

Encrypting data in SQL 2005

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- *From:* "Jim Youmans" <jdyoumans@xxxxxxxxxx>
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I have a pretty good understanding of how encryption works in 2005 but what I am looking for is a real world example of how it has been done. Here is what I am looking for, hopefully someone can point me in the right direction.

Let's say that I have a table with one or more encrypted columns that are encrypted by symmetric Key1. I want only authorized users to have the ability to decrypt the data. I don't want DBA's or the DBO or the developers to be able to do this.

I would think I would have to create Key1 using a password. But then how do I protect that password to make sure the DBA's or developers don't get hold of it.

My thought is that I could install something on the web server (a encrypted password or certificate or something) that only the application on that box could access, and then that is used to open Key1 and decrypt the data.

Any thoughts or suggestions?

Just to clarify, the reason I would want to protect the data from the DBA's is due to client requirements.

Thanks!

Jim

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