Thanks for your assistance.

One may generate an EFS recovery agent .pfx by use of the cipher utility with the /r option. See cipher /?

After being installed, that recovery agent will only have decrypt capabilities on files EFS-touched afterwards.

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If you believe you already have a recovery agent set up and it is unable to decrypt EFS files, then you probably need to use the efsinfo utility to examine the thumbprint of the files that may not be decrypted, verify that the account from which you attempt actually has the recovery agent private key installed within it, etc.

Why is it that you say

The certificates I have are not worthy to be Recovery Agent certificates even though their intended purposes are clearly stated.

?? What is it that you are seeing and how? How are you attempting to use this (these?) ?

"HonoredWriter" <honoredwriter@xxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:29109205-2BD1-4FB3-9465-1F84B2DAD118@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

How do I obtain a Recovery Agent certificate to recover/restore/decrypt some previously encrypted files? The certificates I have are not worthy to be Recovery Agent certificates even though their intended purposes are clearly stated. (Shucks, I'm thinking this computer has intuitive intelligence.) --
HonoredWriter

If you re-installed Windows AFTER the files were encrypted then, I am afraid, you are out of luck as the SID (security Identifier) will have changed (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Security_Identifier)

You may like to peruse the following links for more information on the EFS

The Encrypting File System
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/topics/cryptographyetc/efs.mspx>

Best practices for the Encrypting File System
<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/223316/en-us>

How to back up the recovery agent Encrypting File System (EFS) private key in Windows Server 2003, in Windows 2000, and in Windows XP

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<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/241201>

How To Encrypt a Folder in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=308989>

How To Remove File Encryption in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=308993>

How To Encrypt a File in Windows XP

<http://support.microsoft.com/?id=307877>