

Encryption of Connection String

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I currently keep my connection string in web.config as clear text. Prior to going to production I want to encrypt this string (or just the password) and then after retrieving it at app startup I want to decrypt it.

I don't want to use the registry to store the encryption key or the encrypted string...there are many suggestions out there but all point to the evils of having to store the encrypt key somewhere (so you can decrypt the connection string at a latter time). One thread I found say to create a one-way hash...but of course no sample code along with that suggestion.

Can anyone point me in the right direction. I have checked all the sample MSDN applications (Duwamish, etc...) and they all say, "...now in a real application, you should encrypt either the whole connection string or at least the password"...so they offer no code to do this.

What is the best approach?

Thanks in advance.