

Re: SQL 2005 – Searching Encrypted SSN

Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/microsoft.public.sqlserver.security/2006-06/msg00174.html>

- *From:* "Mike C#" <xyz@xxxxxxx>
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"Ron Brent" <RonBrent@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:1929F115-F507-4448-9AD7-1F900B9A1F3F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

Thanks Uri!

It will be helpful once we decide to implement the encryption, but my question is this – is it possible to search an encrypted column the way it's described in the blog and get the results quickly (at the same speed it takes to search on a clear text)?

If you want to search using = in the WHERE clause, you can get comparable speed. Just don't decrypt the SSN's in the column. Theoretically you should be able to encrypt the SSN you're searching for and compare that to the already-encrypted columns. Of course this won't work if your column looks like this:

999-99-9999

And you want to search on last 4 digits or something similar. In that case you need to decrypt and compare row-by-row (unless you split the SSN up into separate columns...).